

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public school educational instruction;
 3 creating s. 1003.457, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
 4 providing district school board responsibility for
 5 developing a fine and performing arts program and
 6 assessing students with respect to knowledge and skills
 7 obtained; requiring a written policy relating to time and
 8 access to the program; requiring annual reports; providing
 9 an effective date.

10
 11 WHEREAS, the educational program for Florida's children
 12 shall consist of a fully developed curriculum, allowing students
 13 time and access to a wide variety of curriculum choices, and

14 WHEREAS, the curriculum for Florida's students is defined
 15 by the Sunshine State Standards, and

16 WHEREAS, American culture is significantly taught through
 17 the fine and performing arts, and

18 WHEREAS, fine and performing arts classes have an impact on
 19 the academic success and individual achievement of students in
 20 the public schools, and

21 WHEREAS, the arts are designated as part of the core
 22 curriculum in the federal No Child Left Behind Act, NOW,
 23 THEREFORE,

24
 25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26
 27 Section 1. Section 1003.457, Florida Statutes, is created
 28 to read:

29 1003.457 Fine and performing arts; assessment.--

30 (1) Recognizing the importance of maintaining a balanced,
31 well-rounded curriculum for Florida's students and the
32 contributions of a fine and performing arts program to the
33 academic success of students, it is the intent of the
34 Legislature to ensure that such elective program remains strong
35 and accessible in the school day.

36 (2) It is the responsibility of each district school board
37 to develop a fine and performing arts program that addresses the
38 state's rich cultural diversity and promotes creative thinking
39 and problem solving. Students must be allowed sufficient time
40 and access to instruction to acquire fine and performing arts
41 knowledge and skills which shall be defined by and assessed
42 according to the Sunshine State Standards.

43 (3) Each district school board shall adopt a written
44 policy for providing time and access to the fine and performing
45 arts program for students in prekindergarten through grade 12
46 and shall provide a copy of the policy to the Department of
47 Education by January 1, 2006.

48 (4) Each district school board shall report annually to
49 the department on prekindergarten through grade 12 student
50 achievement and trends in the fine and performing arts. The
51 department shall summarize the reports and disseminate the
52 summary to each district school board.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.