

HB 313

2014

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Gender-Specific School pilot
3 project; requiring the Department of Education to
4 administer a pilot project in certain school districts
5 in which an elementary school is designated as a
6 Gender-Specific School; providing criteria for
7 selection as a Gender-Specific School and requirements
8 for instruction and enrollment; requiring school
9 administrators and instructional personnel to
10 participate in certain professional development;
11 providing for funding for pilot project
12 implementation; requiring the Office of Program Policy
13 Analysis and Government Accountability to provide a
14 report on the academic performance of students;
15 providing an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. (1) The Department of Education shall
20 administer a Gender-Specific School pilot project to be
21 implemented during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years in
22 school districts in the state. A district with more than 100,000
23 kindergarten through grade 12 students is eligible to
24 participate in the pilot project. A district shall submit to the
25 department a request to participate, and the department shall
26 select five districts in which one elementary school within the

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27 district shall be designated as a "Gender-Specific School." A
28 school participating in the pilot project must have a student
29 enrollment of at least 350 students.

30 (2) (a) Students in a Gender-Specific School shall be
31 separated into grade-level boys only classes and girls only
32 classes during instruction in the core subject areas. For
33 classes in which a school has only one teacher for a subject
34 area, such as foreign language, the students may be combined in
35 a regular classroom setting. The students shall have
36 coeducational opportunities during school lunch periods, recess,
37 and other school activities.

38 (b) Enrollment in a Gender-Specific School is open to
39 students residing in the school district in which the school is
40 located and may not be restricted to enrollment of students
41 residing in the attendance zone served by the school. Student
42 enrollment in a school may not exceed the building capacity.

43 (3) The department shall develop a list of professional
44 development providers to assist participating schools with
45 scheduling and instructional strategies. A school district shall
46 select a professional development provider from the department's
47 list and require the school's administrative and instructional
48 personnel to participate in the professional development.

49 (4) Funds to implement the pilot project shall be
50 appropriated by the Legislature and allocated to school
51 districts by the department.

52 Section 2. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and

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53 Government Accountability shall provide to the Governor, the
54 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
55 Representatives by December 31, 2016, a report comparing the
56 academic performance of students in schools participating in the
57 Gender-Specific School pilot project with the academic
58 performance of students in other public elementary schools in
59 the district.

60 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.