

Tab 2	SB 920 by Gaetz ; Mathematics Education
Tab 3	CS/SB 1036 by ED, Calatayud ; Compare to CS/CS/H 00753 School Counselors
Tab 4	SB 1216 by Rodriguez ; Similar to H 01187 Public School Personnel Compensation

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON PRE-K - 12

EDUCATION

Senator Burgess, Chair

Senator Pizzo, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

TIME: 1:00—3:15 p.m.

PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room*, 37 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Burgess, Chair; Senator Pizzo, Vice Chair; Senators Bradley, Calatayud, Gaetz, Jones, Massullo, Osgood, Simon, and Yarborough

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Review and Discussion of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Issues Relating to Department of Education		Not Considered
2	SB 920 Gaetz (Compare S 7036)	Mathematics Education; Providing requirements for mathematics pathways established by a certain workgroup; requiring the Department of Education to develop applied algebra courses; providing requirements for the applied algebra courses; requiring the department to collaborate with the Board of Governors of the State University System to ensure the courses are accepted as mathematics credits for state university admissions, etc.	Temporarily Postponed
		ED 01/20/2026 Favorable AED 02/04/2026 Temporarily Postponed FP	
3	CS/SB 1036 Education Pre-K - 12 / Calatayud (Compare CS/CS/H 753)	School Counselors; Providing that school counselors are exempt from specified certification requirements, unless required for employment by a school district, etc.	Favorable Yea 10 Nays 0
		ED 01/20/2026 Fav/CS AED 02/04/2026 Favorable RC	
4	SB 1216 Rodriguez (Similar H 1187, S 1720)	Public School Personnel Compensation; Providing that cost-of-living adjustments are for employees with direct student contact; deleting a limitation on such adjustments; deleting certain limitations for salary adjustments under the performance salary schedule, etc.	Favorable Yea 10 Nays 0
		ED 01/20/2026 Favorable AED 02/04/2026 Favorable AP	

Other Related Meeting Documents

*Materials for this item
to be presented at the
time of the meeting.*

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 Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

BILL: SB 920

INTRODUCER: Senator Gaetz

SUBJECT: Mathematics Education

DATE: February 3, 2026

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Palazesi	Bouck	ED	Favorable
2. Gray	Elwell	AED	Pre-meeting
3. _____	_____	FP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 920 directs the Department of Education (DOE) to develop applied algebra courses for designated career clusters on a phased timeline for district adoption in 2027-2028 and 2028-2029, authorizes districts to offer these courses in lieu of Algebra 1 (with successful completion satisfying Algebra 1 credit requirements for graduation or middle grades promotion), requires course alignment with the Algebra I end-of-course assessment and requires coordination to ensure the courses are accepted for state university admissions, supported by professional development and implementation resources.

The bill also updates Florida's existing secondary mathematics pathways by requiring the state's pathway workgroup to incorporate newly developed applied algebra courses that align Algebra 1 standards with career and technical education expectations. The bill requires the pathways to include at least one course sequence that includes an applied algebra course tied to a specific career cluster, allows flexibility for students to move between pathways, and creates clear links from precollege math to college-level pathways and workforce-aligned programs. The bill specifies pathway identification deadlines in September 2027 and September 2028.

The bill also requires the DOE to collaborate with the University of Florida's Lastinger Center to recommend an individualized, adaptive artificial intelligence tool to support K-12 math instruction and submit recommendations by December 1, 2026.

This bill has an indeterminate, likely significant, fiscal impact on the DOE. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Student Engagement in Mathematics

Student engagement in mathematics is a persistent challenge, particularly when students struggle to connect classroom content to real-world applications. A 2025 report by RAND reviewed reasons why student performance has not recovered to the pre-2019 student performance levels and had three key findings:

- About one-half of middle and high school students reported losing interest during their math lessons about half or more of the time.
- The students who are the most likely to maintain interest in math are the same ones who comprehend math, feel supported in math, are confident in their ability to do well in math, enjoy math, believe in the need to learn math, and see themselves as a math person.
- The students who are the most prone to disengage in math lessons want fewer online activities and more real-world applications in their math classes.¹

Specifically, 55 percent of the least engaged students want fewer online activities compared with 17 percent of the most engaged students. Regarding real-world math problems, 54 percent of the least engaged students want more real-world math problems compared with 37 percent of the most engaged students.² The findings on students who are disengaged from mathematics complements other research on career and technical education, which finds that occupationally focused courses with real-world applications help engage disadvantaged students because the material is directly relevant to their future.³

Over the course of 10 weeks in the fall of 2023, the UF Lastinger Center Listening Tour team traveled from the Panhandle to the Florida Keys to listen to students, educators, leaders and policymakers and gather their perspectives on mathematics education in Florida. The Lastinger Center produced five briefs covering the following topics of mathematics education:

- Student Experience.
- Math Beyond High School (employers).
- Teacher Experiences.
- Math Beyond the School Day (parents).
- Early Learning and Math.⁴

In the Student Experience brief, when students were asked what they would change about math class or what they wished for, students asked for opportunities to more actively engage with the mathematics content, collaborate with others, and for their mathematics experience to be fun.⁵

¹ RAND, *Students Lose Interest in Math*, p. 1 (2025), available at

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RRA3900/RRA3988-1/RAND_RRA3988-1.pdf, (last visited Jan. 27, 2026).

² *Id.* at 6

³ *Id.* at 8

⁴ University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning, *Lastinger Listening Tour Math Summit*, <https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/research/listening-tour/summit/> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

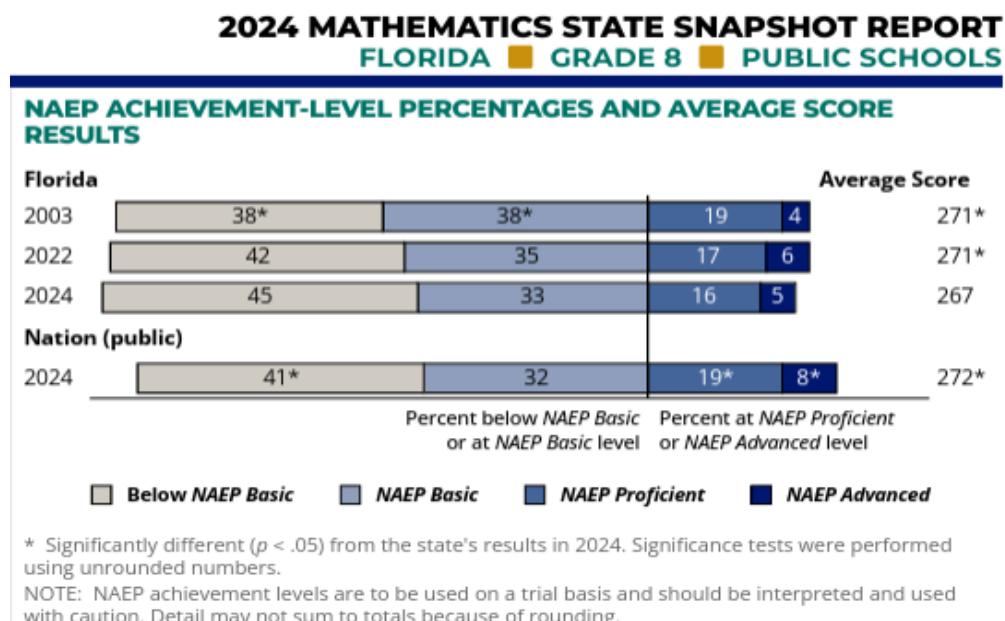
⁵ University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning, *Student Experiences in the Mathematics Classroom*, at 3 (2024), available at <https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Brief-1-Students-Experiences.pdf> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

Students also expressed a desire for less lecture and procedural practice, and more interaction with their peers to collaboratively solve problems.⁶ Employers expressed a real need for students to enter the workforce with a core set of skills that can be tailored to a career of their choosing.⁷

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) researched the connection of incorporating mathematics instruction into CTE courses. In the study, SREB found that students in the classrooms of teachers who trained in the Math-in-CTE model performed significantly better on standardized math tests and community college math placement tests than students who received the regular CTE curriculum. Students also improved their math skills without losing the technical skills needed for college and career readiness.⁸

Student Performance in Mathematics

On the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) report, 21 percent of Florida's grade 8 students scored at NAEP Proficient or NAEP Advanced levels,⁹ a 2 percent decrease from the 2022 results. Additionally, Florida's grade 8 students saw a 3 percent increase from 42 percent in 2022 to 45 percent in 2024 of students scoring at Below NAEP Basic. The chart below shows Florida's performance in Grade 8 NAEP Mathematics:¹⁰



⁶ University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning, *Student Experiences in the Mathematics Classroom*, at 4 (2024), available at <https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Brief-1-Students-Experiences.pdf> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

⁷ University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning, *Importance of School Mathematics Beyond High School*, at 3 (2024), available at <https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Brief-2-Beyond-High-School.pdf> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

⁸ Southern Regional Education Board, *Math-in-CTE Resources*, available at <https://www.sreb.org/nrccte-math-cte-resources>, (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

⁹ NAEP provides scores in four achievement levels: Below NAEP Basic, NAEP Basic, NAEP Proficient and NAEP Advanced.

