

By Representatives Melvin, Kilmer, Brown and Miller

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 an
9 appropriations act; providing eligibility
10 requirements for startup funds; providing an
11 effective date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
14

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 startup 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 will 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.

31

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 chair 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 Regional educational consortia as defined in s. 228.0857,
10 Florida Statutes, satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

11 (4) Be financed during the first year of operation by
12 an equal or greater match from private funding sources and
13 demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year
14 after opening through fees for services, grants, or private
15 contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s.
16 228.0857, Florida Statutes, are exempt from the funding match
17 required by this subsection.

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

26 (6) Provide professional development services for the
27 participating school districts as specified in the contract.
28 An academy may provide professional development services to
29 other school districts, private schools, and individuals on a
30 fee-for-service basis.

31

1 (7) If the majority of counties in a regional
2 educational consortium have been designated as "rural areas of
3 critical economic concern" by the Governor in Executive Order
4 99-275 or subsequent executive orders, all counties and their
5 respective school districts served by the consortium are
6 eligible to receive benefits under this section.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

8

9

10

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

11

12 Creates professional development academies to meet the
13 human resource development needs of professional
14 educators, schools, and school districts. Provides that
15 appropriated funds must be allocated by the Commissioner
16 of Education unless otherwise provided in an
17 appropriations act. Provides eligibility requirements for
18 startup funds.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31