

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 Commerce and Tourism Committee

BILL: SB 150

INTRODUCER: Senator Smith

SUBJECT: Career and Education Planning

DATE: April 11, 2011

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carrouth	Matthews	ED	Favorable
2.	Hrdlicka	Cooper	CM	Pre-meeting
3.			BC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

Under SB 150, the career exploration course taken by middle grades students and required for promotion must be aligned to the National Career Clusters, as supported by Florida's Career Clusters Initiative. Course alignment to career clusters will serve to support student awareness of labor market trends and careers available in the global economy and to provide a framework for middle grades career exploration.

The bill deletes the provision to require the Department of Education to develop course frameworks and professional development materials for the middle grades career exploration course.

This bill amends section 1003.4156 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Middle Grades Career Exploration and Planning

To be promoted from middle school, s. 1003.4156, F.S., requires a student to successfully complete: three middle school or higher courses in English, mathematics, social studies, and science; and one course in career and education planning to be completed in grades 7 or 8. Each student is required to complete a personalized academic and career plan by the end of the career and education planning course.

The career and education planning course may be taught by any member of the instructional staff and must include career exploration using CHOICES or a comparable program. Current law, however, does not require exploration of any specific career fields.

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) recommends using the CHOICES Explorer¹ and Career Futures² programs for the career exploration component of the course. School districts may purchase the CHOICES Explorer and Career Futures from DOE.³

Career Clusters⁴

To effectively prepare students for tomorrow's workforce, schools must help students achieve in more challenging coursework by providing students with relevant contexts for learning. By providing a connection to future goals, students are often motivated to work harder and enroll in more rigorous courses.⁵ "Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers." It also serves to identify pathways from secondary school to two- and four-year colleges, graduate school, and the workplace.

National Career Clusters

The National Career Technical Education Foundation (NCTEF) established the States' Career Clusters Initiative⁶ to provide career clusters as a tool for seamless transition from education to careers. Currently, there are 16 identified workforce areas within the National Career Clusters.⁷ The 16 clusters represent all career possibilities and serve as a method of organizing instruction and applied learning in career and technical preparation courses, career academies, work-based learning programs, smaller learning communities, magnet and charter schools, and secondary schools that are restructuring around career themes.

Florida's Career Clusters Initiative⁸

Florida is actively partnering in the States' Career Clusters Initiative. The career clusters serve as a framework for Florida's required career exploration course at the middle grades. The following list identifies the 16 career clusters and includes one additional cluster adopted by Florida in the area of energy.⁹

- Agriculture, food, and natural resources;
- Architecture and construction;

¹ CHOICES Explorer is an online education and career exploration system that provides extensive libraries of education, career, and recreation articles. The site provides career profiles, postsecondary program descriptions, career videos, and other career exploration resources. Students can research individual academic subjects or take the Career Finder or Major Finder assessments to determine which academic, career, and majors interest them. Students can also combine their assessment results and career goals with the personalized education plan in FACTS.org.

² Career Futures is career exploration and planning software available on CD-ROM that provides students with access to information on more than 650 occupations. It is designed to develop a student's self-awareness and career exploration skills. Career Futures employs hands-on activities that demonstrate how interests, education, earnings, and skills relate to the workplace.

³ See DOE, Florida Choices website at <https://access.bridges.com/auth/login.do?sponsor=7> (last visited 4/7/2011).

⁴ For a definition of "career clusters" see <http://www.careerclusters.org/aboutus.php?define=CC> (last visited 4/7/2011).

⁵ See NCTEF, More about Career Clusters, available at <http://www.careerclusters.org/whatis.php> (last visited 4/7/2011).

⁶ The initiative helps states as they connect career technical education to education, workforce preparation, and economic development. The initiative promotes information-sharing, techniques, and methods to aid the development and implementation of career clusters within states. See NCTEF state website at <http://www.careerclusters.org/index.php> (last visited 4/7/2011).

⁷ See NCTEF, The 16 Career Clusters, available at <http://www.careerclusters.org/16clusters.cfm> (last visited 4/7/2011).

⁸ See DOE, Career and Technical Education Programs, Academic Year 2011/2012 Curriculum Frameworks By Career Cluster, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/> (last visited 4/7/2011).

⁹ Email correspondence with the Vice Chancellor, Division of Workforce Education, Florida Department of Education, April 16, 2010, on file with the Education Pre-K – 12 Committee.

- Arts, audio/visual technology, and communications;
- Business management and administration;
- Education and training;
- Finance;
- Government and public administration;
- Health science;
- Hospitality and tourism;
- Human services;
- Information Technology;
- Law, public safety, corrections, and security;
- Manufacturing;
- Marketing;
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;
- Transportation, distribution, and logistics; and
- Energy (Florida only).¹⁰

The Division of Career and Adult Education within DOE publishes the curriculum frameworks aligned to the career clusters delineated by the U.S. Department of Education.

Course Frameworks and Professional Education Associated with Middle Grades Career Exploration

In 2010, DOE reviewed and updated the current frameworks for the middle grades career exploration course which identifies student performance standards. The Course Code Directory identifies the courses that meet the middle grades promotion requirement and schools must use one of the approved courses to meet the career planning and exploration requirement.¹¹

To assist teachers in planning a comprehensive middle school career course, DOE developed the Educator's Toolkit on Career and Education Planning (Toolkit). The on-line professional development Toolkit provides easy access to classroom activities, lesson plans, and related web-based resources.¹²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 150 requires that the career exploration course taken by middle grades students and required for promotion purposes must be aligned to the National Career Clusters, as supported by Florida's Career Clusters Initiative. Course alignment to career clusters will serve to support student awareness of labor market trends and careers available in the global economy and to provide a framework for middle grades career exploration. Middle school students who are exposed to relevant career information may be better prepared to acquire skills that will enable them to earn industry certifications at the high school level in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers.

¹⁰ Based on recommendations by statewide advisory groups, Florida added Energy as the 17th career cluster in 2009.

¹¹ There are 62 courses currently approved for the middle grades career course and can be accessed at: <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/ced/pdf/approved-courses.pdf> (last visited 4/7/2011).

¹² See DOE, links to Toolkit modules at <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/ced/> (last visited 4/7/2011).

The bill deletes the provision to require DOE to develop course frameworks and professional development materials for the middle grades career exploration course. Current law provides for flexibility in how the course is delivered, allowing any member of the instructional staff to teach the course and permitting the course to be integrated with other coursework. Eliminating the course frameworks and associated professional development materials could diminish student career exploration and may affect the opportunity for middle school students to effectively choose courses or be academically prepared for high school courses required in career areas in which they may be interested.

The bill is effective July 1, 2011.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The Department of Education bill analysis requests that the bill require that the career course be aligned to Florida's Career Clusters rather than the National Career Clusters to include Florida's addition of the Energy workforce area.¹³

¹³ Florida Department of Education Legislative Bill Analysis, December 20, 2010, on file with the Committee.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial 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.
