

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 445 School Grading System

SPONSOR(S): Education Committee, PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee, Sirois, Gregory and others

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 662

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	D'Souza	Brink
2) Education Committee	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	D'Souza	Hassell

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

School grades are used to measure a school's performance under Florida's statewide accountability system for public schools. The school grade calculation for high schools includes:

- the percentage of students passing statewide, standardized assessments in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies;
- the percentage of students making learning gains in ELA and mathematics;
- the percentage of students in the lowest 25 percent of ELA and mathematics who make learning gains;
- the 4-year graduation rate; and
- the percentage of students who were eligible to earn college and career credit through acceleration mechanisms (i.e. Advanced Placement examinations, International Baccalaureate examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International Certificate of Education examinations, and Career and Professional Education industry certifications).

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a military enlistment test used to determine if an individual is qualified to enlist in the military and for assignment to an appropriate job in the military. An individual's scores on four of the ASVAB tests (Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Arithmetic Reasoning, and Mathematics Knowledge) are combined to compute his or her score on what is referred to as the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT).

The bill allows a high school student who earns an ASVAB AFQT score in the Category II range or higher to be included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation beginning with the 2021-2020 school year.

The bill clarifies that a student whose parent is transferred to a military installation within the state can enroll in any school district through controlled open enrollment.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2020.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

School Grades

School grades are used to measure a school's performance under Florida's statewide accountability system for public schools. A school's grade may include up to eleven components.¹ The base calculation used to determine a school's grade includes: the percentage of eligible students who pass statewide, standardized assessments in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science; the percentage of student learning gains in ELA and mathematics; and the percentage of students in the lowest 25 percent of ELA and mathematics who make learning gains.² Middle and high school grades include additional components for the percentage of students passing statewide, standardized assessments in social studies, acceleration and career readiness, and graduation rates, as applicable.³ Each component is worth up to 100 points in the overall calculation.⁴ School grades are also used to determine whether a school must select or implement a turnaround option⁵ or whether a school is eligible for school recognition funds as appropriated by the Legislature.⁶

A school's grade is calculated by adding the number of points earned for each component together and dividing it by the total number of available points to determine the percentage of points earned.⁷ The school grading scale is as follows:⁸

- "A" = 62 percent of points or greater.
- "B" = 54 percent to 61 percent of points.
- "C" = 41 percent to 53 percent of points.
- "D" = 32 percent to 40 percent of points.
- "F" = 31 percent of points or less.

For high schools, the school's grade includes the following additional components:

- The 4-year high school graduation rate of the school as defined by State Board of Education (SBE) rule.⁹
- The percentage of students who pass the statewide, standardized U.S. History end-of-course assessment, in the graduation cohort.¹⁰
- The percentage of students who earn college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) examinations, International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) examinations; or who, at any time during high school, earned a Career and Professional Education (CAPE) industry certification identified in SBE rule.¹¹ A student may be included in the acceleration component only once.¹²

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

¹ See s. 1008.34(3)(b), F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(a)-(c), F.A.C.

² *Id.*

³ See s. 1008.34(3)(b)1.i., F.S.; s. 1008.34(3)(b)2.a.-b., F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(b), F.A.C.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c), F.A.C.

⁴ Section 1008.34(3)(b)1., F.S.; s. 1008.34(3)(a), F.S. Each school must assess at least 95 percent of its eligible students and receive a school grade based on these components. If a school does not have at least 10 students with complete data for one or more of the components, those components may not be used in calculating the school's grade.

⁵ See s. 1008.33(4), F.S.

⁶ See s. 1008.36, F.S.

⁷ Section 1008.34(3)(c)1., F.S.

⁸ Rule 6A-1.09981(4)(d)3., F.A.C.

⁹ Section 1008.34(3)(b)2.a., F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c)1., F.A.C.

¹⁰ See s. 1008.34(3)(b)1.d., F.S. and rule 6A-1.09422(4)(f), F.A.C.

¹¹ Section 1008.34(3)(b)2.b., F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c)2., F.A.C.

¹² Rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c)3., F.A.C.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a military enlistment test used to determine if an individual is qualified to enlist in the military and for assignment to an appropriate job in the military.¹³ The ASVAB is designed to measure aptitude in four domains: Verbal, Math, Science and Technical, and Spatial.

