

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: CS/SB 450

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K-12 Committee and Senator Rich

SUBJECT: PreK 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 eligible for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend and would require the Commissioner of Education to include each district's prekindergarten enrollment in the calculation of the amount for each school district.

Certified teachers who are employed full-time by the school district to instruct students in prekindergarten through grade 12 who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and full-time media specialists and guidance counselors who serve those students would be eligible for the stipend.

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

¹ S. 1012.71(1), F.S.

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 full-time teachers of prekindergarten students who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program eligible for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend. The Commissioner of Education must include the district's prekindergarten enrollment in the calculation of each district's allocation.

Certified teachers who are employed full-time by the school district to instruct students in prekindergarten through grade 12 who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and full-time media specialists and guidance counselors who serve those students would be eligible for the stipend.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

² s. 1012.71(2), F.S.

³ *Ibid.*

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Full-time, certified teachers employed by a school district to provide instruction to prekindergarten students and guidance counselors and media specialists who serve those students, who are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program, would become eligible for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend. If the appropriation remained the same as in previous years, the amount of the stipend for all eligible teachers would be slightly reduced because of the larger pool of eligible teachers.

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 The following chart, provided by the department, shows the population of teachers who would be eligible for the Teachers Lead Stipend under the committee substitute.

Fall 2006 Data	
	# of Full-time Classroom Teachers
K-12 Teachers	160,278
Guidance Counselors	6,032
Media Specialists	2,796
Total K-12 Teachers	169,106
PK Teachers funded through the FEFP	8,590
Total PK-12 Teachers	177,696
2006-07 Teachers Lead Program Allocation	\$45,021,406
5.08% increase to include PK teachers	\$2,287,087
Adjusted 2006-07 Teachers Lead Program allocation to include PK teachers	\$47,308,493
2006-07 Teachers Lead Program Allocation:	\$45,021,406
# of full-time K-12 teachers, guidance counselors, and media specialists	169,106
Approx. amount per "classroom teacher"	\$266

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

2006-07 Teachers Lead Program Allocation:	\$45,021,406
# of full-time PK-12 teachers, guidance counselors, and media specialists	177,696
Approx. amount per "classroom teacher"	\$253

The amount appropriated for the Florida Teachers Lead Program Stipend must be divided among the eligible applicants. This bill does not create a new cost for the state; if the appropriation remained the same while the pool of eligible teachers increased, the amount of the stipend would be proportionally lower than in the previous year.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The department provided the following comment on the provisions of SB 450:

It is suggested that the word "stipend" be deleted from the law in that a stipend is generally regarded as compensation for an individual rather than an expense allowance.

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.
