

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

BILL: SB 1222

INTRODUCER: Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: School Grades

DATE: April 19, 2017

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | <u>Androff</u> | <u>Graf</u> | <u>ED</u> | Favorable |
| 2. | <u>Sikes</u> | <u>Elwell</u> | <u>AED</u> | Recommend: Favorable |
| 3. | <u>Sikes</u> | <u>Hansen</u> | <u>AP</u> | Favorable |

I. Summary:

SB 1222 reduces the percentage of students required to be scheduled for assignment to a specific school to establish a school feeder pattern. With this school feeder pattern established, the K-3 school, if ungraded on its own accord, will receive the school grade assigned to the graded school.

Although the bill has no direct impact on state expenditures, the K-3 schools receiving the school grade may be eligible to receive funding through the School Recognition Program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

II. Present Situation:

School grades provide an easily understandable way to measure the performance of a school.¹ Parents and the general public can use the school grade and its components to understand how well each school is serving its students.²

School Grades in Florida

Schools are graded using one of the following grades:³

- “A,” for schools making excellent progress – 62% or higher of total points.
- “B,” for schools making above average progress – 54% to 61% of total points.
- “C,” for schools making satisfactory progress – 41% to 53% of total points.
- “D,” for schools making less than satisfactory progress – 32% to 40% of total points.

¹ Florida Department of Education, *2016 Preliminary School Grades Overview*, available at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/pdf/1516/SchoolGradesOverview16.pdf>.

² *Id.*

³ Section 1008.34(2), F.S.; Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C.

- “F,” for schools failing to make adequate progress – 31% or less of total points.

The State Board of Education (SBE) must periodically review the school grading scale to determine if the scale should be adjusted upward to meet raised expectations and encourage increased student performance. The SBE must notify the public of any adjustment, and explain the reasons for such adjustment and the impact of the adjustment on school grades.⁴

| Elementary School Grade Model (700 Points) ⁵ | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| English Language Arts (ELA) | Math | Science |
| Achievement (0% - 100%) | Achievement (0% - 100%) | Achievement (0% - 100%) |
| Learning Gains (0% - 100%) | Learning Gains (0% - 100%) | |
| Learning Gains of Low 25% (0% - 100%) | Learning Gains of Low 25% (0% - 100%) | |

A school’s grade must include only those components for which at least 10 students have complete data. If a school does not meet the 10-student threshold for one component, it will receive a school grade based only on the remaining components.⁶

Feeder Pattern

A school that serves any combination of K-3 students and that does not receive a school grade as a result of its students not being tested, receives the school grade designation of a K-3 feeder pattern school identified by the Florida Department of Education (DOE) and verified by the district.⁷ A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60 percent of the students are scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.⁸

Feeder school status is first determined by identifying K-3 schools (schools that only serve students through grade 3) that have 60 percent of their students matriculate to a single school the following year.⁹ This is determined by identifying the actual school of enrollment. The DOE does not have information on the schools that the students are scheduled to attend.¹⁰ Once the DOE identifies the feeder patterns, this information is sent to the districts for review and input. Districts may provide additional information that could result in a change to the feeder school list.¹¹ If a K-3 school receives a school grade, the school is removed from the feeder school list.¹²

⁴ Section 1008.34(3)(c)1., F.S.

⁵ Florida Department of Education, *2016 Preliminary School Grades Overview*, available at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/pdf/1516/SchoolGradesOverview16.pdf>.

⁶ *Id.* at (3)(a).

⁷ Section 1008.34(3)(a)2., F.S.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Florida Department of Education, *HB 781 Analysis* (2017), at 2. HB 781 is substantively the same as SB 1222.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

During the 2015-2016 school year, there were 21 schools designated as K-3 feeder schools. Ten of these schools received Florida School Recognition Program Funds.¹³

The School Recognition Program was established to financially reward high-performance schools based on school grades.¹⁴ Under the program, schools that earn a school grade of “A,” improve at least one letter grade, or improve two or more letter grades and maintain the grade the following school year are eligible for an award as appropriated by the Legislature annually.¹⁵ SB 2500, the proposed Senate General Appropriations Act for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, appropriates \$134.6 million for recognized schools at an amount of up to \$100 per student.¹⁶ School recognition awards may be used for nonrecurring bonuses to school faculty and staff, nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials, or for temporary personnel to assist the school in maintaining or improving student performance.¹⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill reduces the percentage of students that must be scheduled to be assigned to another school from 60 percent to a majority (over 50 percent).

With this change, a K-3 school that does not receive a school grade itself will be assigned the school grade of a graded school for which it is designated to be a feeder pattern school. For example, if 51 percent of a K-3 school’s population is scheduled to attend a specific graded school, the K-3 school will be designated as a K-3 feeder pattern school and will receive the school grade of the graded school. A designated feeder pattern school may be eligible to receive Florida School Recognition Program funding. Additionally, a charter school that is an expanded feeder chain of a charter school within the same school district that is currently receiving charter school capital outlay funds may be eligible to receive a charter school capital outlay funding allocation.¹⁸

The bill may increase the number of schools eligible to receive a school grade through the school grade feeder designation. In turn, this could increase the number of K-3 schools eligible to receive Florida School Recognition Program funding.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

¹³ Florida Department of Education, *HB 781 Analysis* (2017), at 2. HB 781 is substantively the same as SB 1222.

¹⁴ Florida Department of Education, *Evaluation and Reporting, Florida School Recognition Program, Frequently Asked Questions*, <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/fl-school-recognition-program/FAQ.stml> (last visited Mar. 24, 2017).

¹⁵ Section 1008.36, F.S.

¹⁶ Specific Appropriation 9, Senate Bill 2500

¹⁷ Section 1008.36, F.S.

¹⁸ See s. 1013.62(1)(a)1.c., F.S.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The revision to the school feeder pattern requirement may result in additional prekindergarten through grade 3 schools being designated as feeder schools, which may allow the schools to qualify for the Florida School Recognition Program. According to the Florida Department of Education, in 2015-2016, ten of the schools that qualified for the Florida School Recognition Program were designated as feeder schools, receiving a total of \$515,756, or an average of \$51,576 per school.¹⁹

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1008.34 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

¹⁹ Florida Department of Education, *HB 781 Analysis* (2017), at 4. HB 781 is substantively the same as SB 1222.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
