

## CHAPTER 2016-223

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 287

An act relating to the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative; creating s. 1011.6202, F.S.; creating the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative; providing a procedure for certain district school boards to participate in the pilot program; providing requirements for participating school districts and schools; exempting participating schools from certain laws and rules; requiring principals of participating schools and specified personnel to participate in a nationally recognized school turnaround program; providing for the term of participation in the pilot program; providing for renewal or revocation of authorization to participate in the pilot program; providing for reporting, funding, eligibility requirements for certain funding, and rulemaking; amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; requiring participating district school boards to allocate a specified percentage of certain funds to participating schools; amending s. 1012.28, F.S.; providing additional authority and responsibilities of the principal of a participating school; providing appropriations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide the highly effective principal of a participating school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or her school in a way that produces significant improvements in student achievement and school management while complying with constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may, upon approval of a principal autonomy proposal, enter into a performance contract with up to seven district school boards for participation in the pilot program.

(1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—The district school boards in Broward, Duval, Jefferson, Madison, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Seminole Counties may submit to the state board for approval a principal autonomy proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemptions for an agreement to meet performance goals established in the proposal. If approved by the state board, each of these school districts shall be eligible to participate in the pilot program for 3 years. At the end of the 3 years, the performance of all participating schools in the school district shall be evaluated.

(2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

(a) To participate in the pilot program, a school district must:

1. Identify three schools that received at least two school grades of “D” or “F” pursuant to s. 1008.34 during the previous 3 school years.

2. Identify three principals who have earned a highly effective rating on the prior year’s performance evaluation pursuant to s. 1012.34, one of whom shall be assigned to each of the participating schools.

3. Describe the current financial and administrative management of each participating school; identify the areas in which each school principal will have increased fiscal and administrative autonomy, including the authority and responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the areas in which each participating school will continue to follow district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

4. Explain the methods used to identify the educational strengths and needs of the participating school’s students and identify how student achievement can be improved.

5. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy of principals will help participating schools improve student achievement and school management.

6. Provide each participating school’s mission and a description of its student population.

(b) The state board shall establish criteria, which must include the criteria listed in paragraph (a), for the approval of a principal autonomy proposal.

(c) A district school board must submit its principal autonomy proposal to the state board for approval by December 1 in order to begin participation in the subsequent school year. By February 28 of the school year in which the proposal is submitted, the state board shall notify the district school board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

(a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph (b), a participating school is exempt from the provisions of chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board that implement those exempt provisions.

(b) A participating school shall comply with the provisions of chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board that implement those provisions, pertaining to the following:

1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of district school board members, the election or appointment and compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and conflicts of interest.

2. Those laws relating to the student assessment program and school grading system, including chapter 1008.

3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to students with disabilities.

4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s. 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and welfare.

6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening date for public schools.

7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is the average at the school level for a participating school.

8. Sections 1012.22(1)(c) and 1012.27(2), relating to compensation and salary schedules.

9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions for annual contracts for instructional personnel. This subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

10. Section 1012.335, relating to annual contracts for instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011. This subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation procedures and criteria.

12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities, including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are eligible for exemption.

13. Those laws pertaining to participating school districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and 1012.28(8).

(4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school district shall require that the principal of each participating school, a three-member leadership team from each participating school, and district personnel working with each participating school complete a nationally recognized school turnaround program which focuses on improving leadership, instructional infrastructure, talent management, and differentiated support and accountability. The required personnel must enroll in the nationally recognized school turnaround program upon acceptance into the pilot program. Each participating school district shall receive \$100,000 from the department for participation in the nationally recognized school turnaround program.

(5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize a school district to participate in the pilot program for a period of 3 years commencing with approval of the principal autonomy proposal. Authorization to participate in the pilot program may be renewed upon action of the state board. The state board may revoke authorization to participate in the pilot program if the school district fails to meet the requirements of this section during the 3-year period.

(6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall submit an annual report to the state board. The state board shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the pilot program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot program.

(7) FUNDING.—The Legislature shall provide an appropriation to the department for the costs of the pilot program, including administrative costs and enrollment costs for the nationally recognized school turnaround program, and an additional amount of \$10,000 for each participating principal in each participating district as an annual salary supplement, a fund for the principal's school to be used at the principal's discretion, or both, as determined by the district. To be eligible for a salary supplement under this subsection, a participating principal must:

(a) Be rated "highly effective" as determined by the principal's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34;

(b) Be transferred to a school that earned a grade of "F" or three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 and provided additional authority and responsibilities pursuant to s. 1012.28(8); and

(c) Have implemented a turnaround option under s. 1008.33(4) at a school as the school's principal. The turnaround option must have resulted in the school improving by at least one letter grade while he or she was serving as the school's principal.

(8) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1011.69, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

(2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district school boards shall allocate to schools within the district an average of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent, except schools participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202 are guaranteed to receive at least 90 percent, of the funds generated by that school based upon the Florida

Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school district’s current operating discretionary millage levy. Total funding for each school shall be recalculated during the year to reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time equivalent students reported by the school during the full-time equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner of Education. If the district school board is providing programs or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible students enrolled in the schools in the district shall be provided federal funds.

Section 3. Subsection (8) is added to section 1012.28, Florida Statutes, to read:

1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school principals.—

(8) The principal of a school participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202 has the following additional authority and responsibilities:

(a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer of instructional personnel by the district school superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a participating school in a participating school district does not affect the employee’s status as a school district employee.

(b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school programs at the principal’s discretion to help improve student achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and meet performance goals identified in the principal autonomy proposal submitted pursuant to s. 1011.6202.

(c) To annually provide to the district school superintendent and the district school board a budget for the operation of the participating school that identifies how funds provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. The school district shall include the budget in the annual report provided to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).

Section 4. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sums of \$700,000 in nonrecurring funds and \$210,000 in recurring funds are appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the provisions of this act.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 14, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 14, 2016.