

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to gifted and academically talented
3 student education; creating s. 1003.572, F.S.; requiring
4 district school boards to provide parental notice of
5 requirements and procedures for requesting evaluations for
6 gifted student classification; requiring district school
7 board reporting of gifted student classification,
8 services, and performance data; requiring the Department
9 of Education to develop data elements for district
10 reporting; requiring rulemaking; creating s. 1003.573,
11 F.S.; requiring the department to develop procedures and
12 eligibility criteria for whole-grade and subject matter
13 acceleration; requiring district school boards to
14 implement procedures and eligibility criteria; requiring
15 district school board reporting of student acceleration
16 data; requiring the department to develop data elements
17 for district reporting; requiring rulemaking; amending s.
18 1004.04, F.S.; requiring state-approved teacher
19 preparation programs to incorporate specified gifted
20 student instruction; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; requiring
21 certain school district guaranteed allocation expenditures
22 to be reported separately; creating the Gifted and
23 Academically Talented Student Task Force within the
24 department; designating members; requiring meetings by
25 teleconference; requiring the task force to submit a
26 report to the Governor and Legislature; providing report
27 requirements; providing for the future abolishment of the
28 task force; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.572, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.572 Gifted student education.--

(1) For students in grades K through 12, each district school board shall annually:

(a) Provide written notice to each student's parent of the eligibility criteria for gifted student classification and the procedures for requesting an evaluation of a student to determine his or her eligibility for such classification.

(b) Report to the department by school and grade level:

1. The number of students classified as gifted. Such reporting shall separately identify the number of students classified as gifted under generally applicable criteria set forth in State Board of Education rule and under a department-approved school district plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups.

2. The types of gifted student education services that it provides and the number of students receiving each service. Such reporting shall:

a. Separately identify gifted student education services that provide: direct instruction to a class consisting only of gifted students; differentiated instruction for gifted students within a class that also includes students who are not gifted; and noninstructional consultation services.

56 b. Indicate the number of hours per week that each service
 57 identified under sub-subparagraph a. is provided to each gifted
 58 student and whether the service is provided by a teacher who has
 59 received the gifted endorsement under State Board of Education
 60 rule.

61 3. Performance data for students receiving gifted student
 62 education services.

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 64 When reporting the number of students under this paragraph,
 65 district school boards shall classify students according to
 66 race, ethnicity, limited English proficient status, and free or
 67 reduced-price lunch eligibility status under the National School
 68 Lunch Act.

69 (2) The department shall develop data elements to
 70 facilitate district school board reporting under paragraph
 71 (1) (b).

72 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 73 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

74 Section 2. Section 1003.573, Florida Statutes, is created
 75 to read:

76 1003.573 Whole-grade and subject matter acceleration.--

77 (1) For students in grades K through 12, the department
 78 shall develop, and district school boards shall implement,
 79 statewide policies that set forth procedures and eligibility
 80 criteria for whole-grade and subject matter acceleration.

81 (2) Each district school board shall report annually to
 82 the department by school and grade level: the number of, and
 83 performance data for, students who were accelerated one or more

84 whole grades; the types of subject matter acceleration programs
 85 offered; and the number of, and performance data for, students
 86 who participated in subject matter acceleration programs. When
 87 reporting the number of students, district school boards shall
 88 classify students according to race, ethnicity, limited English
 89 proficient status, and free or reduced-price lunch eligibility
 90 status under the National School Lunch Act.

91 (3) The department shall develop data elements to
 92 facilitate district school board reporting under subsection (2).

93 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 94 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

95 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
 96 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

97 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
 98 teacher preparation programs.--

99 (3) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.--A system
 100 developed by the Department of Education in collaboration with
 101 postsecondary educational institutions shall assist departments
 102 and colleges of education in the restructuring of their programs
 103 in accordance with this section to meet the need for producing
 104 quality teachers now and in the future.

105 (c) State-approved teacher preparation programs must
 106 incorporate:

107 1. Appropriate English for Speakers of Other Languages
 108 instruction so that program graduates will have completed the
 109 requirements for teaching limited English proficient students in
 110 Florida public schools.

111 2. Scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading

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112 literacy and computational skills instruction so that program
113 graduates will be able to provide the necessary academic
114 foundations for their students at whatever grade levels they
115 choose to teach.

116 3. Gifted student instruction so that program graduates
117 will:

118 a. Be able to recognize the characteristics of gifted
119 students.

120 b. Have knowledge of the eligibility criteria for gifted
121 student classification and the procedures for referring a
122 student for an evaluation to determine his or her eligibility
123 for such classification.

124 c. Have knowledge of how to differentiate the general
125 education curriculum for gifted students.

126 Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section
127 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

128 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual
129 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
130 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
131 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
132 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
133 follows:

134 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR
135 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in
136 determining the annual allocation to each district for
137 operation:

138 (e) Funding model for exceptional student education
139 programs.--

140 1.a. The funding model uses basic, at-risk, support levels
141 IV and V for exceptional students and career Florida Education
142 Finance Program cost factors, and a guaranteed allocation for
143 exceptional student education programs. Exceptional education
144 cost factors are determined by using a matrix of services to
145 document the services that each exceptional student will
146 receive. The nature and intensity of the services indicated on
147 the matrix shall be consistent with the services described in
148 each exceptional student's individual educational plan.

