

By Senator Cruz

18-00325-20

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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 a charter school, in order to
4 obtain approval, to demonstrate that it meets certain
5 needs that the local school district does not or is
6 unable to provide to students in that district;
7 providing an effective date.

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

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

13 1002.33 Charter schools.—

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

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

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

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

28 3. Provide parents with sufficient information on whether
29 their child is reading at grade level and whether the child

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30 gains at least a year's worth of learning for every year spent
31 in the charter school.

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

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

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

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

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.