

CHAPTER 2023-168

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 478

An act relating to the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program; amending s. 1003.481, F.S.; renaming the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program as the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program; transferring certain duties regarding the program's administration from the Commissioner of Education to the Department of Education; specifying that program funds are subject to legislative appropriation; revising criteria for a school district's eligibility to participate in the program; deleting an obsolete provision requiring the University of Florida's College of Education to conduct a specified evaluation; abrogating the scheduled expiration of provisions governing the program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.481, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.481 Early Childhood Music Education Incentive ~~Pilot~~ Program.—

(1) The Early Childhood Music Education Incentive ~~Pilot~~ Program is created within the Department of Education. The purpose of the ~~pilot~~ program is to assist participating ~~selected~~ school districts in implementing comprehensive music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade 2.

(2) A school district is eligible for participation in the ~~pilot~~ program if the superintendent certifies to the department ~~Commissioner of Education~~, in a format prescribed by the department, that specified elementary schools within the district have established a comprehensive music education program that:

(a) Includes all students at the school enrolled in kindergarten through grade 2.

(b) Is staffed by certified music educators.

(c) Provides music instruction for at least 30 consecutive minutes 2 days a week.

(d) Complies with class size requirements under s. 1003.03.

(e) Complies with the department's standards for early childhood music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade 2.

(3)(a) The department ~~commissioner~~ shall approve ~~select~~ school districts for participation in the ~~pilot~~ program, subject to legislative appropriation, based on ~~the school district's proximity to the University of Florida and~~

needs-based criteria established by the State Board of Education. Subject to appropriations provided in the General Appropriations Act, participating Selected school districts shall annually receive a maximum of \$150 per full-time equivalent student in kindergarten through grade 2 who is enrolled in a comprehensive music education program.

(b) To maintain eligibility for participation in the ~~pilot~~ program, a participating selected school district must annually certify to the department commissioner, in a format prescribed by the department, that each specified elementary school within the district provides a comprehensive music education program that meets the requirements of subsection (2). If a participating selected school district fails to provide the annual certification for a fiscal year, the school district must return all funds received through the pilot program for that fiscal year.

~~(4) The University of Florida’s College of Education, in collaboration with Florida International University’s School of Music, shall evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program by measuring student academic performance and the success of the program. The evaluation must include, but is not limited to, a quantitative analysis of student achievement and a qualitative evaluation of students enrolled in the comprehensive music education programs. The results of the evaluation must be shared with the Florida Center for Partnerships for Arts-Integrated Teaching upon completion of the evaluation.~~

~~(5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to administer this section.~~

~~(6) This section expires June 30, 2023.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2023.