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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public school mathematics and science
3 instructional materials; creating the Florida Center for
4 World Excellence in Mathematics and Science to provide for
5 the review of mathematics and science instructional
6 materials; providing duties of the center to include
7 recommendations to the Commissioner of Education of
8 instructional materials for use in K-12 public schools
9 beginning with the 2011-2012 school year; requiring the
10 Commissioner of Education to adopt instructional materials
11 in mathematics and science according to a schedule
12 developed by the commissioner; requiring the center to
13 form advisory panels for mathematics and science to make
14 recommendations to the center; specifying requirements for
15 recommended instructional materials; authorizing the
16 Commissioner of Education to add curricula to the existing
17 2010-2011 list of adopted instructional materials under
18 certain circumstances; providing for funding; providing an
19 effective date.

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21 WHEREAS, Florida's citizens need world-class skills to
22 secure a place in the increasingly competitive global economy,
23 and Florida's school children, teachers, and parents need access
24 to the best possible instructional materials and technologies to
25 acquire these basic skills, and

26 WHEREAS, mathematics and science are among the most
27 fundamental of these skills and are among the core subjects
28 which form the basis of Florida's educational standards, and

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29 WHEREAS, technology and teaching practices for mathematics
30 and science have evolved significantly during the past 20 years,
31 and the newest versions of Florida's Next Generation Sunshine
32 State Standards reflect best practices, and

33 WHEREAS, Florida's public school classrooms have not always
34 kept pace with changes in these standards, which is due
35 partially to a state instructional materials adoption process
36 that resists many of the changes embodied in the latest
37 standards and is also due to the rapid pace of change in the
38 instructional materials market, and

39 WHEREAS, in order to improve the mathematics and science
40 skills of Florida's students, a 21st Century instructional
41 materials adoption process should be developed and implemented
42 to enable Florida's school children, teachers, and parents to
43 benefit from the best possible instructional materials and
44 technologies, and

45 WHEREAS, the Legislature is considering legislation which
46 will require, as a condition for promotion and graduation, that
47 Florida students pass end-of-course assessments in mathematics
48 and science, thereby increasing the need for effective classroom
49 instruction, and

50 WHEREAS, the Legislature has taken comparable steps in the
51 past to improve the quality of reading instruction in the state
52 by creating the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida
53 State University, and

54 WHEREAS, the current instructional materials adoption
55 process results in the rejection of many of the most effective

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56 methods of instruction in mathematics and science, warranting a
57 reconstruction of the entire process, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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61 Section 1. Florida Center for World Excellence in
62 Mathematics and Science.—

63 (1) The Florida Center for World Excellence in Mathematics
64 and Science is created at the University of Florida. The purpose
65 of the Florida Center for World Excellence in Mathematics and
66 Science is to provide for an independent review of mathematics
67 and science instructional materials from around the world to
68 ensure delivery of the best possible instruction in the state's
69 K-12 public schools and to ensure that instructional personnel
70 adopt the most effective teaching strategies. The center shall:

71 (a) Conduct basic and applied research in mathematics and
72 science learning.

73 (b) Recommend the most effective instructional materials
74 and technologies, both core and supplemental, for use in the K-
75 12 public schools, such as those used in the Singapore Math
76 programs.

77 (c) Disseminate best practices in mathematics and science
78 instruction through teacher preparation programs.

79 (d) Monitor educational outcomes to identify effective
80 programs.

81 (e) Recommend measures to ensure fidelity of the
82 implementation of best classroom practices.

83 (2) (a) The center shall form advisory panels to make
84 recommendations to the center for mathematics and science
85 instructional materials for the 2011-2012 school year and for
86 school years thereafter. An advisory panel for mathematics shall
87 be composed of at least three postsecondary education scholars
88 in the field of mathematics and an experienced Florida public
89 school mathematics teacher in each of the grade groups, K
90 through grade 5, grades 6 through 8, and grades 9 through 12. An
91 advisory panel for science shall be composed of at least three
92 postsecondary education scholars in the field of science and an
93 experienced Florida public school science teacher in each of the
94 grade groups, K through grade 5, grades 6 through 8, and grades
95 9 through 12.

96 (b) The advisory panels shall review instructional
97 materials adopted by the Department of Education under the
98 existing adoption process and make recommendations to the center
99 for the addition or deletion of instructional materials to
100 ensure that they include the best possible instructional
101 materials and technologies.

102 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the
103 contrary, beginning in 2011, it shall be the responsibility of
104 the center to evaluate and recommend instructional materials in
105 mathematics and science for adoption by the Commissioner of
106 Education. The center shall recommend to the commissioner
107 instructional materials for mathematics and science for the
108 state's K-12 public schools for the 2011-2012 school year and
109 for school years thereafter, according to a schedule developed
110 by the commissioner in consultation with the center. When making

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111 recommendations to the commissioner, the center shall offer
112 solutions that:

113 (a) Provide differentiated instruction to each student.

114 (b) Have a track record of effectiveness when measured in
115 statistically valid controlled third-party studies, with sample
116 sizes of at least 1,000 students.

117 (c) Are research based.

118 (d) Are developed specifically to meet the Next Generation
119 Sunshine State Standards for mathematics and science.

120 (e) Include the ability to continually enhance and improve
121 the instruction based on feedback from the public schools, the
122 center, or the Department of Education during the adoption term.

123 (4) The Commissioner of Education may add curricula to the
124 existing 2010-2011 list of adopted instructional materials if
125 recommended or advised by the center, as a result of any
126 administrative challenge of the 2010-2011 adoption
127 recommendations, or otherwise as the commissioner deems in the
128 best interests of the state's public school students.

129 (5) Funding for the 2010-2011 activities of the advisory
130 panels and the center shall be made through legislative
131 appropriation of general revenue funds or through the
132 redirection of funds appropriated to the Department of Education
133 for its instructional materials adoption process. Funding for
134 the center in subsequent years shall be derived from a variety
135 of sources, including, but not limited to: National Science
136 Foundation grants for basic and applied educational research;
137 United States Department of Education's Institute of Education
138 Sciences research grants to study the effectiveness of adopted

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139 mathematics and science curricula in Florida's schools; private
140 foundation grants to expand innovation and best practices in
141 mathematics and science education; federal Race to the Top funds
142 for implementing high academic standards, measuring results,
143 recruiting the best teachers, and turning around struggling
144 schools; and fees charged to public schools and school districts
145 for educator preparation on the best practices in mathematics
146 and science instruction.

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