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, *2024 NAEP Mathematics Results*, available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/stt2024/pdf/2024219FL8.pdf>, (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

On Florida's Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) assessment, there is a significant difference in performance between students who take Algebra I prior to entering high school versus students who take Algebra I while in high school. On the Algebra I EOC administration in the Spring of 2025, approximately 81,000 grade 8 students participated in the Algebra I EOC assessment, with 83 percent of students passing. In the same administration, approximately 95,000 grade 9 students participated in the Algebra I EOC assessment, with 40 percent of students passing. The table below shows the passing rate by grade level on the Spring 2025 Algebra I EOC administration.¹¹

Grade	Number of Students	Percentage in Level 3 or Above
All Grades	231,744	60
03	1	*
04	1	*
05	6	*
06	190	100
07	24,772	95
08	81,379	83
09	95,760	40
10	26,764	28
11	2,035	27
12	732	27
AD	104	10

Middle School Promotion and High Graduation Requirements

In order for a student to be promoted to high school from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the student must successfully complete the following courses:

- Three middle grades or higher courses in English Language Arts (ELA).
- Three middle grades or higher courses in mathematics.
- Three middle grades or higher courses in social studies.
- Three middle grades or higher courses in science.
- One course in career and education planning to be completed in grades 6, 7, or 8.

To be awarded a standard high school diploma under the 24-credit program requires students entering the ninth grade in 2023-2024 or later must earn the following credits:

- Four credits in English Language Arts (ELA) and students must pass the grade 10 ELA assessment.
- Four credits in mathematics and students must pass the Algebra I end-of-course assessment.

¹¹ Florida Department of Education, *2025 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking and B.E.S.T. Assessments*, available at <https://www.fl DOE.org/core/fileparse.php/5668/ur1t/33Spring25Alg1SS.xls>, (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

- Three credits in science.
- Three credits in social studies.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education.
- One credit in physical education, which includes the integration of health.
- Seven and one-half credits in electives.
- One-half credit in personal financial literacy.¹²

Students who earn an industry certification for which there is a statewide college credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute the certification for one mathematics credit. Substitution may occur for up to two mathematics credits, except for Algebra I and Geometry.

Mathematics Pathways

In 2023, the Legislature required the Department of Education (DOE) to convene a workgroup, no later than December 1, 2024, to:

- Identify best practices in career and technical education pathways from middle school to high school to aid middle school students in career planning and facilitate their transition to high school programs. The career pathway must be linked to postsecondary programs; and
- Establish three mathematics pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to programs, postsecondary education, and careers. The workgroup must collaborate to identify the three mathematics pathways and the mathematics course sequence within each pathway which align to the mathematics skills needed for success in the corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and careers.¹³

The DOE gathered a workgroup to discuss and determine three mathematics pathways for students enrolled in grades K-12 by aligning mathematics courses to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, postsecondary education and careers. The workgroup consisted of teacher-experts across the state selected through an application process and approved by the DOE. The workgroup met regularly to gather information and provide data for each of the mathematics pathways. Based on workgroup collaboration, the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support within the DOE recommends the three pathways, that are tentatively scheduled to be adopted by rule in the Fall of 2026:

- Algebraic Thinking - Students will engage in mathematics courses that provide a strong foundation for success within various fields including engineering, health sciences, information technology and energy.
- Statistical Thinking - Students will engage in mathematics courses that provide a strong foundation for success within various fields including finance, marketing, business administration and education.
- Quantitative Thinking - Students will engage in mathematics courses that provide a strong foundation for success within various fields including human services, education, communication, public safety and manufacturing.¹⁴

¹² Section 1003.4282(3), F.S.

¹³ Ch. 2023-81, s.22 Laws of Fla. *see also* s. 1003.4282(10), F.S.

¹⁴ Email, Florida Department of Education, Governmental Relations (Jan. 13, 2026) (on file with the Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12).

Artificial Intelligence in Education

Artificial intelligence (AI) provides opportunities to customize and accelerate learning for students and reduce teacher workload.¹⁵ However, school districts in Florida implement AI differently and are using different AI tools for educators and students. For example, in Hillsborough County School District, educators and students are using Ameria Learning as their main AI tool for instruction, whereas the Pinellas County School District not only uses Ameria Learning but several other AI tools. The top general AI tools being used by school districts are Microsoft Copilot, Canva, and Magicschool.ai and the top AI tools being used by students are Gemini for students, Khanmingo, Canva and Microsoft Copilot.¹⁶

In 2024, the Legislature passed HB 1361, which created the Florida Tutoring Advantage, administered by the UF Lastinger Center for Learning to support school districts with tutoring programs that include virtual tutoring and automated tutoring software for students in kindergarten through grade 5.¹⁷ A school district may receive grant funds for subscription fees and professional learning to support and accelerate learning for students in grades 6 through 12 during the school day. Grant recipients must select an AI platform that:

- Uses large language models based on GPT-4, its equivalent, or a successor, and is on a closed system.
- Provides professional learning to teachers.
- Provides one-on-one tutoring aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for reading and mathematics.
- Provides standards-aligned lesson plans and provides insights on student progress. Provides district- and school-level reporting and parental access to artificial intelligence interactions.¹⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates s. 1003.4936, F.S., to provide legislative intent that algebra is an important step in a student's mathematics pathway and is a prerequisite for higher level mathematics courses. The bill requires the DOE to develop an applied algebra course for each of the established CTE career clusters and provide professional development, instructional resources, and technical assistance to support district implementation. Each applied algebra course must:

- Integrate the CTE program standards and benchmarks for the relevant career cluster with the Florida Standards for Algebra I;
- Provide students with rigorous, career-relevant mathematical applications that demonstrate the use of algebraic concepts in authentic industry problems, processes, or settings;
- Prepare students to take the statewide, standardized Algebra I end-of-course assessment; and

¹⁵ Section 1002.321(3), F.S.

¹⁶ Dr. Maya Isreal, University of Florida, *Overview of AI in Florida Schools*, Presentation to the Student Academic Success Subcommittee, The Florida House of Representatives (Dec. 10, 2025), available at <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?MeetingId=14953&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

¹⁷ Chapter 2024-162, s. 9, Laws of Fla.

¹⁸ Section 1002.321(3), F.S.

- Meet all requirements for a mathematics credit required for high school or for middle grades promotion.

The bill requires the DOE to develop applied algebra courses by the following timeline:

- Applied algebra courses in the following career clusters must be developed and available for district adoption in the 2027-2028 school year:
 - Agriculture, food, and natural resources.
 - Architecture and construction.
 - Business management and administration.
 - Energy.
 - Engineering and technology education.
 - Finance.
 - Health science.
 - Information technology.
 - Manufacturing.
 - Transportation and distribution logistics.
- Applied algebra courses in the following career clusters must be developed and available for district adoption in the 2028-2029 school year:
 - Arts, AV technology, and communications.
 - Education and training.
 - Government and public administration.
 - Hospitality and tourism.
 - Human services.
 - Law, public safety, and security.
 - Marketing, sales, and service.

The bill authorizes school districts to offer one or more applied algebra courses in lieu of Algebra I, and successful completion of the course will satisfy the Algebra I credit requirement for high school graduation or middle grades promotion. The bill also requires the DOE to work with the Board of Governors of the State University System to ensure that each applied algebra course is accepted as a mathematics credit for state university admissions.

The bill amends s. 1003.4282, F.S., to expand upon the DOE's requirement to establish three mathematics pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to programs, postsecondary education, and careers. The bill requires the mathematics pathways to include:

- The applied algebra courses established by the bill, which are required to be aligned to the Florida Standards for Algebra I with the career and technical education (CTE) standards and benchmarks for each designated career cluster;
- At least one course sequence beginning with an applied algebra course aligned to a specific career cluster. The workgroup must identify additional mathematics courses that follow each applied algebra course and build on the algebraic reasoning, modeling, and quantitative skills introduced through industry-relevant applications. The mathematics pathways may include a plan to create new mathematics courses to complete a pathway;
- Flexibility and the ability to move between pathways if necessary; and

- Clear links between precollege mathematics and college-level math pathways, and support student progression into postsecondary academic programs, state college career and technical education programs, career center programs, industry certification programs, and high-skill, high-wage occupations.

The bill requires the DOE's workgroup to submit identified mathematics pathways that incorporate the first set of applied algebra courses established in the bill no later than September 1, 2027, and the second set of applied algebra courses established in the bill no later than September 1, 2028, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill creates an undesignated section of law that requires the DOE to collaborate with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida to recommend to the Legislature an individualized, adaptive artificial intelligence tool to support mathematics instruction in kindergarten through grade 12. The DOE must submit its recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2026. The recommendations must:

- Ensure that recommended tools align to the Florida academic standards and prepare students for state assessments;
- Consider alternate mathematics sequencing and grade-level progression, and alternate funding models to support individualized progression through content;
- Evaluate the extent to which tools provide real-time diagnostic assessments, individualized learning pathways, adaptive sequencing of content, and immediate, personalized feedback to students;
- Evaluate the applicability of the tool to progress monitoring tools, district learning management systems, suggested interventions, small-group instructional supports, and professional development that enables teachers to integrate the tools into classroom instruction;
- Provide for student data privacy and transparency in data collection and retention; and
- Consider statewide and district-level costs.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop algebra courses. In order to implement the bill, the DOE estimated it would need \$698,693, which includes salary and benefits for five new positions and funding to support workgroup operations such as travel, lodging, meeting space and related operating expenses.

The bill also requires the DOE to collaborate with the Lastinger Center for Learning to recommend to the Legislature an individualized, adaptive artificial intelligence tool to support mathematics instruction in kindergarten through grade 12. The costs for developing such recommendations can be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill authorizes school districts to choose to offer one or more applied algebra courses in lieu of Algebra I. If any school district chooses to offer one of the courses developed by the DOE, then the DOE is required to provide professional development, instructional resources, and technical assistance to support district implementation.¹⁹

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

¹⁹ Department of Education, *Senate Bill 920 Fiscal Analysis* (Dec. 19, 2025) (on file with the Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K-12 Education).

