

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to K-12 students; amending s. 322.091, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for driving privileges; amending ss. 1002.20, 1003.21, and 1003.51, F.S.; revising the age for compulsory school attendance; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring school district comprehensive programs for student progression to include the use of mentors and to encourage a career education curriculum for certain students; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 322.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.091 Attendance requirements.--

(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVING PRIVILEGES.--A minor is not eligible for driving privileges unless that minor:

(a) Is enrolled in a public school, nonpublic school, or home education program and satisfies relevant attendance requirements;

(b) Has received a high school diploma, a high school equivalency diploma, a special diploma, or a certificate of high school completion;

(c) Is enrolled in a study course in preparation for the Test of General Educational Development and satisfies relevant attendance requirements;

28 (d) Is enrolled in other educational activities approved  
 29 by the district school board and satisfies relevant attendance  
 30 requirements;

31 (e) Has been issued a certificate of exemption according  
 32 to s. 1003.21(3); or

33 (f) Has received a hardship waiver under this section.  
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35 The department may not issue or renew a driver's license or  
 36 learner's driver's license to, or shall suspend the driver's  
 37 license or learner's driver's license of, any minor who does not  
 38 produce proof of regular school attendance pursuant to chapter  
 39 1003 or concerning whom the department receives notification of  
 40 noncompliance with the requirements of this section.

41 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) of  
 42 section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

43 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of public  
 44 school students must receive accurate and timely information  
 45 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed  
 46 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12  
 47 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory  
 48 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

49 (2) ATTENDANCE.--

50 (a) Compulsory school attendance.--The compulsory school  
 51 attendance laws apply to all children between the ages of 6 and  
 52 18 ~~16~~ years, as provided in s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a), and, in  
 53 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a):

54 1. A student who attains the age of 18 ~~16~~ years during the  
 55 school year has the right to file a formal declaration of intent

56 to terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by  
 57 the parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the  
 58 school district of the district's receipt of the student's  
 59 declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.

60 2. Students who become or have become married or who are  
 61 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and  
 62 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other  
 63 students.

64 (b) Regular school attendance.--Parents of students who  
 65 have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school  
 66 year but who have not attained the age of 18 ~~16~~ years must  
 67 comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have  
 68 the option to comply with the school attendance laws by  
 69 attendance of the student in a public school; a parochial,  
 70 religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home  
 71 education program; or a private tutoring program, in accordance  
 72 with the provisions of s. 1003.01(13).

73 Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of  
 74 section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

75 1003.21 School attendance.--

76 (1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6 years  
 77 or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of  
 78 any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who  
 79 have not attained the age of 18 ~~16~~ years, except as otherwise  
 80 provided, are required to attend school regularly during the  
 81 entire school term.

82 2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years on  
 83 or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for

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84 admission to public kindergartens during that school year under  
85 rules adopted by the district school board.

86 (c) A student who attains the age of 18 ~~16~~ years during  
87 the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance  
88 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the  
89 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school  
90 enrollment with the district school board. Public school  
91 students who have attained the age of 18 ~~16~~ years and who have  
92 not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until  
93 the formal declaration of intent is filed with the district  
94 school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating  
95 school enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning  
96 potential and must be signed by the student and the student's  
97 parent. The school district must notify the student's parent of  
98 receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate  
99 school enrollment. The student's guidance counselor or other  
100 school personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student  
101 to determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate  
102 school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the  
103 student in school. The student must be informed of opportunities  
104 to continue his or her education in a different environment,  
105 including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test  
106 preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in  
107 a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide  
108 data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions  
109 taken by schools to keep students enrolled.

110 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1003.51, Florida  
111 Statutes, is amended to read:

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112 1003.51 Other public educational services.--

113 (4) The Department of Education shall ensure that district  
114 school boards notify students in juvenile justice residential or  
115 nonresidential facilities who attain the age of 18 ~~16~~ years of  
116 the provisions of law regarding compulsory school attendance and  
117 make available the option of enrolling in a program to attain a  
118 Florida high school diploma by taking the general educational  
119 development test prior to release from the facility. District  
120 school boards or community colleges, or both, shall waive GED  
121 testing fees for youth in Department of Juvenile Justice  
122 residential programs and shall, upon request, designate schools  
123 operating for the purpose of providing educational services to  
124 youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs as GED testing  
125 centers, subject to GED testing center requirements. The  
126 administrative fees for the general education development test  
127 required by the Department of Education are the responsibility  
128 of district school boards and may be required of providers by  
129 contractual agreement.

130 Section 5. Paragraphs (d) and (e) are added to subsection  
131 (2) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, to read:

132 1008.25 Public school student progression; remedial  
133 instruction; reporting requirements.--

134 (2) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM.--Each district school board  
135 shall establish a comprehensive program for student progression  
136 which must include:

137 (d) Pairing a student who has poor attendance or who needs  
138 remediation in reading, writing, science, or mathematics with a

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139 mentor in a program such as the YMCA, the YWCA, the College  
140 Reach-Out Program, or the Take Stock in Children Program.

141 (e) Encouraging a student who has poor attendance or who  
142 needs remediation in reading, writing, science, or mathematics  
143 to consider a career education curriculum that meets the  
144 instructional needs of the student.

145 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.