

## Senate Bill No. 1248

An act relating to public K-12 education; amending s. 1006.28, F.S.; deleting a provision that requires a public school principal to collect 50 to 75 percent of a textbook's purchase price from a student who has lost, destroyed, or damaged a textbook that has been in use for more than 1 year; creating s. 1003.497, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to encourage school districts to initiate, adopt, expand, and institutionalize service-learning programs, activities, and policies in kindergarten through grade 12; defining service learning; providing for department assistance to a school district that chooses to implement service-learning activities; requiring development and adoption of service-learning courses; authorizing service-learning activities to count toward high school graduation or academic award requirements; encouraging school districts to include service learning as part of courses or activities required for high school graduation or receipt of academic awards; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; revising provisions relating to schools receiving a school grade; amending s. 1012.985, F.S.; providing for regional academies rather than a statewide system of organization; providing duties of regional professional development academies; deleting provisions that require academies to meet certain criteria in order to receive start-up funds; specifying requirements for contracts between district school boards and academies; deleting requirements relating to first-year funding and academy financial self-sufficiency in future years; authorizing the academies to administer property and moneys received from various sources; requiring that income generated from certain activities be shared between the academy and the district school board; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1006.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.28 Duties of district school board, district school superintendent; and school principal regarding K-12 instructional materials.—

(3) SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.—The school principal has the following duties for the management and care of instructional materials at the school:

(b) Money collected for lost or damaged books; enforcement.—The school principal shall collect from each student or the student's parent the purchase price of any instructional material the student has lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged and to report and transmit the money collected to the district school superintendent. ~~If instructional materials lost, destroyed, or damaged have been in school use for more than 1 year, a sum ranging between 50 and 75 percent of the purchase price of the book shall be collected, determined by the physical condition of the book.~~ The failure to collect such sum upon reasonable effort by the school principal may result

in the suspension of the student from participation in extracurricular activities or satisfaction of the debt by the student through community service activities at the school site as determined by the school principal, pursuant to policies adopted by district school board rule.

Section 2. Section 1003.497, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.497 Service learning.—

(1) The Department of Education shall encourage school districts to initiate, adopt, expand, and institutionalize service-learning programs, activities, and policies in kindergarten through grade 12. Service learning refers to a student-centered, research-based teaching and learning strategy that engages students in meaningful service activities in their schools or communities. Service-learning activities are directly tied to academic curricula, standards, and course, district, or state assessments. Service-learning activities foster academic achievement, character development, civic engagement, and career exploration and enable students to apply curriculum content, skills, and behaviors taught in the classroom.

(2) Upon request of any school district that chooses to implement service-learning programs, activities, or policies, the department shall provide assistance in locating, leveraging, and utilizing available or alternative financial resources that will assist school districts or teachers desiring to receive training and other resources to develop and administer service-learning programs or activities. School districts are encouraged to include kindergarten through grade 12 service-learning programs and activities in proposals they submit to the department under federal entitlement grants and competitive state and federal grants administered through the department.

(3)(a) The department shall develop and adopt elective service-learning courses for inclusion in middle and high school course code directories, which will allow additional opportunities for students to engage in service learning. School districts are encouraged to provide support for the use of service learning at any grade level as an instructional strategy to address appropriate areas of state education standards for student knowledge and performance.

(b) The hours that high school students devote to course-based service-learning activities may be counted toward meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and community service requirements for participation in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. School districts are encouraged to include service learning as part of any course or activity required for high school graduation and to include and accept service-learning activities and hours in requirements for academic awards, especially those awards that currently include community service as a criterion or selection factor.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.34 School grading system; school report cards; district grade.—

## (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

(a) Each school that has students who are tested and included in the school grading system shall receive a school grade, except as follows:

1. A school shall not receive a school grade if the number of its students tested and included in the school grading system is less than the minimum sample size necessary, based on accepted professional practice, for statistical reliability and prevention of the unlawful release of personally identifiable student data under s. 1002.22 or 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

2. An alternative school may choose to receive a school grade under this section or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341. For charter schools that meet the definition of an alternative school pursuant to State Board of Education rule, the decision to receive a school grade is the decision of the charter school governing board.

3. A school that serves any combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 which does not receive a school grade because its students are not tested and included in the school grading system shall receive the school grade designation of a K-3 feeder pattern school identified by the Department of Education and verified by the school district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60 percent of the students in the school serving a combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 are scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.

