

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Youth Conflict Resolution and
 3 Peer Mediation Pilot Program; creating the Youth
 4 Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program
 5 within the Community School Grant Program for a
 6 specified period; providing the purpose of the pilot
 7 program; requiring the Center for Community Schools at
 8 the University of Central Florida to implement the
 9 pilot program and a specified curriculum; providing
 10 center responsibilities for the pilot program;
 11 requiring the center to work with the Department of
 12 Education to identify a curriculum for the pilot
 13 program; providing participating school
 14 responsibilities; requiring the center to provide a
 15 report to the department; providing requirements for
 16 the report; providing for the future expiration of the
 17 pilot program; providing an effective date.

18
 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
 21 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 1003.64,
 22 Florida Statutes, to read:

23 1003.64 Community School Grant Program.—It is the intent
 24 of the Legislature to improve student success and well-being by
 25 engaging and supporting parents and community organizations in

26 | their efforts to positively impact student learning and
27 | development.

28 | (5) YOUTH CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEER MEDIATION PILOT
29 | PROGRAM.—No later than the 2025-2026 school year, the center
30 | shall administer the Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer
31 | Mediation Pilot Program for a period of 3 school years. The
32 | center shall implement a conflict resolution and peer mediation
33 | curriculum to reduce juvenile violence by equipping students
34 | with essential skills for peaceful conflict resolution. The
35 | center shall:

36 | (a) Seek input from the Department of Education on the
37 | selection of a conflict resolution and peer mediation curriculum
38 | to implement at each selected school and identify potential ways
39 | to integrate the curriculum during the school day to maximize
40 | exposure to and use of conflict resolution skills.

41 | (b) Identify middle or high schools to participate in the
42 | program. Priority shall be given to schools with a high rate of
43 | juvenile violence and community partners who will assist with
44 | implementation.

45 | (c) Require each participating school to:

46 | 1. Provide training on the curriculum and, where possible,
47 | include community partners who interact with the students at the
48 | school in such training.

49 | 2. Provide students with skills to resolve conflicts at
50 | school and away from school without undermining the school's

- 51 existing disciplinary framework.
- 52 3. Provide data and information requested by the center.
- 53 4. Complete a pre-pilot program and post-pilot program
54 survey created by the center.
- 55 (d) Monitor the implementation of the pilot program and
56 assist participating schools with integrating the curriculum and
57 reinforcing the conflict resolution skills throughout the school
58 day.
- 59 (e) Collect relevant student discipline data and
60 information relating to the rates of juvenile violence in
61 selected schools before and after implementation of the pilot
62 program.
- 63 (f) Create a pre-pilot program and post-pilot program
64 survey that must be completed by the school administrators,
65 teachers, and parents at participating schools.
- 66 (g) Provide periodic updates to the department on the
67 implementation of the pilot program.
- 68 (h) Upon completion of the pilot program, provide a report
69 to the department. The report must include, at a minimum, the
70 following:
- 71 1. The number of students enrolled at the participating
72 schools.
- 73 2. The rates of student discipline and juvenile violence
74 in selected schools before the pilot program.
- 75 3. The rates of student discipline and juvenile violence

76 | in selected schools after implementation of the pilot program.

77 | 4. The results from the pre-pilot program and post-pilot
78 | program survey.

79 | 5. Recommendations for the inclusion of the curriculum at
80 | middle and high schools across the state.

81 | (i) This subsection expires upon the submission of the
82 | report required under paragraph (h).

83 | Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.