

By Senator Wise

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

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

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

16 1012.985 Regional ~~Statewide system for~~ inservice
 17 professional development academies.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

84 ~~(2) Upon compliance with the requirements for the first~~
85 ~~year of operation in paragraph (1)(f),~~ A regional professional
86 development academy:

87 ~~(a)~~ may receive funds from the Department of Education or

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88 as provided in the General Appropriations Act for the purpose of
89 developing programs, expanding services, assessing inservice
90 training and professional development, or other programs that
91 are consistent with the mission of the academy and the needs of
92 the state and region; ~~and~~

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

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