

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Youth Conflict Resolution and
3 Peer Mediation Pilot Program; creating the Youth
4 Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program
5 within the Community School Grant Program for a
6 specified period; providing the purpose of the pilot
7 program; requiring the Center for Community Schools at
8 the University of Central Florida to implement the
9 pilot program and a specified curriculum; providing
10 center responsibilities for the pilot program;
11 requiring the center to work with the Department of
12 Education to identify a curriculum for the pilot
13 program; providing participating school
14 responsibilities; requiring the center to provide a
15 report to the department; providing requirements for
16 the report; providing for the future expiration of the
17 pilot program; providing an effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 1003.64,
22 Florida Statutes, to read:

23 1003.64 Community School Grant Program.—It is the intent
24 of the Legislature to improve student success and well-being by
25 engaging and supporting parents and community organizations in

26 | their efforts to positively impact student learning and
 27 | development.

28 | (5) YOUTH CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEER MEDIATION PILOT
 29 | PROGRAM.—No later than the 2025-2026 school year, the center
 30 | shall administer the Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer
 31 | Mediation Pilot Program for a period of 3 school years. The
 32 | center shall implement a conflict resolution and peer mediation
 33 | curriculum to reduce juvenile violence by equipping students
 34 | with essential skills for peaceful conflict resolution. The
 35 | center shall:

36 | (a) Seek input from the Department of Education on the
 37 | selection of a conflict resolution and peer mediation curriculum
 38 | to implement at each selected school and identify potential ways
 39 | to integrate the curriculum during the school day to maximize
 40 | exposure to and use of conflict resolution skills.

41 | (b) Identify middle or high schools to participate in the
 42 | program. Priority shall be given to schools with a high rate of
 43 | juvenile violence and community partners who will assist with
 44 | implementation.

45 | (c) Require each participating school to:

46 | 1. Provide training on the curriculum and, where possible,
 47 | include community partners who interact with the students at the
 48 | school in such training.

49 | 2. Provide students with skills to resolve conflicts at
 50 | school and away from school without undermining the school's

51 existing disciplinary framework.

52 3. Provide data and information requested by the center.

53 4. Complete a pre-pilot program and post-pilot program

54 survey created by the center.

55 (d) Monitor the implementation of the pilot program and

56 assist participating schools with integrating the curriculum and

57 reinforcing the conflict resolution skills throughout the school

58 day.

59 (e) Collect relevant student discipline data and

60 information relating to the rates of juvenile violence in

61 selected schools before and after implementation of the pilot

62 program.

63 (f) Create a pre-pilot program and post-pilot program

64 survey that must be completed by the school administrators,

65 teachers, and parents at participating schools.

66 (g) Provide periodic updates to the department on the

67 implementation of the pilot program.

68 (h) Upon completion of the pilot program, provide a report

69 to the department. The report must include, at a minimum, the

70 following:

71 1. The number of students enrolled at the participating

72 schools.

73 2. The rates of student discipline and juvenile violence

74 in selected schools before the pilot program.

75 3. The rates of student discipline and juvenile violence

76 | in selected schools after implementation of the pilot program.

77 | 4. The results from the pre-pilot program and post-pilot
 78 | program survey.

79 | 5. Recommendations for the inclusion of the curriculum at
 80 | middle and high schools across the state.

81 | (i) This subsection expires upon the submission of the
 82 | report required under paragraph (h).

83 | Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.