

By the Committee on Education and Senators Wasserman Schultz and Rossin

27-1848A-01

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to school facilities; amending
s. 230.23, F.S.; providing an example of a
school-within-a-school; amending s. 235.2157,
F.S.; modifying small-school student-population
limits; providing for exceptions to the
small-schools requirements; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (20)
of section 230.23, Florida Statutes, to read:

230.23 Powers and duties of school board.--The school
board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and
perform all duties listed below:

(20) SCHOOL-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL.--In order to reduce the
anonymity of students in large schools, the district school
board shall adopt policies effective for the 2002-2003 school
year, and thereafter, to encourage any school that does not
meet the definition of a small school, as established by s.
235.2157(2), to subdivide into schools-within-a-school, which
shall operate within existing resources. A
"school-within-a-school" means an operational program that
uses flexible scheduling, team planning, and curricular and
instructional innovation to organize groups of students with
groups of teachers as smaller units, so as to functionally
operate as a smaller school. Examples of this include, but are
not limited to:

(d) A physical plant design that would house students
grouped by the smaller school designation in buildings that

1 surround or are easily accessible to a structure containing
2 core facilities, as defined by rule of the Department of
3 Education, which would be shared by the surrounding buildings.

4 Section 2. Subsections (2) and (4) of section
5 235.2157, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

6 235.2157 Small school requirement.--

7 (2) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, "small
8 school" means:

9 (a) An elementary school with a student population of
10 not more than 500 students.

11 (b) A middle school with a student population of not
12 more than 900 ~~700~~ students.

13 (c) A high school with a student population of not
14 more than 1,200 ~~900~~ students.

15 (d) A school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with
16 a student population of not more than 900 ~~700~~ students.

17 (e) A school serving kindergarten through grade 12
18 with a student population of not more than 1,200 ~~900~~ students.

19

20 A school on a single campus which operates as a
21 school-within-a-school, as defined by s. 230.23(20), shall be
22 considered a small school if each smaller unit located on the
23 single campus meets the requirements of this subsection.

24 (4) EXCEPTIONS.--

25 (a) This section does not apply to plans for new
26 educational facilities already under architectural contract on
27 July 1, 2003.

28 (b) The Commissioner of Education may approve an
29 exemption to the small-school requirement under any of the
30 following conditions:

31

1 1. An interlocal agreement between the school district
2 and the local governmental body having geographic jurisdiction
3 requires specified construction of schools under s. 163.3177;

4 2. The school district has submitted documentation
5 that the lowest bid or request for proposals meeting
6 small-schools specifications would exceed the per-pupil
7 station cost defined in s. 235.216; or

8 3. The school district has submitted documentation
9 that school siting is unavailable or excessively priced above
10 appraisal and that to pursue a small school in the particular
11 location would not be in the best interest of the district's
12 students.

13 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

14
15 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
17 SBs 1254 and 1954

18 A school plant that houses students in buildings meeting the
19 statutory small schools requirement that are served by a
20 common core facility, is cited as an example of the
21 schools-within-a-school concept.

22 The student population maximums for new school construction
23 are increased from 700 to 900 for middle schools and schools
24 serving students in kindergarten through grade 8, and from 900
25 to 1200 for high schools and schools serving students in
26 kindergarten through grade 12.

27 The Commissioner of Education is authorized to grant
28 exemptions to the small schools requirement in situations
29 where:

30 - An agreed upon local comprehensive plan calls for a specific
31 type of school construction;

- The low bid for construction of a school meeting the small
schools requirement exceeds the pre-pupil station costs that
qualify for the School Infrastructure Thrift Program;

- Documentation that no site is available for a proposed
school, or is priced well above appraisal, and that pursuit of
the particular site would not be in the best interests of the
students the school is intended to serve.