

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to inservice professional development  
 3           academies; amending s. 1012.985, F.S.; revising provisions  
 4           relating to regional inservice professional development  
 5           academies; requiring that one school district be  
 6           designated to serve as the fiscal agent for each regional  
 7           academy; deleting provisions that require such academies  
 8           to meet certain criteria in order to receive start-up  
 9           funds; providing an effective date.

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

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 13           Section 1. Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 14           to read:

15           1012.985 Regional Statewide system for inservice  
 16           professional development academies.--

17           (1) The intent of this section is to facilitate ~~establish~~  
 18           a ~~statewide~~ system of professional development that provides a  
 19           wide range of targeted inservice training to teachers, managers,  
 20           and administrative personnel designed to upgrade skills and  
 21           knowledge needed to attain ~~reach~~ world class standards in  
 22           education. The system shall consist of a network of professional  
 23           development academies ~~in each region of the state which are~~  
 24           operated in partnership with area business partners to develop  
 25           and deliver high-quality training programs for ~~purchased by~~  
 26           school districts. One school district shall be designated to  
 27           serve as the fiscal agent for each regional academy. The  
 28           academies shall ~~be established to~~ meet the human resource

29 development needs of professional educators, schools, and school  
 30 districts and shall. ~~Funds appropriated for the initiation of~~  
 31 ~~professional development academies shall be allocated by the~~  
 32 ~~Commissioner of Education, unless otherwise provided in an~~  
 33 ~~appropriations act. To be eligible for startup funds, the~~  
 34 ~~academy must:~~

35 (a) Support ~~Be established by the~~ collaborative efforts of  
 36 one or more district school boards, members of the business  
 37 community, and the postsecondary educational institutions, which  
 38 may award college credits for courses taught at the academy.

39 ~~(b) Demonstrate the capacity to provide effective training~~  
 40 ~~to improve teaching skills in the areas of elementary reading~~  
 41 ~~and mathematics, the use of instructional technology, high~~  
 42 ~~school algebra, and classroom management, and to deliver such~~  
 43 ~~training using face-to-face, distance learning, and~~  
 44 ~~individualized computer-based delivery systems.~~

45 ~~(c) Propose a plan for responding in an effective and~~  
 46 ~~timely manner to the professional development needs of teachers,~~  
 47 ~~managers, administrative personnel, schools, and school~~  
 48 ~~districts relating to improving student achievement and meeting~~  
 49 ~~state and local education goals.~~

50 ~~(b)-(d) Demonstrate the ability to~~ Provide high-quality  
 51 trainers and training, appropriate followup and coaching for all  
 52 participants, and support school personnel in increasing student  
 53 achievement ~~in positively impacting student performance.~~

54 ~~(c)-(e)~~ Be operated under contract with its public partners  
 55 and governed by an independent board of directors, which should  
 56 include at least one district school superintendent and one

57 district school board chair from the participating school  
58 districts, the president of the collective bargaining unit that  
59 represents the majority of the region's teachers, and at least  
60 three individuals who are not employees or elected or appointed  
61 officials of the participating school districts. Regional  
62 educational consortia as defined in s. 1001.451 satisfy the  
63 requirements of this paragraph.

64 ~~(f) Be financed during the first year of operation by an~~  
65 ~~equal or greater match from private funding sources and~~  
66 ~~demonstrate the ability to be self-supporting within 1 year~~  
67 ~~after opening through fees for services, grants, or private~~  
68 ~~contributions. Regional educational consortia as defined in s.~~  
69 ~~1001.451 which serve rural areas of critical economic concern~~  
70 ~~are exempt from the funding match required by this paragraph.~~

71 ~~(g) Own or lease a facility that can be used to deliver~~  
72 ~~training onsite and through distance learning and other~~  
73 ~~technology-based delivery systems. The participating district~~  
74 ~~school boards may lease a site or facility to the academy for a~~  
75 ~~nominal fee and may pay all or part of the costs of renovating a~~  
76 ~~facility to accommodate the academy. The academy is responsible~~  
77 ~~for all operational, maintenance, and repair costs.~~

78 (d)(h) Provide professional development services for the  
79 participating school districts as specified in the contract and  
80 may provide professional development services to other school  
81 districts, private schools, and individuals on a fee-for-  
82 services basis.

83 (2) ~~Upon compliance with the requirements for the first~~  
84 ~~year of operation in paragraph (1)(f),~~ A regional professional

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85 development academy;

86 ~~(a)~~ may receive funds from the Department of Education or  
87 as provided in the General Appropriations Act for the purpose of  
88 developing programs, expanding services, assessing inservice  
89 training and professional development, or other programs that  
90 are consistent with the mission of the academy and the needs of  
91 the state and region; ~~and~~

92 ~~(b) Is not, by virtue of providing services to one or more~~  
93 ~~school districts, a component of any school district or any~~  
94 ~~governmental unit to which the regional professional development~~  
95 ~~academy provides services.~~

96 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.