

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 277 Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program

**SPONSOR(S):** Clemons

**TIED BILLS:** None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 638

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N	Cohen	Brink
2) PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee	14 Y, 0 N	Bailey	Potvin
3) Education & Employment Committee			

**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

In 2017, the Florida Legislature established the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program to assist selected school districts in implementing a comprehensive music education program for students in kindergarten through grade 2. The program began in the 2017-2018 school year and was initially set to expire on June 30, 2020, before being extended to June 30, 2022. For Fiscal Year 2021-2022, \$400,000 in recurring funds were appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to implement the pilot program. Three school districts are currently participating in the program: Alachua, Marion, and Miami-Dade.

HB 277 extends the scheduled expiration of the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

The bill has no fiscal impact. See fiscal comments, *infra*.

The bill takes effect upcoming becoming law.

# FULL ANALYSIS

## I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

#### Present Situation

##### Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program

###### *Overview*

The Florida Legislature established the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program in 2017 to assist selected school districts in implementing a comprehensive music education program for students in kindergarten through grade 2. The program began in the 2017-2018 school year and was authorized for a period of three years, initially set to expire in June 30, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The Florida Legislature updated the guidelines of and extended the expiration for the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program in 2020. The updated guidelines created flexibility for school districts seeking to participate in the program by allowing specified elementary schools in the district, rather than all elementary schools, to implement a comprehensive music education program.<sup>2</sup>

For a school district to be eligible to participate in the pilot program, the district superintendent must certify to the Commissioner of Education that specified elementary schools within the district have established a comprehensive music education program that:<sup>3</sup>

- includes all students at the school enrolled in kindergarten through grade 2;
- is staffed by certified music educators;
- provides music instruction for at least 30 consecutive minutes two days a week;
- complies with the class size requirements under the law;<sup>4</sup> and
- complies with the Department of Education's standards for early childhood music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade 2.

The Commissioner of Education must select school districts for participation in the pilot program, subject to legislative appropriation, based on the school district's proximity to the University of Florida and needs-based criteria established by the State Board of Education (SBE). Selected school districts must annually receive \$150 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student in kindergarten through grade 2 who is enrolled in a comprehensive music education program.<sup>5</sup>

The University of Florida's College of Education must collaborate with Florida International University's School of Music to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program. Upon completion, the results of the evaluation must be shared with the Florida Center for Partnerships for Arts-Integrated Teaching.<sup>6</sup> The SBE is authorized to adopt rules to administer the pilot program.<sup>7</sup>

###### *Implementation*

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<sup>1</sup> Section 69, ch. 2017-116, L.O.F.

<sup>2</sup> Section 1, ch. 2020-72, L.O.F.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1003.481(2)(a)-(e), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1003.03(1)(a), F.S. The maximum number of students assigned to each teacher who is teaching core-curriculum courses in public school classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 may not exceed 18 students.

<sup>5</sup> Section 1003.481(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 1003.481(4), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 1003.481(5), F.S.

Currently, ten schools have been selected to participate in the program from three different counties:<sup>8</sup>

- Alachua County: Joseph Williams Elementary School, Irby Elementary School, Lake Forest Elementary School, and Metcalfe Elementary School
- Marion County: Fort McCoy School, Ocala Springs Elementary School, and Reddick-Collier Elementary School
- Miami-Dade County: Fulford Elementary School, Whispering Pines Elementary School, and Comstock Elementary School.

Between the three districts, six of the schools serve primarily economically disadvantaged students. One certified music teacher is assigned to each school. There are between 85 and 345 participating students at each elementary school, with a total of 2,085 students participating across all three districts as of October 2021.<sup>9</sup>

### *Funding*

For Fiscal Year 2021-2022, \$400,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund was appropriated for the pilot program. Of this amount, \$312,750 was awarded between the three participating school districts, based on the \$150 per FTE student required amount. As of October 2021, the following distributions have been made:<sup>10</sup>

School District	Amount Allocated	Amount Remaining
Alachua County	\$110,250	\$110,250
Marion County	\$105,000	\$78,750
Miami-Dade County	\$97,500	\$73,125

### Florida Center for Partnership for Arts-Integrated Teaching

The Florida Center for Partnership for Arts-Integrated Teaching, located at the University of South Florida's Sarasota-Manatee campus, serves as a statewide resource in arts-integrated teaching.<sup>11</sup> The center builds statewide partnerships, conducts research on policies and practices related to arts-integrated teaching, and collaborates with arts organizations and Florida school districts in developing arts-integrated curriculum.<sup>12</sup> The center may provide technical assistance and support, upon request, to public and private schools with the implementation of evidence-based, arts-integrated instruction, assessments, programs, and professional development.<sup>13</sup>

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill extends the scheduled expiration of the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

This bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

#### **B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

Section 1. Amends s. 1003.481, F.S.; extending the expiration date of the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program.

Section 2. Provides the bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

<sup>8</sup> Email, Jessica A. Fowler, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Education, RE: Data Request on HB277, Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program (Dec. 14, 2021).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, *Center for Partnerships for Arts-Integrated Teaching-Mission*, <http://www.usfsm.edu/academics/center-for-paint/> (last visited January 31, 2022).

<sup>12</sup> Section 1004.344, F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 1004.344(2)(c), F.S.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

### D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Appropriations Act appropriated \$400,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund for the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program. Since the \$400,000 is recurring funds, there is no fiscal impact for extending the repeal date of this pilot program.

## III. COMMENTS

### A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

### B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

### C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

## IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.