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An act relating to performance-based pay bonuses for district school board employees; creating s. 1012.225, F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; providing for performance-based pay plan program participation; providing requirements for funding of bonuses; requiring performance-based pay plans to be subject to negotiation; providing criteria for disbursement of bonuses; providing criteria for assessment of performance, including a professional practices component and an improved student performance component; providing duties of district school boards and the Department of Education; providing for review of performance-based pay plans by district school boards and the Auditor General; authorizing the State Board of Education to take action for substantial noncompliance; transferring s. 1008.36, F.S., relating to the Florida School Recognition Program, to s. 1012.225, F.S.; providing for performance bonuses for all faculty and staff of schools awarded under the program; authorizing rulemaking; revising requirements for submission and approval of a Special Teachers Are Rewarded performance pay plan (STAR Plan) under proviso language in Specific Appropriation 91 of chapter 2006-25, Laws of Florida, and s. 3 of chapter 2006-26, Laws of Florida; providing for encumbered funds; amending ss. 1008.34, 1008.341, and 1008.345, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the Florida School Recognition Program and the school improvement system; conforming cross-references; amending s. 1012.22, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to

Commissioner of Education duties with respect to district compliance with performance-pay policies; amending s. 1012.28, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending s. 1012.34, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the school district personnel assessment system; requiring a school district personnel appraisal system; specifying conditions and procedures; requiring school district development of and ability to administer certain examinations; requiring funding for a study to determine viability and cost of making bonuses part of the Florida Retirement System; providing effective dates.

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

 Section 1. Effective July 1, 2007, section 1012.225, Florida Statutes, is created, and section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7) of section 1012.225, Florida Statutes, and amended, to read:

1012.225 Performance-based pay plan program for
instructional personnel and school-based administrators; school
recognition bonuses for all faculty and staff of high-performing
schools.--

(1) FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds that:

(a) All school personnel play essential roles in attaining the primary goal of public education, the improvement in academic achievement of all students.

(b) Performance-based pay bonuses are commonplace in the private sector and should be infused into the public sector as a reward for effective performance.

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- c) Research has consistently shown that the level of effectiveness of the instructional personnel and administrators in the school is the most important factor in realizing the goal of improved academic achievement for each student, classroom by classroom and school by school. Based upon this, the retention specifically of our most effective instructional personnel and administrators should be a priority of all school districts, and an appropriate performance-based pay plan must provide for significant recognition of the most effective instructional personnel and school-based administrators as a component of the district's personnel retention and student achievement policies.
- (d) In addition to individual instructional personnel and school-based administrators, all faculty and staff of high-performing schools make an important contribution to the school's successful performance.
 - (2) INTENT.--

- (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a performance-based pay plan to provide bonuses in recognition of the successes achieved by individual instructional and school-based administrative personnel on behalf of their students.
- (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide bonuses for all faculty and each staff member of high-performing schools, in full recognition of the teamwork required at every level of operation to attain a Florida School Recognition Program award.
 - (3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION. --
- (a) District participation in the performance-based pay plan program under this section is voluntary. Participating districts may opt to use their performance-based pay plans under this section in lieu of or in addition to the performance-pay

policy under s. 1012.22(1)(c)4. In order to be eligible for funding pursuant to this section, a district school board must adopt a performance-based pay plan that provides for an assessment and a performance-based pay bonus for each qualifying employee based on a professional practices component combined with objectively measured, significantly improved performance of students assigned to his or her classroom, team, or school, in accordance with subsection (4).

- (b)1. For performance-based pay bonuses, all instructional personnel except substitute teachers and all school-based administrators shall be eligible and shall not be required to apply or make any presentation in order to be assessed for or to receive a performance-based pay bonus.
- 2. For school recognition bonuses, all faculty and each staff member of the team for a school during the school year for which the school received its award for high performance shall be automatically eligible.
- (c) Any charter school that does not follow the district's salary schedule may adopt its own performance-based pay plan pursuant to the requirements of this section. Charter school proposals shall be included with the district plan or may be adopted independently if the district does not adopt a plan.
- (d) The performance-based pay plan adopted pursuant to this section shall be subject to negotiation as provided in chapter 447 except that, if an impasse occurs pursuant to s. 447.403, a mediator or special magistrate shall be appointed only if both parties agree to seek such appointment. If a party does not agree to such appointment, the appointment shall be considered waived and the parties shall proceed directly to resolution of the

impasse by the district school board pursuant to s.
447.403(4)(d).

