

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Virtual School; amending s. 1002.37, F.S.; establishing the Students Earning Additional Recovery Credits and Honors (SEARCH) Program to provide opportunities for students to recover credits needed for graduation or to earn honors course credit or other course credit; providing for payment for additional full-time equivalent student credit to the extent funded in the General Appropriations Act; providing eligibility requirements for participation by a school district operating a virtual school that is an approved franchise of the Florida Virtual School; providing for use of funds; providing a limitation on school district funding; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to that section to read:

1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.--

(5) (a) There is established the Students Earning Additional Recovery Credits and Honors (SEARCH) Program to provide additional opportunities for students to recover credits needed for graduation or to earn honors course credit or other course credit.

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28 (b) To the extent funded in the General Appropriations
29 Act, the SEARCH Program shall pay for full-time equivalent
30 student credit in addition to credit funded by the Florida
31 Education Finance Program under subsections (3) and (4).

32 (c) School districts operating a virtual school that is an
33 approved franchise of the Florida Virtual School as described in
34 subsection (4) and that operated the franchise for the 2004-2005
35 and 2005-2006 fiscal years shall be eligible in the 2006-2007
36 fiscal year and thereafter to participate in the SEARCH Program.

37 (d) SEARCH Program funds earned by students enrolled in
38 Florida Virtual School franchises as described in subsection (4)
39 may only be used to pay for credits earned in excess of the 25
40 hours per week funded by the Florida Education Finance Program
41 to:

- 42 1. Replace credits needed for graduation;
- 43 2. Earn credits in an honors level course or other course
44 that would not be otherwise available to the student;
- 45 3. Serve students scoring at Level 1 or Level 2 on any
46 subject tested on the FCAT;
- 47 4. Serve homebound students; or
- 48 5. Serve students currently assigned to a Department of
49 Juvenile Justice facility.

50 (e) A student may not earn funding for more than two
51 credits in the SEARCH Program.

52 (f) A school district's portion of the SEARCH Program
53 funds may not exceed the district's portion of the total
54 unweighted full-time equivalent students enrolled in grades 9
55 through 12 in the participating school districts.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.