

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public school funding; creating s.
 3 1011.645, F.S.; creating the poverty-based categorical
 4 fund; providing criteria for determining the poverty
 5 level of each school district; requiring the
 6 Department of Education to establish a threshold level
 7 for school district eligibility for funds; providing
 8 for the allocation of funds as prescribed in the
 9 General Appropriations Act; providing requirements for
 10 the use of funds; requiring the State Board of
 11 Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

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 15 Section 1. Section 1011.645, Florida Statutes, is created
 16 to read:

17 1011.645 Poverty-based categorical fund.-

18 (1) There is created a poverty-based categorical fund to
 19 provide supplemental funds to school districts based on the
 20 relative poverty level in each school district. The poverty
 21 level shall be determined by the number of students receiving
 22 free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch
 23 Program based upon computation by the Department of Education.
 24 The department shall establish a threshold poverty level for
 25 school district eligibility above which a school district
 26 qualifies for poverty-based categorical funds. These funds shall
 27 be allocated annually to eligible school districts in an amount
 28 prescribed by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act

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29 based upon the school district's number of students receiving
30 free or reduced-price meals.

31 (2) Poverty-based categorical funds shall be used by
32 school districts for class size reduction, intervention for at-
33 risk kindergarten through grade 3 students, and reading
34 improvement programs according to identified needs of individual
35 school districts and rules adopted by the State Board of
36 Education.

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