

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

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BILL: SB 782

INTRODUCER: Senator Mayfield

SUBJECT: High School Graduation Requirements

DATE: March 24, 2017

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Androff	Graf	ED	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			HP	
3.			RC	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 782 revises the high school graduation requirements for satisfying the mandatory one-credit requirement in physical education. Specifically, the bill deletes the requirement for students who participate in two full seasons of an interscholastic sport to pass a competency test on personal fitness in order to satisfy the physical education credit required for graduation with a standard high school diploma.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

**II. Present Situation:**

Florida law specifies the requirements for students to obtain a standard high school diploma.

**Credits Required to Earn a Standard High School Diploma**

To graduate from high school with a standard high school diploma, a student must successfully complete 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum.<sup>1</sup>

A student must successfully complete 24 credits in the following subject areas:<sup>2</sup>

- Four credits in English Language Arts (ELA) I, II, III, and IV.
- Four credits in mathematics, including one each in Algebra I and Geometry. Industry certifications earned by students may substitute for up to two mathematics credits, except for Algebra I and Geometry.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1003.4282(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at (3).

- Three credits in science, including one credit in Biology I and two credits in equally rigorous courses.<sup>3</sup> Industry certifications earned by students may substitute for one science credit except for Biology I.
- Three credits in social studies, including one credit each in U.S. history and World history; one-half credit in economics, which must include financial literacy; and one-half credit in U.S. Government.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts that incorporates artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination.
- One credit in physical education that must include the integration of health.
- Eight credits in electives. School districts are required to develop and offer coordinated electives to enable a student to develop knowledge and skills in his or her area of interest and these electives must include opportunities for students to earn college credit.

### ***Physical Education Credit***

Florida law requires a student to earn one credit in physical education, of the mandatory 24 credits, to graduate with a standard high school diploma.<sup>4</sup> Currently, students that participate in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons can satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a score of “C” or better.<sup>5</sup> In 1998, the Legislature raised the physical education credit requirement from one to two seasons of interscholastic sports and added the personal fitness competency test.<sup>6</sup>

Currently, students who complete one semester with a grade of “C” or better in a marching band class, in a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance class can satisfy one-half credit in physical education.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, students who complete two years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) class, a significant component of which is drills, satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing arts.<sup>8</sup> There is no requirement that such students complete a personal fitness competency exam.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SB 782 revises the high school graduation requirements for satisfying the mandatory one-credit requirement in physical education. Specifically, the bill deletes the requirement for students who participate in two full seasons of an interscholastic sport to pass a competency test on personal fitness in order to satisfy the physical education credit required for graduation with a standard high school diploma.

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<sup>3</sup> Two of the three science credits must have a laboratory component. Section 1003.4282(3)(c), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1003.4282(9)(b)6., F.S.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at (3)(f).

<sup>6</sup> Section 39, c. 1998-421, L.O.F.

<sup>7</sup> Section 1003.4383(3)(f), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

**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:

At the local school level, according to the Florida Department of Education (DOE), the elimination of the competency test on personal fitness may create savings in supplies that the school currently supplies, such as paper, printing, and the portion of salary used for the administration and grading of such tests.<sup>9</sup> However, any such savings are indeterminable because the current expenditures related to the competency test at the school level are currently unknown.<sup>10</sup>

According to the DOE, the elimination of the competency test on personal fitness may save the DOE costs for personnel to update the test, and any mailing or other costs associated with making the test available to the school districts.<sup>11</sup> The update to the personal fitness exam is currently expected to cost \$1,427. Additionally, there is expected to be approximately \$372.52 in expenditures related to the distribution of the updated material.<sup>12</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

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<sup>9</sup> Florida Department of Education, *SB 782 Analysis* (2017), at 3.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 1003.4282 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.

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

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