

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to the Florida School Recognition Program

BILL

2025

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Florida School Recognition Program;
3 amendment s. 1008.36, F.S.; providing an effective date.
4

5 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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7 Section 1. Section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, is amended
8 to read:

9 1008.36 Florida School Recognition Program.-

10 (1) The Legislature finds that there is a need for a
11 performance incentive program for outstanding instructional
12 personnel~~faculty and staff~~ in highly productive schools. The
13 Legislature further finds that performance-based incentives are
14 commonplace in the private sector and should be infused into the
15 public sector as a reward for productivity.

16 (2) The Florida School Recognition Program is created to
17 provide financial awards to public schools that:

18 (a) Sustain high performance by receiving a school grade of
19 "A," making excellent progress; or

20 (b) Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to innovation and
21 effort by improving at least one letter grade or by improving
22 more than one letter grade and sustaining the improvement the
23 following school year.

24 (3) All public schools, including charter schools, that
25 receive a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 are eligible to
26 participate in the program.

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27 (4) All selected schools shall receive financial awards
28 depending on the availability of funds appropriated and the
29 number and size of schools selected to receive an award. Funds
30 must be distributed to the school's fiscal agent and placed in
31 the school's account and must be used for purposes listed in
32 subsection (5) as determined jointly by the school's staff and
33 school advisory council. If school staff and the school advisory
34 council cannot reach agreement by February 1, the awards must be
35 equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching
36 in the school. If a school selected to receive a school
37 recognition award is no longer in existence at the time the
38 award is paid, the district school superintendent shall
39 distribute the funds to teachers who taught at the school in the
40 previous year in the form of a bonus.

41 (5) School recognition awards must be used for the
42 following:

43 (a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the instructional personnel as
44 defined in 1012.01~~faculty and staff~~;

45 (b) Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or
46 materials to assist in maintaining and improving student
47 performance; or

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

50 Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary, incentive
51 awards are not subject to collective bargaining.

52 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.