- (e) That portion of the funds appropriated for each district that chooses not to adopt a performance-based pay plan pursuant to this section shall be redistributed among the participating districts.
- (f) Performance-based pay plans shall provide for the annual disbursement of performance-based pay bonuses for high-performing instructional personnel and school-based administrators as follows:
- 1.a. The district school board performance-based pay plan shall require that in order to be eligible for a performance-based pay bonus, each employee shall first meet the assessment criteria adopted by the district school board pursuant to the professional practices component set forth in paragraph (4)(a).
- b. Those employees that meet the criteria under sub-sub paragraph a. shall qualify for a performance-based pay bonus based upon objectively measured, significantly improved performance of the students assigned to the employee pursuant to the improved student performance component set forth in paragraph (4)(b). Significantly improved student performance shall mean a three-fourths standard deviation above the prior year district average of improved student performance for that employee's grade and/or subject area grouping.
- c. The district school board shall pay each qualifying employee who remains employed by a Florida public school, by September 1 of the following school year, an equal bonus amount up to \$10,000 per individual bonus. The bonuses shall be funded from funds annually appropriated.

- d. All performance-based pay funds appropriated to the district shall be fully disbursed annually by the district school board pursuant to sub-subparagraph c. Funds in excess of the \$10,000 cap on individual bonuses shall be retained by the district school board for the following year's bonuses pursuant to this section.
- 2. Performance-based pay bonuses shall be in addition to any general increase or other adjustments to salaries made by a district. Earning or receiving a performance-based pay bonus shall not adversely affect the opportunity of that high-performing personnel to qualify for or to receive any other compensation made generally available to other similarly situated district school board employees, including, but not limited to, school recognition bonuses.
- (g) Bonuses awarded to instructional personnel, school-based administrators, and all faculty and staff under this section are not available for contribution to the Florida Retirement System.
 - (4) ASSESSMENT.--

(a) Using assessment criteria adopted by the district school board, a professional practices component for the assessment of instructional personnel must be based on the principal's or principal's designee's assessment of that personnel and the assessment of school-based administrators must be based on the district superintendent's or superintendent's designee's assessment of that personnel. Performance-related assessment criteria adopted by the district school board for personnel assessments by principals and district superintendents shall include, but are not limited to:

- 1. The ability of instructional personnel and school-based administrators to maintain appropriate discipline.
- 2. The outstanding knowledge of subject matter of instructional personnel, with the ability to plan and deliver high-quality instruction in the classroom.

- 3. The outstanding school-based management skills of principals and other school-based administrators, including recruitment and retention of excellent teachers.
- 4. The ability of instructional personnel and school-based administrators to evaluate instructional needs of all students.
- 5. The ability of instructional personnel and school-based administrators to establish and maintain a positive collaborative relationship with students' families for the purpose of increasing student achievement.
- 6. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices for instructional personnel and the Florida Principal Leadership Standards for school-based administrators.
- (b)1. An improved student performance component for the assessment of instructional personnel and school-based administrators must be based on the objectively measured, significant improved performance of students assigned to their classrooms, teams, or schools.
- 2. For purposes of this section, improved student performance shall be measured by statewide standardized tests or, for subjects and grades not measured by the statewide assessment program, by national, state, or locally determined testing instruments that measure the Sunshine State Standards, curriculum frameworks, or course descriptions for the content area assigned and grade level taught. Locally determined testing instruments

may include districtwide course examinations, industry certification examinations, or skill/performance-based examinations or adjudications.

- 3. The department shall make available a model methodology to assist district school boards' measurement of improved student performance in an equitable manner and shall provide technical assistance upon request. Methods adopted by district school boards to measure improved student performance shall not permit an unfair advantage to or an adverse effect upon employees due to the achievement level of their students at the time those students were assigned to the employee.
 - (5) DUTIES.--

- (a) District school boards shall inform all employees of the criteria and procedures associated with a district's performance-based pay plan upon its final adoption by the district school board.
- (b) The department shall provide technical assistance to districts for the purpose of aiding the development, revision, improvement, and monitoring of performance-based pay plans. The technical assistance, model methodology, and best practices offered by the department pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the requirements of chapter 120.
 - (6) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE-BASED PAY PLANS. --
- (a) Each participating district school board shall establish a procedure to annually review both the assessment and compensation components of its performance-based pay plan to determine compliance with this section. After this review and by October 1 annually, the district school board shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Education and the Auditor General

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with supporting documentation that will enable verification of its compliance with this section in the prior school year.

