

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to school improvement and education accountability; amending s. 1008.345, F.S.; requiring certain schools with a school grade of "F" to implement a policy for single-gender classes; providing requirements for uniform policies, including procedures for enrolling a student in coeducational classes and periodic review of policy implementation; requiring such schools to implement a school uniform policy; requiring maintenance of policies until certain conditions are met; amending s. 1004.68, F.S.; correcting a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 1008.345, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9) and a new subsection (8) is added to that section to read:

1008.345 Implementation of state system of school improvement and education accountability.--

(8) In order to meet the educational needs of students in low-performing schools, nonvocational elementary and secondary schools receiving a school grade of "F" shall implement:

(a) A single-gender education policy that divides students into classes by gender. The admissions requirements, educational benefits, qualifications of faculty and staff, and quality and accessibility of facilities and resources for female and male students enrolled in single-gender classes must be substantially

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29 equal and administered in an even-handed manner. Additionally, a
 30 single-gender education policy implemented pursuant to this
 31 subsection must contain the following:

32 1. A procedure for providing notice to parents of the
 33 school's conversion to single-gender classes.

34 2. A procedure for allowing parents to opt out of the
 35 school's single-gender education program and enroll their child
 36 in coeducational classes.

37 3. A procedure for periodic review of the single-gender
 38 education policy by the district school superintendent to assess
 39 whether the policy has been implemented in a nondiscriminatory
 40 manner and in a way that most effectively ensures the success of
 41 the program.

42 (b) A schoolwide policy for school uniforms for students.

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 44 Policies required by this subsection must remain in force until
 45 the school achieves a school grade of "A."

46 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1004.68, Florida
 47 Statutes, is amended to read:

48 1004.68 Community college; degrees and certificates; tests
 49 for certain skills.--

50 (2) Each community college board of trustees shall require
 51 the use of scores on tests for college-level communication and
 52 computation skills provided in s. 1008.345(9)~~(8)~~ as a condition
 53 for graduation with an associate in arts degree.

54 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.