

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to career and technical education;
3 amending s. 450.061, F.S.; authorizing minors to work
4 in specified conditions; providing requirements for
5 such conditions; repealing s. 489.5335, F.S., relating
6 to journeyman reciprocity; amending s. 489.537, F.S.;
7 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
8 amending s. 1001.43, F.S.; revising the requirements
9 for an annual career fair to include allowing certain
10 employers to meet with students regarding career and
11 technical education; amending s. 1003.41, F.S.;
12 revising a list of individuals who are required to
13 review and comment on certain revisions to the state
14 academic standards; amending s. 1003.4203, F.S.;
15 revising the requirements for certain courses to
16 receive the same rate as honors courses for purposes
17 of student grade point averages; amending s.
18 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain
19 credits and certifications to meet specified
20 graduation requirements; amending s. 1003.491, F.S.;
21 revising the requirements for a specified 3-year
22 strategic plan relating to career and professional
23 education; requiring the curriculum review committee
24 to review the Applied Construction Mathematics course
25 for inclusion in the course code directory; revising

26 | the requirements for an annual review of K-12 and
 27 | postsecondary career and technical education
 28 | offerings; amending s. 1003.493, F.S.; requiring the
 29 | Department of Education and the Board of Governors to
 30 | annually post specified information to their
 31 | respective websites; revising the amount of career-
 32 | themed courses school districts must offer for
 33 | specified grades; revising duties of the Department of
 34 | Education relating to the award of specified
 35 | postsecondary credits; amending s. 1003.4935, F.S.;
 36 | conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 37 | creating the Career and Technical Education Task Force
 38 | adjunct to the Department of Education; providing the
 39 | purpose of the task force; providing the membership
 40 | and duties of the task force; requiring the task force
 41 | to submit a report and recommendations to certain
 42 | officials by specified dates; providing for expiration
 43 | of the task force; providing an effective date.

44 |
 45 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46 |
 47 | Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 450.061, Florida
 48 | Statutes, is amended to read:

49 | 450.061 Hazardous occupations prohibited; exemptions.—
 50 | (2) A ~~ne~~ minor under 18 years of age, whether such

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51 person's disabilities of nonage have been removed, ~~may not shall~~
52 be employed or permitted or suffered to work in any of the
53 following places of employment or in any of the following
54 occupations, provided that the provisions of paragraphs (b),
55 (e), (g), (h), (j), (m), (o), and (q) shall not apply to the
56 employment of student learners under the conditions prescribed
57 in s. 450.161:

58 (a) In or around explosive or radioactive materials.

59 (b) On any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, residential
60 or nonresidential building construction, or ladder above 6 feet.
61 A minor aged 16 years or 17 years may be employed on any
62 residential or commercial building construction or ladder at or
63 below 6 feet if:

64 1. Each minor aged 16 years or 17 years has earned his or
65 her Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10
66 certification and is under the direct supervision of a person
67 who:

68 a. Has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health
69 Administration 10 certification.

70 b. Is 21 years of age or older.

71 c. Has at least 2 years of work experience related to the
72 work he or she is supervising.

73 2. No work being performed by the minor aged 16 years or
74 17 years is in violation of any Occupational Safety and Health
75 Administration rule or federal law related to minors in the

76 | workplace.

77 | (c) In or around toxic substances or corrosives, including
78 | pesticides or herbicides, unless proper field entry time
79 | allowances have been followed.

80 | (d) Any mining occupation.

81 | (e) In the operation of power-driven woodworking machines.

82 | (f) In the operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus.

83 | (g) In the operation of power-driven metal forming,
84 | punching, or shearing machines.

85 | (h) Slaughtering, meat packing, processing, or rendering,
86 | except as provided in 29 C.F.R. s. 570.61(c).

87 | (i) In the operation of power-driven bakery machinery.

88 | (j) In the operation of power-driven paper products and
89 | printing machines.

90 | (k) Manufacturing brick, tile, and like products.

91 | (l) Wrecking or demolition.

92 | (m) Excavation operations.

93 | (n) Logging or sawmilling.

