

By Senator Stewart

17-01441-23

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Reading Achievement Initiative  
3       for Scholastic Excellence Program; amending s.  
4       1008.365, F.S.; authorizing tutoring provided through  
5       the tutoring program within the Reading Achievement  
6       Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program to be  
7       provided after the school day; conforming provisions  
8       to changes made by the act; authorizing school  
9       districts that participate in the tutoring program to  
10      provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high  
11      school students serving as tutors for after-school  
12      tutoring; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16       Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 1008.365, Florida  
17       Statutes, is amended to read:

18       1008.365 Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic  
19       Excellence Act.—

20       (8) As part of the RAISE Program, the department shall  
21       establish a tutoring program and develop training in effective  
22       reading tutoring practices and content, based on evidence-based  
23       practices and aligned to the English Language Arts standards  
24       under s. 1003.41, which prepares eligible high school students  
25       to tutor students in kindergarten through grade 3 in schools  
26       identified under this section, instilling in those students a  
27       love of reading and improving their literacy skills.

28       (a) To be eligible to participate in the tutoring program,  
29       a high school student must be a rising junior or senior who has

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30 a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, has no  
31 history of out-of-school suspensions or expulsions, is on track  
32 to complete all core course requirements to graduate, and has  
33 written recommendations from at least two of his or her present  
34 or former high school teachers of record or extracurricular  
35 activity sponsors.

36 (b) School districts that wish to participate in the  
37 tutoring program must recruit, train, and deploy eligible high  
38 school students using the materials developed under this  
39 section. Tutoring must occur during or after the school day on  
40 school district property in the presence and under the  
41 supervision of instructional personnel who are school district  
42 employees. A parent must give written permission for his or her  
43 child to receive tutoring through the program.

44 (c) Tutoring may be part of a service-learning course  
45 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497. Students may earn up to three  
46 elective credits for high school graduation based on the  
47 verified number of hours the student spends tutoring under the  
48 program. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in  
49 writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the  
50 student's parent or guardian, and an administrator or designee  
51 of the school in which the tutoring occurred. Unpaid ~~The~~ hours  
52 that a high school student devotes to tutoring may be counted  
53 toward meeting community service requirements for high school  
54 graduation and community service requirements for participation  
55 in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program as provided in  
56 s. 1003.497(3)(b). The department shall designate a high school  
57 student who provides at least 75 verified hours of tutoring  
58 under the program as a New Worlds Scholar and award the student

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59 with a pin indicating such designation.

60 (d) School districts participating in the tutoring program  
61 may provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school  
62 students serving as tutors for after-school tutoring.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.