

HB 1401

2013

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Reigniting Education  
3           Achievement with Coordinated Help (REACH) Pilot  
4           Program; requiring the Department of Education to  
5           implement the pilot program as a public-private  
6           partnership in low-performing public schools;  
7           specifying services to be offered with the goal of  
8           improving student academic achievement; providing  
9           requirements for implementation of the program;  
10          requiring the department to submit a report to the  
11          Legislature at the conclusion of the program;  
12          providing an effective date.

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

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16           Section 1. Reigniting Education Achievement with  
17 Coordinated Help (REACH) Pilot Program.—

18           (1) The Department of Education shall implement a 4-year  
19 Reigniting Education Achievement with Coordinated Help (REACH)  
20 Pilot Program in three to five of the state's lowest-performing  
21 traditional public schools with a large population of low-  
22 income, at-risk students beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.  
23 The Commissioner of Education shall establish criteria for  
24 participation in the program, including the school, health, and  
25 community services to be offered. A school interested in  
26 participating in the program shall submit a letter of interest  
27 to the Commissioner of Education by July 15, 2013.

28           (2) The program shall consist of a public-private

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29 partnership to supply "wrap-around services" to students  
30 attending the schools, including, but not limited to, tutorial  
31 and after-school programs, student counseling, nutrition  
32 education, health and dental services, parental counseling, and  
33 adult education.

34 (3) The program shall focus attention on improving  
35 academic achievement through a holistic approach through which  
36 students receive the academic, medical, nutritional, and social  
37 supports they need to develop strong literacy and mathematical  
38 skills, as well as the qualities of responsibility, self-  
39 control, attention, and cooperation. The program shall make  
40 available support services that encourage healthy family  
41 dynamics and home-school connections by providing parents with  
42 skills and opportunities to get involved in their children's  
43 education and help their children succeed in school. The program  
44 shall be based on the following research-driven elements that  
45 lead to student success: improving student achievement and  
46 learning, leveraging community assets and improving school and  
47 community collaboration, improving staff capacity and  
48 effectiveness, and developing family and community partnerships.

49 (4) The program shall be implemented as follows:

50 (a) During the first year of operation, a school shall  
51 build partnerships which include the school district, the local  
52 teachers union, parents, social service agencies, medical and  
53 dental professionals, community and civic groups, and  
54 businesses; plan services; advertise the program; establish  
55 baseline data; begin offering the services; and report costs and  
56 benefits.

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57 (b) During the second, third, and fourth years of  
58 operation, a school shall continue partnerships; seek input and  
59 refine services; continue offering the services; monitor the  
60 academic, health, and nutritional progress of students and  
61 families; and report progress, costs, and benefits.

62 (5) At the conclusion of the pilot program, the Department  
63 of Education shall submit to the President of the Senate and the  
64 Speaker of the House of Representatives a review of the program,  
65 which includes successful practices and the impact on student  
66 performance and success, and make a recommendation for  
67 continuing or terminating the program.

68 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
69 implement this section.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.