

By Representative Boyd

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; amending s.  
3           229.57, F.S., relating to the statewide  
4           assessment program; authorizing exemption from  
5           the high school competency test; amending s.  
6           232.246, F.S., relating to general requirements  
7           for high school graduation; requiring the  
8           Commissioner of Education to specify certain  
9           curriculum; amending s. 232.2466, F.S.;  
10          revising requirements for receipt of a  
11          college-ready diploma; deleting obsolete  
12          language; amending s. 240.116, F.S., relating  
13          to articulated acceleration; requiring rules  
14          for certain dual enrollment programs; amending  
15          s. 240.233, F.S., relating to university  
16          admission; requiring rules to articulate  
17          foreign language competency between secondary  
18          and postsecondary institutions; providing an  
19          effective date.

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

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23           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
24   229.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25           229.57 Student assessment program.--

26           (3) STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.--The commissioner is  
27   directed to design and implement a statewide program of  
28   educational assessment that provides information for the  
29   improvement of the operation and management of the public  
30   schools. The program must be designed, as far as possible, so  
31   as not to conflict with ongoing district assessment programs

1 and so as to use information obtained from district programs.  
2 Pursuant to the statewide assessment program, the commissioner  
3 shall:

4 (c) Develop and implement a student achievement  
5 testing program as part of the statewide assessment program,  
6 to be administered at designated times at the elementary,  
7 middle, and high school levels to measure reading, writing,  
8 and mathematics. The testing program must be designed so  
9 that:

10 1. The tests measure student skills and competencies  
11 adopted by the state board as specified in paragraph (a). The  
12 tests must measure and report student proficiency levels in  
13 reading, writing, and mathematics. Other content areas may be  
14 included as directed by the commissioner. The commissioner  
15 shall provide for the tests to be developed or obtained, as  
16 appropriate, through contracts and project agreements with  
17 private vendors, public vendors, public agencies,  
18 postsecondary institutions, or school districts. The  
19 commissioner shall obtain input with respect to the design and  
20 implementation of the testing program from state educators and  
21 the public.

22 2. The tests are criterion-referenced and include, to  
23 the extent determined by the commissioner, items that require  
24 the student to produce information or perform tasks in such a  
25 way that the skills and competencies he or she uses can be  
26 measured.

27 3. Each testing program, whether at the elementary,  
28 middle, or high school level, includes a test of writing in  
29 which students are required to produce writings which are then  
30 scored by appropriate methods.

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1           4. A score is designated for each subject area tested,  
2 below which score a student's performance is deemed  
3 inadequate. The school districts shall provide appropriate  
4 remedial instruction to students who score below these levels.

5           5. All 11th grade students take a high school  
6 competency test developed by the state board to test minimum  
7 student performance skills and competencies in reading,  
8 writing, and mathematics. The test must be based on the skills  
9 and competencies adopted by the state board pursuant to  
10 paragraph (a). Upon recommendation of the commissioner, the  
11 state board shall designate a passing score for each part of  
12 the high school competency test. In establishing passing  
13 scores, the state board shall consider any possible negative  
14 impact of the test on minority students. The commissioner may  
15 establish student performance criteria in communications and  
16 mathematics which may allow a student to exempt the  
17 corresponding section of the high school competency test, or  
18 the college placement test when otherwise required.A student  
19 must earn a passing score on, or be exempted from,each part  
20 of the high school competency test ~~taken~~ to qualify for a  
21 regular high school diploma. The school districts shall  
22 provide appropriate remedial instruction to students who do  
23 not pass part of the competency test.

24           6. Participation in the testing program is mandatory  
25 for all students, except as otherwise prescribed by the  
26 commissioner. The commissioner shall recommend rules to the  
27 state board for the provision of test adaptations and  
28 modifications of procedures as necessary for students in  
29 exceptional education programs and for students who have  
30 limited English proficiency.

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1           7. A student seeking an adult high school diploma must  
2 meet the same testing requirements that a regular high school  
3 student must meet.

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5 The commissioner may design and implement student testing  
6 programs for any grade level and subject area, based on  
7 procedures designated by the commissioner to monitor  
8 educational achievement in the state.

9           Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 232.246, Florida  
10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11           232.246 General requirements for high school  
12 graduation.--

13           (1) Graduation requires successful completion of  
14 either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12  
15 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum as specified by  
16 the Commissioner of Education. The 24 credits shall be  
17 distributed as follows:

18           (a) Four credits in English, with major concentration  
19 in composition and literature.

