

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 certain district  
6           school boards to participate in the pilot program;  
7           providing requirements for participating school  
8           districts and schools; exempting participating schools  
9           from certain laws and rules; requiring principals of  
10          participating schools and specified personnel to  
11          participate in a nationally recognized school  
12          turnaround program; providing for the term of  
13          participation in the pilot program; providing for  
14          renewal or revocation of authorization to participate  
15          in the pilot program; providing for reporting,  
16          funding, eligibility requirements for certain funding,  
17          and rulemaking; amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; requiring  
18          participating district school boards to allocate a  
19          specified percentage of certain funds to participating  
20          schools; amending s. 1012.28, F.S.; providing  
21          additional authority and responsibilities of the  
22          principal of a participating school; providing  
23          appropriations; providing an effective date.

24  
25   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
26

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

29 1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The  
30 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within  
31 the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is  
32 to provide the highly effective principal of a participating  
33 school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or  
34 her school in a way that produces significant improvements in  
35 student achievement and school management while complying with  
36 constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may,  
37 upon approval of a principal autonomy proposal, enter into a  
38 performance contract with up to seven district school boards for  
39 participation in the pilot program.

40 (1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—The district school  
41 boards in Broward, Duval, Jefferson, Madison, Palm Beach,  
42 Pinellas, and Seminole Counties may submit to the state board  
43 for approval a principal autonomy proposal that exchanges  
44 statutory and rule exemptions for an agreement to meet  
45 performance goals established in the proposal. If approved by  
46 the state board, each of these school districts shall be  
47 eligible to participate in the pilot program for 3 years. At the  
48 end of the 3 years, the performance of all participating schools  
49 in the school district shall be evaluated.

50 (2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

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

53 1. Identify three middle or high schools that received at  
54 least two school grades of "D" or "F" pursuant to s. 1008.34  
55 during the previous 3 school years.

56 2. Identify three principals who have earned a highly  
57 effective rating on the prior year's performance evaluation  
58 pursuant to s. 1012.34, one of whom shall be assigned to each of  
59 the participating schools.

60 3. Describe the current financial and administrative  
61 management of each participating school; identify the areas in  
62 which each school principal will have increased fiscal and  
63 administrative autonomy, including the authority and  
64 responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the  
65 areas in which each participating school will continue to follow  
66 district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

67 4. Explain the methods used to identify the educational  
68 strengths and needs of the participating school's students and  
69 identify how student achievement can be improved.

70 5. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as  
71 defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy  
72 of principals will help participating schools improve student  
73 achievement and school management.

74 6. Provide each participating school's mission and a  
75 description of its student population.

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

79 (c) A district school board must submit its principal  
80 autonomy proposal to the state board for approval by December 1  
81 in order to begin participation in the subsequent school year.  
82 By February 28 of the school year in which the proposal is  
83 submitted, the state board shall notify the district school  
84 board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

85 (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

86 (a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph  
87 (b), a participating school is exempt from the provisions of  
88 chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board that implement  
89 those exempt provisions.

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

93 1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation of  
94 district school board members, the election or appointment and  
95 compensation of district school superintendents, public meetings  
96 and public records requirements, financial disclosure, and  
97 conflicts of interest.

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

100 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to  
101 students with disabilities.

102 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s.  
103 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

104 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and

105 welfare.

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

108 7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except  
109 that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is  
110 the average at the school level for a participating school.

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

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

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

119 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation  
120 procedures and criteria.

121 12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities,  
122 including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to  
123 covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to  
124 the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are  
125 eligible for exemption.

126 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school  
127 districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and  
128 1012.28(8).

129 (4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.— Each participating school  
130 district shall require that the principal of each participating

131 school, a three-member leadership team from each participating  
132 school, and district personnel working with each participating  
133 school complete a nationally recognized school turnaround  
134 program which focuses on improving leadership, instructional  
135 infrastructure, talent management, and differentiated support  
136 and accountability. The required personnel must enroll in the  
137 nationally recognized school turnaround program upon acceptance  
138 into the pilot program. Each participating school district shall  
139 receive \$100,000 from the department for participation in the  
140 nationally recognized school turnaround program.

141 (5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize  
142 a school district to participate in the pilot program for a  
143 period of 3 years commencing with approval of the principal  
144 autonomy proposal. Authorization to participate in the pilot  
145 program may be renewed upon action of the state board. The state  
146 board may revoke authorization to participate in the pilot  
147 program if the school district fails to meet the requirements of  
148 this section during the 3-year period.

149 (6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall  
150 submit an annual report to the state board. The state board  
151 shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal  
152 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the pilot  
153 program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall  
154 submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
155 House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the  
156 effectiveness of the pilot program.

157 (7) FUNDING.—The Legislature shall provide an  
158 appropriation to the department for the costs of the pilot  
159 program, including administrative costs and enrollment costs for  
160 the nationally recognized school turnaround program, and an  
161 additional amount of \$10,000 for each participating principal in  
162 each participating district as an annual salary supplement, a  
163 fund for the principal's school to be used at the principal's  
164 discretion, or both, as determined by the district. To be  
165 eligible for a salary supplement under this subsection, a  
166 participating principal must:

167 (a) Be rated "highly effective" as determined by the  
168 principal's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34;

169 (b) Be transferred to a school that earned a grade of "F"  
170 or three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 and  
171 provided additional authority and responsibilities pursuant to  
172 s. 1012.28(8); and

173 (c) Have implemented a turnaround option under s.  
174 1008.33(4) at a school as the school's principal. The turnaround  
175 option must have resulted in the school improving by at least  
176 one letter grade while he or she was serving as the school's  
177 principal.

178 (8) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt  
179 rules to administer this section.

180 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1011.69, Florida  
181 Statutes, is amended to read:

182 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

183 (2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district  
184 school boards shall allocate to schools within the district an  
185 average of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and  
186 guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent, except  
187 schools participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program  
188 Initiative under s. 1011.6202 are guaranteed to receive at least  
189 90 percent, of the funds generated by that school based upon the  
190 Florida Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and  
191 the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local  
192 funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school  
193 district's current operating discretionary millage levy. Total  
194 funding for each school shall be recalculated during the year to  
195 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education  
196 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time  
197 equivalent students reported by the school during the full-time  
198 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner  
199 of Education. If the district school board is providing programs  
200 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible  
201 students enrolled in the schools in the district shall be  
202 provided federal funds.

203 Section 3. Subsection (8) is added to section 1012.28,  
204 Florida Statutes, to read:

205 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school  
206 principals.—

207 (8) The principal of a school participating in the  
208 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202



209 has the following additional authority and responsibilities:

210 (a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection  
211 (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel  
212 for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer  
213 of instructional personnel by the district school  
214 superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a  
215 participating school in a participating school district does not  
216 affect the employee's status as a school district employee.

217 (b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school  
218 programs at the principal's discretion to help improve student  
219 achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and meet performance  
220 goals identified in the principal autonomy proposal submitted  
221 pursuant to s. 1011.6202.

222 (c) To annually provide to the district school  
223 superintendent and the district school board a budget for the  
224 operation of the participating school that identifies how funds  
225 provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. The school  
226 district shall include the budget in the annual report provided  
227 to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).

228 Section 4. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sums of  
229 \$700,000 in nonrecurring funds and \$210,000 in recurring funds  
230 are appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department  
231 of Education to implement the provisions of this act.

232 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.