Section 4. Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.985 Regional ~~Statewide system for inservice professional development academies.~~—

(1) The intent of this section is to facilitate establish a statewide system of professional development that provides a wide range of ~~targeted~~ inservice training to teachers, managers, and administrative personnel which is designed to upgrade skills and knowledge needed to attain reach world class standards in education. The system shall consist of a network of professional development academies that in each region of the state which are operated in partnership with area business partners to develop and deliver high-quality training programs for purchased by school districts. Each regional professional development academy must ~~The academies shall be established to meet the human resource development needs of professional educators, schools, and school districts and shall. Funds appropriated for the initiation of professional development academies shall be allocated by the Commissioner of Education, unless otherwise provided in an appropriations act. To be eligible for startup funds, the academy must:~~

(a) Support ~~Be established by~~ the collaborative efforts of one or more district school boards, members of the business community, and the postsecondary educational institutions which may award college credits for courses taught at the academy.

(b) ~~Demonstrate the capacity to provide effective training to improve teaching skills in the areas of elementary reading and mathematics, the use~~

of instructional technology, high school algebra, and classroom management, and to deliver such training using face-to-face, distance learning, and individualized computer-based delivery systems.

~~(e) Propose a plan for responding in an effective and timely manner to the professional development needs of teachers, managers, administrative personnel, schools, and school districts relating to improving student achievement and meeting state and local education goals.~~

~~(b)(d) Demonstrate the ability to Provide high-quality trainers and training and, appropriate followup and coaching for all participants, and support school personnel in increasing student achievement in positively impacting student performance.~~

~~(c)(e) Be operated under contract with its public partners. Contracts between district school boards and each regional professional development academy must require:~~

1. The academy's independent board of directors to be responsible for the prudent use of all public and private funds and to ensure that those funds are used in accordance with applicable laws, bylaws, and contractual agreements.

2. The academy to retain proper documentation evidencing that district school board funds provided to the academy are expended for authorized purposes as prescribed in the contract and that services to district school boards are commensurate with the funds paid to the academy for those services. The academy's records must be available for inspection by the district school board's internal auditor and the Auditor General.

3. Each district school board to approve any participation by the academy in the district's programs or services, including use of the district's facilities, furnishings, equipment, other chattels, personnel, or services.

4. The academy to provide an annual report of its activities and expenditures to its independent board of directors and each party to the contract.

5. The academy to be annually audited by an independent certified public accountant retained and paid for by the academy and to provide a copy of the audit report to each party to the contract.

~~(d) Be and governed by an independent board of directors, which should include at least one district school superintendent and one district school board chair from the participating school districts, the president of the collective bargaining unit that represents the majority of the region's teachers, and at least three individuals who are not employees or elected or appointed officials of the participating school districts. Regional educational consortia as defined in s. 1001.451 satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.~~

~~(f) Be financed during the first year of operation by an equal or greater match from private funding sources and demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year after opening through fees for services, grants, or~~

~~private contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s. 1001.451 which serve rural areas of critical economic concern are exempt from the funding match required by this paragraph.~~

~~(g) Own or lease a facility that can be used to deliver training onsite and through distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems. The participating district school boards may lease a site or facility to the academy for a nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs of renovating a facility to accommodate the academy. The academy is responsible for all operational, maintenance, and repair costs.~~

~~(e)(h) Provide professional development services for the participating school districts as specified in the contract and may provide professional development services to other school districts, private schools, and individuals on a fee-for-services basis.~~

~~(2) Upon compliance with the requirements for the first year of operation in paragraph (1)(f), A regional professional development academy may:~~

~~(a) May Receive funds from the Department of Education or as provided in the General Appropriations Act for the purpose of developing programs, expanding services, assessing inservice training and professional development, or other programs that are consistent with the mission of the academy and the needs of the state and region; and~~

~~(b) Receive, hold, invest, and administer property and any moneys acquired from private, local, state, and federal sources, as well as technical and professional income generated or derived from activities of the academy, for the benefit of the academy and the fulfillment of its mission. Income generated by school district personnel at the academy from trademarks, copyrights, and patents shall be shared between the academy and the district school board as outlined in the contract.~~

~~(b) Is not, by virtue of providing services to one or more school districts, a component of any school district or any governmental unit to which the regional professional development academy provides services.~~

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor June 24, 2009.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 24, 2009.