20           (b) Three credits in mathematics. Effective for  
21 students entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year  
22 and thereafter, one of these credits must be Algebra I, a  
23 series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level  
24 mathematics course.

25           (c) Three credits in science, two of which must have a  
26 laboratory component. The State Board of Education may grant  
27 an annual waiver of the laboratory requirement to a school  
28 district that certifies that its laboratory facilities are  
29 inadequate, provided the district submits a capital outlay  
30 plan to provide adequate facilities and makes the funding of  
31 this plan a priority of the school board.

- 1           (d) One credit in American history.
- 2           (e) One credit in world history, including a  
3 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
4 all major political systems.
- 5           (f) One-half credit in economics, including a  
6 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
7 all major economic systems. The Florida Council on Economic  
8 Education shall provide technical assistance to the department  
9 and local school boards in developing curriculum materials for  
10 the study of economics.
- 11           (g) One-half credit in American government, including  
12 study of the Constitution of the United States. For students  
13 entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and  
14 thereafter, the study of Florida government, including study  
15 of the State Constitution, the three branches of state  
16 government, and municipal and county government, shall be  
17 included as part of the required study of American government.
- 18           (h)1. One credit in practical arts career education or  
19 exploratory career education. Any vocational course as  
20 defined in s. 228.041(22) may be taken to satisfy the high  
21 school graduation requirement for one credit in practical arts  
22 or exploratory career education provided in this subparagraph;
- 23           2. One credit in performing fine arts to be selected  
24 from music, dance, drama, painting, or sculpture. A course in  
25 any art form, in addition to painting or sculpture, that  
26 requires manual dexterity, or a course in speech and debate,  
27 may be taken to satisfy the high school graduation requirement  
28 for one credit in performing arts pursuant to this  
29 subparagraph; or  
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1           3. One-half credit each in practical arts career  
2 education or exploratory career education and performing fine  
3 arts, as defined in this paragraph.

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5 Such credit for practical arts career education or exploratory  
6 career education or for performing fine arts shall be made  
7 available in the 9th grade, and students shall be scheduled  
8 into a 9th grade course as a priority.

9           (i) One-half credit in life management skills to  
10 include consumer education, positive emotional development,  
11 nutrition, prevention of human immunodeficiency virus  
12 infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other  
13 sexually transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence  
14 and consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and  
15 instruction on breast cancer detection and breast  
16 self-examination, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug  
17 education, and the hazards of smoking. Such credit shall be  
18 given for a course to be taken by all students in either the  
19 9th or 10th grade.

20           (j) One-half credit in physical education to include  
21 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.  
22 Participation in an interscholastic sport, whether at the  
23 freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level, for a full season,  
24 shall satisfy the one-half credit requirement in physical  
25 education.

26           (k) Nine elective credits.

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28 School boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in social  
29 studies and one-half elective credit for student completion of  
30 nonpaid voluntary community or school service work. Students  
31 choosing this option must complete a minimum of 75 hours of

1 service in order to earn the one-half credit in either  
2 category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for service  
3 provided as a result of court action. School boards that  
4 approve the award of credit for student volunteer service  
5 shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the credit,  
6 and school principals are responsible for approving specific  
7 volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course Code  
8 Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 which is taken below the  
9 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation  
10 requirements or Florida Academic Scholar's Certificate Program  
11 requirements as specified in a district's pupil progression  
12 plan.

13 Section 3. Section 232.2466, Florida Statutes, is  
14 amended to read:

15 232.2466 College-ready diploma program.--

16 (1) Beginning with the 1998-1999 ~~1997-1998~~ school  
17 year, each school district shall award a differentiated  
18 college-ready diploma to each student who:

19 (a) Successfully completes the requirements for a  
20 standard high school diploma as prescribed by s. 232.246.

21 ~~Among courses taken to fulfill the 24-academic-credit~~  
22 ~~requirement, a student must take:~~

23 ~~1. Two credits in algebra and one credit in geometry,~~  
24 ~~or their equivalents, as determined by the state board.~~

25 ~~2. One credit in biology, one credit in chemistry, and~~  
26 ~~one credit in physics, or their equivalents, as determined by~~  
27 ~~the state board.~~

28 ~~3. Two credits in the same foreign language, taken for~~  
29 ~~elective credit. A student whose native language is not~~  
30 ~~English is exempt from this requirement if the student~~

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1 ~~demonstrates proficiency in the native language. American sign~~  
2 ~~language constitutes a foreign language.~~

3 (b) Achieves a 3.0 weighted grade point average, or  
4 its equivalent, in high school courses that are adopted by the  
5 Board of Regents and recommended by the State Board of  
6 Community Colleges as college-preparatory academic courses.