94 | (o) Working on electric apparatus or wiring.

95 | (p) Firefighting.

96 | (q) Operating or assisting to operate, including starting,
97 | stopping, connecting or disconnecting, feeding, or any other
98 | activity involving physical contact associated with operating, a
99 | tractor over 20 PTO horsepower, any trencher or earthmoving
100 | equipment, fork lift, or any harvesting, planting, or plowing

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101 machinery, or any moving machinery.

102 Section 2. Section 489.5335, Florida Statutes, is
 103 repealed.

104 Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section
 105 489.537, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

106 489.537 Application of this part.—

107 (3) Nothing in this act limits the power of a municipality
 108 or county:

109 (f) To require that one electrical journeyman~~r~~ who is a
 110 graduate of the Institute of Applied Technology in Construction
 111 Excellence ~~or licensed pursuant to s. 489.5335,~~ be present on an
 112 industrial or commercial new construction site with a facility
 113 of 50,000 gross square feet or more when electrical work in
 114 excess of 77 volts is being performed in order to supervise or
 115 perform such work, except as provided in s. 489.503.

116 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (14) of section
 117 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

118 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school
 119 board.—The district school board may exercise the following
 120 supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or
 121 State Board of Education rule.

122 (14) RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC AND CAREER ACHIEVEMENT.—

123 (c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each
 124 district school board shall require each high school within its
 125 jurisdiction to host an annual career fair and industry

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126 recruitment day during the school year and establish a process
127 to provide students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to meet
128 or interview with potential employers during the career fair
129 and, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, allow employers
130 from industries listed on the CAPE Industry Certification
131 Funding List, including employers from the agricultural,
132 construction, culinary, and nursing industries, to meet with
133 other students to explain how career and technical education can
134 result in a high-wage career in a high-demand industry. The
135 career fair must be held on the campus of the high school,
136 except that a group of high schools in the district or a group
137 of districts may hold a joint career fair at an alternative
138 location to satisfy the requirement in this paragraph. A joint
139 career fair must be held at a location located within reasonable
140 driving distance for students at all participating schools. The
141 career fair must be held during the school day and may use
142 Florida's online career planning and work-based learning system
143 as part of the career fair activities.

144
145 District school board policies and procedures may include
146 conducting assemblies or other appropriate public events in
147 which students sign actual or ceremonial documents accepting
148 scholarships or enrollment. The district school board may
149 encourage holding such events in an assembly or gathering of the
150 entire student body as a means of making academic and career

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151 success and recognition visible to all students.

152 Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 1003.41, Florida
153 Statutes, is amended to read:

154 1003.41 State academic standards.—

155 (3) The Commissioner of Education, as needed, shall
156 develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for
157 review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators,
158 representatives of the Florida College System institutions and
159 state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge
160 and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary
161 education and careers, a representative from the Department of
162 Commerce, business and industry leaders for in-demand careers,
163 and the public. The commissioner, after considering reviews and
164 comments, shall submit the proposed revisions to the State Board
165 of Education for adoption.

166 Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 1003.4203, Florida
167 Statutes, is amended to read:

168 1003.4203 Digital materials, CAPE Digital Tool
169 certificates, and technical assistance.—

170 (5) GRADE POINT AVERAGE CALCULATION.—For purposes of
171 calculating grade point average, a grade in a course that is
172 directly related to a CAPE Digital Tool Certificate or CAPE
173 ~~level 3 or above and leads to an~~ industry certification must be
174 weighted the same as a grade in an honors course.

175 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section

176 | 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

177 | 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school
178 | diploma.—

179 | (7) CAREER EDUCATION COURSES THAT SATISFY HIGH SCHOOL
180 | CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.—

181 | (a) Participation in career education courses engages
182 | students in their high school education, increases academic
183 | achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary
184 | success. The department shall develop, for approval by the State
185 | Board of Education, multiple, additional career education
186 | courses or a series of courses that meet the requirements set
187 | forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and this subsection and
188 | allow students to earn credit in both the career education
189 | course and courses required for high school graduation under
190 | this section and s. 1003.4281.

