

By the Committees on Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations; and Education Pre-K - 12; and Senators Diaz de la Portilla and Storms

602-05112-09

20091978c2

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to classroom expenditures; creating s.  
3 1010.2155, F.S.; requiring that school districts spend  
4 a minimum percentage of the district general fund on  
5 expenditures in the classroom; requiring that the  
6 Department of Education develop a uniform calculation  
7 and a common format for district reporting; requiring  
8 that school districts publish information regarding  
9 classroom expenditures; requiring that the department  
10 analyze the expenditures of school districts that fail  
11 to meet required classroom expenditure levels;  
12 authorizing the department to provide technical  
13 assistance upon request by a school district;  
14 requiring that the Commissioner of Education make  
15 written recommendations to the superintendent of  
16 schools and the school board; authorizing the State  
17 Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an  
18 effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. Section 1010.2155, Florida Statutes, is created  
23 to read:

24 1010.2155 Expenditures for classroom instruction.—

25 (1) Effective July 1, 2009, school districts shall spend a  
26 minimum of 70 percent of the district general fund on  
27 expenditures in the classroom.

28 (2) Expenditures in the classroom shall consist of  
29 expenditures for instruction and expenditures for instructional

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30 support services.

31 (a) Expenditures for instruction shall include:

32 1. Salaries and benefits for instructional personnel  
33 defined in s. 1012.01(2);

34 2. Substitute teachers;

35 3. Textbooks;

36 4. Library books;

37 5. Instruction-related materials and supplies;

38 6. Instruction-related audio-visual materials;

39 7. Instruction-related computer hardware and software; and

40 8. Compensation for persons on temporary appointment in  
41 positions defined in s. 1012.01(2) who do not receive employee  
42 benefits.

43 (b) Expenditures for instructional support services shall  
44 include:

45 1. Salaries and benefits for instructional personnel  
46 defined in s. 1012.01(2);

47 2. Pupil personnel services, including guidance counselors,  
48 career specialists, and school psychologists;

49 3. Instructional media services, including school libraries  
50 and media centers;

51 4. Aid to teachers in developing curriculum and  
52 instruction;

53 5. Instructional staff training and professional  
54 development services;

55 6. Reimbursement for instructional staff travel to  
56 professional development activities outside the district; and

57 7. Compensation for persons on temporary appointment in  
58 positions defined in s. 1012.01(2) who do not receive employee

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59 benefits.

60 (3) School food services, student transportation, charter  
61 schools, and debt service shall not be considered in calculating  
62 the percentage of expenditures in the classroom.

63 (4) The Department of Education shall develop a uniform  
64 calculation for determining classroom expenditure percentages  
65 and shall develop a common format for district reporting. School  
66 districts shall publish classroom expenditure information  
67 annually in the financial report required in s. 1010.215 and  
68 shall post the information on the home page of the school  
69 district's Internet site. Annual expenditure reports shall be  
70 published no later than January 1 for the prior school year.  
71 Effective May 1, 2012, school districts shall publish in each  
72 school report card the most recent 3 years of the district-wide  
73 percentage of general funds expended in the classroom.

74 (5) The Department of Education shall analyze the  
75 expenditures of any school district that fails to meet required  
76 classroom expenditure levels and receives a district grade of  
77 "C" or lower and provide technical assistance in budget  
78 preparation and analysis to the district. The department may  
79 provide technical assistance regarding expenditures in the  
80 classroom to any district, upon request. The Commissioner of  
81 Education shall make written recommendations to the  
82 superintendent of schools and school board regarding expenditure  
83 redirections that may result in higher student achievement.  
84 Effective July 1, 2011, the superintendent of schools of any  
85 district that fails to meet the minimum classroom expenditures  
86 and district grade shall appear before the State Board of  
87 Education to explain the financial and academic performance

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88 status of the district. Such appearance shall occur no later  
89 than 60 days after the release of the district expenditure  
90 report.

91 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant  
92 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the provisions of  
93 this section.

94 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.