

By Senator Detert

28-00123-13

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school grades; amending ss.  
3           1003.435 and 1008.34, F.S.; requiring that high  
4           schools be given a minimum percentage of credit for  
5           students who receive high school equivalency diplomas  
6           for purposes of calculating the school's graduation  
7           rate, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year;  
8           providing an effective date.

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

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12           Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 1003.435, Florida  
13   Statutes, is amended to read:

14           1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.—

15           (6) (a) All high school equivalency diplomas issued under  
16 ~~the provisions of~~ this section shall have equal status with  
17 other high school diplomas for all state purposes, including  
18 admission to any state university or Florida College System  
19 institution.

20           (b) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, a high  
21 school's graduation rate shall include at least 75 percent  
22 credit for each student who receives a high school equivalency  
23 diploma pursuant to this section.

24           (c) ~~(b)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
25 providing for the award of a standard high school diploma to  
26 holders of high school equivalency diplomas who are assessed as  
27 meeting designated criteria, and the commissioner shall  
28 establish procedures for administering the assessment.

29           Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section

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30 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;  
32 district grade.—

33 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

34 (b)1. A school's grade shall be based on a combination of:

35 a. Student achievement scores, including achievement as  
36 measured by FCAT assessments under s. 1008.22(3)(c)1.,  
37 statewide, standardized end-of-course assessments under s.  
38 1008.22(3)(c)2.a. and b., and achievement scores for students  
39 seeking a special diploma.

40 b. Student learning gains in reading and mathematics as  
41 measured by FCAT and statewide, standardized end-of-course  
42 assessments, as described in s. 1008.22(3)(c)1. and 2.a.,  
43 including learning gains for students seeking a special diploma,  
44 as measured by an alternate assessment.

45 c. Improvement of the lowest 25th percentile of students in  
46 the school in reading and mathematics on the FCAT or end-of-  
47 course assessments described in s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a., unless  
48 these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

49 2. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, for schools  
50 comprised of middle school grades 6 through 8 or grades 7 and 8,  
51 the school's grade shall include the performance and  
52 participation of its students enrolled in high school level  
53 courses with end-of-course assessments administered under s.  
54 1008.22(3)(c)2.a. Performance and participation must be weighted  
55 equally. As valid data becomes available, the school grades  
56 shall include the students' attainment of national industry  
57 certification identified in the Industry Certification Funding  
58 List pursuant to rules adopted by the state board.

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59           3. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year for schools  
60 comprised of high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10,  
61 11, and 12, at least 50 percent of the school grade shall be  
62 based on a combination of the factors listed in sub-  
63 subparagraphs 1.a.-c. and the remaining percentage on the  
64 following factors:

65           a. The high school graduation rate of the school, which,  
66 beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, shall include at least  
67 75 percent credit for each student who receives a high school  
68 equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435;

69           b. As valid data become ~~becomes~~ available, the performance  
70 and participation of the school's students in College Board  
71 Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses,  
72 dual enrollment courses, and Advanced International Certificate  
73 of Education courses; and the students' achievement of national  
74 industry certification identified in the Industry Certification  
75 Funding List, pursuant to rules adopted by the state board;

76           c. Postsecondary readiness of all of the school's on-time  
77 graduates as measured by the SAT, the ACT, the Postsecondary  
78 Education Readiness Test, or the common placement test;

79           d. The high school graduation rate of at-risk students, who  
80 are students scoring at Level 1 or Level 2 on grade 8 FCAT  
81 Reading and FCAT Mathematics;

82           e. As valid data become ~~becomes~~ available, the performance  
83 of the school's students on statewide, standardized end-of-  
84 course assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.c. and  
85 d.; and

86           f. The growth or decline in the components listed in sub-  
87 subparagraphs a.-e. from year to year.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.