

By Senator Grall

29-00831-26

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to required instruction in cursive writing; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring students in specified grades to receive instruction in cursive writing; providing requirements for such instruction; requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in cursive writing by the end of a specified grade; defining the term "proficiency in cursive writing"; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (w) is added to subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

(w)1. For students in grades 2 through 5, the study of cursive writing and the development of the skills necessary for legible cursive writing, including:

a. Letter formation.

b. Proper spacing and alignment.

c. Practice in writing complete words and sentences in cursive.

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30 2. By the end of grade 5, each student must demonstrate
31 proficiency in cursive writing through an evaluation of written
32 work. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "proficiency
33 in cursive writing" means all of the following:

34 a. The ability to write uppercase and lowercase letters of
35 the alphabet in cursive writing.

36 b. Writing words and sentences in cursive legibly and
37 maintaining proper spacing and alignment.

38 c. The ability to read and apply cursive writing in a
39 manner that supports literacy development, including writing
40 essays and assignments in cursive writing in accordance with
41 state academic standards.

42
43 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
44 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.
45 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the
46 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is
47 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
48 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
49 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.