191 | 1. The state board must determine at least biennially if
192 | sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant the award
193 | of academic credit, including satisfaction of graduation,
194 | assessment, and state university admissions requirements under
195 | this section.

196 | 2. Career education courses must:

197 | a. Include workforce and digital literacy skills.

198 | b. Integrate required course content with practical
199 | applications and designated rigorous coursework that results in
200 | one or more industry certifications or clearly articulated

201 credit or advanced standing in a 2-year or 4-year certificate or
 202 degree program, which may include high school junior and senior
 203 year work-related internships or apprenticeships. The department
 204 shall negotiate state licenses for material and testing for
 205 industry certifications.

206
 207 The instructional methodology used in these courses must
 208 comprise authentic projects, problems, and activities for
 209 contextual academic learning and emphasize workplace skills
 210 identified under s. 445.06.

211 3. A student who earns credit upon completion of 1 year of
 212 regulated technical instruction for an apprenticeship program
 213 registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 or
 214 preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of
 215 Education under chapter 446 and the Occupational Safety and
 216 Health Administration 10 certification may use such credit to
 217 satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements in
 218 paragraph (3) (e) or paragraph (3) (g). The state board shall
 219 approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the
 220 apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which earned
 221 credit may be used pursuant to this subparagraph.

222 4. The State Board of Education shall, by rule, establish
 223 a process that enables a student to receive work-based learning
 224 credit or credit in electives for completing a threshold level
 225 of demonstrable participation in extracurricular activities

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226 associated with career and technical student organizations.
227 Work-based learning credit or credit in electives for
228 extracurricular activities or supervised agricultural
229 experiences may not be limited by grade level.

230 Section 8. Paragraph (p) of subsection (3), paragraph (b)
231 of subsection (4), and paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of
232 section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

233 1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—
234 The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to
235 provide a statewide planning partnership between the business
236 and education communities in order to attract, expand, and
237 retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong,
238 knowledge-based economy.

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

243 (p) Strategies to provide professional development for
244 secondary certified school counselors on the benefits of career
245 and professional academies and career-themed courses that lead
246 to industry certification, including providing information on
247 the employment demands and opportunities within the industries
248 listed on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List; and

249 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish a process
250 for the continual and uninterrupted review of newly proposed

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251 core secondary courses and existing courses requested to be
252 considered as core courses to ensure that sufficient rigor and
253 relevance is provided for workforce skills and postsecondary
254 education and aligned to state curriculum standards.

255 (b) The curriculum review committee shall review newly
256 proposed core courses electronically. Each proposed core course
257 shall be approved or denied within 30 days after submission by a
258 district school board or local workforce development board. All
259 courses approved as core courses for purposes of middle school
260 promotion and high school graduation shall be immediately added
261 to the Course Code Directory. Approved core courses shall also
262 be reviewed and considered for approval for dual enrollment
263 credit. The curriculum review committee must review the Applied
264 Construction Mathematics course for inclusion in the course code
265 directory. The Board of Governors and the Commissioner of
266 Education shall jointly recommend an annual deadline for
267 approval of new core courses to be included for purposes of
268 postsecondary admissions and dual enrollment credit the
269 following academic year. The State Board of Education shall
270 establish an appeals process in the event that a proposed course
271 is denied which shall require a consensus ruling by the
272 Department of Economic Opportunity and the Commissioner of
273 Education within 15 days.

274 (5) (a) The Commissioner of Education shall conduct an
275 annual review of K-12 and postsecondary career and technical

276 education offerings that, at a minimum, must examine:

277 1. Alignment of offerings with the framework of quality
278 under s. 445.004(4).

279 2. Alignment of offerings at the K-12 and postsecondary
280 levels with credentials or degree programs identified on the
281 Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4).

282 3. Program utilization and unwarranted duplication across
283 institutions serving the same students in a geographical or
284 service area.

285 4. Institutional performance measured by student outcomes
286 such as academic achievement, college readiness, postsecondary
287 enrollment, credential and certification attainment, job
288 placement, and wages.

