

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Principal Autonomy Pilot
 3 Program Initiative; creating s. 1011.6202, F.S.;
 4 establishing the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
 5 Initiative; authorizing school district participation
 6 in the program; establishing requirements for
 7 submission and approval of principal autonomy
 8 proposals; providing statutory and rule exemptions for
 9 participating school districts; requiring the
 10 principal of each participating school to complete
 11 specified professional development; providing that the
 12 initial term of the program is 3 years; requiring
 13 annual reporting by participating school districts;
 14 requiring the Commissioner of Education to report on
 15 program effectiveness; requiring the State Board of
 16 Education to adopt rules; amending s. 1011.64, F.S.;
 17 authorizing inclusion of professional development
 18 provided to the principal of a participating school in
 19 the calculation of certain classroom expenditures;
 20 amending s. 1011.69, F.S.; requiring a district school
 21 board to allocate to a participating school at least
 22 90 percent of the funds generated by that school;
 23 amending s. 1012.28, F.S.; providing increased
 24 autonomy to the principal of a participating school
 25 regarding staffing, allocation of resources, and
 26 budgeting; amending s. 1012.986, F.S.; providing

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

27 professional development requirements for a principal
 28 of a participating school; providing an effective
 29 date.

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

33 Section 1. Section 1011.6202, Florida Statutes, is created
 34 to read:

35 1011.6202 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.—The
 36 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative is created within
 37 the Department of Education. The purpose of the pilot program is
 38 to provide the principal of a participating school with
 39 increased autonomy and authority to operate his or her school in
 40 a way that produces significant improvements in student
 41 achievement and school management while complying with
 42 constitutional requirements. The State Board of Education may,
 43 upon approval of a principal autonomy proposal, enter into a
 44 performance contract with up to six district school boards for
 45 participation in the initiative.

46 (1) PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—A Florida school
 47 district may submit to the state board for approval a principal
 48 autonomy proposal that exchanges statutory and rule exemption
 49 for an agreement to meet performance goals established in the
 50 proposal. If approved by the state board, the school district
 51 shall be eligible to participate in the program for 3 years. At
 52 the end of the 3 years, the performance of all participating

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

53 schools in the school district shall be evaluated.

54 (2) PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY PROPOSAL.—

55 (a) To participate in the program a school district must:

56 1. Identify three middle or high schools whose principals
57 will have fiscal and administrative autonomy.

58 2. Describe the current financial and administrative
59 management of each participating school; identify the areas in
60 which each school principal will have increased fiscal and
61 administrative autonomy, including the authority and
62 responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the
63 areas in which each participating school will continue to follow
64 district school board fiscal and administrative policies.

65 3. Explain the methods used to identify the educational
66 strengths and needs of the participating school's students and
67 identify how student achievement can be improved.

68 4. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as
69 defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how increased principal
70 autonomy will help participating schools improve student
71 achievement and school management.

72 5. Provide each participating school's mission and a
73 description of its student population.

74 (b) The state board shall establish criteria, which must
75 include the criteria listed in paragraph (a), for the approval
76 of a school district principal autonomy proposal.

77 (c) A school district must submit the principal autonomy
78 proposal to the state board for approval by December 1 in order

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

79 to begin participation in the subsequent school year. By
 80 February 28 of the school year in which the proposal is
 81 submitted, the state board shall notify the district school
 82 board in writing whether the proposal has been approved.

83 (3) EXEMPTION FROM LAWS.—

84 (a) With the exception of those laws listed in paragraph
 85 (b), a participating school district is exempt from the
 86 provisions in chapters 1000-1013 and rules of the state board
 87 that implement these exempt provisions.

88 (b) A participating school district shall comply with the
 89 provisions in chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the state board
 90 that implement these provisions, pertaining to the following:

91 1. Those laws relating to the election and compensation
 92 of district school board members, the election or appointment
 93 and compensation of district school superintendents, public
 94 meetings and public records requirements, financial disclosure,
 95 and conflicts of interest.

96 2. Those laws relating to the student assessment program
 97 and school grading system, including chapter 1008.

98 3. Those laws relating to the provision of services to
 99 students with disabilities.

100 4. Those laws relating to civil rights, including s.
 101 1000.05, relating to discrimination.

102 5. Those laws relating to student health, safety, and
 103 welfare.

104 6. Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

105 date for public schools.

106 7. Section 1003.03, governing maximum class size, except
107 that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 is
108 the average at the school level for a participating school.

109 8. Sections 1012.22(1)(c) and 1012.27(2), relating to
110 compensation and salary schedules.

111 9. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions
112 for annual contracts for instructional personnel. This
113 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

114 10. Section 1012.335, relating to annual contracts for
115 instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011. This
116 subparagraph does not apply to at-will employees.

117 11. Section 1012.34, relating to personnel evaluation
118 procedures and criteria.

119 12. Those laws pertaining to educational facilities,
120 including chapter 1013, except that s. 1013.20, relating to
121 covered walkways for relocatables, and s. 1013.21, relating to
122 the use of relocatable facilities exceeding 20 years of age, are
123 eligible for exemption.

