

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL 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 Pre-K - 12 Appropriations Committee

BILL: PCS for CS/SB 450

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K-12 Appropriations Committee and Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Pre-K-12 Teachers Lead Program Stipend

DATE: March 26, 2007 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Harkey</u>	<u>Matthews</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Armstrong</u>	<u>Hamon</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill would make certified, full-time teachers of prekindergarten students who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and charter school teachers eligible for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend for purchase of classroom materials and supplies to be used for instruction.

As a result of this bill, the universe of eligible teachers for the stipend would become those certified teachers who are employed by the school district or a charter school on or before September 1 whose full-time responsibility is to instruct students in prekindergarten through grade 12, including media specialists and guidance counselors, who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program.

The bill also makes all requirements for allocation, expenditure, and documentation of funds relating to the stipend consistent between school district and charter school teachers. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to include each district's prekindergarten enrollment in the calculation of the allocation for each school district.

This bill amends section 1012.71 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend

The Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend provides funds to full-time, certified classroom teachers for the purchase of classroom materials and supplies used in the instruction of students in kindergarten through grade 12. Funding for the program is determined by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. The Commissioner of Education must calculate each school

district's share of the funds based on the school district's share of the total K-12 unweighted full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment¹

Each district school board must calculate an identical amount for each eligible classroom teacher. Eligible teachers are all certified teachers employed on or before September 1 of each year whose full-time job responsibility is the classroom instruction of students in kindergarten through grade 12 and full-time media specialists and guidance counselors who serve students in kindergarten through grade 12.²

District school boards must disburse the funds no later than September 30 of each year directly to each teacher as a stipend to purchase classroom materials and supplies to be used in the instruction of students assigned to that teacher. Teachers have sole discretion regarding which classroom materials and supplies best meet the needs of their students.³

Prekindergarten Education Provided by School Districts

A school district might employ a certified teacher to provide educational programs for children younger than five years old in a number of federal and state-funded programs, such as prekindergarten for students with disabilities, Title I prekindergarten, the teenage parent program, the voluntary prekindergarten program, Head Start, and school readiness programs. Of these, only the prekindergarten program for students with disabilities and the teenage parent program are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 1012.71, F.S., to make certified, full-time teachers of prekindergarten students who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and charter school teachers eligible for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend for purchase of classroom materials and supplies to be used for instruction.

Eligible teachers would be those certified teachers who are employed by the school district or a charter school on or before September 1 whose full-time responsibility is to instruct students in prekindergarten through grade 12, including media specialists and guidance counselors, who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program.

The bill also makes all requirements for allocation, expenditure, and documentation of funds relating to the stipend consistent between school district and charter school teachers. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to include each district's prekindergarten enrollment in the calculation of the allocation for each school district.

¹ s. 1012.71(1), F.S.

² s. 1012.71(2), F.S.

³ *Ibid.*

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Eligible prekindergarten and charter school teachers would receive the stipend for purchase of classroom materials and supplies, which would mitigate any potential “out-of-pocket” expenditures by these individuals for supplies needed for their classrooms.

C. Government Sector Impact:

As required by s. 1012.71, F.S., funding for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend must be determined by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. The 2006-2007 appropriation for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend is \$45,021,406.⁴ This appropriation provides a stipend to roughly 170,000 full-time classroom teachers, media specialists and guidance counselors, statewide. According to the Department of Education, in the fall of 2006 there were 7,429 full-time FEFP-funded prekindergarten teachers and in 2005-2006 (latest information available), there were 4,388 charter school teachers. Using these estimates and an approximate stipend of \$250 for each new eligible teacher, an additional \$3 million appropriation would be required to include these individuals in the program. SPB 7096 on Education Appropriations includes this amount in the Teachers Lead categorical program, for a total proposed appropriation of \$48,021,046.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

⁴ General Appropriations Act for 2006-2007, Specific Appropriation No. 97 (ch. 2006-25, L.O.F.)

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