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1003.4282 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates section 1003.4936 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Law.

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

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Gaetz

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to mathematics education; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; providing requirements for mathematics pathways established by a certain workgroup; requiring that certain courses for the mathematics pathways be identified by specified dates; requiring the workgroup to submit identified mathematics pathways to the Governor and the Legislature; creating s. 1003.4936, F.S.; providing legislative findings; requiring the Department of Education to develop applied algebra courses; providing requirements for the applied algebra courses; requiring the department to develop the courses on specified timelines; requiring the department to collaborate with the Board of Governors of the State University System to ensure the courses are accepted as mathematics credits for state university admissions; requiring the department to collaborate with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida to make specified recommendations to the Legislature; providing requirements for the recommendations; requiring the department to submit its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section

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30 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

32 (10) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDIT.—The Department
33 of Education shall convene a workgroup, ~~no later than December~~
34 ~~1, 2024~~, to:

35 (b) Establish three mathematics pathways for students
36 enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to
37 programs, postsecondary education, and careers. The workgroup
38 shall collaborate to identify the three mathematics pathways and
39 the mathematics course sequence within each pathway which align
40 to the mathematics skills needed for success in the
41 corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and
42 careers.

43 1. The mathematics pathways must incorporate the applied
44 algebra courses established under s. 1003.4936 which align the
45 Florida Standards for Algebra 1 with the career and technical
46 education standards and benchmarks for each designated career
47 cluster.

48 2. Each mathematics pathway must include at least one
49 course sequence beginning with an applied algebra course aligned
50 to a specific career cluster. The workgroup shall identify
51 additional mathematics courses that follow each applied algebra
52 course and build on the algebraic reasoning, modeling, and
53 quantitative skills introduced through industry-relevant
54 applications. The mathematics pathways may include a plan to
55 create new mathematics courses to complete a pathway.

56 3. Each mathematics pathway must offer flexibility and the
57 ability to move between pathways if necessary.

58 4. Mathematics pathways must create clear links between

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59 precollege mathematics and college-level math pathways, and
60 support student progression into postsecondary academic
61 programs, state college career and technical education programs,
62 career center programs, industry certification programs, and
63 high-skill, high-wage occupations.

64 5. The mathematics pathways that incorporate applied
65 algebra courses created under s. 1003.4936(3)(a)1. must be
66 identified no later than September 1, 2027. The mathematics
67 pathways that incorporate applied algebra courses created under
68 s. 1003.4936(3)(a)2. must be identified no later than September
69 1, 2028. The workgroup shall submit identified mathematics
70 pathways to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
71 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

72 Section 2. Section 1003.4936, Florida Statutes, is created
73 to read:

74 1003.4936 Applied algebra for career and technical
75 education.—

76 (1) The Legislature finds that algebra is an important step
77 in a student's mathematics pathway. Algebra is a prerequisite
78 for higher level mathematics courses, and success in algebra is
79 strongly connected with later mathematics success. Establishing
80 an applied algebra course that integrates career and technical
81 education standards equips students with mathematical skills
82 directly connected to real industry practices and increases the
83 relevance of algebra instruction. By contextualizing algebraic
84 concepts within authentic occupational problems, such applied
85 algebra courses improve student engagement, strengthen
86 understanding of core math standards, and better prepare
87 students for high-skill, high-wage careers. Such a course will

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enable students to pass the Algebra 1 end-of-course assessment, but also develop practical skills that support success in Florida's workforce and postsecondary pathways.

(2) The Department of Education shall develop an applied algebra course for each of the established career and technical education career clusters. Each applied algebra course must:

(a) Integrate the career and technical education program standards and benchmarks for the relevant career cluster with the Florida Standards for Algebra 1.

(b) Provide students with rigorous, career-relevant mathematical applications that demonstrate the use of algebraic concepts in authentic industry problems, processes, or settings.

(c) Prepare students to take the statewide, standardized Algebra 1 end-of-course assessment required under s. 1008.22.

(d) Meet all requirements for a mathematics credit required for high school graduation under s. 1003.4282(3)(b) or for middle grades promotion pursuant to s. 1003.4156(1)(b).

(3) (a) The department shall develop the courses on the following timelines:

1. Applied algebra courses in the following career clusters must be developed and available for district adoption in the 2027-2028 school year:

- a. Agriculture, food, and natural resources.
- b. Architecture and construction.
- c. Business management and administration.
- d. Energy.
- e. Engineering and technology education.
- f. Finance.
- g. Health science.

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117 h. Information technology.

118 i. Manufacturing.

119 j. Transportation and distribution logistics.

120 2. Applied algebra courses in the following career clusters

121 must be developed and available for district adoption in the

122 2028-2029 school year:

123 a. Arts, AV technology, and communications.

124 b. Education and training.

125 c. Government and public administration.

126 d. Hospitality and tourism.

127 e. Human services.

128 f. Law, public safety, and security.

129 g. Marketing, sales, and service.

130 (b) In grades 6 through 12, school districts may offer one

131 or more applied algebra courses in lieu of Algebra 1, and

132 successful completion of the course will satisfy the Algebra 1

133 credit requirement for high school graduation or middle grades

134 promotion.

135 (c) The department shall collaborate with the Board of

136 Governors of the State University System to ensure that each

137 applied algebra course is accepted as a mathematics credit for

138 state university admissions.

139 (d) The department shall provide professional development,

140 instructional resources, and technical assistance to support

141 district implementation.

142 Section 3. (1) The Department of Education shall

143 collaborate with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the

144 University of Florida to recommend to the Legislature an

145 individualized, adaptive artificial intelligence tool to support

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146 mathematics instruction in kindergarten through grade 12. The
147 recommendations must:

148 (a) Ensure that recommended tools align to the Florida
149 academic standards and prepare students for state assessments.

150 (b) Consider alternate mathematics sequencing and grade-
151 level progression, and alternate funding models to support
152 individualized progression through content.

153 (c) Evaluate the extent to which tools provide real-time
154 diagnostic assessments, individualized learning pathways,
155 adaptive sequencing of content, and immediate, personalized
156 feedback to students.

157 (d) Evaluate the applicability of the tool to progress
158 monitoring tools, district learning management systems,
159 suggested interventions, small-group instructional supports, and
160 professional development that enables teachers to integrate the
161 tools into classroom instruction.

162 (e) Provide for student data privacy and transparency in
163 data collection and retention.

164 (f) Consider statewide and district-level costs.

165 (2) The department shall submit its recommendations to the
166 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
167 House of Representatives by December 1, 2026.

168 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

S00920

GENERAL BILL by Gaetz; (Compare S 07036)

Mathematics Education. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2026.

01/20/26 S Favorable by Education Pre-K - 12; YEAS 8 NAYS 0; Now in Appropriations Committee
on Pre-K - 12 Education

01/30/26 S On Committee agenda-- Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education, 02/04/26,
1:00 pm, 37 Senate Building --Temporarily Postponed



2026 AGENCY LEGISLATIVE BILL ANALYSIS

Florida Department of Education

<u>BILL INFORMATION</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	SB 920
BILL TITLE:	Mathematics Education
BILL SPONSOR:	Senator Gaetz
EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 1, 2026
<u>COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE</u>	
1) Education Pre-K-12	
2) Appropriations Committee on Pre-K-12 Education	
3) Fiscal Policy	
4)	
5)	
<u>CURRENT COMMITTEE</u>	
<u>SIMILAR BILLS</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	
<u>IDENTICAL BILLS</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	
<u>Is this bill part of an agency package?</u>	
No.	
<u>BILL ANALYSIS INFORMATION</u>	
DATE OF ANALYSIS:	December 19, 2025
LEAD AGENCY ANALYST:	Dr. Josey McDaniel
ADDITIONAL ANALYST(S):	ARM, CAE, FCS
LEGAL ANALYST:	Michael Barrett
FISCAL ANALYST:	Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Finance and Operations

POLICY ANALYSIS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1. amends section (s.) 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, to:

- Remove the required date to convene the mathematics pathways workgroup.
- Require that the mathematics pathways incorporate the applied algebra courses established under s. 1003.4936, Florida Statutes.
- Require that each mathematics pathway begins with an applied algebra course aligned to a specific career cluster.
- Convene a workgroup to identify mathematics courses that follow each applied algebra course.
- Require that mathematics pathways offer flexibility for students and create clear links and support for students' progression into postsecondary, college and career and technical education programs, career centers, industry certification programs and high-skill, high-wage occupations.
- Require the department to identify the mathematics pathways that incorporate the applied algebra course by September 1, 2027; identify and create the new applied algebra courses by September 1, 2028; and submit the identified courses to the Governor, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representative.

Section 2. creates s. 1003.4936, Florida Statutes, to:

- Establish an applied algebra course that integrates career and technical education standards and enables students to pass the Algebra 1 end-of-course assessment while developing practical skills that support success in Florida's workforce and postsecondary pathways.
- Require the department to develop an applied algebra course for each of the established career and technical education career clusters, integrating the career and technical education standards and benchmarks with the Algebra 1 standards and benchmarks and ensuring that each course prepares students for the Algebra 1 end-of-course assessment and meets all requirements for a mathematics credit.
- Provide a timeline for the department to develop the applied algebra courses in each of the established career and technical education career clusters.
- Allow districts to offer one or more applied algebra courses in lieu of Algebra 1 to satisfy the Algebra 1 requirement upon successful completion of the course.
- Require the department to collaborate with Board of Governors to ensure that each applied algebra course is accepted as a mathematics credit for state university admissions.
- Require the department to provide professional development, resources and technical information regarding the applied algebra course.

Section 3.

