

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

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

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

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

Currently, schools that serve kindergarten 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 that such schools be assigned the school grade of the feeder pattern school designated by the Department of Education and verified by the school district.

The bill makes such schools eligible to participate in the Florida School Recognition Program based on the feeder grade assigned, and includes such schools under the Opportunity Scholarship 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, and inclusion in the Opportunity Scholarship Program provides families with additional educational choices for their children.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The Florida School Recognition Program<sup>1</sup> 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 kindergarten through grade 2, and learning gains cannot be calculated with only grade 3 data.

House Bill 1365 requires that such schools be assigned the school grade of the feeder pattern school designated by the Department of Education and verified by the school district. The bill makes such schools eligible to participate in the Florida School Recognition Program based on the feeder grade assigned, and includes such schools under the Opportunity Scholarship Program.<sup>2</sup>

The bill defines “feeder school pattern” as a pattern where at least 60 percent of the students in the school receiving the school grade came from the same feeder school.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1.** Amends s. 1008.36, F.S., to include schools serving kindergarten through third grade in the Florida School Recognition Program, to provide for assigning grades to such schools, and to require inclusion of such schools in the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1008.36, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 1002.38, F.S.

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. Participation in the Opportunity Scholarship Program also has a neutral fiscal impact since there is no increase in funds per student, only a change in where the funds are expended.

### 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:

None.

### IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

This analysis is drawn to the Committee Substitute that was adopted at the March 22, 2005, meeting of the PreK-12 Committee. The Committee Substitute differs from the bill as filed in that the Committee Substitute:

- 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.