

CHAPTER 2024-46

Senate Bill No. 46

An act relating to the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program; amending s. 1008.365, F.S.; providing that tutoring provided through the tutoring program established as part of the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program may be provided after the school day; authorizing school districts that participate in the tutoring program to provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students who serve as tutors under the program; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 1008.365, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.365 Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Act.

(8) As part of the RAISE Program, the department shall establish a tutoring program and develop training in effective reading tutoring practices and content, based on evidence-based practices grounded in the science of reading and aligned to the English Language Arts standards under s. 1003.41, which prepares eligible high school students to tutor students in kindergarten through grade 3 in schools identified under this section, instilling in those students a love of reading and improving their literacy skills.

(a) To be eligible to participate in the tutoring program, a high school student must be a rising junior or senior who has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, has no history of out-of-school suspensions or expulsions, is on track to complete all core course requirements to graduate, and has written recommendations from at least two of his or her present or former high school teachers of record or extracurricular activity sponsors.

(b) School districts that wish to participate in the tutoring program must recruit, train, and deploy eligible high school students using the materials developed under this section. Tutoring must occur during or after the school day on school district property in the presence and under the supervision of instructional personnel who are school district employees. A parent must give written permission for his or her child to receive tutoring through the program.

(c) Tutoring may be part of a service-learning course adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497. Students may earn up to three elective credits for high school graduation based on the verified number of hours the student spends tutoring under the program. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student,

the student’s parent or guardian, and an administrator or designee of the school in which the tutoring occurred. Unpaid The hours that a high school student devotes to tutoring 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 as provided in s. 1003.497(3)(b). The department shall designate a high school student who provides at least 75 verified hours of tutoring under the program as a New Worlds Scholar and award the student with a pin indicating such designation.

(d) School districts participating in the tutoring program may provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students serving as tutors for after-school tutoring.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor April 2, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 2, 2024.