

By Senators King and Wise

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education personnel; amending s. 1012.985, F.S.; authorizing a regional professional development academy to receive funds from certain sources for the purpose of developing programs and services; providing that a regional professional development academy is not a component of any school district or governmental unit to which it provides services; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.985 Statewide system for inservice professional development.--

(1) The intent of this section is to establish a statewide system of professional development that provides a wide range of targeted inservice training to teachers, managers, and administrative personnel designed to upgrade skills and knowledge needed to reach world class standards in education. The system shall consist of a network of professional development academies in each region of the state which ~~that~~ are operated in partnership with area business partners to develop and deliver high-quality training programs purchased by school districts. The academies shall be established to meet the human resource development needs of professional educators, schools, and school districts. Funds appropriated for the initiation of professional development

1 academies shall be allocated by the Commissioner of Education,
2 unless otherwise provided in an appropriations act. To be
3 eligible for startup funds, the academy must:

4 (a)~~(1)~~ Be established by the collaborative efforts of
5 one or more district school boards, members of the business
6 community, and the postsecondary educational institutions
7 which may award college credits for courses taught at the
8 academy.

9 (b)~~(2)~~ Demonstrate the capacity to provide effective
10 training to improve teaching skills in the areas of elementary
11 reading and mathematics, the use of instructional technology,
12 high school algebra, and classroom management, and to deliver
13 such training using face-to-face, distance learning, and
14 individualized computer-based delivery systems.

15 (c)~~(3)~~ Propose a plan for responding in an effective
16 and timely manner to the professional development needs of
17 teachers, managers, administrative personnel, schools, and
18 school districts relating to improving student achievement and
19 meeting state and local education goals.

20 (d)~~(4)~~ Demonstrate the ability to provide high-quality
21 trainers and training, appropriate followup and coaching for
22 all participants, and support school personnel in positively
23 impacting student performance.

24 (e)~~(5)~~ Be operated under contract with its public
25 partners and governed by an independent board of directors,
26 which should include at least one district school
27 superintendent and one district school board chair from the
28 participating school districts, the president of the
29 collective bargaining unit that represents the majority of the
30 region's teachers, and at least three individuals who are not
31 employees or elected or appointed officials of the

1 participating school districts. Regional educational consortia
2 as defined in s. 1001.451 satisfy the requirements of this
3 paragraph ~~subsection~~.

4 ~~(f)(6)~~ Be financed during the first year of operation
5 by an equal or greater match from private funding sources and
6 demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year
7 after opening through fees for services, grants, or private
8 contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s.
9 1001.451 which serve rural areas of critical economic concern
10 are exempt from the funding match required by this paragraph
11 ~~subsection~~.

12 ~~(g)(7)~~ Own or lease a facility that can be used to
13 deliver training onsite and through distance learning and
14 other technology-based delivery systems. The participating
15 district school boards may lease a site or facility to the
16 academy for a nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs
17 of renovating a facility to accommodate the academy. The
18 academy is responsible for all operational, maintenance, and
19 repair costs.

20 ~~(h)(8)~~ Provide professional development services for
21 the participating school districts as specified in the
22 contract and may provide professional development services to
23 other school districts, private schools, and individuals on a
24 fee-for-services basis.

25 (2) Upon compliance with the requirements for the
26 first year of operation in paragraph (1)(f), a regional
27 professional development academy:

28 (a) May receive funds from the Department of Education
29 or as provided in the General Appropriations Act for the
30 purpose of developing programs, expanding services, assessing
31 inservice training and professional development, or other

1 programs that are consistent with the mission of the academy
2 and the needs of the the state and region; and

3 (b) Is not, by virtue of providing services to one or
4 more school districts, a component of any school district or
5 any governmental unit to which the regional professional
6 development academy provides services.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
8 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Authorizes a regional professional development academy to receive funds from certain sources for the purpose of developing programs and services. Provides that a regional professional development academy is not a component of any school district or governmental unit to which it provides services.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.