- (b) Compliance reviews shall be performed by the Auditor General and shall take place within 60 days after October 1 annually to allow districts to make any revisions that may be necessary for compliance in the following school year. The Department of Education shall provide assistance to the Auditor General as necessary for purposes of verifying compliance. The Auditor General shall report substantial noncompliance to the State Board of Education which may take appropriate action in accordance with law or state board rule.
 - (7) 1008.36 FLORIDA SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM.--
- (1) The Legislature finds that there is a need for a performance incentive program for outstanding faculty and staff in highly productive schools. The Legislature further finds that performance based incentives are commonplace in the private sector and should be infused into the public sector as a reward for productivity.
- (a) (2) The Florida School Recognition Program is established ereated to provide financial awards to all faculty and staff of public schools that:
- $\frac{1.(a)}{a}$ Sustain high performance by receiving a school grade of "A," making excellent progress; or
- $\underline{2.(b)}$ Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to innovation and effort by improving a letter grade; or-
- 3. Demonstrate exemplary improvement, as established by the State Board of Education, due to outstanding student learning gains within a letter grade by moving up substantially within that letter grade.

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For the faculty and staff of a school that demonstrates exemplary improvement by moving up two or more grades in one year and maintaining that grade the following year, the bonuses shall be awarded again for that year in recognition of their outstanding maintenance of teamwork.

- (b) (3) All public schools, including charter schools, that receive a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 are eligible to participate in the program.
- (c) (4) All selected schools shall receive financial awards depending on the availability of funds appropriated and the number and size of schools selected to receive an award. Funds must be distributed to the school's fiscal agent and placed in the school's account and must be used for bonuses for all the faculty and staff of the school during the school year for which the school received its award for high performance in recognition of the important role played by every single member of the school team purposes listed in subsection (5) as determined jointly by the school's staff and school advisory council. If school staff and the school advisory council cannot reach agreement by November 1, the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school.
- (5) School recognition awards must be used for the following:
 - (a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff;
- (b) Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials to assist in maintaining and improving student performance; or

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PCB SLC 07-01 Performance-based Pay Bonuses CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

(c) Temporary personnel for the school to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.

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- Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary, incentive awards are not subject to collective bargaining.
- (8) RULEMAKING.--The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section.

In accordance with the proviso language in Specific Appropriation 91 of the 2006-2007 General Appropriations Act, chapter 2006-25, Laws of Florida, and section 3 of chapter 2006-26, Laws of Florida, school districts that did not submit a Special Teachers Are Rewarded performance pay plan (STAR Plan) by December 31, 2006, and receive State Board of Education approval or a request for plan revisions are not eligible to receive STAR Plan funds for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. If requesting revisions, the state board must identify the specific areas of the proposed plan needing revision. Notwithstanding the proviso language in Specific Appropriation 91 of the 2006-2007 General Appropriations Act, chapter 2006-25, Laws of Florida, and section 3 of chapter 2006-26, Laws of Florida, a district must submit its revised plan by May 1, 2007. The state board shall review the revised plan and may either approve the revised plan or deny the district eligibility to receive STAR Plan funds for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. STAR Plan funds shall be considered encumbered upon the approval and adoption of a plan by June 30, 2007. STAR Plan funds allocated for districts that fail to adopt approved STAR Plans by June 30, 2007, shall be redistributed to those districts that have approved plans in place by that date. The

redistribution calculation shall be verified by the Florida Education Finance Program Appropriation Allocation Conference.

Section 3. Effective July 1, 2007, subsection (4) of section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.34 School grading system; school report cards; district grade.--

- (4) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATINGS.--The annual report shall identify each school's performance as having improved, remained the same, or declined. This school improvement rating shall be based on a comparison of the current year's and previous year's student and school performance data. Schools that improve at least one grade level are eligible for school recognition awards pursuant to s. 1012.225(7), and the faculty and each staff member of the awarded school's team shall receive bonuses 1008.36.
- Section 4. Effective July 1, 2007, subsection (2) of section 1008.341, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.341 School improvement rating for alternative schools.--

- (2) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATING.--Alternative schools that provide dropout prevention and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53 shall receive a school improvement rating pursuant to this section. The school improvement rating shall identify schools as having one of the following ratings defined according to rules of the State Board of Education:
- (a) "Improving" means schools with students making more academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.
- (b) "Maintaining" means schools with students making progress equivalent to the progress made when the students were

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served in their home schools.

