A bill to be entitled
An act relating to parental involvement and
accountability in public schools; creating s.
1008.347, F.S.; providing purpose to provide
information and tools to parents of prekindergarten
through grade 5 students and to set minimum standards
for parental involvement; specifying causes for
student underachievement; requiring shared information
between teachers, schools, and parents; requiring
prekindergarten through grade 5 teachers to evaluate
parental involvement and send a parental involvement
evaluation to parents under certain circumstances;
requiring adoption of a process to dispute a parental
involvement evaluation; requiring reports on parental
involvement evaluations by district school boards and
the Department of Education; providing for
implementation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1008.347, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1008.347 Parental involvement and accountability in public
schools.—

(1) PURPOSE.—Although the school environment has a great
impact on a child's well-being and academic success, parents and
the home environment form the foundation of a child's present
and future life. Without proper parental involvement in all
aspects of a child's life, the child's prospects to be an effective, successful member of society are greatly diminished. The purpose of this section is to provide information and tools to parents of prekindergarten through grade 5 students to enable them to have a positive impact on their child's educational success and to set minimum standards for parental involvement.

(2) CAUSES FOR STUDENT UNDERACHIEVEMENT.—The following conditions are identified as possible causes for a student's underachievement:

(a) A child is not physically prepared for the school day due to inadequate rest, improper clothing, lack of necessary school supplies, or frequent tardiness or absence.

(b) A child is not mentally prepared for the school day due to uncompleted homework or inadequate preparation for tests.

(c) Communication between parents and the teacher often occurs only when a problem has risen rather than on a consistent basis throughout the school year.

(3) SHARED INFORMATION.—Teachers and schools shall develop or utilize current information packets, forms, or media for sharing information with each parent with written acknowledgement of receipt. The shared information may be presented in the parent guide to successful student achievement or in the checklist of parental actions that can strengthen parental involvement in a child's educational progress, required under s. 1002.23, and includes:

(a) Expectations of parents with respect to a child's school attendance.
(b) Expectations of parents to timely respond to a teacher's request for communication.
(c) Expectations of parents to properly and fully complete important emergency and medical information requested.
(d) Expectations of parents with respect to a child's academic work, including, but not limited to, time set aside for daily homework and reading, nightly check of homework completion and preparation for tests, and signature on forms.

(4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—
(a) To help parents establish a home environment that supports the child as a student, each prekindergarten through grade 5 teacher shall monitor and evaluate the involvement of the parents of each student in his or her class. Each prekindergarten through grade 5 teacher shall evaluate the parental involvement as satisfactory, needs improvement, or unsatisfactory on each of the following criteria as defined in district school board policy:
1. The frequency of the student's unexcused absence and unexcused tardiness.
2. Parental response to requests for conferences or communication.
3. Parental submission of complete and correct information, including, but not limited to, emergency contact information; student immunization records; and pertinent parental contact information, which shall be on file and updated if changes occur during the school year.
(b) The parental involvement evaluation shall be sent along with the student's quarterly assessment to the home of the student.
parent, which shall indicate "needs improvement" when one of the
following occurs in one quarter or "unsatisfactory" when two or
more of the following occur in one quarter:

1. The student has five or more unexcused absences;
2. The student has 10 or more instances of unexcused
tardiness;
3. Five or more requests for communication between the
teacher and the parent are made with no communication occurring;
or
4. The emergency contact information provided by the
parent is determined to be incomplete or incorrect.

(5) DISPUTE PROCESS.—A parent may dispute the parental
involvement evaluation by the teacher through a process adopted
by the district school board in rule in which the principal, the
teacher, and the parent discuss how the evaluation was
determined. The discussion shall also provide information and
feedback on the steps needed to improve the parental involvement
evaluation.

(6) REPORTING.—At the end of each school year, each
district school board shall prepare a report, as determined by
the State Board of Education in rule, containing data on
parental involvement evaluations, including data on evaluations
sent to parents, pursuant to subsection (4) and submit the
report to the Department of Education. Based upon the district
school board reports, the department shall prepare a final
report on parental involvement which shall be submitted by
August 1 of each year to the Governor, the President of the
Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
(7) IMPLEMENTATION.—This section shall be implemented beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.