

By Senator Stewart

17-00223-24

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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.; providing that tutoring provided  
5       through the tutoring program established as part of  
6       the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic  
7       Excellence Program may be provided after the school  
8       day; authorizing school districts that participate in  
9       the tutoring program to provide a stipend to  
10      instructional personnel and high school students who  
11      serve as tutors under the program; conforming  
12      provisions to changes made by the act; providing an  
13      effective date.

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

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

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

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

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30 (a) To be eligible to participate in the tutoring program,  
31 a high school student must be a rising junior or senior who has  
32 a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, has no  
33 history of out-of-school suspensions or expulsions, is on track  
34 to complete all core course requirements to graduate, and has  
35 written recommendations from at least two of his or her present  
36 or former high school teachers of record or extracurricular  
37 activity sponsors.

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

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

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59 student who provides at least 75 verified hours of tutoring  
60 under the program as a New Worlds Scholar and award the student  
61 with a pin indicating such designation.

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

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.