

By Senator Rodriguez

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to food and plastic waste reduction;
creating s. 1013.121, F.S.; requiring the Department
of Education to develop a specified pilot program in
cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services; requiring that the pilot program be
offered in a certain percentage of schools, beginning
in a specified school year; specifying requirements
for the pilot program; requiring each participating
school district to submit a report to the Department
of Education by a specified date; specifying
requirements for the report; providing for the
expiration of the pilot program; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1013.121, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1013.121 School food and plastic waste reduction.—

(1) The Department of Education shall develop a 3-year
pilot program in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Service's Farm to School program to be offered in
up to 10 percent of schools in any school district in this state
by the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. The program must
include all of the following:

(a) A partnership with a local nonprofit organization or
food bank to redistribute edible cafeteria food and divert
organic food waste to a composting program.

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30 (b) Installation of a sorting system for cafeteria waste,
31 subject to legislative appropriation.

32 (c) Installation of a dishwashing system, with priority
33 given to schools that previously operated a dishwashing system,
34 subject to legislative appropriation.

35 (d) Elimination of single-use plastics by replacing them
36 with stainless steel reusable serving ware.

37 (2) Each participating school district shall submit an
38 annual report to the Department of Education by the end of each
39 school year which includes all of the following:

40 (a) Total quantity of cafeteria waste diverted to landfill
41 or incineration.

42 (b) Total quantity by weight of cafeteria food donated.

43 (c) Total quantity by weight of organic food waste diverted
44 as animal feed or compost.

45 (d) Total quantity of single-use plastic items eliminated.

46 (e) Cost savings realized by the school district.

47 (f) Any barriers encountered and recommendations for the
48 pilot program.

49 (3) The pilot program expires and this section is repealed
50 July 1, 2030.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.