

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

34-269-03

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to schools; amending s.
 3 1001.42, F.S.; requiring district school boards
 4 to adopt policies to subdivide into
 5 schools-within-a-school; amending s. 1003.02,
 6 F.S.; requiring district school boards to adopt
 7 policies to subdivide into
 8 schools-within-a-school; repealing s. 1013.43,
 9 F.S., relating to restrictions on the size of
 10 new schools; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Subsection (20) of section 1001.42, Florida
 15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school
 17 board.--The district school board, acting as a board, shall
 18 exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

19 (20) SCHOOL-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL.--In order to reduce the
 20 anonymity of students in large schools, adopt policies to
 21 encourage a any school that ~~does not meet the definition of a~~
 22 ~~small school, as established by s. 1013.43(2),~~ to subdivide
 23 into schools-within-a-school that shall operate within
 24 existing resources in accordance with the provisions of
 25 chapter 1003.

26 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1003.02, Florida
 27 Statutes, is amended to read:

28 1003.02 District school board operation and control of
 29 public K-12 education within the school district.--As provided
 30 in part II of chapter 1001, district school boards are
 31 constitutionally and statutorily charged with the operation

1 and control of public K-12 education within their school
2 district. The district school boards must establish, organize,
3 and operate their public K-12 schools and educational
4 programs, employees, and facilities. Their responsibilities
5 include staff development, public K-12 school student
6 education including education for exceptional students and
7 students in juvenile justice programs, special programs, adult
8 education programs, and career and technical education
9 programs. Additionally, district school boards must:

10 (4) ~~For any school within the district that is not in~~
11 ~~compliance with the small school size requirements of chapter~~
12 ~~1013~~; In order to reduce the anonymity of students in large
13 schools, adopt policies that encourage subdivision of the
14 school into schools-within-a-school, which shall operate
15 within existing resources. A "school-within-a-school" means an
16 operational program that uses flexible scheduling, team
17 planning, and curricular and instructional innovation to
18 organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller
19 units, so as to functionally operate as a smaller school.
20 Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

21 (a) An organizational arrangement assigning both
22 students and teachers to smaller units in which the students
23 take some or all of their coursework with their fellow grouped
24 students and from the teachers assigned to the smaller unit. A
25 unit may be grouped together for 1 year or on a vertical,
26 multiyear basis.

27 (b) An organizational arrangement similar to that
28 described in paragraph (a) with additional variations in
29 instruction and curriculum. The smaller unit usually seeks to
30 maintain a program different from that of the larger school,
31 or of other smaller units. It may be vertically organized, but

1 is dependent upon the school principal for its existence,
2 budget, and staff.
3 (c) A separate and autonomous smaller unit formally
4 authorized by the district school board or district school
5 superintendent. The smaller unit plans and runs its own
6 program, has its own staff and students, and receives its own
7 separate budget. The smaller unit must negotiate the use of
8 common space with the larger school and defer to the building
9 principal on matters of safety and building operation.
10 Section 3. Section 1013.43, Florida Statutes, as
11 created by section 842 of chapter 2002-387, Laws of Florida,
12 is repealed.
13 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
14 law.

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17 SENATE SUMMARY

18 Repeals s. 1013.43, F.S., relating to restrictions on the
19 size of new schools. Amends s. 1001.42, F.S., relating to
20 policies for subdividing into schools-within-a-school,
21 and s. 1003.02, F.S., relating to a requirement that
22 district school boards adopt policies to subdivide into
23 schools-within-a-school, to conform.
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