- Requires the department to collaborate with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida to recommend an adaptive artificial intelligence tool to support mathematics instruction in grades kindergarten to grade 12.
- Requires that the recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2026, include:
 - alignment to Florida's state academic standards;
 - preparation for statewide assessments;
 - consideration of alternate mathematics grade-level progression;
 - evaluation of the extent to which tools provide real-time diagnostic assessments, individualized learning and immediate feedback to students;
 - applicability of the tool to existing progress monitoring tools, integration to district management systems, suggested interventions and small group, and professional development for teachers; and
 - student data privacy.

2. SUBSTANTIVE BILL ANALYSIS

1. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 1.

- Currently, the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS) has been collaborating with the Florida College System and the Division of Career, Technical and Adult Education to establish three mathematics pathways aligned to career and technical programs, postsecondary pathways and careers.

- Currently, BSIS is working with a group to develop the courses aligned to each of the pathways: Algebraic Thinking, Statistical Thinking and Quantitative Thinking.
 - Within all pathways, BSIS proposes to replace Algebra 1 and Geometry with Mathematics 1 and Mathematics 2 to equip students with the mathematical skills directly connected to industry practices, increasing the relevance of mathematics instruction.
 - Within each of the pathways, BSIS has connected each of the career and technical education career clusters to the courses developed, integrating the relevant college and career applications.
 - Within the Algebraic Thinking pathway, the group has developed an Advanced Algebra course that will incorporate applications for careers that require calculus and beyond.
- Currently, BSIS proposes to begin these pathways for the 2029-30 school year to allow for new statewide assessments to be developed and instructional materials to be implemented in classrooms.
- Currently, there are no specific standards within career and technical education that relate to mathematical skills.

Section 2.

- Currently, there is no law mandating an applied algebra course aligned to career and technical education.
- Currently, there are no specific standards within career and technical education that relate to mathematical skills.
- Section 1004.92(2)(b)4., F.S. requires that Career and Technical Education (CTE) standards and benchmarks be updated at least once every 3 years. General education academic standards are updated on an as-needed basis.
- Advance CTE, which oversees the development and maintenance of the National Career Clusters Framework in collaboration with a large body of other stakeholders, has released a significant update to the structure and nature of the system as of 2024. The Division of Career and Adult Education is investigating the merits and demerits of partial or total integration of the new National Career Clusters Framework into Florida CTE. One feature of the new system is 'Cross-Cutting Clusters,' which are content areas that pervade all other Career Clusters. The Cross-Cutting Clusters include Management & Entrepreneurship, Digital Technology, and Marketing & Sales.

Section 3.

- Currently, BSIS consults with The New Worlds Tutoring Program through the Lastinger Center for Learning on best practices for mathematics tutoring.

2. EFFECT OF THE BILL:

Section 1.

- The bill will require the department to reestablish a new workgroup to redevelop the three mathematics pathways already in progress.
- Instructional materials will need to be revised to include the applied algebra course aligned to each of the career and technical education career clusters.
- The bill will require reports to the Legislature on the mathematics pathways that incorporate applied algebra courses by September 1, 2027, and by September 1, 2028, depending on the established career and technical education career clusters.
- Section 1 of the bill requires the identification of the applied algebra course by September 1, 2027; however, Section 2 requires that courses are available to districts during the 2027-28 school year. Therefore, courses will need to be identified well before the September 1, 2027, deadline to ensure resources are available.
- If applied algebra courses include standards and benchmarks within career and technical education, educators may need to be certified in both mathematics and career and technical education.
 - Educators of the applied algebra courses will need to specialize in both mathematics and one or more of the career and technical education career clusters. Public schools are already in need of mathematics educators; this may expand the need.

Section 2.

- The bill will require the department to reestablish a new workgroup to redevelop the three mathematics pathways already in progress.
- The bill will require the development of 17 different applied algebra courses to ensure alignment to each of the career and technical education career clusters before the beginning of either the 2027-28 or the 2028-29 school year.
- Section 1 of the bill requires the identification of the applied algebra course by September 1, 2027; however, Section 2 requires that courses are available to districts during the 2027-28 school year.

Therefore, courses will need to be identified well before the September 1, 2027, deadline to ensure resources are available.

- The current Algebra 1 course may have to be reduced to allow for career and technical education standards to be added and equal the instruction for 180 days in a school year.
- If public schools choose to offer one or more applied algebra courses in lieu of Algebra 1, they will need to ensure proper staff and scheduling to allow the flexibility of these courses. Additionally, public schools may need to purchase new instructional materials aligned to the applied algebra courses.
- If applied algebra courses include standards and benchmarks within career and technical education, educators may need to be certified in both mathematics and career and technical education.
 - Educators of the applied algebra courses will need to specialize in both mathematics and one or more of the career and technical education career clusters. Public schools are already in need of mathematics educators; this may expand the need.
- The bill will require the development of professional learning, resources and technical resources by the department.
- The development of so many pathways may be confusing to students and families, based on a student's interest and academic track.
- The department is concerned that having to choose from so many pathways may lock students into a track with limited flexibility to move between tracks should students' interests change.
- School districts may not be able to hire certified individuals for all pathways in the bill.

Section 3.

- The bill will require recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2026.
- To effectively provide recommendations on an individualized, adaptive artificial intelligence tool, the department would need to :
 - Have a list of all available tools to be able to evaluate;
 - Create a rubric for evaluating and identifying recommended programs;
 - Access to all available tools to be able to evaluate based on the criteria within the bill; and
 - Request costs of all available tools to be able to consider costs for districts.

3. DOES THE LEGISLATION DIRECT OR ALLOW THE AGENCY/BOARD/COMMISSION/DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, OR ELIMINATE RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, OR PROCEDURES?

If yes, explain:	The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards and courses and to pursue the assessment requirements.
Is the change consistent with the agency's core mission?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rule(s) impacted (provide references to F.A.C., etc.):	Rule 6A-1.09401, Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.09441, Florida Administrative Code

4. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF AFFECTED CITIZENS OR STAKEHOLDER GROUPS?

Proponents and summary of position:	Unknown.
Opponents and summary of position:	Unknown.

5. ARE THERE ANY REPORTS OR STUDIES REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?

If yes, provide a description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department shall submit identified mathematics pathways to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. • The department shall submit recommendations for the individualized, adaptive artificial intelligence tool to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
Date Due:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1, 2027, and September 1, 2028 • December 1, 2026
Bill Section Number(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 • 3

6. ARE THERE ANY NEW GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS OR CHANGES TO EXISTING BOARDS, TASK FORCES, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?

Board:	
Board Purpose:	
Who Appoints:	
Changes:	
Bill Section Number(s):	

FISCAL ANALYSIS

1. FISCAL IMPACT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Revenues:	None.
Expenditures:	<p>School districts will incur significant new costs to purchase instructional materials aligned to up to 17 new mathematics courses and to provide professional learning for teachers. Districts cannot absorb these costs with existing budgets. Recent instructional materials adoptions, including the most recent English Language Arts adoption, resulted in cost increases of approximately 300 percent for districts. To support successful implementation, the department will require an appropriation to provide funding to local school districts for the purchase of instructional materials required for the new mathematics courses. Without this support, districts may be unable to implement the courses as required.</p> <p>When scaled across Florida's 67 school districts, first-year instructional materials and professional learning costs are expected to exceed available local funding capacity, supporting the need for a one-time \$50 million state appropriation to ensure consistent statewide implementation.</p> <p>Example Cost Impact – District-Level (Illustrative Only)</p> <p>Small District (~10,000 students; ~2,500 in grades 9–12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New courses: 5–6 applied algebra courses • Instructional materials: \$80–\$120 per student • Estimated materials cost: \$200,000–\$300,000 • Professional learning: \$40,000–\$75,000 • Estimated first-year cost: \$240,000–\$375,000 <p>Medium District (~25,000 students; ~6,000 in grades 9–12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New courses: 8–10 applied algebra courses • Instructional materials: \$80–\$120 per student • Estimated materials cost: \$480,000–\$720,000 • Professional learning: \$75,000–\$150,000 • Estimated first-year cost: \$550,000–\$870,000 <p>Large District (~100,000+ students; ~25,000 in grades 9–12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New courses: 12–17 applied algebra courses • Instructional materials: \$80–\$120 per student • Estimated materials cost: \$2.0M–\$3.0M • Professional learning: \$250,000–\$500,000 • Estimated first-year cost: \$2.25M–\$3.5M

Does the legislation increase local taxes or fees? If yes, explain.	No.
If yes, does the legislation provide for a local referendum or local governing body public vote prior to implementation of the tax or fee increase?	

