

Committee on Appropriations

CS/HB 7069 — Education

by Appropriations Committee; Education Committee; and Rep. Diaz, M.

Specifically, the bill:

- **Charter Schools:** Modifies the following charter school provisions: open enrollment procedures, standard application and charter contract, administrative fees, reporting requirements and the calculation and authorized uses of charter school capital outlay, and requires school districts to share local millage revenue with charter schools.
- **High-Performing Charter Schools:** Authorizes a high-performing charter school to establish more than one charter school in any year if it operates in the area of a persistently low-performing school and serves students from that school and allows a high-performing charter school system to replicate its schools in any school district in the state and specifies application requirements.
- **School Improvement:**
 - Modifies early warning system
 - Provides that educational emergency exists when a school district has one or more schools with grade of “D” or “F” and requires a school district to enter a memorandum of understanding addressing instructional personnel and principal autonomy in an educational emergency
 - Prohibits a district school board from awarding an annual employment contract under specified circumstances.
 - Requires that, unless the SBE grants the school district an additional year of implementation because it determines the school is likely to improve to a “C” or higher, a school that does not earn a “C” or higher after implementation, must select a turnaround option
 - Limits the turnaround options for “D” and “F” schools
- **Title I Funding Distribution:** Specifies that after providing Title I funds to schools above the 75% poverty threshold, a school district must distribute remaining Title I funds directly to all eligible schools.
- **Schools of Hope:** Authorizes the establishment of “schools of hope” and designation of “hope operators” to provide students in areas of persistently-low performing schools with a high-quality education option.
- **Schools of Excellence Program:** Creates the Schools of Excellence Program to provide administrative flexibility to the state’s highest performing schools.
- **K-12 Student Assessments:**
 - Eliminates the Algebra II EOC assessment requirement.
 - Allows completion of a blended learning course to satisfy online course requirements.
 - Exempts certain students from a personal fitness competency exam.
 - Requires paper-pencil ELA and math assessments for grades 3-6, no later than 2018-2019 school year.
 - Specifies reporting of assessment results to students, parents, and teachers.
 - Requires DOE to publish statewide assessments.

- **Independent Study:** Requires the Commissioner of Education to contract for an independent study of ACT/SAT as an alternative for a grade 10 ELA assessment and an Algebra I EOC assessment.
- **Virtual Instruction:** Eliminates student eligibility requirements, including the prior public year requirement, and clarifies that all students, including home education and private school students, are eligible to participate in virtual options throughout the state.
- **Personnel Evaluation:** Provides that use of the Value Added Model for personnel evaluation is optional.
- **Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholarship Programs:** Revises eligibility for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program and creates the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program.
- **Teacher Certification:** Streamlines the temporary certificate application process; establishes a mentorship certification pathway; requires teacher preparation curriculum to include training in evidence-based, phonics-driven reading strategies; allows mentorship activities to count toward certification renewal and requires training in evidence-based reading strategies for renewal of certain certificates.
- **Minority Teacher Scholarship Program:** Revises eligibility criteria for participation in the program (based on credit hours rather than Junior year or later).
- **School Absence:** Authorizes school absence related to the treatment of autism spectrum disorder.
- **School Visitation:** Clarifies that an individual school board member may visit district-operated schools and an individual charter school governing board member may visit any charter school governed by the charter school's governing board, at his or her pleasure.
- **Shared Use Facilities:** Establishes provisions related to promoting shared use agreements for public school playground facilities and creates a task force to make recommendations.
- **Early Learning:** Defines "public school prekindergarten provider" to include a traditional public school and a charter school. Establishes the Committee on Early Grade Success to develop a proposal for establishing and implementing a coordinate child assessment system for the School Readiness Program, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and specifies proposal requirements.
- **Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program:** Creates the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program within DOE for 3 years; establishes eligibility criteria; requires a preeminent university to evaluate the effectiveness of the program; expires on June 30, 2020.
- **Reading Intervention:** Requires superintendents to certify that K-5 reading instruction and intervention materials comply with criteria identified by Just Read, Florida! beginning July 1, 2021.
- **Gardiner Scholarship:** Modifies the Gardiner Scholarship program to expand eligibility and the authorized use of funds, and define account inactivity.
- **Career and Education Planning Course:** Eliminates the required middle grades career and education planning course.
- **Instructional Materials:** Deletes a requirement that 50 percent of instructional materials allocation be used to purchase digital or electronic instructional materials.