

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 Education

BILL: SB 1222

INTRODUCER: Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: School Grades

DATE: March 24, 2017

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Androff	Graf	ED	Favorable
2.			AED	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 1222 revises the number of students required to establish a school feeder pattern for a qualifying K-3 school from 60 percent of students to a majority of students scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.

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.
- “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

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.

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 of a K-3 feeder pattern school determined 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 Under the feeder pattern, an ungraded school receives the grade of a feeder school.⁹

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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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.¹² If a K-3 school receives a school grade, the school is removed from the feeder school list.¹³

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 *Id.*

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, *HB 781 Analysis* (2017), at 2. HB 781 is substantively the same as SB 1222.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *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.¹⁴

The School Recognition Program was established to financially reward high-performance schools based on school grades.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Legislature appropriated approximately \$135 million for recognized schools at an amount of up to \$100 per student.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1222 revises the number of students required to establish a school feeder pattern for a qualifying K-3 school from 60 percent of students to a majority of students scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.

Under the bill, a K-3 school would be designated a feeder pattern school if it does not receive a school grade and the majority of the students at that school are scheduled to be assigned to a specific graded school. Consequently, for example, if 51 percent of a K-3 school’s population is scheduled to attend a specific graded school, the K-3 school would be designated as a K-3 feeder pattern school and would 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.¹⁹

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. According to the Department of Education, the change from 60 percent to a majority may result in one additional K-3 feeder school, based on 2015-2016 school year data.²⁰

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

¹⁴ Florida Department of Education, *HB 781 Analysis* (2017), at 2. HB 781 is substantively the same as SB 1222.

¹⁵ 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).

¹⁶ Section 1008.36, F.S.

¹⁷ Specific Appropriation 9, s. 2, ch. 2016-66, L.O.F.

¹⁸ Section 1008.36, F.S.

¹⁹ See s. 1013.62(1)(a)1.c., F.S.

²⁰ Florida Department of Education, *HB 781 Analysis* (2017), at 2-3. HB 781 is substantively the same as SB 1222.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

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 bill's revision to the school feeder pattern requirement may result in additional prekindergarten through grade 3 schools being designated as feeder schools, which would 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.²¹

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1008.34 of the Florida Statutes.

²¹ Florida Department of Education, *HB 781 Analysis* (2017), at 4. HB 781 is substantively the same as SB 1222.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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