2. FISCAL IMPACT TO STATE GOVERNMENTY N

Revenues:	None.																																																																																												
Expenditures:	To implement this bill within the required timelines, the department will need additional staff and operating resources. The department will require five Program Specialist IV (PS IV) positions, including two positions for mathematics content and standards development, and three positions to support instructional materials review and adoption. These positions are needed to manage course development, coordinate statewide workgroups, support cross-division and post-secondary collaboration, develop professional learning, and complete required legislative reporting. The positions would be hired at the starting range for a Program Specialist IV position (\$114,739, including salary and benefits). As shown in the table on the following page, the five needed positions would cost \$573,695.																																																																																												
	FY 2026-27 Per FTE Cost for Program Specialist IV Positions																																																																																												
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Position</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total FTE Needed</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Salary Rate Per FTE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Benefits Per FTE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total Salary Rate for all FTE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Salaries & Benefits for all FTE</th> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Expense Category 040000</th> <th style="text-align: center;">HR Category 107040</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Ed Tech Category 210020</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total All Funds</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Recurring</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nonrecurring</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Program Specialist IV</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$50,585</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$37,016</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$185,080</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$438,005</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$38,960</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$32,185</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$69,145</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1,779</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$64,764</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$573,693</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$ -</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$ -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTALS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td colspan="2" rowspan="6" style="background-color: black; color: white;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$185,080</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$438,005</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$38,960</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$32,185</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$69,145</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1,779</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$64,764</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$573,693</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="10" style="text-align: right;"> Nonrecurring \$32,185 Recurring \$541,508 </td></tr> </tbody> </table>										Position	Total FTE Needed	Salary Rate Per FTE	Benefits Per FTE	Total Salary Rate for all FTE	Salaries & Benefits for all FTE	Expense Category 040000			HR Category 107040	Ed Tech Category 210020	Total All Funds							Recurring	Nonrecurring	Total				Program Specialist IV	5	\$50,585	\$37,016	\$185,080	\$438,005	\$38,960	\$32,185	\$69,145	\$1,779	\$64,764	\$573,693							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	TOTALS	5			\$185,080	\$438,005	\$38,960	\$32,185	\$69,145	\$1,779	\$64,764	\$573,693		Nonrecurring \$32,185 Recurring \$541,508									
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	In addition to the personnel needed, the department would also require an annual appropriation of \$125,000 to support workgroup operations, including travel, lodging, meeting space, and related operating expenses. The projected annual cost for the department to implement the bill will be \$698,693.																																																																																												
	To implement the requirements of the Lastinger Center as outlined in the bill, there will be additional costs. The estimated amount is indeterminate at this time.																																																																																												
Does the legislation contain a State Government appropriation?	No.																																																																																												
If yes, was this appropriated last year?																																																																																													

3. FISCAL IMPACT TO THE PRIVATE SECTORY N

Revenues:	If school districts need to hire instructors certified in both math and career and technical education as a result of this bill, there may be associated job opportunities. If new instructional materials are needed, vendors of such materials may realize additional revenue.
Expenditures:	None.
Other:	

4. DOES THE BILL INCREASE OR DECREASE TAXES, FEES, OR FINES?

If yes, explain impact.		
Bill Section Number:		

TECHNOLOGY IMPACT**1. DOES THE BILL IMPACT THE AGENCY'S TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (I.E. IT SUPPORT, LICENSING SOFTWARE, DATA STORAGE, ETC.)?**

If yes, describe the anticipated impact to the agency including any fiscal impact.	
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FEDERAL IMPACT**1. DOES THE BILL HAVE A FEDERAL IMPACT (I.E. FEDERAL COMPLIANCE, FEDERAL FUNDING, FEDERAL AGENCY INVOLVEMENT, ETC.)?**

If yes, describe the anticipated impact including any fiscal impact.	
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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- In 2018, the department collaborated with the Florida College System on the Mathematics Re-Design Project to develop secondary courses to successfully prepare high school students for mathematics pathways at the postsecondary level.
 - From this work, the following courses were included with the B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics to support students postsecondary: Mathematics for College Algebra, Mathematics for College Statistics and Mathematics for Liberal Arts.
- In 2023, Senate Bill 240 amended s. 1003.4282(10)(b), Florida Statutes, requiring FDOE to convene a workgroup to:
 - establish three mathematics pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to programs, postsecondary education, and careers.
 - identify the three mathematics pathways and the mathematics course sequence within each pathway which align to the mathematics skills needed for success in the corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and careers.
- BSIS has been collaborating with the Florida College System and the Division of Career, Technical and Adult Education (DCAE) throughout 2024 by leading the mathematics pathways workgroup.
- Currently, BSIS is working with a group to develop the courses aligned to each of the pathways:
 - Within the Algebraic Thinking pathway, students will engage in mathematics courses that provide them with a strong foundation for success within various fields including engineering, health sciences, information technology and energy.

- Within the Statistical Thinking pathway, students will engage in mathematics courses that provide them with a strong foundation for success within various fields including finance, marketing, health sciences, business administration and education.
- Within the Quantitative Thinking pathway, students will engage in mathematics courses that provide them a strong foundation for success within various fields including human services, education, communication, public safety and manufacturing.
- BSIS plans to have these new pathways implemented during the 2029-2030 school year to ensure districts can prepare staff and scheduling and purchase new instructional materials. Implementing during the 2029-2030 school year will also allow the department to provide necessary professional learning, resources and technical assistance for districts.
- Lines 94-96 – if career and technical education program standards are integrated with the Algebra 1 course, how will this affect instructional time to teach the additional content of the career and technical education? Will the current Algebra 1 course need to be reduced in order to accommodate the additional career and technical education standards?
- Lines 107-129 – how will educators earn certification for the 17 applied algebra courses? Will they be required to be certified in both mathematics and the career and technical education career clusters?
- Lines 107-134 – how will schools be able to handle scheduling of various applied algebra courses ensuring that the correct educators are scheduled to teach these courses?
- Line 159-161 – this language contradicts language in s. 1008.25(6)(a)1.b., Florida Statutes, which states that mathematics interventions are delivered by a highly qualified teacher of mathematics or a trained tutor.
- Lines 110-119 – The career clusters are in the process of being updated (likely for 2027-28); there will be 14 clusters in the new taxonomy. See current list: Advanced Manufacturing; Agriculture Arts, Entertainment & Design; Construction; Digital Technology; Education; Energy & Natural Resources; Financial Services; Healthcare & Human Services; Hospitality, Events & Tourism; Management & Entrepreneurship; Marketing & Sales; Public Service & Safety; Supply Chain & Transportation

LEGAL - GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE REVIEW

Issues/concerns/comments:	Section 3 directs the department to recommend a particular AI tool for math instruction to the Governor and the Legislature. It may be helpful for this section to direct the department to issue a report evaluating the effectiveness of various AI tools for math instruction according to the standards listed. Recommending AI tools could present conflict of interest issues in future bid procurements and instructional materials adoption cycles.
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Michael Barrett
Legal Analyst Signature

1/28/28
Date

APPROVALS

Dr. Josey McDaniel
Lead Program Policy Analyst

1/28/26
Date

850-245-0870
Phone Number

Dr. Paul Burns
Chancellor/Director/Direct Report

1/28/26
Date

Suzanne Pridgeon
Fiscal Analyst

1/28/26
Date

Amelia Johnson
Governmental Relations

1/29/26
Date

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 Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

BILL: CS/SB 1036

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K - 12 Committee and Senator Calatayud

SUBJECT: School Counselors

DATE: February 3, 2026 REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Sabitsch	Bouck	ED	Fav/CS
2. Gray	Elwell	AED	Favorable
3. _____	_____	RC	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

PLEASE MAKE SELECTION

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1036 provides an exemption for individuals employed as a school counselor from the current certification requirement to demonstrate mastery of both general and subject area knowledge but does not limit a school district from requiring that mastery as a condition of employment.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state revenues or expenditures. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Educator Certification

Florida law requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to classify school services, designate the certification subject areas, establish competencies and certification requirements for all school-based personnel. The SBE adopts rules by which professional, temporary, and part-time certificates are issued by the Department of Education (DOE) to applicants who meet the established standards. Florida law requires each person in the following positions in any public school to hold an educator certificate required by law and by rules of the SBE:

- School supervisor.

- School principal.
- Teacher.
- Library media specialist.
- School counselor.
- Athletic coach.
- Other positions in which the individual serves in an instructional capacity.¹

The purpose of certification is to require school-based personnel to “possess the credentials, knowledge, and skills necessary to allow the opportunity for a high-quality education in the public schools.”²

The DOE issues three main types of educator certificates:

- Professional Certificate: The professional certificate is Florida’s highest type of full-time educator certification.³ The professional certificate is valid for five years and is renewable.⁴
- Temporary Certificate: The temporary certificate covers employment in full-time positions for which educator certification is required.⁵ An individual holding a temporary certificate must demonstrate mastery of general knowledge and professional preparation and education competence in order to apply for a professional certificate. Generally, a temporary certificate is valid for five years and is nonrenewable.⁶
- Athletic Coaching Certificate: The athletic coaching certificate covers full-time and part-time employment as a public school’s athletic coach.⁷ The DOE issues two types of athletic coaching certificates – one is valid for five years and may be issued for subsequent five-year periods while the other is valid for three years and may be issued only once. The five-year certificate requires satisfaction of certain specialization requirements established in rule.⁸

Professional Certificate Requirements

To be eligible for a professional certificate, a person must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Sign an affidavit attesting that the applicant will uphold the U.S. and State Constitutions;
- Earn a bachelor’s or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher learning or from a nonaccredited institution identified by the DOE as having a quality program resulting in a bachelor’s or higher degree;
- Submit to fingerprinting and background screening and not have a criminal history that requires the applicant’s disqualification from certification or employment;
- Be of good moral character;
- Be competent and capable of performing the duties, functions, and responsibilities of a teacher;
- Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge;

¹ Section 1012.55(1), F.S.

² Section 1012.54, F.S.

³ Rule 6A-4.004(5), F.A.C.

⁴ Section 1012.56(7), F.S.

⁵ Rule 6A-4.004(1), F.A.C.

⁶ Section 1012.56(7), F.S.

⁷ Section 1012.55(2), F.S.

⁸ Rule 6A-4.004(7), F.A.C.

- Demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge; and
- Demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence, if the person serves as a classroom teacher or school administrator.⁹

Demonstrating Mastery of General Knowledge

Mastery of general knowledge may be demonstrated through any of the following methods:

- Achieving a passing score on the General Knowledge Test, which consist of subtests areas that include Essay, English Language Skills, Reading and Mathematics;¹⁰
- Achieving passing scores established in SBE rule on national or international examinations that test comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning skills (e.g., the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination);
- Providing documentation of a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another U.S. state or territory, by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), or by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE);
- Completing two semesters of successful, part-time or full-time teaching in a Florida College System institution, state university, or private college or university that awards an associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution or an institution identified by the DOE as having a quality program;
- Achievement of passing scores, identified in state board rule, on national or international examinations that test comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning skills, including, but not limited to, the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination and the SAT, ACT, and Classic Learning Test; or
- Documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary institution that the DOE has identified as having a quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher.¹¹

Demonstrating Mastery of Subject Area Knowledge

Mastery of subject area knowledge may be demonstrated through any of the following methods:

- Bachelor's Degree Level (for certification in a subject area for which SBE rule requires a bachelor's or higher degree):
 - If a Florida subject area examination has been developed, achieving a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination specified in SBE rule¹² or documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary institution that the DOE has identified as having a quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher in the certificate subject area as identified in SBE rule.
 - If a Florida subject area examination has not been developed, achieving a passing score on a standardized examination specified in SBE rule, including passing scores on both the

⁹ Section 1012.56(2), F.S.

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, pg. 14 (2025) , available at: <https://www.fl DOE.org/core/fileparse.php/7479/ur1/FTCE28thEdition22Rule.pdf> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

¹¹ Section 1012.56(3), F.S.

¹² Note: The Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida (2025), Twenty-Eighth Edition, includes the subject area examination for School Counseling PK-12.

oral proficiency and written proficiency examinations administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages or successful completion of a United States Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center program or a passing score on the Defense Language Proficiency Test.

- For certification in any other subject area for which there is no Florida subject area test or standardized examination specified in state board rule (e.g., Dance), completing the required bachelor's or higher degree and content courses specified in SBE rule and verification of subject area competence by the district school superintendent or, for a state-supported or private school, the school's chief administrative officer.
- Master's Degree Level (for certification in a subject area for which SBE rule requires a master's or higher degree): completing the required master's or higher degree and content courses specified in SBE rule and achieving a passing score on the corresponding Florida-developed subject area test or standardized examination specified in SBE rule.
- Out-of-State Certification: providing documentation of a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued for a subject area by another U.S. state or territory or by NBPTS or ABCTE, if the certificate is comparable to the Florida professional certificate issued for the same subject area.¹³

Educator Certification Examination Fees

The DOE sets registration fees for the various exams required for educator certification, including initial registration and retakes. For the general knowledge exam, the initial registration fee is \$130.00 for the full battery of four subjects. An individual is able to retake the general knowledge exam by subtest with the retake registration fees being the following:

- One subtest - \$32.50.
- Two subtests - \$65.00.
- Three subtests - \$97.50.
- Full battery retake - \$130.00.

For subject area examinations and the professional educational test, the initial and retake registration fee is \$150.00.¹⁴

Current law and rule provide for several fee waivers including the Military Testing Fee Waiver, Retired First Responder Fee Waiver,¹⁵ and Exceptional Student Education K–12/Elementary Education K–6 Waivers.¹⁶

Specific Requirements for School Counseling Certification

Florida Law provides multiple pathways to better enable students enrolled in postsecondary school counseling program to enter the workforce as certified school counselors.¹⁷ SBE rules outline three plans for specialized requirements for certification in school counseling in addition to the basic requirements for certification, as follows:

¹³ Section 1012.56(5), F.S.

¹⁴ Rule 6A-4.0021(4), F.A.C.

¹⁵ Section 1012.59(3), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 1012.59(4), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 1004.0982, F.S.

- Plan one consists of a master's or higher degree with a graduate major in guidance and counseling or school counseling that includes a minimum of 600 clock hours of supervised internship serving school-aged students in a prekindergarten, an elementary or a secondary school setting.¹⁸
- Plan two consists of a master's or higher degree with a graduate major in counseling other than guidance and counseling or school counseling as specified in plan one that includes a minimum of 600 clock hours of supervised internship with school-aged children and their families with at least 9 semester hours of graduate credit to include the following areas:
 - Student appraisal and evaluation methods in prekindergarten, elementary and secondary schools;
 - College and career planning for prekindergarten, elementary and secondary school students including college and career exploration and knowledge of financial aid and financing of postsecondary education options;
 - Principles, philosophy, organization and administration of a comprehensive school counseling program in prekindergarten, elementary and secondary schools; and
 - Consultation skills and techniques for conferring with groups such as agencies, teachers and parents.¹⁹
- Plan three consists of a master's or higher degree with a graduate major in school counseling that includes a minimum of 300 clock hours of supervised internship serving school-aged students in a prekindergarten, elementary or secondary school setting if the applicant:
 - Is a current full-time teacher;
 - Has been employed as a teacher for at least 5 school years; and
 - Has earned an effective or highly effective rating under Section 1012.34, F.S., on his or her performance evaluation for the most recent 3 years the teacher was employed in a Florida public school.²⁰

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 1012.55, F.S., to exempt school guidance counselors from the demonstration of mastery of both general knowledge and subject area knowledge requirements for educator certification. The bill specifies, however, that school districts are not precluded from requiring demonstration of mastery as a condition of employment.

The bill is effective on July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

¹⁸ Rule 6A-4.0181(1), F.A.C.

¹⁹ Rule 6A-4.0181(2), F.A.C.

²⁰ Rule 6A-4.0181(4), F.A.C.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill does not have a fiscal impact on state revenues or expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1012.55 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

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

CS by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee on January 20, 2026:

The committee substitute clarifies that the exemption from certification requirements authorized in the bill does not preclude public school districts from requiring the mastery of general and subject area knowledge as a condition of employment.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Calatayud

581-02037-26

20261036c1

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to school counselors; amending s. 1012.55, F.S.; providing that school counselors are exempt from specified certification requirements, unless required for employment by a school district; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsection (6) of section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), and a new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.—

(6) A person employed as a school counselor is exempt from the educator certification requirements in s. 1012.56(2)(g) and (h), relating to the mastery of general and subject area knowledge. Such exemption does not preclude a school district from requiring the person to demonstrate mastery of general and subject area knowledge as a condition of employment.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

S01036

GENERAL BILL/CS by ED, Calatayud; (Compare CS/CS/H 00753)

School Counselors. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2026.

01/22/26 S CS by Education Pre-K - 12 read 1st time

01/30/26 S On Committee agenda-- Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education, 02/04/26,
1:00 pm, 37 Senate Building

02/04/26 S Favorable by Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education; YEAS 10 NAYS 0

2/24/2026

Meeting Date

Senate Pre K12 Approp

Committee

Name Orange County Public Schools McMiller Phone 407 405 2050Address 445 W. Amelia St. Street Email marquise.mcmiller@ocps.netCity Orlando State FLZip 32801Speaking: For Against Information**OR**

Waive Speaking:

 In Support Against**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:** I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship. I am a registered lobbyist, representing:Orange County
Public Schools I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf](http://flesenate.gov/2020-2022JointRules.pdf)

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02/04/20

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

1036

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to
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Committee

Name Anisch Bonhomme

Phone _____

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Address _____

Street _____

Email _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

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compensation or sponsorship.

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representing:

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(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
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The Florida Senate

2/24/25
Meeting Date

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1036-Councilors
Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Florencia Munoz-Lagarre

Phone 786-643-3606

Address 628 Fernwood Rd
Street

Email Fioroml2001@gmail.com

City Key Biscayne State FL Zip 33149

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

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 Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

BILL: SB 1216

INTRODUCER: Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Public School Personnel Compensation

DATE: February 3, 2026 REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. <u>Brick</u>	<u>Bouck</u>	<u>ED</u>	Favorable
2. <u>Gray</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	Favorable
3. _____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1216 revises district school board compensation and salary schedule provisions. The bill:

- Specifies that the cost-of-living salary adjustment applies to certain district employees, provides that such an adjustment does not preclude other salary adjustments from additional funding sources, and removes the limitation that the adjustment may not exceed 50 percent of the annual adjustment provided to instructional personnel rated as effective;
- Expands the circumstances under which advanced degrees may be used in salary schedules for instructional personnel and school administrators and specifies what qualifies as an advanced degree for salary schedule purposes;
- Adds advanced degrees as a district-determined factor for differentiated pay under the grandfathered salary schedule; and
- Removes requirements governing the relative amounts of annual salary adjustments for employees rated highly effective and effective under the performance salary schedule.

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state revenues or expenditures. See **Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Cost-of-living salary adjustment

A district school board may provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment if the adjustment does not discriminate among comparable classes of employees based upon the salary schedule under

which they are compensated. The cost-of-living salary adjustment may not exceed 50 percent of the annual adjustment provided to instructional personnel rated as effective.¹

Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation

The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) includes a classroom teacher and other instructional personnel salary increase allocation that may be used to support the minimum base salary for full-time classroom teachers and FEFP funded certified prekindergarten teachers, or to provide salary increases to instructional personnel. Each district and charter school develops a salary distribution plan for the allocation, and the district submits the approved district plan and each approved charter school plan in the district to the Department of Education by October 1 of each fiscal year.²

Advanced Degrees

Advanced degrees may be used in setting a salary schedule for instructional personnel or school administrators if the advanced degree is held in the individual's area of certification.³

Grandfathered and Performance Salary Schedules

The grandfathered salary schedule serves as the basis for paying school employees hired before July 1, 2014. Instructional personnel on annual contract as of July 1, 2014, are placed on the performance salary schedule. Instructional personnel on continuing contract or professional service contract may opt into the performance salary schedule by relinquishing that contract and agreeing to annual contract status.⁴ An employee who opts into the performance salary schedule may not return to the grandfathered salary schedule.⁵

In determining the grandfathered salary schedule for instructional personnel, a district school board bases a portion of each employee's compensation upon performance demonstrated under the district's evaluation system and provides differentiated pay for instructional personnel and school administrators based upon district-determined factors, including additional responsibilities, school demographics, high-demand teacher needs areas, and level of job performance difficulties.

