

By Representative Alexander

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; creating
3 professional development academies to meet the
4 human resource development needs of
5 professional educators, schools, and school
6 districts; providing that appropriated funds
7 must be allocated by the Commissioner of
8 Education unless otherwise provided in the
9 appropriations act; providing eligibility
10 requirements for start-up funds; providing an
11 effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. One or more professional development
16 academies shall be established to meet the human resource
17 development needs of professional educators, schools, and
18 school districts. Funds appropriated for the initiation of
19 professional development academies must be allocated by the
20 Commissioner of Education, unless otherwise provided in an
21 appropriations act. To be eligible for start-up funds, an
22 academy must:

23 (1) Be established by the collaborative efforts of one
24 or more district school boards, members of the business
25 community, and the postsecondary institutions that may award
26 college credits for courses taught at the academy.

27 (2) Demonstrate the ability to provide high-quality
28 trainers and training and appropriate followup and coaching
29 for all participants and to support school personnel in
30 improving students' performance.

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1 (3) Be operated under contract with its public
2 partners and governed by an independent board of directors
3 that should include at least one school superintendent and one
4 school board chairman from the participating school districts,
5 the president of the collective bargaining unit that
6 represents the majority of the region's teachers, and at least
7 three individuals who are not employees or elected or
8 appointed officials of the participating school districts.

9 (4) Be financed during the first year of operation by
10 an equal or greater match from private funding sources and
11 demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year
12 after opening through fees for services, grants, or private
13 contributions.

14 (5) Own or lease a facility that can be used to
15 deliver training on-site and through distance learning and
16 other technology-based delivery systems. The participating
17 district school boards may lease a site or facility to the
18 academy for a nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs
19 of renovating a facility to accommodate the academy. The
20 academy is responsible for all operational, maintenance, and
21 repair costs.

22 (6) Provide professional development services for the
23 participating school districts as specified in the contract,
24 and may provide professional development services to other
25 school districts, private schools, and individuals on a
26 fee-for-services basis.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Creates professional development academies to meet the human resource development needs of professional educators, schools, and school districts. Provides that appropriated funds must be allocated by the Commissioner of Education unless otherwise provided in the appropriations act. Provides eligibility requirements for start-up funds.