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An act relating to teacher recruitment;  
creating the Transition to Teaching Program;  
providing for grant proposals and applications;  
requiring an evaluation; authorizing certain  
activities and placing limitations on  
expenditures; providing for repayment of  
certain stipends; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Transition to Teaching Program; Legislative intent.--The Transition to Teaching Program is created to encourage and assist mid-career professionals who want to become teachers.

Section 2. Grants; eligible applicants.--

(1) The Commissioner of Education shall design the process for receiving and evaluating grant proposals in accordance with state and federal appropriations guidelines. Grants may be awarded only to the extent that funding is provided.

(2) The Commissioner of Education shall request proposals from eligible applicants to participate in the program. Each application must:

(a) Describe the target group of career-changing professionals upon which the applicant will focus in carrying out its program, including a description of the characteristics of the target group that shows how the knowledge and experience of its members are likely to improve their ability to become effective teachers.

1           (b) Describe how the applicant will identify and  
2 recruit program participants.

3           (c) Describe how the applicant will ensure that  
4 program participants are placed and teach in eligible school  
5 districts in this state.

6           (d) Describe the teacher support services that program  
7 participants will receive throughout at least their first year  
8 of teaching.

9           (e) Describe how the applicant will collaborate with  
10 other institutions, agencies, or organizations to recruit,  
11 train, place, and support program participants, including  
12 evidence of the commitment of those institutions, agencies, or  
13 organizations to the applicant's program.

14           (3) The Commissioner of Education must require an  
15 evaluation process to measure the progress and effectiveness  
16 of the program. This evaluation must include:

17           (a) The program's goals and objectives.

18           (b) The performance indicators that the applicant will  
19 use to measure the program's progress.

20           (c) The outcome measures that will be used to  
21 determine the program's effectiveness.

22           (d) An assurance that the applicant will provide the  
23 commissioner with information the commissioner finds necessary  
24 to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs.

25           Section 3. Program implementation; authorized  
26 expenditures.--

27           (1) An applicant shall estimate the funds required for  
28 the proposed program. All funds provided for a program must be  
29 used as authorized in federal guidelines.

30           (2) Eligible applicants are encouraged to implement  
31 the program using the following components:

1           (a) Recruiting program participants, including  
2 informing them of opportunities under the program and putting  
3 them in contact with other institutions, agencies, or  
4 organizations that will train, place, and support them in the  
5 teaching profession.

6           (b) Assisting providers of teacher training to tailor  
7 their training to meet the particular needs of professionals  
8 who are changing their careers to teaching.

9           (c) Placement activities, including identifying  
10 eligible local education agencies with a need for the skills  
11 and characteristics of the newly trained program participants  
12 and assisting those participants to obtain employment in those  
13 school districts.

14           (d) Post-placement support activities for program  
15 participants.

16           Section 4. Eligible participants; requirements for  
17 grant repayment.--

18           (1) Each participant who receives a grant from the  
19 program to pursue a teacher-preparation program must agree to  
20 teach in an eligible school district in this state for at  
21 least 3 years after certification. To be eligible, a school  
22 district must meet the requirements established in regulations  
23 that implement the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 2000.

24           (2) The commissioner shall establish conditions under  
25 which a participant must repay all or a portion of the  
26 training stipend if the participant fails to complete his or  
27 her service obligation.

28           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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