Performance Salary Schedule Salary Adjustments and Related Limitations

The performance salary schedule provides annual salary adjustments for instructional personnel and school administrators based upon performance determined under the district's evaluation

¹ Section 1012.22(1)(c), F.S.

² Section 1011.62(14), F.S.

³ Section 1012.22(1)(c), F.S.

⁴ *Id.* Instructional personnel hired before July 1, 1984, entered into continuing contracts entitled the employee to continued employment without the necessity of annual renewal. Section 231.36(3)(e), F.S. (1981). Instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 1984, and up to July 1, 2011, were awarded professional service contracts after three years of probationary service; such contracts were automatically renewed each year, unless the employee was charged with unsatisfactory performance. Section 1012.33(3), F.S.

⁵ Section 1012.22(1)(c), F.S.

system. A salary schedule may not provide an annual salary adjustment for an employee who receives a rating other than highly effective or effective for the year.

Salary adjustments for highly effective or effective performance include all of the following:

- The annual salary adjustment for an employee rated highly effective is at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available to an employee of the same classification through any other salary schedule adopted by the district.
- The annual salary adjustment for an employee rated effective is at least 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of the annual adjustment provided for a highly effective employee of the same classification.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill revises district school board compensation and salary schedule provisions.

Cost-of-Living Salary Adjustments

The bill amends s. 1012.22(1)(c)2., F.S., relating to cost-of-living adjustments provided by district school boards, to:

- Specify that the district school board's authority to provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment applies to district employees, including, but not limited to, instructional personnel, prekindergarten teachers, noninstructional personnel, and school administrators;
- Provide that a cost-of-living salary adjustment does not preclude a district school board from providing other salary adjustments from additional funding sources, including categorical funding, the classroom teacher and other instructional personnel salary increase under s. 1011.62(14), F.S., and supplemental funding sources, including grants; and
- Remove the limitation that a cost-of-living salary adjustment may not exceed 50 percent of the annual adjustment provided to instructional personnel rated as effective.

Advanced Degrees in Salary Schedules

The bill amends s. 1012.22(1)(c)3., F.S., relating to the use of advanced degrees in salary schedules, to:

- Expand the circumstances under which a district school board may use an advanced degree in setting a salary schedule for instructional personnel or school administrators by allowing an advanced degree held in the individual's area of certification, a field related to his or her teaching assignment, or a related field of study; and
- Specify that, for purposes of a salary schedule, an advanced degree may include:
 - A master's degree or higher that is in the individual's area of certification or teaching assignment; or
 - An advanced degree in another field if the individual has at least 18 graduate semester hours related to the individual's area of certification or teaching assignment.

⁶ Id.

Differentiated Pay Factors Under the Grandfathered Salary Schedule

The bill amends s. 1012.22(1)(c)4.b., F.S., relating to differentiated pay under the grandfathered salary schedule, to include advanced degrees among the district-determined factors a district school board may use in providing differentiated pay for instructional personnel and school administrators.

Performance Salary Schedule Annual Salary Adjustments

The bill amends s. 1012.22(1)(c)5.b., F.S., relating to salary adjustments under the performance salary schedule, to remove requirements governing how a district school board must establish annual salary adjustment amounts for employees rated highly effective and effective, including requirements that:

- The annual salary adjustment for an employee rated highly effective be at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available to an employee of the same classification through any other salary schedule adopted by the district; and
- The annual salary adjustment for an employee rated effective be equal to at least 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of the annual adjustment provided for a highly effective employee of the same classification.

The bill retains the limitation that an annual salary adjustment is provided only for an employee rated highly effective or effective for the year.

Conforming and Stylistic Revisions

The bill makes conforming and stylistic revisions throughout s. 1012.22(1)(c), F.S., including deleting an obsolete date reference and reorganizing language without substantively changing the operation of those provisions.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill does not have a fiscal impact on state revenues or expenditures. The bill provides districts flexibility regarding compensation and salary schedules. The impact on a district that chooses to take advantage of this flexibility is indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1012.22 of the Florida Statutes.

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.

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00435A-26

20261216

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

18 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
19 1012.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.22 Public school personnel; powers and duties of the
district school board.—The district school board shall:

27 (c) *Compensation and salary schedules.*—

28 1. Definitions.—As used in this paragraph:

29 a. "Adjustment" means an addition to the base salary

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20261216

30 schedule that is not a bonus and becomes part of the employee's
31 permanent base salary and is ~~shall~~ be considered compensation
32 under s. 121.021(22).

33 b. "Grandfathered salary schedule" means the salary
34 schedule or schedules adopted by a district school board before
35 July 1, 2014, pursuant to subparagraph 4.

36 c. "Instructional personnel" means instructional personnel
37 as defined in s. 1012.01(2) (a)-(d), excluding substitute
38 teachers.

39 d. "Performance salary schedule" means the salary schedule
40 or schedules adopted by a district school board pursuant to
41 subparagraph 5.

42 e. "Salary schedule" means any ~~the~~ schedule ~~or~~ schedules
43 used to provide the base salary for district school board
44 personnel.

45 f. "School administrator" means a school administrator as
46 defined in s. 1012.01(3) (c).

47 g. "Supplement" means an annual addition to the base salary
48 for the term of the negotiated supplement as long as the
49 employee continues his or her employment for the purpose of the
50 supplement. A supplement does not become part of the employee's
51 continuing base salary but is ~~shall~~ be considered compensation
52 under s. 121.021(22).

53 2. Cost-of-living adjustment.—A district school board may
54 provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment to district
55 employees, including, but not limited to, instructional
56 personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2), prekindergarten teachers,
57 noninstructional personnel, and school administrators as defined
58 in s. 1012.01(3) (c), if the adjustment÷

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59 a. does not discriminate among comparable classes of
60 employees based upon the salary schedule under which they are
61 compensated. A cost-of-living adjustment does not preclude a
62 district school board from providing other salary adjustments
63 from additional funding sources, including categorical funding
64 and the classroom teacher and other instructional personnel
65 salary increase under s. 1011.62(14) and supplemental funding
66 sources, including grants.

67 b. ~~Does not exceed 50 percent of the annual adjustment~~
68 ~~provided to instructional personnel rated as effective.~~

69 3. Advanced degrees.—A district school board may use
70 advanced degrees in setting a salary schedule for instructional
71 personnel or school administrators if the advanced degree is
72 held in the individual's area of certification, a field related
73 to his or her teaching assignment, or a related field of study.
74 For purposes of the salary schedule, an advanced degree may
75 include a master's degree or higher that is in the area of
76 certification or teaching assignment, or an advanced degree in
77 another field with a minimum of 18 graduate semester hours
78 related to the individual's area of certification or teaching
79 assignment.

80 4. Grandfathered salary schedule.—

81 a. The district school board shall adopt a salary schedule
82 or salary schedules to be used as the basis for paying all
83 school employees hired before July 1, 2014. Instructional
84 personnel on annual contract as of July 1, 2014, shall be placed
85 on the performance salary schedule adopted under subparagraph 5.
86 Instructional personnel on continuing contract or professional
87 service contract may opt into the performance salary schedule if

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20261216

88 the employee relinquishes such contract and agrees to be
89 employed on an annual contract under s. 1012.335. Such an
90 employee shall be placed on the performance salary schedule and
91 may not return to continuing contract or professional service
92 contract status. Any employee who opts into the performance
93 salary schedule may not return to the grandfathered salary
94 schedule.

95 b. In determining the grandfathered salary schedule for
96 instructional personnel, a district school board must base a
97 portion of each employee's compensation upon performance
98 demonstrated under s. 1012.34 and shall provide differentiated
99 pay for both instructional personnel and school administrators
100 based upon district-determined factors, including, but not
101 limited to, additional responsibilities, school demographics,
102 high-demand teacher needs areas, advanced degrees, and level of
103 job performance difficulties.

104 5. Performance salary schedule.—~~By July 1, 2014~~, The
105 district school board shall adopt a performance salary schedule
106 that provides annual salary adjustments for instructional
107 personnel and school administrators based upon performance
108 determined under s. 1012.34. Employees hired on or after July 1,
109 2014, or employees who choose to move from the grandfathered
110 salary schedule to the performance salary schedule shall be
111 compensated pursuant to the performance salary schedule once
112 they have received the appropriate performance evaluation for
113 this purpose.

114 a. Base salary.—The base salary shall be established as
115 follows:

116 (I) The base salary for instructional personnel or school

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20261216

117 administrators who opt into the performance salary schedule
118 shall be the salary paid in the prior year, including
119 adjustments only.

120 (II) Instructional personnel or school administrators new
121 to the district, returning to the district after a break in
122 service without an authorized leave of absence, or appointed for
123 the first time to a position in the district in the capacity of
124 instructional personnel or school administrator shall be placed
125 on the performance salary schedule.

126 b. Salary adjustments.—~~Salary adjustments for highly~~
127 ~~effective or effective performance shall be established as~~
128 ~~follows:~~

129 (I) ~~The annual salary adjustment under the performance~~
130 ~~salary schedule for an employee rated as highly effective must~~
131 ~~be at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary~~
132 ~~adjustment available to an employee of the same classification~~
133 ~~through any other salary schedule adopted by the district.~~

134 (II) ~~The annual salary adjustment under the performance~~
135 ~~salary schedule for an employee rated as effective must be equal~~
136 ~~to at least 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of the annual~~
137 ~~adjustment provided for a highly effective employee of the same~~
138 ~~classification.~~

139 (III) ~~A salary schedule shall not provide~~ An annual salary
140 ~~adjustment shall only be provided~~ for an employee who receives a
141 rating of other than highly effective or effective for the year.

