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 30 Section 1. Section 1003.572, Florida Statutes, is created  
 31 to read:

32 1003.572 Gifted student education.--

33 (1) For students in grades K through 12, each district  
 34 school board shall annually:

35 (a) Provide written notice to each student's parent of the  
 36 eligibility criteria for gifted student classification and the  
 37 procedures for requesting an evaluation of a student to  
 38 determine his or her eligibility for such classification.

39 (b) Report to the department by school and grade level:

40 1. The number of students classified as gifted. Such  
 41 reporting shall separately identify the number of students  
 42 classified as gifted under generally applicable criteria set  
 43 forth in State Board of Education rule and under a department-  
 44 approved school district plan for increasing the participation  
 45 of under-represented groups.

46 2. The types of gifted student education services that it  
 47 provides and the number of students receiving each service.

48 Such reporting shall:

49 a. Separately identify gifted student education services  
 50 that provide: direct instruction to a class consisting only of  
 51 gifted students; differentiated instruction for gifted students  
 52 within a class that also includes students who are not gifted;  
 53 and non-instructional consultation services.

54 b. Indicate the number of hours per week that each service  
 55 identified under sub-subparagraph 2.a. is provided to each  
 56 gifted student and whether the service is provided by a teacher

57 who has received the gifted endorsement under State Board of  
 58 Education rule.

59 3. Performance data for students receiving gifted student  
 60 education services.

61  
 62 When reporting the number of students under this paragraph,  
 63 district school boards shall classify students according to  
 64 race, ethnicity, limited English proficient status, and free or  
 65 reduced price lunch eligibility status under the National School  
 66 Lunch Act.

67 (3) The department shall develop data elements to  
 68 facilitate district school board reporting under subsection (2).

69 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 70 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, to implement this  
 71 section.

72 Section 2. Section 1003.573, Florida Statutes, is created  
 73 to read:

74 1003.573 Whole-Grade and Subject Matter Acceleration.--

75 (1) For students in grades K through 12, the department  
 76 shall develop, and district school boards shall implement,  
 77 statewide policies that set forth procedures and eligibility  
 78 criteria for whole-grade and subject matter acceleration.

79 (2) Each district school board shall report annually to  
 80 the department by school and grade level: the number of, and  
 81 performance data for, students who were accelerated one or more  
 82 whole grades; the types of subject matter acceleration programs  
 83 offered; and the number of, and performance data for, students  
 84 who participated in subject matter acceleration programs. When

85 reporting the number of students, district school boards shall  
 86 classify students according to race, ethnicity, limited English  
 87 proficient status, and free or reduced price lunch eligibility  
 88 status under the National School Lunch Act.

89 (3) The department shall develop data elements to  
 90 facilitate district school board reporting under subsection (2).

91 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 92 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, to implement this  
 93 section.

94 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
 95 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

96 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
 97 teacher preparation programs.--

98 (3) DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.--A system  
 99 developed by the Department of Education in collaboration with  
 100 postsecondary educational institutions shall assist departments  
 101 and colleges of education in the restructuring of their programs  
 102 in accordance with this section to meet the need for producing  
 103 quality teachers now and in the future.

104 (c) State-approved teacher preparation programs must  
 105 incorporate:

106 1. Appropriate English for Speakers of Other Languages  
 107 instruction so that program graduates will have completed the  
 108 requirements for teaching limited English proficient students in  
 109 Florida public schools.

110 2. Scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading  
 111 literacy and computational skills instruction so that program  
 112 graduates will be able to provide the necessary academic

113 foundations for their students at whatever grade levels they  
 114 choose to teach.

115 3. Gifted student instruction so that program graduates  
 116 will:

117 a. Be able to recognize the characteristics of gifted  
 118 students; and

119 b. Have knowledge of the eligibility criteria for gifted  
 120 student classification and the procedures for referring a  
 121 student for an evaluation to determine his or her eligibility  
 122 for such classification; and

123 c. Have knowledge of how to differentiate the general  
 124 education curriculum for gifted students.

125 Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section  
 126 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

127 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual  
 128 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
 129 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
 130 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
 131 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
 132 follows:

133 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR  
 134 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in  
 135 determining the annual allocation to each district for  
 136 operation:

137 (e) Funding model for exceptional student education  
 138 programs.--

139 1.a. The funding model uses basic, at-risk, support levels  
 140 IV and V for exceptional students and career Florida Education

141 Finance Program cost factors, and a guaranteed allocation for  
 142 exceptional student education programs. Exceptional education  
 143 cost factors are determined by using a matrix of services to  
 144 document the services that each exceptional student will  
 145 receive. The nature and intensity of the services indicated on  
 146 the matrix shall be consistent with the services described in  
 147 each exceptional student's individual educational plan.

148       b. In order to generate funds using one of the two  
 149 weighted cost factors, a matrix of services must be completed at  
 150 the time of the student's initial placement into an exceptional  
 151 student education program and at least once every 3 years by  
 152 personnel who have received approved training. Nothing listed in  
 153 the matrix shall be construed as limiting the services a school  
 154 district must provide in order to ensure that exceptional  
 155 students are provided a free, appropriate public education.

