

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Conforming Bill
Relating to School Recognition

BILL

2026

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Florida School Recognition Program;
3 limiting the use of the Florida School Recognition
4 performance incentive to instructional personnel; limiting
5 the use of school recognition awards to nonrecurring
6 bonuses to specifically instructional personnel; providing
7 an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, is amended
12 to read:

13 1008.36 Florida School Recognition Program.-

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

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

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

24 (b) Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to innovation and
25 effort by improving at least one letter grade or by improving
26 more than one letter grade and sustaining the improvement the
27 following school year.

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

(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 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 February 1, the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school. If a school selected to receive a school recognition award is no longer in existence at the time the award is paid, the district school superintendent shall distribute the funds to teachers who taught at the school in the previous year in the form of a bonus.

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

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

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

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

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

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.