

Section 229.592, F.S., establishes a state system of school improvement and accountability. The Commissioner of Education is responsible for implementing and maintaining the system.

The Department of Education provides a cadre of facilitators to help schools and districts conduct needs assessments and develop and implement school improvement plans which meet state goals. Participants in this program include school improvement team leaders, individuals from the Florida League of Teachers, Principals of the Year, Teachers of the Year, and Title I distinguished educators. In addition, the DOE's Office of School Improvement/Regional Title I Technical Assistance Centers and the Area Centers for Educational Enhancement assist schools in their efforts to improve.

If a school, school advisory council, district, or school board requests technical assistance and training, the department will provide this assistance and training in the following areas:

- Conducting needs assessments
- Developing and implementing school improvement plans
- Developing and implementing assistance and intervention plans
- Implementing other components of school improvement and accountability

Every school must have an approved school improvement plan before the district receives any funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. The department sends a team to each school that does not have an approved school improvement plan to help develop that plan. When the plan is approved, the department releases the funds. Public notice is given and each school without a plan is identified when the department intervenes.

Under s. 230.23(16), F.S., the district school board has the power and the duty to implement school improvement and accountability, including:

- Approving and requiring implementation of a new, amended or continuation school improvement plan for each school in the district;
- Developing a process for approving a school improvement plan presented by an individual school and its advisory council;
- Developing a 3-year plan of increasing individualized assistance and intervention for each school that does not meet or make adequate progress toward meeting the goals and standards of its approved school improvement plan;
- Notifying the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability and the State Board of Education if a school does not make adequate progress after 3 years;

- Providing public information on student performance and educational programs; and
- Providing funds to schools for developing and implementing school improvement plans.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill establishes the Florida Distinguished Educator School Improvement Teams. The teams will be comprised of outstanding state and district educators and administrators in all academic disciplines and fields of administration.

The duties of the Florida Distinguished Educator School Improvement Teams will be:

- To develop a school improvement plan for a school which does not have an approved school improvement plan after 1 full year of planning and development.
- To assist in or as part of the implementation of an assistance and intervention plan for a school which does not meet or make adequate progress, based on the recommendations of the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability. Schools operating under an assistance and intervention plan will be required to use the Team. Public notice will be given of the department's intervention.

The receiving school district will pay the cost of sending the Team to a school for either of the two functions listed above.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

When the team members are sent to a specific school, that school district will pay for the cost of travel and per diem for that team. The bill outlines two situations where the teams will be used. In the first case, when a school does not have an approved school improvement plan, it is not anticipated that the team will be used often since districts have processes in place to ensure that all schools have approved plans in place annually.

In the second case, when the district is required to include a team in an assistance and intervention plan for a school that is not making adequate progress, the team could be used more often. The Department estimates that at \$300 per day per team member, a five-member team spending 5 days at a school would equal of total of \$7500 in expenses. Currently, the Department pays under \$2 million annually to supply a cadre of team leaders for school improvement; the districts pay none of these costs.

The districts do sometimes pay expenses for faculty members from a lower performing school to spend time on successful school campuses to observe best practices and to hold informal conversations with educators.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.