

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Education Committee

BILL: CS/SB 518

INTRODUCER: Education Committee and Senator Constantine

SUBJECT: Education/ABC's Program

DATE: April 24, 2006

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	deMarsh-Mathues	Matthews	ED	Fav/CS
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill changes the name of the Florida Business and Education in School Together (Florida Best) Program to A Business-Community School (ABC's) Program, which provides for partnerships between business and education. The bill provides additional legislative intent for the program. School districts must submit evidence of compliance with public notice requirements about the program to the Department of Education (DOE) and provide contact information about the ABC evaluation committee members. The duties of the evaluation committee are expanded to include quarterly meetings, annual reports to the school board and superintendent, strategic marketing plans, technical assistance to businesses, and proposal evaluation criteria.

This bill transfers and renumbers section 1013.501 as section 1013.721 of the Florida Statutes, and amends this section and section 1013.502, of the Florida Statutes.

The effective date of the bill is upon becoming a law.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 2003-391, L.O.F., created the Florida Business and Education in School Together (Florida BEST) program to encourage businesses to house public schools in a business facility.¹ These business and education partnership schools serve students in grades K through 3 and are subject to the constitutional class size requirements. A committee, appointed by the school board and composed of local business representatives and a school board official, evaluates proposals submitted by area businesses and makes recommendations to the school board for official action.

¹ s. 1013.501, F.S.

District school boards must provide instructional support and administrative staff to these schools, as well as textbooks, materials and supplies. Host businesses primarily provide the school facility. The law also allows for multiyear contracts and leases between the school district and the host business.

Facilities constructed to house a Florida BEST school are subject to the State Uniform Building Code for Public Educational Facilities Construction, as well as state and local health, environmental, and safety laws and codes. Current law provides an exemption from local ordinances and regulations for a business that houses a Florida BEST school to expand the square footage or floor area of its current or proposed facility.²

In 2004, the Senate Education Committee staff surveyed the school districts about the implementation of the Florida BEST program. Responses were received from 37 districts or approximately 55 percent of the districts. Miami-Dade County School District indicated that it had schools operating within the district that are similar to the Florida BEST program schools.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill transfers and renumbers s. 1013.501, F.S., as s. 1013.721, F.S., and amends this section to change the name of the Florida Business and Education in School Together (Florida BEST) Program to A Business-Community School (ABC's) Program. An additional purpose of the program is to employ due diligence and sound business practices for using available educational space. School districts must submit evidence of compliance with public notice requirements about the program to the DOE. Districts must also provide the DOE with contact information about the ABC evaluation committee members and designate a district employee as a liaison for the program. While the bill requires school districts to designate a district employee to serve as a liaison to the program, it does not specify any particular duties for this employee. The duties of the evaluation committee are expanded to include quarterly meetings, annual reports to the school board and superintendent, strategic marketing plans, technical assistance to businesses, and proposal evaluation criteria.

This bill also amends s. 1013.502, F.S., to conform to the change in the program's name.

The effective date of the bill is upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

² s. 1013.502, F.S.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

To the extent that evaluation committee members from the private sector volunteer their expertise and services to perform the new duties specified in the bill, there should be no fiscal impact.

C. Government Sector Impact:

While the bill requires school districts to designate a district employee to serve as a liaison to the program, it does not require the employment of an additional employee.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