7 (c) Obtains at least the qualifying score for the  
8 Florida Merit Scholars award on the combined verbal and  
9 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the  
10 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic  
11 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an  
12 equivalent score on the American College Testing Program.

13 ~~(b) Takes the postsecondary education common placement~~  
14 ~~test prescribed in s. 240.117, or an equivalent test~~  
15 ~~identified by the State Board of Education, before graduation~~  
16 ~~and scores at or above the established statewide passing score~~  
17 ~~in each test area.~~

18 (2) For purposes of calculating the grade point  
19 average to be used in determining eligibility for a  
20 college-ready diploma, the department shall assign additional  
21 weights to grades earned in the following courses:

22 (a) Courses identified in the course code directory as  
23 Advanced Placement, pre-International Baccalaureate, or  
24 International Baccalaureate.

25 (b) Courses designated as academic dual enrollment  
26 courses in the statewide course numbering system.

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28 The department may assign additional weights to courses, other  
29 than those described in paragraphs (a) and (b), that are  
30 identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as  
31 containing rigorous academic curriculum and performance



1 standards. The additional weight assigned to a course pursuant  
2 to this subsection shall not exceed 0.5 per semester per  
3 course.

4 (3)(2) A college-ready diploma entitles a student to  
5 admission without placement testing to a public postsecondary  
6 education program that terminates in a technical certificate,  
7 an associate in science degree, or an associate in arts  
8 degree, if the student enters postsecondary education within 2  
9 years after earning the college-ready diploma.

10 ~~(3) The Department of Education shall convene a task~~  
11 ~~force of educators and employers to recommend additional~~  
12 ~~incentives for students to pursue a college-ready diploma.~~  
13 ~~The incentives may include awards and recognition, preference~~  
14 ~~for positions in firms, and early registration privileges in~~  
15 ~~postsecondary education institutions.~~

16 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 240.116, Florida  
17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18 240.116 Articulated acceleration.--

19 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a variety  
20 of articulated acceleration mechanisms be available for  
21 secondary and postsecondary students attending public  
22 educational institutions. It is intended that articulated  
23 acceleration serve to shorten the time necessary for a student  
24 to complete the requirements associated with the conference of  
25 a degree, broaden the scope of curricular options available to  
26 students, or increase the depth of study available for a  
27 particular subject. Articulated acceleration mechanisms shall  
28 include, but not be limited to, dual enrollment, early  
29 admission, advanced placement, credit by examination, and the  
30 International Baccalaureate Program. The State Board of

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1 Education shall adopt rules for any dual enrollment programs  
2 involving requirements for high school graduation.

3 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
4 240.233, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 240.233 Universities; admissions of students.--Each  
6 university shall govern admissions of students, subject to  
7 this section and rules of the Board of Regents.

8 (1) Minimum academic standards for undergraduate  
9 admission to a university shall include the requirements that:

10 (b) Each student have earned two credits of sequential  
11 foreign language at the secondary level or the equivalent of  
12 such instruction at the postsecondary level. A student whose  
13 native language is not English is exempt from this admissions  
14 requirement, provided that the student demonstrates  
15 proficiency in the native language. If a standardized test is  
16 not available in the student's native language for the  
17 demonstration of proficiency, the university may provide an  
18 alternative method of assessment. The State Board of Education  
19 shall adopt rules to articulate foreign language competency  
20 and equivalency between secondary and postsecondary  
21 institutions.A student who received an associate in arts  
22 degree prior to September 1, 1989, or who enrolled in a  
23 program of studies leading to an associate degree from a  
24 Florida community college prior to August 1, 1989, and  
25 maintains continuous enrollment shall be exempt from this  
26 admissions requirement.

27 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1 of the  
28 year in which enacted.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Authorizes exemption from the high school competency test according to criteria established by the Commissioner of Education. Requires the commissioner to specify certain curriculum for high school graduation. Revises requirements for receipt of a college-ready diploma. Requires rules for certain dual enrollment programs. Requires rules to articulate foreign language competency between secondary and postsecondary institutions.