

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to a pilot program in low-performing schools; requiring the Department of Education to implement a pilot program and the Commissioner of Education to establish criteria for participation; specifying components of the pilot program with the goal of improving student academic achievement; providing requirements for implementation of the pilot program; requiring the department to submit a report to the Legislature at the conclusion of the pilot program; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Pilot program in low-performing schools.-

(1) Beginning in 2015, the Department of Education shall implement a 4-year pilot program in each of the state's lowest-performing traditional public schools with a large population of low-income, failing, or at-risk students, as determined by the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner shall establish criteria for participation in the pilot program.

(2) The pilot program shall be a summer school program that consists of hours in addition to regular school hours, during which time a certified classroom teacher is physically present.

27 (3) The pilot program shall focus attention on improving
28 academic achievement by providing students instruction that
29 helps the students develop strong literacy, mathematical, and
30 other academic skills.

31 (4) The pilot program shall be implemented as follows:

32 (a) During the first year of operation, a school shall
33 work with the school district, teachers within the school
34 district, and parents to advertise the pilot program, establish
35 baseline data, begin offering the academic instructional
36 services, and report costs and benefits.

37 (b) During the second, third, and fourth years of
38 operation, a school shall continue offering the academic
39 instructional services, seek input and feedback from
40 participants in the pilot program, refine the services being
41 offered, and report progress, costs, and benefits.

42 (5) At the conclusion of the pilot program, the Department
43 of Education shall submit to the President of the Senate and the
44 Speaker of the House of Representatives a review of the pilot
45 program, including successful practices and the impact on
46 student performance and success, and make a recommendation for
47 continuing or terminating the pilot program.

48 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
49 implement this section.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.