

HB 1503

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to technology education; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; requiring school districts to develop and offer elective courses for high schools in computer technology, such as artificial intelligence; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; revising general education core course standards for public postsecondary educational institutions to include technology courses; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

(3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(g) *Credits in electives.*—School districts shall must develop and offer coordinated electives so that a student may develop knowledge and skills in his or her area of interest, such as electives with a STEM focus, including courses in computer technology, such as artificial intelligence, or a liberal arts focus. Such electives must include opportunities for students to earn college credit, including industry-

26 certified career education programs or series of career-themed
27 courses that result in industry certification or articulate into
28 the award of college credit, or career education courses for
29 which there is a statewide or local articulation agreement and
30 which lead to college credit. A student entering grade 9 before
31 the 2023-2024 school year must earn eight credits in electives.
32 A student entering grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year or
33 thereafter must earn seven and one-half credits in electives.

34 **Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
35 1007.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

36 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
37 other degree requirements.—

38 (3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the
39 chair of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall
40 jointly appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to
41 the Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the
42 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors statewide
43 general education core course options for inclusion in the
44 statewide course numbering system established under s. 1007.24.
45 Faculty committees shall, by July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 4
46 years thereafter, review and submit recommendations to the
47 Articulation Coordinating Committee and the commissioner for the
48 removal, alignment, realignment, or addition of general
49 education core courses that satisfy the requirements of this
50 subsection.

51 (d) General education core courses must meet the following
52 standards:

53 1. Communication courses must afford students the ability
54 to communicate effectively, including the ability to write
55 clearly and engage in public speaking.

56 2. Humanities courses must afford students the ability to
57 think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned
58 with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music,
59 and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western
60 canon.

61 3. Social science courses must afford students an
62 understanding of the basic social and behavioral science
63 concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and
64 past and present social, political, and economic issues.

65 4. Natural science courses must afford students the
66 ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the
67 scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific
68 method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.

69 5. Mathematics courses must afford students a mastery of
70 foundational mathematical and computation models and methods by
71 applying such models and methods in problem solving.

72 6. Technology courses must afford students an
73 understanding of computer science, through artificial
74 intelligence applications and the mastering of subjects
75 concerned with software engineering, computer networks, database

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76 systems, and cyber security.

77 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.