

Committee Substitute for  
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 450

An act relating to the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend; amending s. 1012.71, F.S.; extending the stipend to teachers of prekindergarten students in public schools and public charter schools who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1012.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.71 The Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend.—

(1) Funding for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend shall be as determined by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Funds appropriated for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend are provided to purchase classroom materials and supplies used in the instruction of students in ~~prekindergarten kindergarten~~ through grade 12 of the public school system who are funded from the Florida Education Finance Program, including public charter schools. From the funds appropriated, the Commissioner of Education shall calculate an amount for each school district by prorating the total of each school district's share of the total ~~K-12~~ unweighted FTE student enrollment.

(2) From the funds allocated to each district, the district school board shall calculate an identical amount for each classroom teacher which is his or her proportionate share of the amount allocated to the district for the total number of teachers in the district, including teachers in public charter schools. A job-share classroom teacher may receive a prorated share of the amount provided to a full-time classroom teacher. The district school board and each charter school board shall provide the funds no later than September 30 of each year directly to each teacher as a stipend to purchase, on behalf of the school district or charter school, classroom materials and supplies to be used in the instruction of students assigned to the teacher. Each teacher shall have sole discretion regarding which classroom materials and supplies best meet the needs of the students, when they are needed, and where they are acquired. The funds expended by individual teachers shall not be subject to state or local competitive bidding requirements. Disbursement of Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds directly to each teacher and to each charter school shall complete the school district's expenditure of these funds.

(3) Each teacher shall sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the funds, agreeing to keep receipts to show the expenditure of the funds used to purchase classroom materials and supplies for use in the instruction of the students assigned to them, and agreeing to return any unused funds by the end of the regular school year. The statement to be signed and dated by each teacher for receipt of the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend shall

include the wording: “I, ...(Name of teacher)..., am employed by the ... County District School Board or by the (... Charter School) as a full-time classroom teacher. I acknowledge that Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds are appropriated by the Legislature for the sole purpose of purchasing classroom materials and supplies to be used in the instruction of students assigned to me. In accepting custody of these funds, I agree to keep receipts for all expenditures. I understand that if I do not keep receipts showing these funds were spent to purchase classroom materials and supplies for use with my students, it will be my personal responsibility to pay any federal taxes due on these funds. I also agree to return any unused funds to the district school board at the end of the regular school year for deposit into the School Advisory Council account of the school at which I was employed at the time of the receipt of the funds or for deposit into the district’s teacher lead program account of the district in which the charter school is sponsored, as applicable.”

(4) Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend funds shall be provided to each teacher in addition to any other funds appropriated for public school operations.

(5) Any unused funds ~~that which~~ are returned to the district school board shall be deposited into the School Advisory Council account of the school at which the teacher returning the funds was employed at the time of the receipt of the funds or for deposit into the district’s teacher lead program account of the district in which the charter school is sponsored, as applicable.

(6) For purposes of this section, the term “classroom teacher” includes certified teachers employed by a public school district or a public charter school on or before September 1 of each year whose full-time or job-share job responsibility is the classroom instruction of students in prekindergarten kindergarten through grade 12, including and full-time media specialists and guidance counselors who serve students in prekindergarten kindergarten through grade 12 who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program. A job-share classroom teacher is defined as two teachers whose combined full-time equivalent employment for the same teaching assignment equals one full-time classroom teacher. Only school district and public charter school personnel employed in these positions are eligible for the classroom materials and supply stipend from funds appropriated to implement the provisions of this section.

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

Approved by the Governor May 24, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 24, 2007.