

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

BILL: SB 420

INTRODUCER: Senator Detert

SUBJECT: Fine Arts Courses

DATE: March 24, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	deMarsh-Mathues	Klebacha	ED	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	AED	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 420 requires the Commissioner of Education to prepare an annual report that includes information, based on annual reporting by schools, regarding:

- Student access to, and participation in, fine arts courses;¹
- Number and certification status of educators providing arts instruction;
- Educational facilities designed and classroom space equipped for fine arts instruction; and
- How schools are providing the core curricular content for fine arts established in Florida's academic standards.

The report must be posted on the Department of Education's website and updated annually.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

II. Present Situation:

Currently Florida public high school students have four options for obtaining a standard high school diploma -- a traditional 4-year, 24-credit option;² an 18-credit graduation option;³ or completion of an International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum.⁴ In addition, current law requires each school district to adopt an

¹ The bill defines fine arts courses, for purposes of the annual report, to include visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

² Section 1003.428, F.S., established high school graduation requirements beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2007-2008 school year. Section 1003.4282, F.S., established high school graduation requirements for students entering grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter.

³ Section 1002.3105(5), F.S. Effective July 1, 2013, students may earn a standard high school diploma in 18 credits by achieving a 2.0 GPA; earning credit in the same 15 English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and fine and performing arts courses required under the traditional 24-credit option; and earning 3 elective credits, instead of the 6 electives required by the 24-credit option.

⁴ Sections 1003.428 and 1003.4282, F.S.

early graduation policy allowing a high school student who completes 24 credits in less than eight semesters and meets the GPA and assessment requirements to graduate early.⁵

One of the 24 credits required to graduate from high school must be in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or a practical arts course that incorporates artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination.⁶ Eligible practical arts courses are identified through the Course Code Directory.⁷ In addition, the state's academic standards are required to include standards for instruction for visual and performing arts.⁸ Such standards must include specific curricular content and include distinct grade level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade five.⁹ The standards for grades six through 12 may be organized by grade clusters of more than one grade level.¹⁰

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 420 requires the Commissioner of Education to prepare an annual report that includes information, based on annual reporting by schools, regarding:

- Student access to, and participation in, fine arts courses;¹¹
- Number and certification status of educators providing arts instruction;
- Educational facilities designed and classroom space equipped for fine arts instruction; and
- How schools are providing the core curricular content for fine arts established in Florida's academic standards.

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IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

⁵ Section 1003.4281, F.S.

⁶ Sections 1003.428(2)(a)5. and 1003.4282(3)(e), F.S.

⁷ Florida Department of Education, Course Code Directory and Instruction Personnel Assignments, *See* <https://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/files/PACourses1314.pdf> (last visited March 19, 2014).

⁸ Section 1003.41(2)(e), F.S.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ The bill defines fine arts courses, for purposes of the annual report, to include visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The bill requires the annual report to include a description of “student access to . . . fine arts courses” It is unclear what the term “student access to fine arts courses” means or whether data on such information could be reported.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates the following section of the Florida Statutes: 1003.4995.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.