

By Senator Forman

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to truancy; amending s.  
229.8345, F.S.; defining a habitual truant;  
amending s. 236.081, F.S.; amending procedures  
that must be followed in determining the annual  
allocation to each school district for  
operation; requiring the average daily  
attendance of the student membership in each  
program to be calculated by school and by  
district; requiring average daily attendance to  
be used as the sole basis for determining the  
base student allocation; providing an effective  
date.

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

Section 1. Section 229.8345, Florida Statutes, is  
amended to read:

229.8345 Habitual truants; identification.--

(1) The Department of Education shall analyze the  
current methods of collecting data on student attendance and  
shall develop improved methods of identifying children who are  
habitually truant. The department shall provide technical  
assistance to school districts in order to allow each district  
to accurately identify students whose chronic absence from  
school may not otherwise be readily apparent to school  
personnel.

(2) Beginning with school year 2001-2002, a student  
who is truant a total of 18 times in any program shall be  
identified as a habitual truant.

1 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of  
2 section 236.081, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are  
3 amended to read:

4 236.081 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual  
5 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
6 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
7 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
8 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
9 follows:

10 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR  
11 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in  
12 determining the annual allocation to each district for  
13 operation:

14 (a) Determination of full-time equivalent  
15 membership.--During each of several school weeks, including  
16 scheduled intersessions of a year-round school program during  
17 the fiscal year, a program membership survey of each school  
18 shall be made by each district by aggregating the full-time  
19 equivalent student membership of each program by school and by  
20 district. The department shall establish the number and  
21 interval of membership calculations, except that for basic and  
22 special programs such calculations shall not exceed nine for  
23 any fiscal year. The district's full-time equivalent  
24 membership shall be computed and currently maintained in  
25 accordance with regulations of the commissioner. Beginning  
26 with school year 1999-2000, each school district shall make a  
27 program membership survey that documents the average daily  
28 attendance of the student membership in each program by school  
29 and by district. The average daily attendance must be computed  
30 by dividing the total daily attendance of the student

1 membership in each program by the number of days in the  
2 program.  
3 (b) Determination of base student allocation.--The  
4 base student allocation for the Florida Education Finance  
5 Program for kindergarten through grade 12 shall be determined  
6 annually by the Legislature and shall be that amount  
7 prescribed in the current year's General Appropriations Act.  
8 Beginning with school year 2001-2002, the average daily  
9 attendance as computed under paragraph (a) must be used as the  
10 sole basis for determining the base student allocation.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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14 SENATE SUMMARY

15 Defines a habitual truant. Revises the procedures that  
16 must be followed in determining the annual allocation to  
17 each school district of funds for the operation of  
18 schools. Beginning with school year 1999-2000, requires  
19 the average daily attendance of the student membership in  
20 each program to be calculated by school and by district.  
21 Beginning with school year 2001-2002, requires average  
22 daily attendance to be used as the sole basis for  
23 determining the base student allocation.

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