

By Senator Thompson

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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 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules;
13 providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Reigniting Education Achievement with
18 Coordinated Help (REACH) Pilot Program.-

19 (1) Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, the Department
20 of Education shall implement a 4-year Reigniting Education
21 Achievement with Coordinated Help (REACH) Pilot Program in three
22 to five of the state's lowest-performing traditional public
23 schools with a large population of low-income, at-risk students.
24 The Commissioner of Education shall establish criteria for
25 participation in the program, including the school, health, and
26 community services to be offered. A school interested in
27 participating in the program shall submit a letter of interest
28 to the Commissioner of Education by July 15, 2014.

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

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

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

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

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

58 (b) During the second, third, and fourth years of

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59 operation, a school shall continue partnerships; seek input on
60 and refine services; continue offering the services; monitor the
61 academic, health, and nutritional progress of students and
62 families; and report progress, costs, and benefits.

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

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

71 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.