

Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act

Summary

The 2003 Legislature enacted the Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act, section 1002.23, Florida Statutes, to provide parents with specific information about their child's educational progress; provide information about their choices and opportunities for involvement in their child's education; and provide a framework for building and strengthening partnerships among parents, teachers, principals, district school superintendents, and other school personnel.

The Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act:

Requires each district school board, school district superintendent, and teacher to fully support and cooperate in implementing a well-planned inclusive and comprehensive program to assist parents and families in effectively participating in their child's education.

Requires the Department of Education to develop guidelines for a parent guide to successful student achievement that describes what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how they can help their child to succeed in school.

Requires the Department of Education to develop and disseminate a checklist for school districts to provide to parents to assist with the parent's involvement in their child's educational progress. The checklist must address parental actions that:

Requires Department of Education to establish a parent-response center to provide assistance to parents and families in answering questions and resolving issues related to their child's education.

Requires each district school board to adopt rules that strengthen family involvement and family empowerment. The rules must be developed in collaboration with parents, school administrators, teachers, and community partners and should address:

Requires each school district to develop and disseminate a parent guide to successful student achievement, consistent with the guidelines developed by Department of Education, which addresses what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how parents can help their child to succeed in school.

Requires each school district to develop and disseminate a checklist of parental actions that can strengthen parental involvement in their child's educational progress, consistent with the requirements in this section. The checklist must be provided each school year to all parents of students in kindergarten through grade 12 and shall focus on academics, especially reading, high expectations for students, citizenship, and communication.

Requires the State Board of Education to annually review each school district's compliance with this section and the district's success in achieving improved services for families. The State Board of Education shall use all appropriate enforcement actions, as provided for in section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, until the school district fully complies with the requirements of this section.

Amends section 1001.42, Florida Statutes (Powers and duties of district school board), to conform to the requirements in the new act.

Amends section 1001.51, Florida Statutes (Duties and responsibilities of district school superintendent), to require district school superintendents to fully support and cooperate in the implementation of the new act.

Amends section 1001.54, Florida Statutes (Duties of school principals), to require principals to fully support and cooperate in the implementation of the new act.

Amends section 1002.20, Florida Statutes (K-12 student and parent rights), to state that parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways that they can help their child succeed in school.

Amends section 1003.33, Florida Statutes (Report cards; end-of-year status), to provide that report cards must include the student's performance or nonperformance at his or her grade level

Amends section 1008.25, Florida Statutes (Public school student progression; remedial instruction; reporting requirements), to provide that the parent of any student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading must be notified in writing of specific information including strategies for parents to use in helping their child succeed in reading proficiency.

Amends section 1012.72, Florida Statutes (Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program), to require teachers who receive certain bonuses under the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program to provide instruction to help other teachers work more effectively with the families of their students.

Amends section 1012.98, Florida Statutes (School Community Professional Development Act), to require school districts to provide inservice activities for instructional personnel that includes parent involvement.