156       c. Students identified as exceptional, in accordance with  
 157 chapter 6A-6, Florida Administrative Code, who do not have a  
 158 matrix of services as specified in sub-subparagraph b. shall  
 159 generate funds on the basis of full-time-equivalent student  
 160 membership in the Florida Education Finance Program at the same  
 161 funding level per student as provided for basic students.

162 Additional funds for these exceptional students will be provided  
 163 through the guaranteed allocation designated in subparagraph 2.

164       2. For students identified as exceptional who do not have  
 165 a matrix of services and students who are gifted in grades K  
 166 through 8, there is created a guaranteed allocation to provide  
 167 these students with a free appropriate public education, in  
 168 accordance with s. 1001.42(4) (1) ~~(m)~~ and rules of the State Board

169 of Education, which shall be allocated annually to each school  
 170 district in the amount provided in the General Appropriations  
 171 Act. These funds shall be in addition to the funds appropriated  
 172 on the basis of FTE student membership in the Florida Education  
 173 Finance Program, and the amount allocated for each school  
 174 district shall not be recalculated during the year. These funds  
 175 shall be used to provide special education and related services  
 176 for exceptional students and students who are gifted in grades K  
 177 through 8. Beginning with the 2007-2008 fiscal year, a  
 178 district's expenditure of funds from the guaranteed allocation  
 179 for students in grades 9 through 12 who are gifted may not be  
 180 greater than the amount expended during the 2006-2007 fiscal  
 181 year for gifted students in grades 9 through 12. Each district  
 182 school board in its annual financial report to the department  
 183 shall separately identify the following amounts expended from  
 184 the guaranteed allocation:

- 185 a. The amount expended for students identified as
- 186 exceptional who do not have a matrix of services; and
- 187 b. The amount expended for gifted students in grades K
- 188 through 12 according to grade level.

189 Section 5. Gifted and Academically Talented Student Task  
 190 Force.--

191 (1) Effective upon this act becoming a law, there is  
 192 created the Gifted and Academically Talented Student Task Force.  
 193 The task force is composed of the following seven members:

- 194 (a) The chair of the State Board of Education or his or her
- 195 designee, who shall serve as chair.
- 196 (b) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee,

197 who shall serve as vice-chair.

198 (c) Four members who collectively have experience in gifted  
 199 and academically talented student screening, identification, and  
 200 education, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one  
 201 of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, one  
 202 of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
 203 Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the chair  
 204 of State Board of Education.

205 (d) One member who represents an advocacy group for parents  
 206 of gifted children who shall be appointed by the Governor.

207 (2) The members of the task force shall be appointed by  
 208 July 1, 2008, and shall convene the initial meeting of the task  
 209 force by August 1, 2008.

210 (3) The task force is assigned to the Department of  
 211 Education for administrative purposes. Members of the task  
 212 force are not entitled to compensation, but are entitled to per  
 213 diem and travel expenses under s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.  
 214 Members of the task force are subject to the Code of Ethics for  
 215 Public Officers and Employees under part III of chapter 112,  
 216 Florida Statutes.

217 (4) By February 1, 2009, the task force shall submit a  
 218 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
 219 Speaker of the House of Representatives, which includes, but is  
 220 not limited to, recommendations, based upon peer-reviewed  
 221 research and the members' collective expertise, for the  
 222 following:

223 (a) Revisions to statute and rule governing eligibility  
 224 criteria for gifted student classification generally and in

225 under-represented groups.

226 (b) Eligibility criteria for academically talented student  
 227 classification. Such criteria shall identify students who are  
 228 not classified as gifted, but who possess high achievement  
 229 capability in one or more academic subject areas and who would  
 230 benefit from participation in accelerated or differentiated  
 231 curricula learning opportunities.

232 (c) Annual screening procedures for the determination of  
 233 students who should be further evaluated for identification as  
 234 gifted or academically talented students. These procedures, at  
 235 a minimum, shall identify:

236 1. The most appropriate grade or grades within each of the  
 237 elementary, middle, and high school levels to administer such  
 238 screenings for all students; and

239 2. One or more recommended screening instruments.

240 (d) Model gifted and academically talented student  
 241 education programs. The programs must include, but are not  
 242 limited to:

243 1. Classroom-based, school-based, and district-based  
 244 implementation options.

245 2. Subject matter acceleration opportunities,  
 246 differentiated curricula that address the exceptional learning  
 247 needs of gifted and academically talented students, and  
 248 enrichment activities that extend learning opportunities  
 249 available in the classroom.

250 (e) Procedures for annually evaluating the effectiveness  
 251 of model gifted and academically talented student education  
 252 programs.

PCS for HB 297

ORIGINAL

2008

253           (f) Procedures for evaluating students participating in  
254 gifted or academically talented student education programs to  
255 determine student performance and whether the students are  
256 benefiting from, and continue to be eligible to participate in,  
257 the programs.

258           (5) Upon delivery of its final report and recommendations,  
259 the task force is abolished.

260           Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.