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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/20/2021	.	
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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 Innovative Blended Learning and Real-Time Student Assessment Pilot Program.—

(1) There is created within the Department of Education the Innovative Blended Learning and Real-Time Student Assessment



11 Pilot Program. The purpose of the program is to develop and  
12 measure innovative blended learning and real-time weekly student  
13 assessment educational models that improve the educational  
14 progress of this state's students and help close achievement  
15 gaps for this state's traditionally underserved students.

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



40 development, and at least weekly progress monitoring of real-  
41 time student performance in innovative blended learning  
42 programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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69 (7) Districts and schools may not begin approved  
70 synchronous innovative blended learning programs until October  
71 1, 2021.

72 (8)(a) Applicants approved by the commissioner shall  
73 receive funding based upon the number of full-time equivalent  
74 students being educated under the pilot program, as if each  
75 student were being educated full-time in person at his or her  
76 respective school.

77 (b) The commissioner may remove an approved applicant from  
78 program participation if the applicant fails to maintain the  
79 designations listed in subsection (3) or the applicant fails to  
80 meet any of the requirements listed in subsection (4).

81 (9) This section expires July 1, 2024.

82  
83 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

84 And the title is amended as follows:

85 Between lines 13 and 14

86 insert:

87 creating s. 1002.334, F.S.; establishing the  
88 Innovative Blended Learning and Real-Time Student  
89 Assessment Pilot Program within the department;  
90 providing the purpose of the program; defining the  
91 term "innovative blended learning"; specifying program  
92 eligibility; requiring program applicants to submit  
93 applications to the department in a format prescribed  
94 by the department; requiring program applications to  
95 include specified information; requiring applications  
96 to be considered only for synchronous innovative  
97 blended learning programs; requiring the Commissioner



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98 of Education to select applicants to participate in  
99 the program; providing a start date for the program;  
100 providing for funding; authorizing the commissioner to  
101 remove an approved applicant from the program under  
102 certain circumstances; providing for future  
103 expiration;