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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/26/2026	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education (Jones) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

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  
the program is to increase the effectiveness and involvement of



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11 classroom teachers and improve student achievement, classroom  
12 management, and excellence in the state's public schools.

13 (2) (a) School districts and charter schools may place  
14 retired classroom teachers or current classroom teachers in  
15 schools earning a grade of "D" or "F" to act as teacher mentors  
16 to:

17 1. New classroom teachers;

18 2. Classroom teachers who are rated as needs improvement,  
19 developing, or unsatisfactory on the prior year's performance  
20 evaluation under s. 1012.34; or

21 3. Classroom teachers identified by the school  
22 administrator as struggling with behavior management within the  
23 classroom.

24 (b) Each teacher mentor selected by the school district,  
25 charter school, or charter management organization must have:

26 1. At least 3 years of teaching experience in  
27 prekindergarten through grade 12.

28 2. Earned a highly effective rating on his or her most  
29 recent performance evaluation under s. 1012.34.

30 (c) Each teacher mentor may receive a stipend of up to  
31 \$3,000.

32 (d) Each mentor and mentee relationship through the program  
33 shall be for one grading period.

34 (e) 1. A retired classroom teacher serving as a teacher  
35 mentor may not have more than five mentees at a time.

36 2. A classroom teacher serving as a teacher mentor may not  
37 have more than one mentee at a time.

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



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40 mentor and mentee which outlines the responsibilities of each  
41 person and establishes the framework and goals of the program.

42 (4) Each teacher mentor must:

43 (a) Present significant historical events with accuracy and  
44 integrity, grounded in verifiable evidence and scholarly rigor.

45 (b) If a curriculum is used, use a curriculum that affirms  
46 the principles of fairness and equal opportunity reflected in  
47 the Florida Educational Equity Act and encourages respectful  
48 dialogue across diverse perspectives.

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

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

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

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

57 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section  
58 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

59 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
60 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
61 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
62 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
63 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
64 follows:

65 (7) EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT ALLOCATION.—

66 (a) The educational enrichment allocation is created to  
67 assist school districts in providing educational enrichment  
68 activities and services that support and increase the academic



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

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

89  
90 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

91 And the title is amended as follows:

92 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
93 and insert:

94 A bill to be entitled  
95 An act relating to the School Teacher Training and  
96 Mentoring Program; creating s. 1012.988, F.S. ;  
97 establishing the School Teacher Training and Mentoring



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98 Program within the Department of Education; providing  
99 the purpose of the program; authorizing school  
100 districts and charter schools to place certain  
101 classroom teachers as teacher mentors in specified  
102 schools for specified purposes; providing requirements  
103 for teacher mentors and mentees; authorizing teacher  
104 mentors to receive a stipend; providing the time  
105 period for each mentor and mentee relationship through  
106 the program; providing limitations on the number of  
107 mentees teacher mentors may work with; providing  
108 department and teacher mentor responsibilities;  
109 authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt  
110 rules; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; authorizing  
111 specified funds to be used for the School Teacher  
112 Training and Mentoring Program; providing an effective  
113 date.