

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to mastery-based education; amending
3 s. 1003.436, F.S.; authorizing a district school board
4 or developmental research school participating in the
5 Mastery-based Education Program to award credit based
6 on student mastery of certain content and skills;
7 amending s. 1003.437, F.S.; authorizing a district
8 school board or developmental research school
9 participating in the Mastery-based Education Program
10 to use an alternative interpretation of letter grades
11 for certain students; requiring participating district
12 school boards and developmental research schools to use
13 the current 4-point scale in determining student grade
14 point averages; amending s. 1003.4996, F.S.; renaming
15 the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program;
16 authorizing public school districts and developmental
17 research schools to submit applications for the
18 program; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring the
19 statewide articulation agreement to include fair and
20 equitable access for students who graduate with a
21 standard high school diploma and have earned high
22 school credit through mastery-based education;
23 providing an effective date.

24
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26
27 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
28 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29 1003.436 Definition of "credit."—

30 (1)(a) For the purposes of requirements for high school
31 graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135 hours of bona
32 fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains
33 student performance standards, except as otherwise provided
34 through the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) under s.
35 1003.4295(3). One full credit means a minimum of 120 hours of
36 bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that
37 contains student performance standards for purposes of meeting
38 high school graduation requirements in a district school that
39 has been authorized to implement block scheduling by the
40 district school board. However, district school boards and
41 developmental research schools participating in the Mastery-
42 based Education Program under s. 1003.4996 may determine and
43 award credit based on a student's mastery of core content and
44 skills, consistent with s. 1003.41, as approved by the district
45 school board or developmental research school governing
46 authority, as applicable. The State Board of Education shall
47 determine the number of postsecondary credit hours earned
48 through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 1007.271 that satisfy the
49 requirements of a dual enrollment articulation agreement
50 according to s. 1007.271(21) and that equal one full credit of

51 the equivalent high school course identified pursuant to s.
52 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 is ~~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) A district school board and a developmental research
77 school participating in the Mastery-based Education Program
78 under s. 1003.4996 may use an alternative interpretation of
79 letter grades to measure student success in grades 6 through 12;
80 however, the school board and developmental research school must
81 continue to use the 4-point scale established in subsection (1)
82 for calculating a student's grade point average.

83
84 For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may
85 exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to s. 1007.271.

86 Section 3. Section 1003.4996, Florida Statutes, is amended
87 to read:

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

97 (1) PARTICIPATION.—Developmental research schools
98 established under s. 1002.32, including, but not limited to, the
99 P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School, and public school
100 districts, including, but not limited to, the Lake, Palm Beach,

101 Pinellas, and Seminole County School Districts, may submit an
102 application in a format prescribed by the department to
103 participate in the ~~pilot~~ program.

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

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

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

- 114 1. Student performance as defined in s. 1008.34.
- 115 2. Promotion and retention rates.
- 116 3. Graduation rates.
- 117 4. Indicators of college and career readiness.

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

120 (d) The scope of and timelines for professional
121 development for school instructional and administrative
122 personnel.

123 (e) A plan for student progression based on the mastery of
124 content, including mechanisms that determine and ensure that a
125 student has satisfied the requirements for grade-level promotion

126 and content mastery.

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

130 (g) The proposed allocation of resources for the ~~pilot~~
 131 program at the school and district levels.

132 (h) The recruitment and selection of participating
 133 schools.

134 (i) The rules to be waived for participating schools under
 135 ~~pursuant to~~ subsection (3) to implement the ~~pilot~~ program.

136 (3) EXEMPTION FROM RULES.—In addition to the waivers
 137 authorized in s. 1001.10(3), the State Board of Education may
 138 authorize the commissioner to grant an additional waiver of
 139 rules relating to student progression and the awarding of
 140 credits.

141 (4) STUDENT FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a participating
 142 school shall be reported for and generate funding pursuant to s.
 143 1011.62.

144 (5) DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—The department shall:

145 (a) Compile the student and staff schedules of
 146 participating schools before and after implementation of the
 147 ~~pilot~~ program.

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

150 (c) Annually, by June 1, provide to the Governor, the

151 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
152 Representatives a report summarizing the activities and
153 accomplishments of the ~~pilot~~ program and any recommendations for
154 statutory revisions.

155 (6) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
156 to administer this section.

157 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
158 1007.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

159 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

160 (1) The State Board of Education and the Board of
161 Governors shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement
162 which the State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. The
163 agreement must preserve Florida's "2+2" system of articulation,
164 facilitate the seamless articulation of student credit across
165 and among Florida's educational entities, and reinforce the
166 provisions of this chapter by governing:

167 (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary
168 education, including fair and equitable access for students who
169 graduate with a standard high school diploma and have earned
170 high school credit through a mastery-based education program
171 under s. 1003.4996;

172 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.