

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to certificates of completion;  
 3           amending s. 1002.394, F.S.; conforming a provision to  
 4           changes made by the act; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.;  
 5           deleting provisions providing for the award of a  
 6           certificate of completion to certain students;  
 7           conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
 8           amending s. 1003.433 conforming a provision to changes  
 9           made by the act; amending s. 1007.263, F.S.; revising  
 10          the student eligibility criteria for enrollment in  
 11          certificate career education programs; providing an  
 12          effective date.

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

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 16           **Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 1002.394, Florida**  
 17 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

18           1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—  
 19           (16) TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM.—A student with a  
 20           disability who is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph  
 21           (3)(b) who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years of  
 22           age and who has not received a high school diploma ~~or~~  
 23           ~~certificate of completion~~ is eligible for enrollment in his or  
 24           her participating private school's transition-to-work program. A  
 25           transition-to-work program shall consist of academic

26 instruction, work skills training, and a volunteer or paid work  
27 experience.

28 (a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating  
29 private school must:

30 1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must  
31 include a written description of the academic instruction and  
32 work skills training students will receive and the goals for  
33 students in the program.

34 2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the  
35 Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice and consider  
36 any guidance provided by the department pursuant to paragraph  
37 (8) (d) relating to the plan.

38 3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan  
39 for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent,  
40 the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized  
41 plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of  
42 Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the  
43 office.

44 4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed  
45 by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of  
46 the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

47 5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the  
48 student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and,  
49 if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

50 6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report

51 | that documents and explains the student's progress and  
 52 | performance in the program.

53 |         7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records  
 54 | for the student.

55 |         (b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program  
 56 | must, at a minimum:

57 |             1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the participating  
 58 | private school's physical facility, which must include academic  
 59 | instruction and work skills training.

60 |             2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's  
 61 | volunteer or paid work experience.

62 |         (c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a  
 63 | business must:

64 |             1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's  
 65 | performance and hours worked and provide the information to the  
 66 | participating private school.

67 |             2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.

68 |         **Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and paragraphs**  
 69 | **(a) and (d) of subsection (8) of section 1003.4282, Florida**  
 70 | **Statutes, are amended to read:**

71 |             1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school  
 72 | diploma.—

73 |             (5) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

74 |             (c) A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the  
 75 | required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the

76 assessments required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA  
77 ~~shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form~~  
78 ~~prescribed by the State Board of Education. However, a student~~  
79 ~~who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may~~  
80 elect to remain in high school either as a full-time student or  
81 a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive  
82 special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified  
83 deficiencies.

84 (8) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Beginning with students  
85 entering grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year, this subsection  
86 applies to a student with a disability.

87 (a) A parent of the student with a disability shall, in  
88 collaboration with the individual education plan (IEP) team  
89 during the transition planning process pursuant to s. 1003.5716,  
90 declare an intent for the student to graduate from high school  
91 with ~~either~~ a standard high school diploma ~~or a certificate of~~  
92 ~~completion. A student with a disability who does not satisfy the~~  
93 ~~standard high school diploma requirements pursuant to this~~  
94 ~~section shall be awarded a certificate of completion.~~

95 (d) A student with a disability who ~~receives a certificate~~  
96 ~~of completion and~~ has an individual education plan that  
97 prescribes special education, transition planning, transition  
98 services, or related services through 21 years of age may  
99 continue to receive the specified instruction and services.

100

101 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss.  
102 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection, including  
103 rules that establish the minimum requirements for students  
104 described in this subsection to earn a standard high school  
105 diploma. The State Board of Education shall adopt emergency  
106 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54.

107 **Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section**  
108 **1003.433, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

109 1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-  
110 of-country transfer students and students needing additional  
111 instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.—

112 (2) Students who earn the required 24 credits for the  
113 standard high school diploma except for passage of any must-pass  
114 assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate  
115 assessment by the end of grade 12 must be provided the following  
116 learning opportunities:

117 ~~(b) Upon receipt of a certificate of completion,~~ Be  
118 allowed to take the College Placement Test and be admitted to  
119 developmental education or credit courses at a Florida College  
120 System institution, as appropriate.

121 **Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1007.263, Florida**  
122 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

123 1007.263 Florida College System institutions; admissions  
124 of students.—Each Florida College System institution board of  
125 trustees is authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of

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126 students subject to this section and rules of the State Board of  
127 Education. These rules shall include the following:

128 (4) A student who has earned the required 24 credits under  
129 s. 1003.4282, or the required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5),  
130 for the standard high school diploma, except for passage of any  
131 must-pass assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an  
132 alternate assessment by the end of grade 12, ~~been awarded a~~  
133 ~~certificate of completion under s. 1003.4282~~ is eligible to  
134 enroll in certificate career education programs.

135

136 Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify  
137 students about developmental education options for improving  
138 their communication or computation skills that are essential to  
139 performing college-level work, including tutoring, extended time  
140 in gateway courses, free online courses, adult basic education,  
141 adult secondary education, or private provider instruction.

142 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.