

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to parental involvement and accountability  
 3           in the public schools; creating s. 1008.347, F.S.;  
 4           providing purpose to provide information and tools to  
 5           parents of prekindergarten through grade 12 students and  
 6           to set standards for parental accountability; specifying  
 7           causes for student underachievement; providing principles  
 8           on which parental involvement is based; providing  
 9           strategies to improve student achievement; requiring  
 10          shared information between teachers, schools, and parents;  
 11          requiring prekindergarten through grade 3 teachers to  
 12          assign a parental involvement grade on student report  
 13          cards; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt an  
 14          appeals process; providing for implementation; providing  
 15          an effective date.

16  
 17   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
 19           Section 1.   Section 1008.347, Florida Statutes, is created  
 20   to read:

21           1008.347 Parental involvement and accountability in the  
 22   public schools.—

23           (1) PURPOSE.—Although the school environment has a great  
 24   impact on a child's well-being and academic success, parents and  
 25   the home environment form the foundation of a child's present  
 26   and future life. Without proper parental involvement in all  
 27   aspects of a child's life, the child's prospects to be a well-  
 28   equipped and useful member of society are greatly diminished.

29 The purpose of this section is to provide information and tools  
30 to parents of prekindergarten through grade 12 students to  
31 enable them to have a positive impact on their child's  
32 educational success and to set standards for parental  
33 accountability.

34 (2) CAUSES FOR STUDENT UNDERACHIEVEMENT.—The following  
35 behaviors with respect to the relationship between a child's  
36 home and school are identified as possible causes for a  
37 student's underachievement:

38 (a) A child is not physically prepared for the school day  
39 due to inadequate rest or improper clothing, lack of necessary  
40 school supplies, or frequent tardiness or absence.

41 (b) A child is not mentally prepared for the school day  
42 due to uncompleted homework or inadequate preparation for tests.

43 (c) Communication between parents and the teacher is often  
44 written rather than through personal contact and often occurs  
45 only when a problem has arisen rather than on a consistent basis  
46 throughout the school year.

47 (3) PRINCIPLES.—

48 (a) Parental involvement is most effective when it is  
49 comprehensive, well planned, and continues throughout the school  
50 year.

51 (b) Parental involvement should be developmental with a  
52 preventive rather than remedial approach and an integral part of  
53 a strategy to improve student achievement.

54 (c) Parents do not need to be formally educated to provide  
55 support and assistance to improve the academic performance of  
56 their child.

57 (d) At-risk children have the most to gain from parental  
58 involvement.

59 (4) STRATEGIES.—Strategies that parents may employ to  
60 support the learning of their children and improve student  
61 achievement include, but are not limited to:

62 (a) Attend parent-teacher conferences during which the  
63 student's strengths and weaknesses are discussed and goals for  
64 the student are collaboratively set.

65 (b) Maintain correspondence with the child's teachers  
66 through submission of signed forms and signed homework  
67 assignment sheets and respond to formal requests for conference.

68 (c) Establish a home environment that supports the child  
69 as a student.

70 (d) Contact the teacher if a problem or issue arises with  
71 homework, a situation in the home that may disturb the student's  
72 performance, or absences and makeup assignments.

73 (e) Facilitate the student's performance in school by  
74 monitoring homework completion and test preparation and helping  
75 with curriculum-related activities.

76 (f) Provide for the student's on-time attendance, prevent  
77 frequent absences, and provide needed school supplies.

78 (5) SHARED INFORMATION.—Teachers and schools shall develop  
79 or utilize current information packets, forms, or videos for  
80 sharing information with each parent with written  
81 acknowledgement of receipt. The shared information may be  
82 presented in the parent guide to successful student achievement  
83 or in the checklist of parental actions that can strengthen

84 parental involvement in a child's educational progress, required  
85 under s. 1002.23, and includes:

86 (a) Expectations of parents with respect to school  
87 attendance requirements.

88 (b) Expectations of parents with respect to a child's  
89 physical readiness for school, including provision for adequate  
90 night-time sleep; necessary school supplies, which may be  
91 obtained through various organizations if needed; meals, which  
92 may be obtained through a school's free or reduced-priced meal  
93 program if qualified; and immunizations and medical care.

94 (c) Expectations of parents with respect to a child's  
95 academic work, including time set aside for daily homework and  
96 reading, nightly check of homework completion and preparation  
97 for tests, early preparation of assigned school projects,  
98 signature on required forms, and check of contents of school  
99 backpack.

100 (6) ACCOUNTABILITY.—To help parents establish a home  
101 environment that supports the child as a student, each teacher  
102 shall monitor and assess the quality of the involvement of the  
103 parents of each student in his or her class. Each  
104 prekindergarten through grade 3 student report card shall  
105 include a section in which the teacher grades the parental  
106 involvement as satisfactory, needs improvement, or  
107 unsatisfactory on each of the following criteria:

108 (a) Parental response to requests for conferences or  
109 communication.

110 (b) The student's completion of homework and preparation  
111 for tests.

HB 255

2011

112        (c) The student's physical preparation for school that has  
113 an effect on mental preparation.

114        (d) The frequency of the student's absence and tardiness.

115        (7) APPEALS PROCESS.—A parent may appeal the report card  
116 parental involvement grade assigned by the teacher under  
117 subsection (6) through a process adopted by the State Board of  
118 Education in rule in which the principal, the teacher, and the  
119 parent meet to discuss how the report card grade was determined.  
120 The meeting shall also provide information and feedback on the  
121 steps needed to improve the parental involvement grade, thereby  
122 improving the environment and elements that affect student  
123 learning.

124        (8) IMPLEMENTATION.—This section shall be implemented  
125 beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

126        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.