



732008

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: WD	.	
04/19/2021	.	
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The Committee on Appropriations (Diaz) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 70 and 71

insert:

Section 2. Section 1002.334, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.334 Synchronous Innovative Blended Learning Pilot Program.—

(1) There is created within the Department of Education the Synchronous Innovative Blended Learning Pilot Program. The



11 purpose of the program is to develop and measure a synchronous  
12 and innovative blended learning model that improves the  
13 educational progress of this state's students and helps close  
14 achievement gaps for this state's traditionally underserved  
15 students.

16 (2) As used in this section, the term "synchronous  
17 innovative blended learning" means:

18 (a) A mode of learning where in-person and remote students  
19 are combined in one classroom environment where the education,  
20 instruction, and engagement occurs at the same time with the  
21 teacher and other students physically present in the classroom;  
22 and

23 (b) For a given course, students learn in part through  
24 online delivery of content and instruction with some element of  
25 student control over time, place, path, or pace and in part at a  
26 traditional supervised classroom location away from home.

27 (3) To be eligible to work with the program, an applicant  
28 must be:

29 (a) A high-performing charter school under s. 1002.331;

30 (b) A high-performing charter school system under s.  
31 1002.332; or

32 (c) An academically high-performing school district  
33 pursuant to s. 1003.621.

34 (4) A program applicant must submit an application to the  
35 department in a format prescribed by the department. The  
36 application must include all of the following:

37 (a) A plan for the synchronous technological and resource  
38 design, curriculum, classroom operation, school or district  
39 management, privacy protection and teacher professional



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40 development, and at least weekly progress monitoring of student  
41 performance in synchronous innovative blended learning programs.

42 (b) A plan to reduce achievement gaps through synchronous  
43 innovative blended learning.

44 (c) A requirement that distance learning will always be at  
45 the choosing of the student or the student's parent or guardian  
46 and that a family will never be coerced to choose distance  
47 learning.

48 (d) A requirement that a participating classroom may not be  
49 fully virtual such that at least one-third of the students in a  
50 class must be present for in-person learning on any regularly  
51 scheduled school day.

52 (e) A requirement that any struggling student who is  
53 participating in this program and who, according to progress  
54 monitoring data, is on pace to learn less than a year's content  
55 in a year's time must return to learning in person.

56 (f) A requirement that any student can choose to switch  
57 learning modalities, in person or distance, on any given day,  
58 without notice and therefore a seat must always be available for  
59 every student registered to take any participating course.

60 (g) A requirement that the applicant provide all requested  
61 student-level data from participating schools, including, as  
62 necessary, benchmark historical data for up to the prior 3  
63 school years, to the department upon request.

64 (5) Applications may be considered only for synchronous  
65 innovative blended learning programs.

66 (6) The Commissioner of Education shall pick applicants to  
67 participate in the program.

68 (7) (a) Applicants approved by the commissioner shall



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69 receive funding based upon the number of full-time equivalent  
70 students being educated under the pilot program, as if each  
71 student were being educated full time in person at his or her  
72 respective school.

73 (b) The commissioner may remove an approved applicant from  
74 program participation if the applicant fails to maintain the  
75 designations listed in subsection (3) or the applicant fails to  
76 meet any of the requirements listed in subsection (4).

77 (8) This section expires July 1, 2024.

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79 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

80 And the title is amended as follows:

81 Between lines 13 and 14

82 insert:

83 creating s. 1002.334, F.S.; establishing the  
84 Synchronous Innovative Blended Learning Pilot Program  
85 within the department; providing the purpose of the  
86 program; defining the term "synchronous innovative  
87 blended learning"; specifying program eligibility;  
88 requiring program applicants to submit applications to  
89 the department in a format prescribed by the  
90 department; requiring program applications to include  
91 specified information; requiring applications to be  
92 considered only for synchronous innovative blended  
93 learning programs; requiring the Commissioner of  
94 Education to pick applicants to participate in the  
95 program; providing for funding; authorizing the  
96 commissioner to remove an approved applicant from the  
97 program under certain circumstances; providing for



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future expiration;