

By Senator Osgood

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to career-themed courses; amending s.  
3       1003.491, F.S.; revising the requirements for a  
4       specified school district strategic plan to include  
5       certain information; amending s. 1003.492, F.S.;  
6       requiring the Department of Education to include  
7       specified data in an annual review of K-12 and  
8       postsecondary career and technical education  
9       offerings; amending s. 1003.4935, F.S.; requiring  
10      school districts to provide specified information to  
11      students and parents during middle school course  
12      selection; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16       Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1003.491, Florida  
17      Statutes, is amended to read:

18       1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—The  
19      Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to  
20      provide a statewide planning partnership between the business  
21      and education communities in order to attract, expand, and  
22      retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong,  
23      knowledge-based economy.

24       (3) The strategic 3-year plan developed jointly by the  
25      local school district, local workforce development boards,  
26      economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary  
27      institutions must be constructed and based on:

28       (a) Research conducted to objectively determine local and  
29      regional workforce needs for the ensuing 3 years, using labor

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30 projections as identified by the Labor Market Statistics Center  
31 within the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Labor  
32 Market Estimating Conference as factors in the criteria for the  
33 plan;

34 (b) Strategies to develop and implement career academies or  
35 career-themed courses based on occupations identified by the  
36 Labor Market Statistics Center within the Department of Economic  
37 Opportunity and the Labor Market Estimating Conference;

38 (c) Strategies to provide shared, maximum use of private  
39 sector facilities and personnel;

40 (d) Strategies to ensure instruction by industry-certified  
41 faculty and standards and strategies to maintain current  
42 industry credentials and for recruiting and retaining faculty to  
43 meet those standards;

44 (e) Strategies to provide personalized student advisement,  
45 including a parent-participation component, and coordination  
46 with middle grades to promote and support career-themed courses  
47 and education planning;

48 (f) Alignment of requirements for middle school career  
49 planning, middle and high school career and professional  
50 academies or career-themed courses leading to industry  
51 certification or postsecondary credit, and high school  
52 graduation requirements;

53 (g) Provisions to ensure that career-themed courses and  
54 courses offered through career and professional academies are  
55 academically rigorous, meet or exceed appropriate state-adopted  
56 subject area standards, result in attainment of industry  
57 certification, and, when appropriate, result in postsecondary  
58 credit;

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59 (h) Plans to sustain and improve career-themed courses and  
60 career and professional academies;

61 (i) Strategies to improve the passage rate for industry  
62 certification examinations if the rate falls below 50 percent;

63 (j) Strategies to recruit students into career-themed  
64 courses and career and professional academies which include  
65 opportunities for students who have been unsuccessful in  
66 traditional classrooms but who are interested in enrolling in  
67 career-themed courses or a career and professional academy.  
68 School boards shall provide opportunities for students who may  
69 be deemed as potential dropouts or whose cumulative grade point  
70 average drops below a 2.0 to enroll in career-themed courses or  
71 participate in career and professional academies. Such students  
72 must be provided in-person academic advising that includes  
73 information on career education programs by a certified school  
74 counselor or the school principal or his or her designee during  
75 any semester the students are at risk of dropping out or have a  
76 cumulative grade point average below a 2.0;

77 (k) Strategies to provide sufficient space within academies  
78 to meet workforce needs and to provide access to all interested  
79 and qualified students;

80 (l) Strategies to implement career-themed courses or career  
81 and professional academy training that lead to industry  
82 certification in juvenile justice education programs;

83 (m) Opportunities for high school students to earn weighted  
84 or dual enrollment credit for higher-level career and technical  
85 courses;

86 (n) Promotion of the benefits of the Gold Seal Bright  
87 Futures Scholarship;

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88 (o) Strategies to ensure the review of district pupil-  
89 progression plans and to amend such plans to include career-  
90 themed courses and career and professional academy courses and  
91 to include courses that may qualify as substitute courses for  
92 core graduation requirements and those that may be counted as  
93 elective courses;

94 (p) Strategies to provide professional development for  
95 secondary certified school counselors on the benefits of career  
96 and professional academies and career-themed courses that lead  
97 to industry certification; ~~and~~

98 (q) Strategies to redirect appropriated career funding in  
99 secondary and postsecondary institutions to support career  
100 academies and career-themed courses that lead to industry  
101 certification; and

102 (r) Strategies to inform and promote the career and  
103 technical education opportunities available in the district to  
104 students, parents, the community, and stakeholders.

105 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 1003.492, Florida  
106 Statutes, is amended to read:

107 1003.492 Industry-certified career education programs.—

108 (3) The Department of Education shall collect student  
109 achievement and performance data in industry-certified career  
110 education programs and career-themed courses as part of the  
111 annual review required under s. 1003.491(5) that includes, but  
112 ~~need not be limited to, graduation rates, retention rates,~~  
113 ~~Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, additional~~  
114 ~~educational attainment, employment records, earnings, industry~~  
115 ~~certification, return on investment, and employer satisfaction.~~

116 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1003.4935, Florida

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117 Statutes, is amended to read:

118 1003.4935 Middle grades career and professional academy  
119 courses and career-themed courses.—

120 (1) ~~Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year,~~ Each district  
121 school board, in collaboration with local workforce development  
122 boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved  
123 postsecondary institutions, shall include plans to implement a  
124 career and professional academy or a career-themed course, as  
125 defined in s. 1003.493(1)(b), in at least one middle school in  
126 the district as part of the strategic 3-year plan pursuant to s.  
127 1003.491(2). The strategic plan must provide students the  
128 opportunity to transfer from a middle school career and  
129 professional academy or a career-themed course to a high school  
130 career and professional academy or a career-themed course  
131 currently operating within the school district. Students who  
132 complete a middle school career and professional academy or a  
133 career-themed course must have the opportunity to earn an  
134 industry certificate and high school credit and participate in  
135 career planning, job shadowing, and business leadership  
136 development activities. The district shall inform students and  
137 parents during course selection for middle school of the career  
138 and professional academy or career-themed course available  
139 within the district.

140 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.