(c) "Declining" means schools with students making less academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.

The school improvement rating shall be based on a comparison of student performance data for the current year and previous year. Schools that improve at least one level or maintain an "improving" rating pursuant to this section are eligible for school recognition awards pursuant to s. 1012.225(7) 1008.36.

Section 5. Effective July 1, 2007, paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 1008.345, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.345 Implementation of state system of school improvement and education accountability.--

(7)

have maintained a grade of "A" for 2 consecutive years, or that have moved from a grade of "B" to a grade of "A" and maintained the grade of "A" for the following year and that meet the criteria of the Florida School Recognition Program pursuant to s. 1012.225(7) 1008.36 may be given deregulated status as specified in s. 1003.63(5), (7), (8), (9), and (10), in recognition of the outstanding teamwork of each faculty and staff member of the school.

Section 6. Effective July 1, 2007, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 1012.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of the district school board.--The district school board shall:

- (1) Designate positions to be filled, prescribe qualifications for those positions, and provide for the appointment, compensation, promotion, suspension, and dismissal of employees as follows, subject to the requirements of this chapter:
 - (c) Compensation and salary schedules .--

- 1. The district school board shall adopt a salary schedule or salary schedules designed to furnish incentives for improvement in training and for continued efficient service to be used as a basis for paying all school employees and fix and authorize the compensation of school employees on the basis thereof.
- 2. A district school board, in determining the salary schedule for instructional personnel, must base a portion of each employee's compensation on performance demonstrated under s. 1012.34, must consider the prior teaching experience of a person who has been designated state teacher of the year by any state in the United States, and must consider prior professional experience in the field of education gained in positions in addition to district level instructional and administrative positions.
- 3. In developing the salary schedule, the district school board shall seek input from parents, teachers, and representatives of the business community.
- 4. Beginning with the 2002-2003 fiscal year, each district school board must adopt a performance-pay policy for school administrators and instructional personnel. The district's

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performance-pay policy is subject to negotiation as provided in chapter 447; however, the adopted salary schedule must allow school administrators and instructional personnel who demonstrate outstanding performance, as measured under s. 1012.34, to earn a 5-percent supplement in addition to their individual, negotiated salary. The supplements shall be funded from the performance-pay reserve funds adopted in the salary schedule. The Commissioner of Education shall determine whether the district school board's adopted policy and salary schedule complies with the requirement for performance based pay. If the district school board fails to comply with this section, the commissioner may withhold disbursements from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the district and take any other measure provided by law necessary to ensure compliance until compliance is verified.

- 5. Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year, each district school board shall adopt a salary schedule with differentiated pay for both instructional personnel and school-based administrators. The salary schedule is subject to negotiation as provided in chapter 447 and must allow differentiated pay based on district-determined factors, including, but not limited to, additional responsibilities, school demographics, critical shortage areas, and level of job performance difficulties.
- Section 7. Effective July 1, 2007, subsection (3) of section 1012.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school principals.--
 - (3) Each school principal is responsible for the performance of all personnel employed by the district school

board and assigned to the school to which the principal is assigned. The school principal shall faithfully and effectively apply the personnel <u>appraisal</u> assessment system approved by the district school board pursuant to s. 1012.34.

Section 8. Effective July 1, 2007, subsections (1), (2), (5), (7), and (8) and paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (3) of section 1012.34, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1012.34 <u>Personnel appraisal system;</u> Assessment procedures and criteria.--

- (1) For the purpose of improving the quality of instructional, administrative, and supervisory services in the public schools of the state, the district school superintendent shall establish procedures for evaluating assessing the performance of duties and responsibilities of all instructional, administrative, and supervisory personnel employed by the school district. The district school board must approve the personnel appraisal system. The State Board Department of Education must review approve each district's instructional personnel appraisal assessment system.
- (2) The following conditions must be considered in the design of the district's instructional personnel appraisal assessment system:
- (a) The system must be designed to support district and school level improvement plans.
- (b) The system must provide appropriate instruments, procedures, and criteria for continuous quality improvement of the professional skills of instructional, administrative, and supervisory personnel.

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(c) The system must include a mechanism to give parents an opportunity to provide input into employee performance <u>appraisals</u> assessments when appropriate.

