



1 goal of the program is to ensure that youth who are in foster  
2 care will be tested appropriately and placed in an educational  
3 environment that optimizes their opportunities for success.

4 (2) The pilot program shall consist of the cooperative  
5 efforts of:

6 (a) The Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care, as  
7 created under this section;

8 (b) The community-based care lead agency for foster  
9 care and adoption in Duval County;

10 (c) The case managers assigned to children in foster  
11 care;

12 (d) The Duval County School Board;

13 (e) Nova Southeastern University;

14 (f) The foster care parents of children currently in  
15 the foster care system;

16 (g) When possible, the natural parents of children  
17 currently in the foster care system; and

18 (h) The circuit court judge hearing a foster care  
19 case.

20 (3)(a) The Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care is  
21 created in the Fourth Judicial Circuit and shall consist of  
22 the chief judge for the circuit, or another judge from the  
23 circuit designated by the chief judge who is the lead judge in  
24 the area of dependency and adoption, and 15 community  
25 volunteers who are community leaders having abilities and  
26 expertise in diverse areas. The chief judge, or the judge  
27 designated by the chief judge, shall serve as the chair of the  
28 panel. The 15 volunteers shall be comprised of:

29 1. Four members appointed by the chief judge, or by  
30 the judge designated by the chief judge;

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1           2. Four members appointed by the Secretary of Children  
2 and Family Services, or his or her designee;

3           3. Four members appointed by the Duval County School  
4 Board; and

5           4. Three members appointed by the guardian ad litem  
6 for Duval County.

7           (b) The chief judge, or the judge from the circuit  
8 designated by the chief judge, may issue orders and obtain  
9 educational information relating to the students who are 6 to  
10 12 years of age and are in the foster care system in District  
11 IV of the department. Pursuant to the order, the panel shall  
12 review the academic progress, behavioral issues, and  
13 attendance of each student and shall recommend referral of any  
14 student for whom the review demonstrates a need for follow-up  
15 services. The panel may prioritize referrals by assessing the  
16 severity of need and recommending that the most critical needs  
17 be met first. A student who is failing may be referred for  
18 educational testing, for additional psychological and  
19 therapeutic counseling as recommended, or for both, to  
20 determine why he or she is failing and what accommodations and  
21 remediation are needed.

22           (4) The community-based care lead agency shall provide  
23 administrative support for the Community Advisory Panel on  
24 Foster Care and for the operation of the pilot program. To  
25 help facilitate the duties of the panel, the agency shall  
26 employ:

27           (a) A full-time project coordinator who shall assist  
28 the student's case manager in identifying resources for  
29 educational testing and psychological and therapeutic  
30 counseling. In addition, the project coordinator shall oversee  
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1 the development of an assessment tool that is designed to  
2 determine the effectiveness of the pilot program.

3 1. The purpose of the assessment tool is to link  
4 systems among providers of educational services, psychological  
5 services, and case-management services and the court system.

6 2. The entity that designs the assessment tool must,  
7 during the first year of the pilot program, undertake the  
8 following tasks:

9 a. Discovery. This phase includes meeting with  
10 information technology staff from the department, school board  
11 staff, and case managers.

12 b. Development. This phase consists of determining the  
13 best method for data entry, the best database, and the best  
14 data format.

15 c. Implementation. This phase comprises completing,  
16 testing, and delivering the assessment tool.

17 d. Maintenance. This phase involves developing a  
18 maintenance plan and schedule, after the initiation of the  
19 assessment tool.

20 (b) A full-time psychologist who shall provide  
21 educational testing and psychological and therapeutic  
22 counseling to foster care children and provide advice,  
23 research, assessments, and other services to the judges.

24 (5) The project coordinator shall submit an annual  
25 report on the pilot program to the chief judge of the Fourth  
26 Judicial Circuit, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
27 the House of Representatives, the State Courts Administrator,  
28 and the Secretary of Children and Family Services.

29 (6) The pilot program expires on July 1, 2009.

30 Section 2. The sum of \$300,000 is appropriated from  
31 the General Revenue Fund to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court

1 in Duval County for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, to be used in  
2 implementing the Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care Pilot  
3 Program created by this act. The chief judge of the Fourth  
4 Judicial Circuit shall contract with the community-based care  
5 lead agency for foster care and adoption in Duval County for  
6 services associated with the administration of the pilot  
7 program as provided in this act.

8 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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10 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
12 Senate Bill 1372

13 The committee substitute makes the following changes to the  
14 underlying bill:

- 15 -- Restructures provisions and revises language for clarity  
and consistency;
- 16 -- Lists additional entities participating in the pilot  
17 program, including the local school board, Nova  
Southeastern University, foster care and natural parents,  
18 and the circuit court judge hearing a foster care case;
- 19 -- Clarifies references to the chief judge and his or her  
designee;
- 20 -- Makes the provision relating to referrals for further  
21 educational testing and psychological treatment  
permissive rather than mandatory, allowing for a  
22 case-by-case determination of whether services are  
needed;
- 23 -- Adds the State Courts Administrator and the Secretary of  
24 Children and Family Services to the list of persons  
receiving the annual report on the pilot program; and
- 25 -- Requires the chief judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit  
26 to contract with the community-based care lead agency for  
services related to the program.