

By Senator Powell

24-01517-24

2024786\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Youth Conflict Resolution and  
3       Peer Mediation Pilot Program; creating the Youth  
4       Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program,  
5       subject to legislative appropriation; providing the  
6       purpose of the pilot program; providing for an  
7       application process for participation in the pilot  
8       program; requiring the Commissioner of Education to  
9       select a certain number of middle schools to  
10      participate in the pilot program; requiring the  
11      commissioner to select a nonprofit organization to  
12      implement the pilot program; providing participating  
13      middle schools and the nonprofit organization  
14      responsibilities; requiring the nonprofit organization  
15      to provide a report to the Governor, the Legislature,  
16      and the Department of Education; providing  
17      requirements for the report; authorizing the State  
18      Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the  
19      pilot program; providing an effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23       Section 1. Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation  
24 Pilot Program.—Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and  
25 subject to legislative appropriation, the Youth Conflict  
26 Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program is created for a  
27 period of 1 school year. The purpose of the program is to reduce  
28 juvenile violence by equipping students with essential skills  
29 for peaceful conflict resolution through the use of the

24-01517-24

2024786\_\_

30 International Research and Exchange Board's (IREX) Conflict  
31 Resolution and Peer Mediation Toolkit.

32 (1) (a) Middle schools within the state shall apply to the  
33 Department of Education, in a format and by a date prescribed by  
34 the department, to participate in the program.

35 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall select five middle  
36 schools to participate in the program. To the extent possible,  
37 the commissioner shall select schools with a high rate of  
38 juvenile violence.

39 (c) The commissioner shall select a nonprofit organization  
40 capable of working with the department and participating schools  
41 to oversee the pilot program's implementation and analyze the  
42 data resulting from the pilot program.

43 (2) A participating middle school shall:

44 (a) Implement IREX's Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation  
45 Toolkit into the school's existing curriculum, focusing on  
46 skill-building without undermining the school's existing  
47 disciplinary framework to provide students with conflict  
48 resolution skills pertinent to their daily interactions and  
49 overall community health.

50 (b) Provide data and information requested by the nonprofit  
51 organization selected pursuant to paragraph (1) (c).

52 (3) The selected nonprofit organization shall:

53 (a) Oversee the implementation of the pilot program.

54 (b) Provide guidance to participating middle schools on  
55 implementing IREX's Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation  
56 Toolkit into the school's existing curriculum.

57 (c) Collect relevant data and information relating to the  
58 rates of juvenile violence in selected schools before the pilot

24-01517-24

2024786\_\_

59 program and the rates of such violence after implementation of  
60 the pilot program.

61 (d) Provide periodic updates to the department on the  
62 implementation of the pilot program.

63 (4) Upon completion of the pilot program, the nonprofit  
64 organization shall provide a report to the Governor, the  
65 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
66 Representatives, and the department. The report must include:

67 (a) The number of students enrolled at the participating  
68 schools.

69 (b) The rates of juvenile violence in selected schools  
70 before implementation of the pilot program.

71 (c) The rates of juvenile violence in selected schools  
72 after implementation of the pilot program.

73 (d) Recommendations for the inclusion of IREX's Conflict  
74 Resolution and Peer Mediation Toolkit into the curriculum of  
75 middle schools across the state.

76 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
77 administer the pilot program.

78 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.