

HB 1111

2014

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to a community schools initiative;
3 requiring the Department of Education to implement the
4 Reigniting Education Achievement with Coordinated Help
5 (REACH) Program as a public-private partnership in
6 low-performing public schools; authorizing funding;
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 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules
13 for program implementation; providing an effective
14 date.

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

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18 Section 1. Community schools initiative; Reigniting
19 Education Achievement with Coordinated Help (REACH) Program.-

20 (1) The Department of Education shall establish a 4-year
21 community schools initiative by implementing the Reigniting
22 Education Achievement with Coordinated Help (REACH) Program in
23 three to five of the state's lowest-performing traditional
24 public schools with a large population of low-income, at-risk
25 students beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Program funding
26 may not exceed \$900,000 for the initial year of the program and

27 each subsequent year unless increased by act of the Legislature.
28 The Commissioner of Education shall establish criteria for
29 participation in the program, including the school, health, and
30 community services to be offered. To qualify for participation
31 in the program, a school must have earned a school grade of "F"
32 for 2 consecutive years and be categorized as a Title I school,
33 with at least 95 percent of its student population eligible for
34 the free or reduced-price school lunch program. A school
35 interested in participating in the program shall submit a letter
36 of interest to the Commissioner of Education by July 15, 2014.

37 (2) The program shall consist of a public-private
38 partnership to supply "wrap-around services" to students
39 attending the schools, including, but not limited to, tutorial
40 and after-school programs, student counseling, nutrition
41 education, health and dental services, parental counseling, and
42 adult education.

43 (3) The program shall focus attention on improving
44 academic achievement through a holistic approach through which
45 students receive the academic, medical, nutritional, and social
46 supports that they need to develop strong literacy and
47 mathematical skills, as well as the qualities of responsibility,
48 self-control, attention, and cooperation. The program shall make
49 available support services that encourage healthy family
50 dynamics and home-school connections by providing parents with
51 skills and opportunities to get involved in their children's
52 education and help their children succeed in school. The program

53 shall be based on the following research-driven elements that
54 lead to student success: improving student achievement and
55 learning, leveraging community assets and improving school and
56 community collaboration, improving staff capacity and
57 effectiveness, and developing family and community partnerships.

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

59 (a) During the first year of operation, a school shall
60 build partnerships, which include the school district, the local
61 teachers union, parents, social service agencies, medical and
62 dental professionals, community and civic groups, and
63 businesses. The school shall also plan services, advertise the
64 program, establish baseline data, begin offering the services,
65 and report costs and benefits.

66 (b) During the second, third, and fourth years of
67 operation, a school shall continue partnerships; seek input and
68 refine services; continue offering the services; monitor the
69 academic, health, and nutritional progress of students and
70 families; and report progress, costs, and benefits.

71 (5) At the conclusion of the program, the Department of
72 Education shall submit to the President of the Senate and the
73 Speaker of the House of Representatives a review of the program,
74 including successful practices and the impact on student
75 performance and success, and make a recommendation for
76 continuing or terminating the program.

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

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