The ASVAB tests include:¹⁴

- General Science;
- Arithmetic Reasoning;
- Word Knowledge;
- Paragraph Comprehension;
- Mathematics Knowledge;
- Electronics Information;
- Auto Information;
- Shop Information;
- Mechanical Comprehension; and
- Assembling Objects.

An individual's scores on four of the ASVAB tests (Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Arithmetic Reasoning, and Mathematics Knowledge) are combined to compute his or her score on what is referred to as the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT).¹⁵ The AFQT scores are reported as percentiles between 1 and 99, and are used to determine eligibility for enlistment in each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Scores on all of the ASVAB tests are used to determine the most appropriate job for an individual in the military.¹⁶ The chart below delineates the AFQT categories in which AFQT score ranges fall under:¹⁷

AFQT Category	Score Range
I	93-99
II	65-92
IIIA	50-64
IIIB	31-49
IVA	21-30
IVB	16-20
IVC	10-15
V	1-9

Below are the AFQT scores required for eligibility in each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces:

- Air Force: 31¹⁸
- Army: 31¹⁹

¹³ Official ASVAB, *ASVAB Fact Sheet* (December 2018), https://www.officialasvab.com/docs/asvab_fact_sheet.pdf.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Official ASVAB, *Understanding ASVAB Scores*, https://www.officialasvab.com/understand_app.htm (last visited February 4, 2020).

¹⁸ U.S. Air Force, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.airforce.com/frequently-asked-questions/academic/what-are-qualifying-asvab-scores-for-air-force-jobs> (last visited January 31, 2020).

- Marine Corps: 35²⁰
- Navy: 35²¹

Students of Military Families

Controlled open enrollment allows a school district to use a parent's indicated preferential educational choice as a significant factor in making student school assignments.²² Each district school board or charter school must allow a parent from any Florida school district to enroll his or her student in any public school, including charter schools, that has not reached capacity.²³

A student whose parent is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation within a school district while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order must be considered a resident of the school district for purposes of enrollment when the order is submitted to the school district. The student must also receive preferential treatment in the school district's controlled open enrollment process.²⁴ The Department of Education facilitates agreements between the school district and military installation which address strategies to assist students who are the children of active duty military personnel in transitioning to Florida schools.²⁵

Effect of Proposed Changes

Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the bill allows a high school student who earns an ASVAB AFQT score in the Category II range or higher to be included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation. This will allow high schools to include in their college and career acceleration school grades component students who earn a qualifying AFQT score, but have not otherwise earned an industry certificate or college credit.

The bill also clarifies that a student whose parent is transferred to a military installation within Florida can enroll in another school district through controlled open enrollment.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1003.05, F.S.; revising student enrollment preferences relating to certain military transfers.

Section 2. Amends s. 1008.34, F.S.; revising the calculation of school grades by a specified date to include certain students who earned a specified score on the ASVAB.

Section 3. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2020.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

¹⁹ U.S. Army, *Learn How To Join*, <https://www.goarmy.com/learn.html> (last visited January 29, 2020).

²⁰ Military.com, *ASVAB Scores and Marine Corps Jobs*, <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab/asvab-and-marine-corps-jobs.html> (last visited January 29, 2020).

²¹ Military.com, *ASVAB Scores and Navy Jobs*, <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab-and-navy-mos-jobs.html> (last visited January 29, 2020).

²² Section 1002.31(1), F.S.

²³ Section 1002.31(2)(a), F.S. The student must not be subject to a current expulsion or suspension. School capacity is subject to the maximum class sizes. *See* s. 1003.03, F.S.

²⁴ Section 1003.05(4), F.S.

²⁵ Section 1003.05(2), F.S.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On February 4, 2020, the PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment removes the JROTC participation requirement from the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation and modifies the required ASVAB score to an AFQT score in the Category II range or higher.

On February 12, 2020, the Education Committee adopted two amendments and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendments:

- revise the school year in which the ASVAB AFQT score will take effect in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation from the 2020-2021 school year to the 2021-2022 school year; and
- clarify that a student whose parent is transferred to a military installation can enroll in any school district through controlled open enrollment.
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The analysis is drafted to the committee substitute adopted by the Education Committee.