CHAPTER 2007-131

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 108

An act relating to the Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement; amending s. 1007.35, F.S.; specifying that the partnership must cooperate with school districts to identify minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP or other advanced courses; specifying that the partnership must cooperate with school districts to provide information to parents regarding AP and other advanced courses; specifying that the partnership must provide information regarding Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or Preliminary ACT (PLAN) administration; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 1007.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1007.35~ Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement.—

(6) The partnership shall:

(a) Provide teacher training and professional development to enable teachers of AP or other advanced courses to have the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills to prepare students for success on AP or other advanced course examinations and mastery of postsecondary course content.

(b) Provide to middle school teachers and administrators professional development that will enable them to educate middle school students at the level necessary to prepare the students to enter high school ready to participate in advanced courses.

(c) Provide teacher training and materials that are aligned with the Sunshine State Standards and are consistent with best theory and practice regarding multiple learning styles and research on learning, instructional strategies, instructional design, and classroom assessment. Curriculum materials must be based on current, accepted, and essential academic knowledge. Materials for prerequisite courses should, at a minimum, address the skills assessed on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

(d) Provide assessment of individual strengths and weaknesses as related to potential success in AP or other advanced courses and readiness for college.

(e) Provide college entrance exam preparation through a variety of means that may include, but are not limited to, training teachers to provide courses at schools; training community organizations to provide courses at community centers, faith-based organizations, and businesses; and providing on-line courses.

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(f) Consider ways to incorporate community colleges in the mission of preparing all students for postsecondary success.

(g) Provide a plan for communication and coordination of efforts with the Florida Virtual School's provision of on-line AP or other advanced courses.

(h) Work with school districts to identify minority and underrepresented students for participation in AP or other advanced courses.

(i) Work with school districts to provide information to students and parents that explains available opportunities for students to take AP and other advanced courses and that explains enrollment procedures that students must follow to enroll in such courses. Such information must also explain the value of such courses as they relate to:

1. Preparing the student for postsecondary level coursework.

2. Enabling the student to gain access to postsecondary education opportunities.

3. Qualifying for scholarships and other financial aid opportunities.

(j) Provide information to students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, districts, community colleges, and state universities regarding PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN administration, including, but not limited to:

1. Test administration dates and times.

2. That participation in the PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN is open to all grade 10 students.

<u>3. The value of such tests in providing diagnostic feedback on student skills.</u>

<u>4. The value of student scores in predicting the probability of success on AP or other advanced course examinations.</u>

(k) Cooperate with the department to provide information to administrators, teachers, and counselors, whenever possible, about partnership activities, opportunities, and priorities.

(h) Provide a plan of communication which includes, but need not be limited to, disseminating to parents materials that emphasize the importance of AP or other advanced courses to a student's ability to gain access to and to succeed in postsecondary education and materials that emphasize the importance of the PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN, which provide diagnostic feedback on skills and relate student scores to the probability of success on AP or other advanced course examinations, and also the dissemination of such information to students, teachers, counselors, administrators, districts, community colleges, and state universities. The department shall assist the partnership in communicating opportunities and priorities to administrators, teachers, and counselors whenever possible.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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Approved by the Governor June 15, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 15, 2007.

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