

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to high school reform; providing a popular
 3 name; creating s. 1003.413, F.S.; requiring each school
 4 district to establish policies to assist high school
 5 students to remain in school, graduate on time, and be
 6 prepared for postsecondary education and the workplace;
 7 authorizing supplemental educational services for certain
 8 students and providing funding therefor; providing
 9 criteria for calculation of school grades; creating the
 10 High School Reform Task Force and providing for
 11 appointment of members; requiring recommendation of a
 12 long-term plan relating to high school reform and
 13 specifying items to be addressed; providing for
 14 termination of the task force; providing an effective
 15 date.

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

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 19 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "High School
 20 Reform Act."

21 Section 2. Section 1003.413, Florida Statutes, is created
 22 to read:

23 1003.413 High school reform.--

24 (1) Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, each school
 25 district shall establish policies to assist high school students
 26 to remain in school, graduate on time, and be prepared for
 27 postsecondary education and the workforce. Such policies must
 28 address:

29 (a) Intensive reading remediation for students in grades 9
 30 through 12 scoring below Level 3 on FCAT Reading.

31 (b) Credit recovery options and course scheduling designed
 32 to allow high school students to earn credit for failed courses
 33 so that they are able to graduate on time.

34 (c) Immediate and frequent notification to parents of
 35 students who are in danger of not graduating from high school.

36 (d) Placement in alternative programs, such as programs
 37 that emphasize applied integrated curricula, small learning
 38 communities, support services, increased discipline, or other
 39 strategies documented to improve student achievement.

40 (e) Summer reading institutes for rising ninth graders
 41 scoring below Level 3 on FCAT Reading.

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 43 A student's participation in an instructional or remediation
 44 program prior to or immediately following entering grade 9 for
 45 the first time shall not affect that student's classification as
 46 a first-time ninth grader for reporting purposes, including
 47 calculation of graduation and dropout rates.

48 (2) Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, parents of
 49 low-income high school students who score Level 1 on FCAT
 50 Reading in non-Title I high schools that have earned a school
 51 grade of "F" for 3 consecutive years shall be offered the
 52 opportunity to choose supplemental educational services from a
 53 list of providers approved by the Department of Education. Funds
 54 for the supplemental educational services shall be provided from
 55 supplemental academic instruction categorical funds in an amount
 56 per student as determined annually in the General Appropriations

57 Act.

58 (3) For the purposes of this section only and
 59 notwithstanding the provisions of s. 1008.34, school grades for
 60 high schools shall be calculated to provide double weight to
 61 learning gains of students scoring Level 1 on FCAT Reading the
 62 prior year.

63 Section 3. High School Reform Task Force.--

64 (1) There is created the High School Reform Task Force.
 65 The task force shall work in conjunction with the Southern
 66 Regional Education Board and shall be administratively supported
 67 by the office of the Chancellor for K-12 Public Schools in the
 68 Department of Education and the Just Read, Florida! Office.
 69 Appointments to the task force shall be coordinated to ensure
 70 that the membership reflects the geographic and cultural
 71 diversity of Florida's school age population. The task force
 72 shall be abolished upon submission of its recommendations.

73 (2)(a) The Governor shall appoint members of the task
 74 force from the following categories and shall appoint the chair
 75 of the task force from its membership:

76 1. Two representatives of public school districts, who may
 77 be principals, district school board members, or school
 78 superintendents, at least one of whom works in or with a school
 79 with a school grade of "F."

80 2. One high school teacher who teaches in a high school
 81 with a school grade of "F."

82 3. Two parents of high school students scoring Level 1 on
 83 FCAT Reading, at least one whom has a child enrolled in a school
 84 with a school grade of "F."

85 4. One high school student.

86 5. One teacher or administrator from a charter high
 87 school.

88 6. Two private school teachers or administrators from any
 89 registered Florida private school with students in grades 9-12
 90 regardless of whether the school is nonsectarian, sectarian,
 91 not-for-profit, or for-profit.

92 7. One representative of the business community.

93 8. Two representatives of postsecondary educational
 94 institutions, including, but not limited to, vocational,
 95 technical, or other skills-based training institutions;
 96 community colleges; 4-year colleges; and universities.

97 9. One expert in the subject of high school reform who
 98 does not otherwise fall within one of the other enumerated
 99 categories.

100 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
 101 appoint one member of the House of Representatives to serve on
 102 the task force and the President of the Senate shall appoint one
 103 member of the Senate to serve on the task force.

104 (3) Not later than February 1, 2006, the task force shall
 105 recommend to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
 106 President of the Senate, and the Governor a long-term plan for
 107 revisions to statutes, rules, and policies that will improve
 108 Florida's grade 9 retention rate, graduation rate, dropout rate,
 109 and college remediation rate and align high school requirements
 110 with the needs of Florida's employers and postsecondary
 111 educational institution requirements. The plan must address, but
 112 is not limited to addressing: graduation requirements; course

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113 redesign; remediation strategies; credit recovery; use of
114 alternative programs, including programs that emphasize applied
115 integrated curricula, small learning communities, support
116 services, or increased discipline; use of technology;
117 adjustments to the school grading system to reflect learning
118 gains by high school students; middle school systemic alignment;
119 transition from middle school to high school; alignment with
120 postsecondary and workforce education requirements; and
121 alignment with employer expectations.

122 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.