



HB 0081

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to education finance; creating s. 1011.63,
 F.S.; authorizing school districts to opt out of the
 restrictions applied to allocations for formula-funded
 categorical programs and to use such funds at their
 discretion; providing requirements to obtain such
 discretionary spending authority; requiring school
 districts to meet certain performance standards; requiring
 public notice in local newspapers; requiring reporting;
 providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1011.63, Florida Statutes, is created
 to read:

1011.63 Local option for categorical funding.--

(1) Notwithstanding s. 1011.62 or any other provision of
 law to the contrary, any school district receiving funds
 appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for formula-
 funded categorical programs may, upon request submitted to the
 Commissioner of Education before the convening of the initial
 Florida Education Finance Program Appropriation Allocation
 Conference as provided in s. 1011.65 and approval by the
 commissioner, receive those categorical funds in a lump sum and
 use the funds for any or all of the purposes for which the funds
 were appropriated or apply the funds to other classroom
 education purposes, as determined by the district school board
 after meeting performance standards determined by the Department
 of Education. Such performance standards must ensure that the
 purpose for which the categorical funds were appropriated is



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31 otherwise provided for prior to diverting those funds to another
32 purpose. The district school board must provide public notice in
33 a local newspaper of general circulation when such approval is
34 granted. In addition, within 14 business days after receiving
35 such funds, the district school board must provide public notice
36 in a local newspaper of general circulation of the purposes for
37 which the funds will be used and the necessity for reallocating
38 the funds.

39 (2) In reporting its expenditures under s. 1010.20, a
40 school district granted discretionary spending authority under
41 this section shall report on a school-by-school and a district-
42 aggregate basis how all funds, including federal funds,
43 allocated to the district for formula-funded categorical
44 programs were expended.

45 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.