

**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 Committee on Education

---

BILL: SB 1366

INTRODUCER: Senator Baxley

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: March 19, 2019

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Sikes	ED	<b>Favorable</b>
2.			AED	
3.			AP	

---

**I. Summary:**

SB 1366 promotes options for education in computer science by:

- Providing that a student may substitute one computer science credit for one science credit, excluding Biology I, in order to satisfy the credit requirements to earn a standard high school diploma;
- Including high-quality professional development for teachers to provide instruction in computer science courses and content to the existing training that a school district or consortium of school districts may apply to the Department of Education for funding to deliver, subject to legislative appropriation; and
- Increasing the number of potential certificates available to elementary and middle school students by doubling the limit on CAPE Digital Tool certificates that may be included on the Industry Certification Funding List.

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Science Credits Required for High School Graduation**

Receipt of a standard high school diploma requires successful completion of 24 credits.<sup>1</sup> A student must earn three science credits to earn a standard high school diploma:<sup>2</sup>

- One credit in Biology I; and

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 1003.4282, F.S. A Student may also receive a standard high school diploma by completing the curriculum of an International Baccalaureate, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education.

<sup>2</sup> Section 1003.4282, F.S.

- Two credits in equally rigorous courses, one of which a student may satisfy by earning a credit in computer science or an industry certification approved for college credit by the State Board of Education.<sup>3</sup> A computer science credit or industry certification may not substitute for a Biology I or higher-level science credit.

Public schools are required to offer courses in computer science to middle school and high school students and to provide all students opportunities for learning computer science in the classroom or through the Florida Virtual School or other means.<sup>4</sup> A teacher with a valid teaching certificate which requires a minimum of a baccalaureate degree can provide instruction in a computer science course.<sup>5</sup> However, only 19 percent of Florida high schools offered a computer science course during the 2017-2018 academic year.<sup>6</sup>

### **CAPE Digital Tool Certificates**

The Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE)<sup>7</sup> provides multiple options for students to attain digital skills through digital tools and industry certifications.<sup>8</sup> Digital tools are certificates reflecting core computer skills. The Department of Education (DOE) is required to annually identify, and the Commissioner of Education may recommend, up to 15 CAPE Digital Tool certificates for inclusion on a CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.<sup>9</sup> Public schools must make the certificates available to all elementary and middle school students. School districts are eligible for 0.025 full-time equivalent (FTE) bonus funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for each certificate earned by a student; however, additional FTE may not exceed 0.1 for certificates or certifications earned by an elementary or middle school student within the same fiscal year.<sup>10</sup>

A CAPE Digital Tool certificate may be included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List if it:<sup>11</sup>

- Is achievable by elementary and middle school students;
- Assesses skills in word processing, development of spreadsheets, digital arts, cybersecurity, and coding;
- Does not articulate for college credit; and
- Is part of a career pathway leading to the attainment of a career and professional education industry certification on the career and professional education funding list.

---

<sup>3</sup> Section 1007.2616(6)(a), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at (1) and (3).

<sup>5</sup> Section 1012.55, F.S.; Rules 6A-1.0503 and 6A-1.09441(5), F.A.C.; Florida Department of Education, *Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments 2018-2019* (2018), available at <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-09272>. Open the pdf titled “CCD1819v2.pdf” (last visited Mar. 15, 2019).

<sup>6</sup> Code.org, *Support K-12 Computer Science Education in Florida* (2018), available at <https://code.org/advocacy/state-facts/FL.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Chapter 2007-216, L.O.F.

<sup>8</sup> Section 1003.4203, F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1008.44(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* and s. 1011.62(1)(o)1., F.S.

<sup>11</sup> *See* s. 1008.44(1)(b), F.S.; Rule 6A-6.0573(7)(d), F.A.C.

Fifteen CAPE Digital Tool certificates are included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List for 2018-2019.<sup>12</sup> The bonus funding associated with earning a CAPE Digital Tool certificate is approximately \$105 for the 2018-2019 academic year.<sup>13</sup> During the 2017-18 school year, 33,714 students earned 40,947 CAPE Digital Tool certificates.<sup>14</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1366 promotes options for education in computer science by:

- Providing that a student may substitute one computer science credit for one science credit, excluding Biology I, in order to satisfy the credit requirements to earn a standard high school diploma;
- Including high-quality professional development for teachers to provide instruction in computer science courses and content to the existing training that a school district or consortium of school districts may apply to the Department of Education for funding to deliver, subject to legislative appropriation; and
- Increasing the number of potential certificates available to elementary and middle school students by doubling the limit on CAPE Digital Tool Certificates that may be included on the Industry Certification Funding List.

#### Computer Science Credits

The bill specifies that a student may substitute one computer science credit for one science credit, excluding Biology I. This may result in more students earning computer science credits.

Additionally, the bill authorizes school districts or a consortium of school districts to apply to the Department of Education for funding, contingent on legislative appropriation, for high-quality professional development for teachers to provide instruction in computer science courses and content. This may increase the number of teachers with the skills necessary to teach computer science courses.

#### CAPE Digital Tools

The bill increases the number of potential CAPE Digital Tool certificates available to students by doubling the cap on the certificates that may be included on the Industry Certification Funding List. This may provide more options for school districts to offer CAPE Digital Tool certificates, which may increase the number of students earning CAPE Digital Tool certificates.

---

<sup>12</sup> Florida Department of Education, *2018-2019 CAPE Industry Funding List, Revised*, at 9 (2018), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/8904/urlt/1819icfl.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Florida Department of Education, Career and Adult Education, *Estimated Funding Values by District (Excel)*, <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/cape-secondary/resources.stml>. Open the excel file in the “CAPE Implementation Tools” section of the page (last visited Mar. 15, 2019).

<sup>14</sup> Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education, *Career and Professional Education Act Enrollment and Performance Report, 2017-18* (2018), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9904/urlt/1718capepr.pdf>.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

## D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

## E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures. Increasing the number of CAPE Digital Tool certificates may allow some school districts to generate additional bonus funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). School districts receive bonus funding of approximately \$105 for each CAPE Digital Tool certificate awarded in the 2018-2019 academic year.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1003.4282, 1007.2616, and 1008.44.

This bill reenacts the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1002.20, 1002.3105, 1003.4281, 1003.4285, 1003.49, 1004.935, 1006.15, 1007.271, 1008.25, 1009.531, and 1009.893.

**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.

---

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

---