

CS/HB 157

2026

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the School Teacher Training and  
Mentoring Program; creating s. 1012.988, F.S.;  
establishing the School Teacher Training and Mentoring  
Program within the Department of Education; providing  
the purpose of the program; authorizing school  
district and charter schools to place certain  
classroom teachers as teacher mentors in specified  
schools for specified purposes; providing requirements  
for teacher mentors and mentees; authorizing teacher  
mentors to receive a stipend and work with multiple  
classroom teachers; providing department and teacher  
mentor responsibilities; authorizing the State Board  
of Education to adopt rules; amending s. 1011.62,  
F.S.; authorizing specified funds to be used for the  
School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1012.988, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1012.988 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program.—  
(1) The School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program is  
established within the Department of Education. The purpose of

26 the program is to increase the effectiveness and involvement of  
27 classroom teachers and improve student achievement, classroom  
28 management, and excellence in the state's public schools.

29 (2) (a) School districts and charter schools may place  
30 retired classroom teachers or current classroom teachers in  
31 schools earning a grade of "D" or "F" to act as teacher mentors  
32 to:

33 1. New classroom teachers;  
34 2. Classroom teachers who are rated as needs improvement,  
35 developing, or unsatisfactory on the prior year's performance  
36 evaluation under s. 1012.34; or  
37 3. Classroom teachers identified by the school  
38 administrator as struggling with behavior management within the  
39 classroom.

40 (b) Each teacher mentor selected by the school district,  
41 charter school, or charter management organization must have:  
42 1. At least 3 years of teaching experience in  
43 prekindergarten through grade 12.

44 2. Earned a highly effective rating on most recent  
45 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34.

46 (c) Each teacher mentor may receive a stipend up to  
47 \$3,000. The teacher mentor may work with multiple classroom  
48 teachers.

49 (3) The Department of Education shall establish program  
50 standards and a standard contract template for the teacher

51 mentor and mentee which outlines the responsibilities of each  
52 person and establishes the framework and goals of the program.

53 (4) Each teacher mentor must:

54 (a) Not have an official management relationship with his  
55 or her mentee.

56 (b) Provide direction, advice, and a neutral sounding  
57 board to his or her mentee.

58 (c) Maintain confidentiality, unless prohibited by law.

59 (d) Not have a personal agenda other than assisting his or  
60 her mentee in developing and reaching the mentee's goals.

61 (e) Help his or her mentee in developing skills and  
62 expertise, including drawing upon the teacher mentor's own  
63 personal experiences.

64 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
65 administer this section.

66 **Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section**  
67 **1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

68 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
69 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
70 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
71 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
72 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
73 follows:

74 (7) EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT ALLOCATION.—

75 (a) The educational enrichment allocation is created to

76 assist school districts in providing educational enrichment  
77 activities and services that support and increase the academic  
78 achievement of students in grades kindergarten through 12.  
79 Educational enrichment activities and services may be provided  
80 in a manner and at any time during or beyond the regular 180-day  
81 term identified by the school district as being the most  
82 effective and efficient way to best help the student progress  
83 from grade to grade and graduate from high school. Funds from  
84 the educational enrichment allocation may be used for the School  
85 Teacher Training and Mentoring Program under s. 1012.988. For  
86 fiscal year 2023-2024, the educational enrichment allocation  
87 shall consist of a base amount as specified in the General  
88 Appropriations Act. Beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025, the  
89 educational enrichment allocation shall consist of the base  
90 amount that includes a workload adjustment based on changes in  
91 the unweighted full-time equivalent membership. Beginning in  
92 fiscal year 2025-2026, and each year thereafter, the statewide  
93 average base amount as specified in the General Appropriations  
94 Act shall be used for any new educational entity funded in the  
95 Florida Education Finance Program.

96 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.