

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2       An act relating to education personnel; amending s.  
 3       1012.985, F.S.; authorizing a regional professional  
 4       development academy to receive funds from certain sources  
 5       for the purpose of developing programs and services;  
 6       providing that a regional professional development academy  
 7       is not a component of any school district or governmental  
 8       unit to which it provides services; providing an effective  
 9       date.

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

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

15           1012.985 Statewide system for inservice professional  
 16 development.--

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

29 professional development academies shall be allocated by the  
30 Commissioner of Education, unless otherwise provided in an  
31 appropriations act. To be eligible for startup funds, the  
32 academy must:

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

37 (b)~~(2)~~ Demonstrate the capacity to provide effective  
38 training to improve teaching skills in the areas of elementary  
39 reading and mathematics, the use of instructional technology,  
40 high school algebra, and classroom management, and to deliver  
41 such training using face-to-face, distance learning, and  
42 individualized computer-based delivery systems.

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

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

52 (e)~~(5)~~ Be operated under contract with its public partners  
53 and governed by an independent board of directors, which should  
54 include at least one district school superintendent and one  
55 district school board chair from the participating school  
56 districts, the president of the collective bargaining unit that

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57 | represents the majority of the region's teachers, and at least  
58 | three individuals who are not employees or elected or appointed  
59 | officials of the participating school districts. Regional  
60 | educational consortia as defined in s. 1001.451 satisfy the  
61 | requirements of this paragraph subsection.

62 | (f) ~~(6)~~ Be financed during the first year of operation by  
63 | an equal or greater match from private funding sources and  
64 | demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year  
65 | after opening through fees for services, grants, or private  
66 | contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s.  
67 | 1001.451 which serve rural areas of critical economic concern  
68 | are exempt from the funding match required by this paragraph  
69 | subsection.

70 | (g) ~~(7)~~ Own or lease a facility that can be used to deliver  
71 | training onsite and through distance learning and other  
72 | technology-based delivery systems. The participating district  
73 | school boards may lease a site or facility to the academy for a  
74 | nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs of renovating a  
75 | facility to accommodate the academy. The academy is responsible  
76 | for all operational, maintenance, and repair costs.

77 | (h) ~~(8)~~ Provide professional development services for the  
78 | participating school districts as specified in the contract and  
79 | may provide professional development services to other school  
80 | districts, private schools, and individuals on a fee-for-  
81 | services basis.

82 | (2) Upon compliance with the requirements for the first  
83 | year of operation in paragraph (1) (f), a regional professional  
84 | development academy:

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85        (a) May receive funds from the Department of Education or  
86 as provided in the General Appropriations Act for the purpose of  
87 developing programs, expanding services, assessing inservice  
88 training and professional development, or other programs that  
89 are consistent with the mission of the academy and the needs of  
90 the state and region; and

91        (b) Is not, by virtue of providing services to one or more  
92 school districts, a component of any school district or any  
93 governmental unit to which the regional professional development  
94 academy provides services.

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