

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Principal Autonomy Pilot
3 Program Initiative; creating s. 1011.6202, F.S.;
4 creating the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
5 Initiative; providing a procedure for a school
6 district to participate in the program; providing
7 requirements for participating school districts and
8 schools; exempting participating schools from certain
9 laws and rules; requiring principals of participating
10 schools to complete a specific professional
11 development program; providing for the term of
12 participation in the program; providing for renewal or
13 revocation of authorization to participate in the
14 program; providing for reporting and rulemaking;
15 amending s. 1011.64, F.S.; providing that certain
16 training may be included in school district minimum
17 classroom expenditure requirements; amending s.
18 1011.69, F.S.; requiring participating district school
19 boards to allocate a specified percentage of certain
20 funds to participating schools; amending s. 1012.28,
21 F.S.; providing additional authority and
22 responsibilities of the principal of a participating
23 school; amending s. 1012.986, F.S.; specifying the
24 contents of a specific professional development
25 program for certain school principals; providing an
26 effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide the principal of a participating school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or her school in a way that produces significant improvements in student achievement and school management while complying with constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may, upon approval of a principal autonomy proposal, enter into a performance contract with up to six district school boards for participation in the program.

(1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—A Florida school district may submit to the state board for approval a principal autonomy proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemptions for an agreement to meet performance goals established in the proposal. If approved by the state board, the school district shall be eligible to participate in the program for 3 years. At the end of the 3 years, the performance of all participating schools in the school district shall be evaluated.

(2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

(a) To participate in the program, a school district must:

53 1. Identify three middle or high schools whose principals
54 will have fiscal and administrative autonomy.

55 2. Describe the current financial and administrative
56 management of each participating school; identify the areas in
57 which each school principal will have increased fiscal and
58 administrative autonomy, including the authority and
59 responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the
60 areas in which each participating school will continue to follow
61 district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

62 3. Explain the methods used to identify the educational
63 strengths and needs of the participating school's students and
64 identify how student achievement can be improved.

65 4. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as
66 defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy
67 of principals will help participating schools improve student
68 achievement and school management.

69 5. Provide each participating school's mission and a
70 description of its student population.

71 (b) The state board shall establish criteria, which must
72 include the criteria listed in paragraph (a), for the approval
73 of a principal autonomy proposal.

74 (c) A school district must submit its principal autonomy
75 proposal to the state board for approval by December 1 in order
76 to begin participation in the subsequent school year. By
77 February 28 of the school year in which the proposal is
78 submitted, the state board shall notify the district school

79 board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

80 (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

81 (a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph
 82 (b), a participating school district is exempt from the
 83 provisions of chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board
 84 that implement those exempt provisions.

85 (b) A participating school district shall comply with the
 86 provisions of chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board
 87 that implement those provisions, pertaining to the following:

88 1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of
 89 district school board members, the election or appointment and
 90 compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings
 91 and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and
 92 conflicts of interest.

93 2. Those laws relating to the student assessment program
 94 and school grading system, including chapter 1008.

95 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to
 96 students with disabilities.

97 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s.
 98 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

99 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and
 100 welfare.

101 6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening
 102 date for public schools.

103 7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except
 104 that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is

105 the average at the school level for a participating school.

106 8. Sections 1012.22(1)(c) and 1012.27(2), relating to
107 compensation and salary schedules.

108 9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions
109 for annual contracts for instructional personnel. This
110 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

111 10. Section 1012.335, relating to annual contracts for
112 instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011. This
113 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

114 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation
115 procedures and criteria.

116 12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities,
117 including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to
118 covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to
119 the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are
120 eligible for exemption.

121 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school
122 districts, including this section and ss. 1011.64(2)(b),
123 1011.69(2), 1012.28(8), and 1012.986(1)(e).

