

ENROLLED

HB 7033

2021 Legislature

1  
2 An act relating to the Task Force on Closing the  
3 Achievement Gap for Boys; creating the Task Force on  
4 Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the  
5 Department of Education; providing a purpose for the  
6 task force; providing for membership and meetings of  
7 the task force; requiring the department to provide  
8 certain staff support, data, and information to assist  
9 the task force; requiring that the task force submit a  
10 report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified  
11 date; providing for future expiration of the task  
12 force; providing an effective date.

13  
14 WHEREAS, 44 percent of third grade boys are reading below  
15 grade level, a 4 percentage-point deficit as compared to girls,  
16 and 53 percent of 10th grade boys are reading below grade level,  
17 an 11 percentage-point deficit as compared to girls, based on  
18 the 2018-2019 statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
19 assessment, and

20 WHEREAS, research shows that boys develop literacy skills  
21 later than girls, and

22 WHEREAS, in comparison to girls, boys are suspended and  
23 expelled from schools more than twice as often, are diagnosed  
24 with learning disabilities nearly three times as often, and are  
25 diagnosed with emotional disorders over three times as often,

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26 | and

27 |       WHEREAS, boys benefit from specialized instructional,  
28 | behavioral, and mental health supports in order to flourish  
29 | academically and personally, NOW, THEREFORE,

30 |

31 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

32 |

33 |       Section 1. Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for  
34 | Boys.—

35 |       (1) The Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for  
36 | Boys, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(8), Florida Statutes,  
37 | is created within the Department of Education to examine  
38 | evidence-based strategies for closing the achievement gap for  
39 | boys and to make recommendations to the department, the  
40 | Governor, and the Legislature regarding professional development  
41 | for instructional personnel and school administrators; the  
42 | selection of curriculum, supplemental materials, and classroom  
43 | activities in early learning programs and K-12 schools; and  
44 | other academic, behavioral, and mental health supports to help  
45 | educate and raise young men who are better prepared for success  
46 | in school and in life.

47 |       (2) The task force shall be composed of the following  
48 | members, to be appointed by July 1, 2021:

49 |       (a) The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee,  
50 | who shall be the chair of the task force.

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- 51        (b) The following members appointed by the Governor:
- 52        1. The parent of a boy enrolled in either the Voluntary
- 53 Prekindergarten Education Program under part V of chapter 1002,
- 54 Florida Statutes, or the school readiness program under part VI
- 55 of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes.
- 56        2. The parent of a boy enrolled in a public elementary
- 57 school.
- 58        (c) The following members appointed by the President of
- 59 the Senate:
- 60        1. A school psychologist employed by a school district.
- 61        2. An elementary classroom teacher.
- 62        3. A prekindergarten teacher employed by a provider
- 63 participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
- 64 or the school readiness program.
- 65        4. The executive director of an early learning coalition.
- 66        5. A member of the Senate.
- 67        (d) The following members appointed by the Speaker of the
- 68 House of Representatives:
- 69        1. A representative of a nonprofit organization that has
- 70 conducted research or implemented a program designed to close
- 71 the achievement gap for boys through specific instructional,
- 72 behavioral, and mental health supports.
- 73        2. The superintendent of a school district that has
- 74 implemented programming and strategies specifically to help
- 75 close the achievement gap for boys through a partnership with

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76 | one or more nonprofit organizations.

77 |       3. The director of an early learning provider

78 | participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

79 | or the school readiness program.

80 |       4. The principal of a public elementary school.

81 |       5. A member of the House of Representatives.

82 |       (3) Members of the task force shall serve without

83 | compensation but may be entitled to receive reimbursement for

84 | per diem and travel expenses.

85 |       (4) The task force shall convene no later than August 1,

86 | 2021, and upon the call of the chair thereafter. Meetings of the

87 | task force may be held through teleconference or other

88 | electronic means.

89 |       (5) The department shall provide staff, administrative

90 | support, and necessary data and other relevant information to

91 | assist the task force in carrying out its responsibilities.

92 |       (6) The task force shall submit a report containing its

93 | recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,

94 | and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1,

95 | 2021.

96 |       (7) The task force expires June 30, 2022.

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