

By Senator Garcia

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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 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 the University of Virginia 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 funding,  
16      reporting, and rulemaking; amending s. 1011.69, F.S.;  
17      requiring participating district school boards to  
18      allocate a specified percentage of certain funds to  
19      participating schools; amending s. 1012.28, F.S.;  
20      providing additional authority and responsibilities of  
21      the principal of a participating school; providing an  
22      effective date.

23  
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25  
26       Section 1. Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is created  
27 to read:

28       1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The  
29 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within

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

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

47 (2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

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

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

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

57 3. Describe the current financial and administrative  
58 management of each participating school; identify the areas in

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59 which each school principal will have increased fiscal and  
60 administrative autonomy, including the authority and  
61 responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the  
62 areas in which each participating school will continue to follow  
63 district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

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

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

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

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

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

82 (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

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

87 (b) A participating school district shall comply with the

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88 provisions of chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board  
89 that implement those provisions, pertaining to the following:

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

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

97 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to  
98 students with disabilities.

99 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s.  
100 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

101 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and  
102 welfare.

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

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

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

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

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

116 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation

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117 procedures and criteria.

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

123 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school  
124 districts, including this section and ss. 1011.69(2) and  
125 1012.28(8).

126 (4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school  
127 district shall require that the principal of each participating  
128 school, a three-member leadership team from each participating  
129 school, and district personnel working with each participating  
130 school complete the University of Virginia School Turnaround  
131 Program. The required personnel must enroll in the University of  
132 Virginia School Turnaround Program upon acceptance into the  
133 pilot program. Each participating school district shall receive  
134 \$100,000 from the department for participation in the University  
135 of Virginia School Turnaround Program.

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

144 (6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall  
145 submit an annual report to the state board. The state board

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146 shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal  
147 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the pilot  
148 program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall  
149 submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
150 House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the  
151 effectiveness of the pilot program.

152 (7) FUNDING.—The Legislature shall provide an appropriation  
153 to the department for the costs of the pilot program, including  
154 administrative costs and enrollment costs for the University of  
155 Virginia School Turnaround Program, and an additional  
156 scholarship of \$10,000 to each participating principal to be  
157 used at his or her school.

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

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

162 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

163 (2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district school  
164 boards shall allocate to schools within the district an average  
165 of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and  
166 guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent, except  
167 schools participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program  
168 Initiative under s. 1011.6202 are guaranteed to receive at least  
169 90 percent, of the funds generated by that school based upon the  
170 Florida Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and  
171 the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local  
172 funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school  
173 district's current operating discretionary millage levy. Total  
174 funding for each school shall be recalculated during the year to

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175 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education  
176 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time  
177 equivalent students reported by the school during the full-time  
178 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner  
179 of Education. If the district school board is providing programs  
180 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible  
181 students enrolled in the schools in the district shall be  
182 provided federal funds.

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

185 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school  
186 principals.—

187 (8) The principal of a school participating in the  
188 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202  
189 has the following additional authority and responsibilities:

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

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

202 (c) To annually provide to the district school  
203 superintendent and the district school board a budget for the

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204 operation of the participating school that identifies how funds  
205 provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. The school  
206 district shall include the budget in the annual report provided  
207 to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).

208 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.