- (d) The system must include the Florida Educator

 Accomplished Practices, and In addition to addressing generic teaching competencies, districts must determine those teaching fields for which special procedures and criteria will be developed.
- (e) Each district school board may establish a peer assistance process. The plan may provide a mechanism for assistance of persons who are placed on performance probation as well as offer assistance to other employees who request it.
- (f) The district school board shall provide training programs that are based upon guidelines provided by the Department of Education to ensure that all individuals with evaluation responsibilities understand the proper use of the personnel appraisal system assessment criteria and procedures.
- (g) An appraisal must be conducted for each instructional, administrative, and supervisory personnel at least once a year.
- (3) The <u>annual appraisal</u> assessment procedure for instructional personnel and school administrators must be <u>substantially primarily</u> based on the <u>demonstrated</u> performance of students assigned to their classrooms, teams, or schools, as appropriate. Pursuant to this section, a school district's performance <u>appraisal</u> assessment is not limited to basing unsatisfactory performance of instructional personnel and school administrators upon student performance, but may include other criteria approved to <u>evaluate</u> assess instructional personnel and school administrators' performance, or any combination of student

performance and other approved criteria. The procedures must comply with, but are not limited to, the following requirements:

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- An assessment must be conducted for each employee at least once a year. The appraisal assessment must be based upon sound educational principles and contemporary research in effective educational practices. The appraisal assessment must primarily use data and indicators of improvement in student performance assessed annually as specified in s. 1008.22 and may consider results of peer reviews in evaluating the employee's performance. Student performance must be measured by state assessments for subjects and grade levels measured by the state assessment program required under s. 1008.22 and by national, state, or local assessments for subjects and grade levels not measured by the state assessment program. The assessments selected for the personnel appraisal system must allow for the relative effectiveness of similarly assigned personnel to be evaluated. The personnel appraisal assessment criteria must include, but are not limited to, indicators that relate to the following:
- 1. The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices for instructional personnel and the Florida Principal Leadership Standards for administrative and supervisory personnel.

 Performance of students.
 - 2. Ability to maintain appropriate discipline.
- 3. Knowledge of subject matter. The district school board shall make special provisions for evaluating teachers who are assigned to teach out-of-field.
- 4. Ability to plan and deliver instruction and the use of technology in the classroom for instructional personnel and

school-based management skills for administrative and supervisory personnel.

5. Ability to evaluate instructional needs.

- 6. Ability to establish and maintain a positive collaborative relationship with students' families to increase student achievement.
- 7. Other professional competencies, responsibilities, and requirements as established by rules of the State Board of Education and policies of the district school board.
- (b) All personnel must be fully informed of the criteria and procedures associated with the <u>appraisal</u> assessment process before the appraisal assessment takes place.
- (c) The individual responsible for supervising the employee must evaluate assess the employee's performance. The evaluator must submit a written report of the appraisal assessment to the district school superintendent for the purpose of reviewing the employee's contract. The evaluator must submit the written report to the employee no later than 10 days after the appraisal assessment takes place. The evaluator must discuss the written report of appraisal assessment with the employee. The employee shall have the right to initiate a written response to the appraisal assessment, and the response shall become a permanent attachment to his or her personnel file.
- (5) The district school superintendent shall develop a mechanism for evaluating the effective use of <u>appraisal</u> assessment criteria and evaluation procedures by administrators who are assigned responsibility for evaluating the performance of instructional personnel. The use of the <u>appraisal</u> assessment and evaluation procedures shall be considered as part of the annual

<u>appraisal</u> <u>assessment</u> of the administrator's performance. The system must include a mechanism to give parents and teachers an opportunity to provide input into the administrator's performance appraisal <u>assessment</u>, when appropriate.

- (7) The district school board shall establish a procedure annually reviewing the instructional personnel appraisal system assessment systems to determine compliance with this section. All substantial revisions to an approved system must be reviewed and approved by the district school board before being used to evaluate assess instructional personnel. Upon request by a school district, the department shall provide assistance in developing, improving, or reviewing an appraisal assessment system.
- (8) The State Board of Education <u>may shall</u> adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, that establish uniform guidelines for the submission, review, and approval of district procedures for the annual <u>appraisal</u> <u>assessment</u> of instructional, <u>administrative</u>, and <u>supervisory</u> personnel and that include criteria for evaluating professional performance.
- Section 9. By May 1, 2008, all school districts must have developed and be able to administer end-of-course examinations in all grade groupings and subject areas.
- Section 10. The Legislature shall appropriate the necessary funding for an actuarial study to determine the viability and cost of making bonuses a part of the Florida Retirement System.
- Section 11. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.