124 13. Those laws pertaining to participating school
125 districts, including this section and ss. 1011.64(2)(b),
126 1011.69(2), 1012.28(8), and 1012.986(1)(e).

127 (4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Each participating school
128 district shall require the principal of each participating
129 school to complete the professional development provided through
130 the William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

131 School Leaders under s. 1012.986. The professional development
132 must be completed before a school may participate in the
133 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative.

134 (5) TERM OF PARTICIPATION.—The state board shall authorize
135 a school district to participate in the initiative for a period
136 of 3 years commencing with approval of the principal autonomy
137 proposal. Participation may be renewed upon action of the state
138 board. The state board may revoke authorization to participate
139 if the school district fails to meet the requirements of this
140 section during the 3-year period.

141 (6) REPORTING.—Each participating school district shall
142 submit an annual report to the state board. The state board
143 shall annually report on the implementation of the Principal
144 Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative. Upon completion of the
145 program's first 3-year term, the Commissioner of Education shall
146 submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
147 House of Representatives by December 1 a full evaluation of the
148 effectiveness of the program.

149 (7) RULEMAKING.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
150 rules to administer this section.

151 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
152 1011.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

153 1011.64 School district minimum classroom expenditure
154 requirements.—

155 (2) For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this
156 section, the Legislature shall prescribe minimum academic

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

157 performance standards and minimum classroom expenditure
 158 requirements for districts not meeting such minimum academic
 159 performance standards in the General Appropriations Act.

160 (b) School district minimum classroom expenditure
 161 requirements shall be calculated pursuant to subsection (3) and
 162 may include training pursuant to s. 1012.986(1)(e).

163 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1011.69, Florida
 164 Statutes, is amended to read:

165 1011.69 Equity in School-Level Funding Act.—

166 (2) Beginning in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, district
 167 school boards shall allocate to schools within the district an
 168 average of 90 percent of the funds generated by all schools and
 169 guarantee that each school receives at least 80 percent, except
 170 schools participating in the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program
 171 under s. 1011.6202 are guaranteed to receive at least 90
 172 percent, of the funds generated by that school based upon the
 173 Florida Education Finance Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and
 174 the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local
 175 funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from the school
 176 district's current operating discretionary millage levy. Total
 177 funding for each school shall be recalculated during the year to
 178 reflect the revised calculations under the Florida Education
 179 Finance Program by the state and the actual weighted full-time
 180 equivalent students reported by the school during the full-time
 181 equivalent student survey periods designated by the Commissioner
 182 of Education. If the district school board is providing programs

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

183 or services to students funded by federal funds, any eligible
 184 students enrolled in the schools in the district shall be
 185 provided federal funds.

186 Section 4. Subsection (8) is added to section 1012.28,
 187 Florida Statutes, to read:

188 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school
 189 principals.-

190 (8) The principal of a participating school in a school
 191 district approved under s. 1011.6202 has the following
 192 additional authority and responsibilities:

193 (a) In addition to the authority provided in subsection
 194 (6), the authority to select qualified instructional personnel
 195 for placement or to refuse to accept the placement or transfer
 196 of instructional personnel by the district school
 197 superintendent. Placement of instructional personnel at a
 198 participating school in a participating school district does not
 199 affect the employee's status as a school district employee.

200 (b) The authority to deploy financial resources to school
 201 programs at the principal's discretion to help improve student
 202 achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and meet performance
 203 goals identified in the principal autonomy proposal submitted
 204 pursuant to s. 1011.6202.

205 (c) To annually provide to the district school
 206 superintendent and the district school board a budget for the
 207 operation of the participating school that identifies how funds
 208 provided pursuant to s. 1011.69(2) are allocated. The school

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

209 district shall include the budget in the annual report provided
 210 to the State Board of Education pursuant to s. 1011.6202(6).

211 Section 5. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of
 212 section 1012.986, Florida Statutes, to read:

213 1012.986 William Cecil Golden Professional Development
 214 Program for School Leaders.—

215 (1) There is established the William Cecil Golden
 216 Professional Development Program for School Leaders to provide
 217 high standards and sustained support for principals as
 218 instructional leaders. The program shall consist of a
 219 collaborative network of state and national professional
 220 leadership organizations to respond to instructional leadership
 221 needs throughout the state. The network shall support the human-
 222 resource development needs of principals, principal leadership
 223 teams, and candidates for principal leadership positions using
 224 the framework of leadership standards adopted by the State Board
 225 of Education, the Southern Regional Education Board, and the
 226 National Staff Development Council. The goal of the network
 227 leadership program is to:

228 (e) For principals of schools participating in the
 229 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative under s. 1011.6202,
 230 provide training on the following:

231 1. Managing instructional personnel, including developing
 232 a high-performing instructional leadership team.

233 2. Public school budgeting, financial management, and
 234 human resources policies and procedures.

BILL

ORIGINAL

2015

235 | 3. Best practices for the effective exercise of increased
236 | budgetary and staffing flexibility to improve student
237 | achievement and operational efficiency.

238 | Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.