

By Senator Thompson

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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) Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, the Department
21 of Education shall establish a 4-year community schools
22 initiative by implementing the Reigniting Education Achievement
23 with Coordinated Help (REACH) Program in three to five of the
24 state's lowest-performing traditional public schools with a
25 large population of low-income, at-risk students. Program
26 funding may not exceed \$900,000 for the initial year of the
27 program and each subsequent year unless increased by an act of
28 the Legislature. The Commissioner of Education shall establish
29 criteria for participation in the program, including school,

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30 health, and community services to be offered. A school
31 interested in participating in the program shall submit a letter
32 of interest to the Commissioner of Education by July 15, 2014.

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

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

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

54 (a) During the first year of operation, a school shall
55 build partnerships, which include the school district, the local
56 teachers' union, parents, social service agencies, medical and
57 dental professionals, community and civic groups, and
58 businesses. The school shall also plan services, advertise the

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59 program, establish baseline data, begin offering the services,
60 and report costs and benefits.

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

66 (5) At the conclusion of the program, the Department of
67 Education shall submit to the President of the Senate and the
68 Speaker of the House of Representatives a review of the program,
69 including successful practices and the impact on student
70 performance and success, and make a recommendation for
71 continuing or terminating the program.

72 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
73 administer this section.

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