

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and
Representatives Casey, Brooks, Feeney, Argenziano, Fasano and
Culp

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; authorizing an
3 incentive program for early high school
4 graduation; establishing eligibility
5 requirements; providing for reporting
6 requirements; authorizing adoption of rules;
7 providing an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Incentive program for early high school
12 graduation.--

13 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize
14 outstanding performance and academic achievement on the part
15 of public school students who graduate early and to reward the
16 high schools from which they graduate. For the purpose of
17 recognizing and rewarding outstanding performance and academic
18 achievement on the part of public school students, the
19 Commissioner of Education may annually award a full
20 scholarship to any state community college, a scholarship for
21 tuition and materials to any state university, or a
22 scholarship to an independent college or university accredited
23 by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of
24 Colleges and Schools at the value of the average tuition and
25 fees in the State University System to any such student who
26 meets the following criteria:

27 (a) Graduates from high school by the end of the
28 eleventh grade.

29 (b) Graduates with a 3.2 grade point average, on a 4.0
30 scale, in courses that meet the entrance requirements to state
31 universities.

1 (2) For the purpose of recognizing and rewarding
2 outstanding performance and academic achievement on the part
3 of public high schools pursuant to any incentive funding
4 provided in the annual General Appropriations Act for
5 remediation reduction or similar postsecondary preparedness
6 incentive funding, the distribution formula shall increase the
7 per student incentive funding provided to those high schools
8 that graduate students who meet the criteria in subsection
9 (1). Each student who meets the criteria in subsection (1)
10 shall generate double the normal per student incentive funding
11 amount for the high school he or she attends.

12 (3) Any student who meets the requirements for the
13 Florida Academic Scholars' Certificate Program or any Florida
14 merit scholarship award authorized by law shall receive all
15 recognition and rewards of such program or award.

16 (4) In order to share innovative practices regarding
17 the incentive program for early high school graduation, each
18 school district that receives incentive funding pursuant to
19 this section shall provide to the Department of Education:

20 (a) A description of the changes made in curriculum
21 offerings in middle school that allow selected students to
22 take high school courses for credit.

23 (b) A description of the changes made in curriculum
24 offerings in high school that allow selected students to
25 progress at a faster rate and graduate by the end of the
26 eleventh grade.

27 (c) A description of other changes made in the school
28 district that allow and encourage students to progress through
29 school at a faster rate.

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1 (5) The Department of Education may adopt rules
2 necessary for the implementation and administration of this
3 section.
4 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
5 law.
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