

Conference Report on House Bill 5001 Proviso Language Relating to Transparency Florida

From the funds in Specific Appropriations 116 through 130, the Department of Education shall coordinate, organize, and publish online all currently available reports relating to school district finances on an existing department website, including information generated from the department's school district finance database. These reports shall also be readily accessible to the public through a link on the Transparency Florida website established by section 215.985, Florida Statutes, pursuant to recommendations in the February 2010 report "Recommendations for Transparency Florida" by the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee. The school district reports to be available on the Transparency Florida website include, but are not limited to, those currently published on the department's website, school district websites, and the Auditor General's website. The department shall coordinate with the Executive Office of the Governor to create links on the Transparency Florida website to school district reports by August 1, 2010.

By December 31, 2010, the department shall publish additional finance data relating to school districts that is not currently available online, including school-level expenditure data. The department shall work with school districts to ensure that each district website provides a link to the Transparency Florida website.

The department shall also establish a working group to study issues related to the future expansion of school finance data available to the public through the Transparency Florida website. The working group shall include department finance staff, district finance officers, and other appropriate district staff. The working group shall develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a framework to provide school-level data in greater detail and frequency. The recommendations should address the need to report accounting transactions in a common, uniform format and include an analysis of potential barriers such as cost, technology, account coding structure, data security, and other issues that could impact completion of an expanded system of transparency in school finances. The working group shall also examine means for district coordination in the completion of the system. The working group shall publish a report of its findings by December 1, 2010.