

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to personalized education; amending s.
3 1003.436, F.S.; authorizing a district school board
4 participating in the Mastery-Based Education Pilot
5 Program to award credit based on student mastery of
6 certain content and skills; amending s. 1003.437,
7 F.S.; authorizing a district school board
8 participating in the Mastery-Based Education Pilot
9 Program to use an alternative interpretation of letter
10 grades for certain students; amending s. 1003.4996,
11 F.S.; renaming the Competency-Based Education Pilot
12 Program as the Mastery-Based Education Pilot Program;
13 authorizing public school districts to submit
14 applications for the program; authorizing
15 participating school districts to amend their
16 applications to include alternatives for the award
17 credits and interpretation of letter grades; providing
18 requirements for such alternatives; deleting a
19 requirement that the State Board of Education adopt
20 rules; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring the
21 statewide articulation agreement to ensure fair and
22 equitable access for students with mastery-based,
23 nontraditional diplomas and transcripts; providing an
24 effective date.
25

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

27 |

28 | Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
29 | 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 | 1003.436 Definition of "credit."—

31 | (1) (a) For the purposes of requirements for high school
32 | graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135 hours of bona
33 | fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains
34 | student performance standards, except as otherwise provided
35 | through the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) under s.

36 | 1003.4295(3). One full credit means a minimum of 120 hours of
37 | bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that
38 | contains student performance standards for purposes of meeting
39 | high school graduation requirements in a district school that
40 | has been authorized to implement block scheduling by the
41 | district school board. In lieu of the 135- and 120-hour
42 | instruction requirements, district school boards participating
43 | in the Mastery-Based Education Pilot Program under s. 1003.4996,
44 | may determine and award credit based on a student's mastery of
45 | the core content and skills, consistent with s. 1003.41, as
46 | approved by the district school board. The State Board of
47 | Education shall determine the number of postsecondary credit
48 | hours earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 1007.271
49 | that satisfy the requirements of a dual enrollment articulation
50 | agreement according to s. 1007.271(21) and that equal one full

51 credit of the equivalent high school course identified pursuant
52 to s. 1007.271(9).

53 Section 2. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is amended
54 to read:

55 1003.437 Middle and high school grading system.—

56 (1) The grading system and interpretation of letter grades
57 used to measure student success in grade 6 through grade 12
58 courses for students in public schools shall be as follows:

59 (a)~~(1)~~ Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent,
60 has a grade point average value of 4, and is defined as
61 "outstanding progress."

62 (b)~~(2)~~ Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent, has
63 a grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above
64 average progress."

65 (c)~~(3)~~ Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent, has
66 a grade point average value of 2, and is defined as "average
67 progress."

68 (d)~~(4)~~ Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent, has
69 a grade point average value of 1, and is defined as "lowest
70 acceptable progress."

71 (e)~~(5)~~ Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent,
72 has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as
73 "failure."

74 (f)~~(6)~~ Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point
75 average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

76 (2) District school boards participating in the Mastery-
 77 Based Education Pilot Program under s. 1003.4996 may use an
 78 alternative interpretation of letter grades to measure student
 79 success in grades 6 through 12.

80
 81 For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may
 82 exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to s. 1007.271.

83 Section 3. Section 1003.4996, Florida Statutes, is amended
 84 to read:

85 1003.4996 Mastery-Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education Pilot
 86 Program. ~~Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year,~~ The Mastery-
 87 Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education Pilot Program is created within
 88 the Department of Education to be administered for a period of 5
 89 years. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide an
 90 educational environment that allows students to advance to
 91 higher levels of learning upon the mastery of concepts and
 92 skills through statutory exemptions relating to student
 93 progression and the awarding of credits.

94 (1) PARTICIPATION.—The P.K. Yonge Developmental Research
 95 School and public school districts, including, but not limited
 96 to, the Lake, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Seminole County School
 97 Districts, may submit an application in a format prescribed by
 98 the department to participate in the pilot program.

99 (2) APPLICATION.—The application to participate in the
 100 pilot program must, at a minimum, include:

101 (a) The vision and timelines for the implementation of
102 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education within the school
103 district, including a list of the schools that will participate
104 in the pilot program during the first school year and the list
105 of schools that will be integrated into the program in
106 subsequent school years.

107 (b) The annual goals and performance outcomes for
108 participating schools, including, but not limited to:

- 109 1. Student performance as defined in s. 1008.34.
- 110 2. Promotion and retention rates.
- 111 3. Graduation rates.
- 112 4. Indicators of college and career readiness.

113 (c) A communication plan for parents and other
114 stakeholders, including local businesses and community members.

115 (d) The scope of and timelines for professional
116 development for school instructional and administrative
117 personnel.

118 (e) A plan for student progression based on the mastery of
119 content, including mechanisms that determine and ensure that a
120 student has satisfied the requirements for grade-level promotion
121 and content mastery.

122 (f) A plan for using technology and digital and blended
123 learning to enhance student achievement and facilitate the
124 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education system.

125 (g) The proposed allocation of resources for the pilot

126 program at the school and district levels.

127 (h) The recruitment and selection of participating
128 schools.

129 (i) The rules to be waived for participating schools
130 pursuant to subsection (3) to implement the pilot program.

131 (3) EXEMPTION FROM RULES.—In addition to the waivers
132 authorized in s. 1001.10(3), the State Board of Education may
133 authorize the commissioner to grant an additional waiver of
134 rules relating to student progression and the awarding of
135 credits.

136 (4) ALTERNATE CREDIT AND LETTER GRADE SYSTEMS.—

137 (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year,
138 participating school districts may amend their applications to
139 include alternatives for awarding credit, as authorized under s.
140 1003.436, and for the interpretation of middle and high school
141 letter grades, as authorized under s. 1003.437.

142 1. Alternatives to awarding credit must include a
143 verification of the student's mastery of the applicable course
144 content using rigorous scoring rubrics to evaluate the student's
145 work.

146 2. Alternatives to the interpretation of middle and high
147 school letter grades may substitute the applicable language from
148 the school district's rigorous scoring rubric.

149 (b) An application that is amended pursuant to this
150 subsection must be approved by the district school board.

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151 (5)~~(4)~~ STUDENT FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a
152 participating school shall be reported for and generate funding
153 pursuant to s. 1011.62.

154 (6)~~(5)~~ DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—The department shall:

155 (a) Compile the student and staff schedules of
156 participating schools before and after implementation of the
157 pilot program.

158 (b) Provide participating schools with access to
159 statewide, standardized assessments required under s. 1008.22.

160 (c) Annually, by June 1, provide to the Governor, the
161 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
162 Representatives a report summarizing the activities and
163 accomplishments of the pilot program and any recommendations for
164 statutory revisions.

165 ~~(6) RULES. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
166 to administer this section.~~

167 Section 4. Subsection (7) is added to section 1007.23,
168 Florida Statutes, to read:

169 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

170 (7) The articulation agreement must ensure fair and
171 equitable access for high school graduates with mastery-based,
172 nontraditional diplomas and transcripts.

173 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.