289 5. The efforts of each school district to fulfill the
290 requirements of paragraph (3)(p) and the number of students and
291 parents each school district informs about career and technical
292 education offerings and the number of representatives from
293 various industries who speak with students about career and
294 technical education.

295 Section 9. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 1003.493,
296 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

297 1003.493 Career and professional academies and career-
298 themed courses.—

299 (1)(a) A "career and professional academy" is a research-
300 based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum

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301 with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to
302 priority workforce needs established by the local workforce
303 development board or the Department of Economic Opportunity.
304 Career and professional academies shall be offered by public
305 schools and school districts. Career and professional academies
306 may be offered by charter schools. The Florida Virtual School is
307 encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career and professional
308 courses as appropriate. Students completing career and
309 professional academy programs must receive a standard high
310 school diploma, the highest available industry certification,
311 and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the academy
312 partners with a postsecondary institution approved to operate in
313 the state. The Department of Education and the Board of
314 Governors shall annually publish on their respective websites
315 the number of postsecondary credits available to a student who
316 completes a career and professional program through a career and
317 professional academy. Such information must be published as
318 workforce education information.

319 (b) A "career-themed course" is a course, or a course in a
320 series of courses, that leads to an industry certification
321 identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List
322 pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.
323 Career-themed courses have industry-specific curriculum aligned
324 directly to priority workforce needs established by the local
325 workforce development board or the Department of Economic

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326 Opportunity. School districts shall offer at least two career-
327 themed courses in every high school and middle school in the
328 district, ~~and each secondary school is encouraged to offer at~~
329 ~~least one career-themed course.~~ The Florida Virtual School is
330 encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career-themed courses
331 as appropriate. The Department of Education and the Board of
332 Governors shall annually publish on their respective websites
333 the number of postsecondary credits available to students who
334 complete a career-themed course or series of courses that lead
335 to an industry certification listed on the CAPE Industry
336 Certification Funding List. Students completing a career-themed
337 course must be provided opportunities to earn postsecondary
338 credit ~~if the credit for the career-themed course can be~~
339 ~~articulated to a postsecondary institution approved to operate~~
340 ~~in the state.~~

341 (4) Each career and professional academy and ~~secondary~~
342 school providing a career-themed courses ~~course~~ must:

343 (a) Provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum
344 integrated with a career curriculum; consider multiple styles of
345 student learning; promote learning by doing through application
346 and adaptation; maximize relevance of the subject matter;
347 enhance each student's capacity to excel; and include an
348 emphasis on work habits and work ethics.

349 (b)1. Include one or more partnerships with postsecondary
350 institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic

351 development organizations, or other appropriate partners from
 352 the local community. Such partnerships with postsecondary
 353 institutions shall be delineated in articulation agreements and
 354 include any career and professional academy courses or career-
 355 themed courses that earn postsecondary credit. Such agreements
 356 may include articulation between the secondary school and public
 357 or private 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions and
 358 technical centers. ~~The Department of Education, in consultation~~
 359 ~~with the Board of Governors, shall establish a mechanism to~~
 360 ~~ensure articulation and transfer of credits to postsecondary~~
 361 ~~institutions in this state.~~ Such partnerships must provide
 362 opportunities for:

363 ~~a.1.~~ Instruction from highly skilled professionals who
 364 possess industry-certification credentials for courses they are
 365 teaching.

366 ~~b.2.~~ Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.

367 ~~c.3.~~ A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.

368 ~~d.4.~~ The highest available level of industry
 369 certification.

370 ~~e.5.~~ Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s.
 371 1007.23 upon program completion.

372 2. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
 373 Board of Governors, shall:

374 a. Establish a list of postsecondary credits that must be
 375 awarded based on the student's completion of certain career-

376 | themed courses in grades 9 through 12.

377 | b. Establish a list of postsecondary credits that must be
378 | awarded based on the student receiving a CAPE industry
379 | certification under s. 1003.4203.

380 | c. Establish a mechanism to ensure articulation and
381 | transfer of such credits to postsecondary institutions in the
382 | state.

