

By Senator Clemens

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to charter schools; amending s.
 3 1002.33, F.S.; requiring applicants for charter status
 4 to demonstrate that they meet certain needs that the
 5 local school district does not, or is unable to, meet;
 6 authorizing a charter school to share the results of
 7 innovative methods and best practices with the school
 8 district; providing an effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 1002.33, Florida
 13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1002.33 Charter schools.—

15 (2) GUIDING PRINCIPLES; PURPOSE.—In order to obtain charter
 16 status, an applicant must clearly demonstrate that it meets a
 17 specific instructional need or a need for additional educational
 18 facilities as defined in s. 1013.01 which the local school
 19 district does not, or is unable to, meet. Accordingly, each
 20 charter school in this state:

21 (a) ~~Charter schools in Florida~~ Shall be guided by the
 22 following principles:

23 1. Meet high standards of student achievement while
 24 providing flexibility to parents ~~flexibility~~ to choose among
 25 diverse educational opportunities within the state's public
 26 school system.

27 2. Promote enhanced academic success and financial
 28 efficiency by aligning responsibility with accountability.

29 3. Provide parents with sufficient information as to ~~en~~

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30 whether their child is reading at grade level and is gaining
31 ~~whether the child gains~~ at least a year's worth of learning for
32 every year spent in the charter school.

33 (b) ~~Charter schools~~ Shall fulfill the following purposes:

- 34 1. Improve student learning and academic achievement.
- 35 2. Increase learning opportunities for all students, with
36 special emphasis on low-performing students and reading.
- 37 3. Encourage the use of innovative learning methods.
- 38 4. Require the measurement of learning outcomes.

39 (c) ~~Charter schools~~ May fulfill the following purposes:

- 40 1. Create innovative measurement tools.
- 41 2. Provide rigorous competition within the public school
42 district to stimulate continual improvement in all public
43 schools.
- 44 3. Expand the capacity of the public school system.
- 45 4. Mitigate the educational impact of of ~~created by~~ the
46 development of new residential dwelling units.
- 47 5. Create new professional opportunities for teachers,
48 including ownership of the learning program at the school site.
- 49 6. Share the results of innovative methods and best
50 practices with the school district.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.