

By Senator Stewart

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Year-round School Pilot  
3       Program; creating s. 1003.07, F.S.; creating the Year-  
4       round School Pilot Program for a period of 4 school  
5       years beginning with a specified school year;  
6       providing the purpose of the program; providing an  
7       application process for school districts seeking to  
8       participate in the program; requiring the Commissioner  
9       of Education to select a certain number of school  
10      districts to participate in the program; providing  
11      requirements for participating school districts;  
12      requiring the commissioner to submit a report to the  
13      Governor and Legislature; providing requirements for  
14      the report; authorizing the State Board of Education  
15      to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

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19       Section 1. Section 1003.07, Florida Statutes, is created to  
20 read:

21       1003.07 Year-round School Pilot Program.—Beginning with the  
22 2024-2025 school year, the Year-round School Pilot Program is  
23 created for a period of 4 school years. The purpose of the  
24 program is for the Department of Education to assist school  
25 districts in establishing a year-round school program within at  
26 least one elementary school in a district and to study the  
27 issues, benefits, and schedule options for instituting year-  
28 round school programs for all students.

29       (1) (a) School districts shall apply to the Department of

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30 Education, in a format and by a date prescribed by the  
31 department, to participate in the program. The application must  
32 include:

33 1. The number of students enrolled in the elementary school  
34 or schools that will implement a year-round school program.

35 2. The academic performance of the students enrolled in  
36 such school or schools.

37 3. The rate of absenteeism and tardiness of students  
38 enrolled in such school or schools.

39 4. The commitment of such school's or schools'  
40 instructional personnel and students to the year-round school  
41 program.

42 5. An explanation of how the implementation of the year-  
43 round school program will benefit the students.

44 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall select five school  
45 districts to participate in the program. To the extent possible,  
46 the commissioner shall select school districts that represent a  
47 variety of demographics, including, but not limited to, urban,  
48 suburban, and rural school districts.

49 (2) A school district selected for a year-round school  
50 program shall:

51 (a) Implement a single-track or multi-track schedule.

52 (b) Provide data to the department to allow for:

53 1. An assessment of the academic and safety benefits  
54 associated with establishing a year-round school program.

55 2. An evaluation of any potential barriers for the school  
56 district upon implementation of a year-round school program,  
57 including, but not limited to:

58 a. Issues related to the commitment of instructional

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59 personnel and students.

60 b. The provision of services during the summer months.

61 c. School district budgeting.

62 d. Parental engagement and participation.

63 e. Coordination with community services.

64 f. Student assessment and progression practices.

65 g. Student transportation.

66 3. The consideration of strategies for addressing such  
67 potential barriers.

68 (3) Upon completion of the program, the commissioner shall  
69 provide a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
70 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must  
71 include:

72 (a) The number of students enrolled at participating  
73 schools.

74 (b) The number of students enrolled at participating  
75 schools before and after the implementation of the year-round  
76 school program.

77 (c) Any health, academic, and safety benefits for students  
78 or instructional personnel from the implementation of the year-  
79 round school program.

80 (d) An evaluation of any potential barriers for school  
81 districts and families associated with a year-round school  
82 program.

83 (e) The commissioner's recommendation on the adoption of  
84 year-round school programs for all students.

85 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
86 administer the program.

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