

By Senator Cruz

18-01418-20

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to high school graduation
3 requirements; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; requiring
4 students to submit a Free Application for Federal
5 Student Aid in order to be awarded a standard high
6 school diploma; providing an exception; amending ss.
7 1002.3105 and 1003.5716, F.S.; conforming cross-
8 references to changes made by the act; providing an
9 effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Present subsections (5) through (12) of section
14 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (6)
15 through (13), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to
16 that section, to read:

17 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—
18 (5) FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID REQUIREMENT.—
19 Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2021-2022 school
20 year, a student must submit a Free Application for Federal
21 Student Aid in order to be awarded a standard high school
22 diploma. However, a student meets the requirements of this
23 subsection if the student's parent or the student, if such
24 student is 18 years of age or older, submits a letter to the
25 school district declining to submit the Free Application for
26 Federal Student Aid.

27 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 1002.3105, Florida
28 Statutes, is amended to read:

29 1002.3105 Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance

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30 Learning (ACCEL) options.—

31 (5) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—A student who
32 meets the applicable grade 9 cohort graduation requirements of
33 s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e) or s. 1003.4282(10)(a)1.-5. ~~s.~~
34 ~~1003.4282(9)(a)1.-5.~~, (b)1.-5., (c)1.-5., or (d)1.-5., earns
35 three credits in electives, and earns a cumulative grade point
36 average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale shall be awarded a standard
37 high school diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of
38 Education.

39 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
40 1003.5716, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

41 1003.5716 Transition to postsecondary education and career
42 opportunities.—All students with disabilities who are 3 years of
43 age to 21 years of age have the right to a free, appropriate
44 public education. As used in this section, the term "IEP" means
45 individual education plan.

46 (2) Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect
47 when the student attains the age of 16, or younger if determined
48 appropriate by the parent and the IEP team, the IEP must include
49 the following statements that must be updated annually:

50 (b) A statement of intent to receive a standard high school
51 diploma before the student attains the age of 22 and a
52 description of how the student will fully meet the requirements
53 in s. 1003.4282, including, but not limited to, a portfolio
54 pursuant to s. 1003.4282(11)(b) ~~s. 1003.4282(10)(b)~~ which meets
55 the criteria specified in State Board of Education rule. The IEP
56 must also specify the outcomes and additional benefits expected
57 by the parent and the IEP team at the time of the student's
58 graduation.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.