383 | (c) Promote and provide opportunities for students
384 | enrolled in a career and professional academy or a career-themed
385 | course to attain, at minimum, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational
386 | Scholars award pursuant to s. 1009.536.

387 | (d) Provide instruction in careers designated as high-
388 | skill, high-wage, and high-demand by the local workforce
389 | development board, the chamber of commerce, economic development
390 | agencies, or the Department of Economic Opportunity.

391 | (e) Deliver academic content through instruction relevant
392 | to the career, including intensive reading and mathematics
393 | intervention required by s. 1003.4282, with an emphasis on
394 | strengthening reading for information skills.

395 | (f) Offer applied courses that combine academic content
396 | with technical skills.

397 | (g) Provide instruction resulting in competency,
398 | certification, or credentials in workplace skills, including,
399 | but not limited to, communication skills, interpersonal skills,
400 | decisionmaking skills, the importance of attendance and

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401 | timeliness in the work environment, and work ethics.

402 | Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 1003.4935, Florida
403 | Statutes, is amended to read:

404 | 1003.4935 Middle grades career and professional academy
405 | courses and career-themed courses.—

406 | (1) ~~Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year,~~ Each
407 | district school board, in collaboration with local workforce
408 | development boards, economic development agencies, and state-
409 | approved postsecondary institutions, shall include plans to
410 | implement a career and professional academy or at least two a
411 | career-themed courses ~~course~~, as defined in s. 1003.493(1)(b),
412 | in each ~~at least one~~ middle school in the district as part of
413 | the strategic 3-year plan pursuant to s. 1003.491(2). The
414 | strategic plan must provide students the opportunity to transfer
415 | from a middle school career and professional academy or a
416 | career-themed course to a high school career and professional
417 | academy or a career-themed course currently operating within the
418 | school district. Students who complete a middle school career
419 | and professional academy or a career-themed course must have the
420 | opportunity to earn an industry certificate and high school
421 | credit and participate in career planning, job shadowing, and
422 | business leadership development activities.

423 | Section 11. (1) The Career and Technical Education Task
424 | Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(5), Florida Statutes,
425 | is created adjunct to the Department of Education to study the

426 status of career and technical education in each school district
427 within the state. Except as otherwise provided in this section,
428 the task force shall operate in a manner consistent with s.
429 20.052, Florida Statutes. The department shall provide
430 administrative and staff support relating to the functions of
431 the task force.

432 (2) The Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker
433 of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of Education,
434 and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall each
435 appoint two members to the task force by September 1, 2024. The
436 commissioner shall appoint a chair of the task force.

437 (3) The task force shall:

438 (a) Compile a list of career and technical education
439 courses offered within each school district. Such data must be
440 broken down by industry, grade level, location, the number of
441 students enrolled in such courses, the number of students who
442 complete such courses, and the total number of students per
443 district enrolled in such courses.

444 (b) Identify the total funding provided for the career and
445 technical education courses offered by school districts and
446 analyze whether such funding is uniform across the state or if
447 such funding varies by course or industry.

448 (c) Compare funding and reimbursement rates and timelines
449 for career and technical education courses to funding and
450 reimbursement rates and timelines for traditional K-12 education

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451 courses.

452 (d) Identify any additional funding available for
453 additional career and technical education courses, including
454 federal funding, industry funding, or additional state funding.

455 (e) Identify how career and technical education courses
456 are advertised to parents and students.

457 (f) Identify the needs of school districts to expand
458 career and technical education, including what needs could be
459 met by the Legislature.

460 (g) Identify the number of students who earn an industry
461 certification through career and technical education courses who
462 also find employment in relevant industries.

463 (h) Provide recommendations for changes and expansions to
464 career and technical education course offerings beginning in the
465 2026-2027 school year.

466 (4) The task force shall submit to the Governor, the
467 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
468 Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education a report of
469 its findings by September 1, 2025. The task force shall submit
470 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
471 House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education its
472 recommendations by January 1, 2026. This section shall expire
473 upon submission of the recommendations.

474 Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.