149 b. In order to generate funds using one of the two
150 weighted cost factors, a matrix of services must be completed at
151 the time of the student's initial placement into an exceptional
152 student education program and at least once every 3 years by
153 personnel who have received approved training. Nothing listed in
154 the matrix shall be construed as limiting the services a school
155 district must provide in order to ensure that exceptional
156 students are provided a free, appropriate public education.

157 c. Students identified as exceptional, in accordance with
158 chapter 6A-6, Florida Administrative Code, who do not have a
159 matrix of services as specified in sub-subparagraph b. shall
160 generate funds on the basis of full-time-equivalent student
161 membership in the Florida Education Finance Program at the same
162 funding level per student as provided for basic students.

163 Additional funds for these exceptional students will be provided
164 through the guaranteed allocation designated in subparagraph 2.

165 2. For students identified as exceptional who do not have
166 a matrix of services and students who are gifted in grades K
167 through 8, there is created a guaranteed allocation to provide

168 | these students with a free appropriate public education, in
 169 | accordance with s. 1001.42(4) (1) ~~(m)~~ and rules of the State Board
 170 | of Education, which shall be allocated annually to each school
 171 | district in the amount provided in the General Appropriations
 172 | Act. These funds shall be in addition to the funds appropriated
 173 | on the basis of FTE student membership in the Florida Education
 174 | Finance Program, and the amount allocated for each school
 175 | district shall not be recalculated during the year. These funds
 176 | shall be used to provide special education and related services
 177 | for exceptional students and students who are gifted in grades K
 178 | through 8. Beginning with the 2007-2008 fiscal year, a
 179 | district's expenditure of funds from the guaranteed allocation
 180 | for students in grades 9 through 12 who are gifted may not be
 181 | greater than the amount expended during the 2006-2007 fiscal
 182 | year for gifted students in grades 9 through 12. Each district
 183 | school board in its annual financial report to the department
 184 | shall separately identify the following amounts expended from
 185 | the guaranteed allocation:

186 | a. The amount expended for students identified as
 187 | exceptional who do not have a matrix of services.

188 | b. The amount expended for gifted students in grades K
 189 | through 12 according to grade level.

190 | Section 5. Gifted and Academically Talented Student Task
 191 | Force.--

192 | (1) There is created the Gifted and Academically Talented
 193 | Student Task Force. The task force is composed of the following
 194 | seven members:

195 | (a) The chair of the State Board of Education or his or

196 her designee, who shall serve as chair.

197 (b) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee,
 198 who shall serve as vice chair.

199 (c) Four members who collectively have experience in
 200 gifted and academically talented student screening,
 201 identification, and education, one of whom shall be appointed by
 202 the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of
 203 the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
 204 House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by
 205 the chair of the State Board of Education.

206 (d) One member who represents an advocacy group for
 207 parents of gifted children who shall be appointed by the
 208 Governor.

209 (2) The members of the task force shall be appointed by
 210 October 1, 2009, and shall convene the initial meeting of the
 211 task force by November 1, 2009. All meetings shall be conducted
 212 by teleconference.

213 (3) The task force is assigned to the Department of
 214 Education for administrative purposes. Members of the task force
 215 are not entitled to compensation. Members of the task force are
 216 subject to the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees
 217 under part III of chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

218 (4) By February 1, 2010, the task force shall submit a
 219 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
 220 Speaker of the House of Representatives that includes, but is
 221 not limited to, recommendations, based upon peer-reviewed
 222 research and the members' collective expertise, for the
 223 following:

224 (a) Revisions to statute and rule governing eligibility
 225 criteria for gifted student classification generally and in
 226 underrepresented groups.

227 (b) Eligibility criteria for academically talented student
 228 classification. Such criteria shall identify students who are
 229 not classified as gifted but who possess high achievement
 230 capability in one or more academic subject areas and who would
 231 benefit from participation in accelerated or differentiated
 232 curricula learning opportunities.

233 (c) Annual screening procedures for the determination of
 234 students who should be further evaluated for identification as
 235 gifted or academically talented students. These procedures, at a
 236 minimum, shall identify:

237 1. The most appropriate grade or grades within each of the
 238 elementary, middle, and high school levels to administer such
 239 screenings for all students.

240 2. One or more recommended screening instruments.

241 (d) Model gifted and academically talented student
 242 education programs. The programs must include, but are not
 243 limited to:

244 1. Classroom-based, school-based, and district-based
 245 implementation options.

246 2. Subject matter acceleration opportunities,
 247 differentiated curricula that address the exceptional learning
 248 needs of gifted and academically talented students, and
 249 enrichment activities that extend learning opportunities
 250 available in the classroom.

251 (e) Procedures for annually evaluating the effectiveness

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252 of model gifted and academically talented student education
253 programs.

254 (f) Procedures for evaluating students participating in
255 gifted or academically talented student education programs to
256 determine student performance and whether the students are
257 benefiting from, and continue to be eligible to participate in,
258 the programs.

259 (5) Upon delivery of its final report and recommendations,
260 the task force is abolished.

261 (6) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming
262 a law.

263 Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
264 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2010.