

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1365 CS Florida School Recognition Program
SPONSOR(S): Bean and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) PreK-12 Committee	8 Y, 0 N, w/CS	Howlette	Mizereck
2) Education Appropriations Committee			
3) Education Council			
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Currently, schools that serve prekindergarten through grade three do not receive school grades and thus are not eligible to participate in the Florida School Recognition Program. House Bill 1365 requires assignment of school performance grades to such schools, based on feeder pattern school grades, for the purpose of participating in the Florida School Recognition Program.

The bill sets an effective date of July 1, 2005.

The fiscal impact on state government expenditures is neutral. See FISCAL COMMENTS section.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Empower Families – Assigning school grades to additional schools provides parents with additional information about the educational program in their children’s school.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The Florida School Recognition Program (s. 1008.36, F.S.) provides financial awards to public schools as a reward for performance and productivity. Currently, schools are only eligible to participate in the program if they receive school grades. FCAT results, including learning gains, are required criteria for receiving a school grade. Schools that do not serve students beyond third grade are not eligible for school grades because students do not take the FCAT in grades prekindergarten through grade 2, and learning gains cannot be calculated with only grade 3 data.

HB 1365 would allow schools serving any combination of prekindergarten through third grade to participate in the Florida School Recognition Program. These schools would be assigned the school performance grade of their partner feeder pattern school, as designated by the school district.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1008.36, F.S., to include schools serving prekindergarten through third grade in the Florida School Recognition Program and to provide for assigning grades to such schools.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This fiscal impact on state government expenditures is neutral. Please see the FISCAL COMMENTS section for additional information.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The fiscal impact of the bill is neutral. Current proviso language provides that School Recognition Awards be paid first from “Grants and Aids – District Lottery and School Recognition Program” funds. Therefore, more of the discretionary lottery dollars would go to School Recognition Awards and less would go to the districts, but the net effect to the budget is neutral.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a municipality or county to spend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

The Department of Education does not collect enrollment data on school district prekindergarten programs, except for exceptional education prekindergarten. Because school recognition dollars are calculated on a per student basis, this could be problematic for calculating awards.

The bill should be amended to clearly define “feeder pattern” for the purposes of school recognition award calculation.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On March 22, 2005, the PreK-12 Committee adopted one amendment to the bill. The amendment:

- Removed “prekindergarten through grade three” from eligible schools, and specified “kindergarten through grade three;”
- Required that feeder pattern schools be designated by the Department of Education and verified by the school district;
- Defined feeder pattern for the purposes of the bill as a school where at least 60% of the students in the receiving school came from the designated feeder; and
- Made feeder pattern schools subject to the Opportunity Scholarship Program.