

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to career education in the public schools; creating s. 1003.496, F.S.; providing for pilot projects designed to blend into the middle school curriculum elements of career education; providing goals of the pilot projects; requiring an evaluation component; requiring the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement to review the pilot projects and provide recommendations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.496, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.496 Career education pilot projects.--

(1) The purpose of this section is to enable the School Board of Broward County and the School Board of Duval County to implement pilot projects that clearly and systematically blend into the middle school curriculum elements of career education for the purpose of achieving the following goals:

(a) Exploring with middle school students how they can successfully live and work in a culturally diverse world.

(b) Helping middle school students recognize their interests, aptitudes, and abilities and understand adult roles in the world of work.

(c) Helping middle school students understand the broad scope of work and career possibilities available currently and in the future.

29 (d) Helping middle school students to broaden their
30 aspirations beyond the stereotypes of gender, socioeconomic
31 status, and ethnicity.

32 (e) Integrating career education into the general middle
33 school academic curriculum in order to promote intellectual
34 development and the acquisition of higher-level thinking and
35 problem-solving skills.

36 (f) Assisting with the development of the social skills,
37 personal values, and self-esteem of middle school students.

38 (g) Working with the families of middle school students to
39 support their children's career aspirations.

40 (2) Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, the School
41 Board of Broward County and the School Board of Duval County
42 shall implement pilot projects in at least two, and not more
43 than four, middle schools in each school district designed to
44 meet the goals in subsection (1). Middle schools selected shall
45 be representative of both high-performing and low-performing
46 schools as measured by student achievement on the FCAT. Each
47 pilot project may target all students in each middle school
48 selected for the pilot project.

49 (3) Middle school instructional and administrative staff
50 responsible for implementing each pilot project shall consult
51 with their respective regional workforce board for assistance in
52 developing each project and to obtain technical assistance and
53 resources to achieve the goals of the project.

54 (4) Each pilot project shall have an evaluation component
55 designed and conducted by the district school board, or designed
56 and conducted pursuant to a contract with a university school of

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57 education, in consultation with the Council for Education Policy
58 Research and Improvement.

59 (5) The Council for Education Policy Research and
60 Improvement is responsible for reviewing each pilot project's
61 evaluation and providing a report by January 1, 2009, to the
62 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
63 Representatives on the effectiveness of each pilot project with
64 recommendations and suggestions for expanding the programs
65 statewide.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.