142 c. Salary supplements.—In addition to the salary
143 adjustments, each district school board shall provide for salary
144 supplements for activities that must include, but are not
145 limited to:

40-00435A-26

20261216

146 (I) Assignment to a Title I eligible school.
147 (II) Assignment to a school that earned a grade of "F" or
148 three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 such that
149 the supplement remains in force for at least 1 year following
150 improved performance in that school.

(III) Certification and teaching in high-demand teacher needs areas. Statewide high-demand teacher needs areas shall be identified by the State Board of Education under s. 1012.07. However, the district school board may identify other areas of high-demand needs within the school district for purposes of this sub-sub-subparagraph and may remove areas identified by the state board which do not apply within the school district.

158 (IV) Assignment of additional academic responsibilities.

If budget constraints in any given year limit a district school board's ability to fully fund all adopted salary schedules, the performance salary schedule may ~~shall~~ not be reduced on the basis of total cost or the value of individual awards in a manner that is proportionally greater than reductions to any other salary schedules adopted by the district. Any compensation for longevity of service awarded to instructional personnel who are on any other salary schedule must be included in calculating the salary adjustments required by sub subparagraph b.

169 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

S01216

GENERAL BILL by Rodriguez; (Similar H 01187, S 01720)

Public School Personnel Compensation. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2026.

01/20/26 S Now in Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

01/30/26 S On Committee agenda-- Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education, 02/04/26,
1:00 pm, 37 Senate Building

02/04/26 S Favorable by Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education; YEAS 10 NAYS 0

2-4-26

The Florida Senate

TAB 4

SB 1216

Meeting Date

Appropriations Dec. 12

Committee

Name Alexis Underwood

Address 3950 Verona Cr
Street PANAMA CITY FL 32405

City

State

Zip

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

850 890 3424

Email Alexis.Underwood@Abcteach.org

Abcteach.org

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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Meeting Date

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

SB 1216

Bill Number or Topic

Appropriations Committee
On PreK-12 Education

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Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jeannie Ford

Phone 850-527-1268

Address 508 4th Street
Street

Email love2trach2@hotmail.co

Port St. Joe FL. 32456

City Port St. Joe

State FL

Zip 32456

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against



PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

2/4/2026

Meeting Date

Appropriations on Pre K-12

Committee

APPEARANCE RECORD

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SB1216

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Michael Grenon

Phone 321-412-8108

Address 112 Sea Breeze Cir
Street

Email reds87@bellsouth.net

Merritt Island FL

City

State

32953

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

2/4/26

Meeting Date

APPROPRIATIONS

Committee

Name DEREK DEBEVEC

Address 910 16th TERR

Street

Key West FL

City

State

33040

Zip

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
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SB 1216

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Phone 305-294-4965

Email kwd123@bellsouth.net

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against



I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf](https://www.flsenate.gov/2020-2022JointRules.pdf)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

2/4/26

Meeting Date

APPEARANCE RECORD1216

Bill Number or Topic

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Committee ON PRE K-12 EDUCATIONName Glenba AbicarPhone 786-376-1181Address 4305 SW 98 AVEmail GLENBA.ABICAR@GMAIL.COM

Street

City MiamiState FLZip 33165Speaking: For Against Information**OR**Waive Speaking: In Support Against**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:** I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship. I am a registered lobbyist, representing: I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

2/11/2026

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

Committee

Appropriations Pre-K-12 Ed

Deliver both copies of this form to
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Name Thomas S. Bugar II

Phone 407 756 3943

Address 716 Rockford Ter

Email Thomasbugar@gmail.com

Street

Lake Mary FL

State

32746

Zip

City

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/4/26

Meeting Date

SB 1216

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Christina Underwood

Phone

954.254.3240

Address

3321 SW 16th Strut

Street

Email

tina16@bellsouth.net

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

City

State

33312

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

2/4/26

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

12186

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Name Yale Olenick (Florida Educators Assoc.) Phone _____

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Address _____

Street _____

Email _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

*Florida
Education
Assoc.*

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf](http://www.flsenate.gov)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

2/4/26

Meeting Date

APPEARANCE RECORD

SB 1216

Bill Number or Topic

Appropriations on Pre-K-12 education

Committee

Name Diana Walker

Phone 305-393-1169

Address 61 S Conch Ave

Street

Email duckkey3@gmail.com

Marathon

FL

33050

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

 I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship. I am a registered lobbyist, representing: I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD2/4/2024

Meeting Date

1216

Bill Number or Topic

Appropriations Committee
on PreK-12 Ed.Deliver both copies of this form to
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Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Gordan LonghoferPhone 561-386-9254Address 3602 Old Lighthouse CircleEmail gordanlonghofer@gmail.com

Street

Wellington, FL 33414

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information**OR**Waive Speaking: In Support Against**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:** I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship. I am a registered lobbyist, representing: I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

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The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

APPROP Committee on PK-12 Ed

Committee

Name

PAGEL, CHRIS

Address

3002 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Street

FB

FL

32034

City

State

Zip

Deliver both copies of this form to
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1216

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Phone

(904) 753-0130

Email

mecdrafting@hotmail.com

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

2/4/2026

37S

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

Committee

Appropriations Com. on
PRE-12 EDUCATION

Name

GINA MORELLA

Phone

941-468-2086

Address

11977 XAVIER AVE

Street

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33981

City

State

Zip

Email

GINA.MORELLA.1171@gmail.com

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking:



In Support

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.



I am a registered lobbyist, representing:



I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 37

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Judge:

Started: 2/4/2026 1:02:25 PM

Ended: 2/4/2026 1:40:53 PM Length: 00:38:29

1:02:31 PM Sen. Burgess (Chair)
1:03:18 PM S 920
1:03:26 PM Sen. Gaetz
1:03:28 PM Sen. Burgess
1:03:41 PM S 1216
1:03:48 PM Sen. Rodriguez
1:05:08 PM Sen. Burgess
1:05:22 PM Sen. Rodriguez
1:05:23 PM Sen. Burgess
1:05:36 PM Alexis Underwood (waives in support)
1:05:42 PM Jeannie Ford (waives in support)
1:05:46 PM Michael Grenon (waives in support)
1:05:48 PM Derek Debevec (waives in support)
1:05:53 PM Glenda Abicie (waives in support)
1:05:56 PM Thomas Bugos (waives in support)
1:05:59 PM Christina Underwood (waives in support)
1:06:02 PM Yale Olenica, Florida Education Association (waives in support)
1:06:13 PM Sen. Massullo
1:06:22 PM Sen. Rodriguez
1:06:23 PM Sen. Massullo
1:07:14 PM Sen. Osgood
1:07:58 PM Sen. Rodriguez
1:08:04 PM Dianna Walker (waives in support)
1:08:06 PM Gordon Longhofer (waives in support)
1:08:10 PM Chris Pagel (waives in support)
1:08:13 PM Gina Morella (waives in support)
1:08:21 PM Sen. Rodriguez
1:09:09 PM Sen. Burgess
1:09:23 PM Recording Paused
1:13:49 PM Recording Resumed
1:14:00 PM S 1036
1:14:03 PM Sen. Calatayud
1:14:27 PM Questions
1:14:32 PM Sen. Pizzo
1:14:54 PM Sen. Calatayud
1:15:52 PM Sen. Pizzo
1:16:15 PM Sen. Calatayud
1:16:28 PM Marquise McMiller, Orange County Public Schools (waives in support)
1:16:35 PM Sen. Pizzo
1:16:58 PM Akisch Bonhomme
1:17:01 PM Sen. Burgess
1:17:03 PM A. Bonhomme
1:17:06 PM Sen. Burgess
1:17:09 PM A. Bonhomme
1:19:26 PM Sen. Burgess
1:19:27 PM Sen. Gaetz
1:19:32 PM A. Bonhomme
1:20:03 PM Sen. Gaetz
1:20:04 PM Sen. Burgess
1:20:13 PM Sen. Pizzo
1:20:16 PM A. Bonhomme
1:20:17 PM Sen. Pizzo

1:20:19 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:20:27 PM	A. Bonhomme
1:20:28 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:20:38 PM	A. Bonhomme
1:20:39 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:20:40 PM	A. Bonhomme
1:20:44 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:20:48 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:21:16 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:21:25 PM	Florence Jose Munoz-Legarre
1:21:26 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:21:33 PM	F. Munoz-Legarre
1:21:35 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:21:36 PM	Mr. Munoz-Legarre
1:24:34 PM	Sen. Massullo
1:24:42 PM	F. Munoz-Legarre
1:25:18 PM	Sen. Massullo
1:25:42 PM	F. Munoz-Legarre
1:26:58 PM	Senator Massullo
1:27:08 PM	Mr. Munoz-Legarre
1:27:11 PM	Sen. Massullo
1:27:15 PM	F. Munoz-Legarre
1:27:18 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:27:29 PM	F. Munoz-Legarre
1:27:34 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:27:36 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:27:38 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:27:46 PM	Chris Pagel
1:29:00 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:29:26 PM	Sen. Osgood
1:32:07 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:32:21 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:35:14 PM	Sen. Massullo
1:37:11 PM	Sen. Calatayud
1:37:13 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:37:29 PM	Sen. Calatuyud
1:39:31 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:39:58 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:40:06 PM	Sen. Yarborough
1:40:13 PM	Sen. Calatuyud
1:40:15 PM	Sen. Burgess