

By Senator Thompson

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to a community schools initiative;
3 creating s. 1006.05, F.S.; requiring the Department of
4 Education to implement the Reigniting Education
5 Achievement with Coordinated Help (REACH) Program as a
6 public-private partnership in the lowest-performing
7 public schools; authorizing funding; requiring the
8 Commissioner of Education to establish certain program
9 guidelines; specifying services to be offered with the
10 goal of improving student academic achievement;
11 providing requirements for implementation of the
12 program; requiring the department to submit a report
13 to the Legislature at the conclusion of the program;
14 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules
15 to administer the program; providing an effective
16 date.

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

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20 Section 1. Section 1006.05, Florida Statutes, is created to
21 read:

22 1006.05 Community schools initiative; Reigniting Education
23 Achievement with Coordinated Help (REACH) Program.—

24 (1) Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the Department
25 of Education shall establish a 4-year community schools
26 initiative by implementing the Reigniting Education Achievement
27 with Coordinated Help (REACH) Program in three to five of the
28 state's lowest-performing traditional public schools with a
29 large percentage of low-income, at-risk students. Program
30 funding may not exceed \$900,000 for the initial year of the
31 program and each subsequent year unless increased by an act of
32 the Legislature. The Commissioner of Education shall establish

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33 criteria for participation in the program, including school,
34 health, and community services that must be offered according to
35 the requirements of this section. A school interested in
36 participating in the program must submit a letter of interest to
37 the Commissioner of Education by July 15, 2016.

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

43 (3) The program shall focus on improving academic
44 achievement through a holistic approach in which students
45 receive the academic, medical, nutritional, and social support
46 they need to develop strong literacy and mathematics skills, as
47 well as the qualities of responsibility, self-control,
48 attentiveness, and cooperation. The program shall make available
49 support services that encourage healthy family dynamics and
50 home-school connections by providing parents with skills and
51 opportunities to get involved in their children's education and
52 help their children succeed in school. The program shall be
53 based on the following research-driven elements that lead to
54 student success: improving student achievement and learning,
55 leveraging community assets and improving school and community
56 collaboration, improving staff capacity and effectiveness, and
57 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 with such entities as the school district,
61 the local teachers' union, parents, social service agencies,

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62 medical and dental professionals, community and civic groups,
63 and businesses. The school shall also plan services, advertise
64 the program, establish baseline data, begin offering the
65 services, and report costs and benefits.

66 (b) During the second, third, and fourth years of the
67 program, the school shall continue the partnerships; continue
68 offering the services; seek input and refine services; monitor
69 the 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 shall
72 submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
73 House of Representatives a report that must include information
74 on successful practices identified and their impact on student
75 performance and success and include a recommendation for
76 continuing or terminating the program.

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

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