124 (4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school
125 district shall require that the principal of each participating
126 school complete professional development provided through the
127 William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School
128 Leaders under s. 1012.986. The professional development must be
129 completed before a school may participate in the Principal
130 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.

131 (5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize
 132 a school district to participate in the program for a period of
 133 3 years commencing with approval of the principal autonomy
 134 proposal. Authorization to participate in the program may be
 135 renewed upon action of the state board. The state board may
 136 revoke authorization to participate in the program if the school
 137 district fails to meet the requirements of this section during
 138 the 3-year period.

139 (6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall
 140 submit an annual report to the state board. The state board
 141 shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal
 142 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the
 143 program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall
 144 submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
 145 House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the
 146 effectiveness of the program.

147 (7) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
 148 rules to administer this section.

149 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 150 1011.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

151 1011.64 School district minimum classroom expenditure
 152 requirements.—

153 (2) For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this
 154 section, the Legislature shall prescribe minimum academic
 155 performance standards and minimum classroom expenditure
 156 requirements for districts not meeting such minimum academic

157 performance standards in the General Appropriations Act.

158 (b) School district minimum classroom expenditure
 159 requirements shall be calculated pursuant to subsection (3) and
 160 may include training pursuant to s. 1012.986(1)(e).

161 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1011.69, Florida
 162 Statutes, is amended to read:

163 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

164 (2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district
 165 school boards shall allocate to schools within the district an
 166 average of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and
 167 guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent, except
 168 schools participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
 169 Initiative under s. 1011.6202 are guaranteed to receive at least
 170 90 percent, of the funds generated by that school based upon the
 171 Florida Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and
 172 the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local
 173 funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school
 174 district's current operating discretionary millage levy. Total
 175 funding for each school shall be recalculated during the year to
 176 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education
 177 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time
 178 equivalent students reported by the school during the full-time
 179 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner
 180 of Education. If the district school board is providing programs
 181 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible
 182 students enrolled in the schools in the district shall be

183 provided federal funds.

184 Section 4. Subsection (8) is added to section 1012.28,
185 Florida Statutes, to read:

186 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school
187 principals.-

188 (8) The principal of a participating school in a
189 participating school district approved under s. 1011.6202 has
190 the following additional authority and responsibilities:

191 (a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection
192 (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel
193 for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer
194 of instructional personnel by the district school
195 superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a
196 participating school in a participating school district does not
197 affect the employee's status as a school district employee.

198 (b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school
199 programs at the principal's discretion to help improve student
200 achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and meet performance
201 goals identified in the principal autonomy proposal submitted
202 pursuant to s. 1011.6202.

203 (c) To annually provide to the district school
204 superintendent and the district school board a budget for the
205 operation of the participating school that identifies how funds
206 provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. The school
207 district shall include the budget in the annual report provided
208 to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).

209 Section 5. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of
 210 section 1012.986, Florida Statutes, to read:

211 1012.986 William Cecil Golden Professional Development
 212 Program for School Leaders.—

213 (1) There is established the William Cecil Golden
 214 Professional Development Program for School Leaders to provide
 215 high standards and sustained support for principals as
 216 instructional leaders. The program shall consist of a
 217 collaborative network of state and national professional
 218 leadership organizations to respond to instructional leadership
 219 needs throughout the state. The network shall support the human-
 220 resource development needs of principals, principal leadership
 221 teams, and candidates for principal leadership positions using
 222 the framework of leadership standards adopted by the State Board
 223 of Education, the Southern Regional Education Board, and the
 224 National Staff Development Council. The goal of the network
 225 leadership program is to:

226 (e) For principals of schools participating in the
 227 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202,
 228 provide training on the following:

229 1. Managing instructional personnel, including developing
 230 a high-performing instructional leadership team.

231 2. Public school budgeting, financial management, and
 232 human resources policies and procedures.

233 3. Best practices for the effective exercise of increased
 234 budgetary and staffing flexibility to improve student

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235 | achievement and operational efficiency.

236 | Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.