

By the Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education; the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Yarborough

602-02902-25

20251402c2

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to students enrolled in dropout
3 retrieval programs; amending s. 1002.45, F.S.;
4 revising assessment and accountability requirements
5 for a virtual instruction program provider; providing
6 that a virtual instruction program provider operating
7 exclusively as a dropout retrieval program is exempt
8 from specified requirements; amending s. 1003.53,
9 F.S.; providing that dropout retrieval programs serve
10 a specified group of students; requiring a dropout
11 retrieval program to choose to receive a school grade
12 or school improvement rating; providing an effective
13 date.

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

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17 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
18 1002.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 1002.45 Virtual instruction programs.—

20 (7) ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

21 (a) Each approved virtual instruction program provider
22 contracted pursuant to this section must:

23 1. Participate in the statewide assessment program under s.
24 1008.22 and in the state's education performance accountability
25 system under s. 1008.31.

26 2. Receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school
27 improvement rating under s. 1008.341, as applicable, for each
28 district with which it contracts, based on the assessment scores
29 of all students served within the school district. ~~The school~~

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30 ~~improvement rating received by each approved virtual instruction~~
31 ~~program provider shall be based upon the aggregated assessment~~
32 ~~scores of all students served by the provider statewide.~~ Each
33 approved virtual instruction program provider shall receive a
34 district grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 based upon the aggregated
35 assessment scores of all students served by the provider
36 statewide and a separate school grade or school improvement
37 rating for each school district with which it contracts based
38 upon the assessment scores of all students served within the
39 school district. A virtual instruction program provider
40 operating exclusively as a dropout retrieval program as
41 described in s. 1003.53(7) is exempt from the district grade
42 requirement of this paragraph. The department shall publish the
43 school grade or school improvement rating received by each
44 approved virtual instruction program provider on its Internet
45 website. The department shall develop an evaluation method for
46 providers of part-time programs which includes the percentage of
47 students making learning gains, the percentage of students
48 successfully passing any required end-of-course assessment, the
49 percentage of students taking Advanced Placement examinations,
50 and the percentage of students scoring 3 or higher on an
51 Advanced Placement examination.

52 Section 2. Present subsection (7) of section 1003.53,
53 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (8), and a new
54 subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

55 1003.53 Dropout prevention and academic intervention.—

56 (7) Dropout retrieval programs serve students who have
57 officially withdrawn from high school before graduation and who
58 are not engaged in the education system at the time of

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59 enrollment in the program. Each dropout retrieval program shall
60 choose to receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school
61 improvement rating under s. 1008.341.

62 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.