

By Representative Chestnut

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to pupil progression; amending  
3           ss. 232.245, 232.246, and 232.425, F.S.;  
4           raising the required cumulative grade point  
5           average for purposes of the school district  
6           comprehensive program for pupil progression,  
7           high school graduation, and participation in  
8           interscholastic extracurricular activities;  
9           requiring reading courses under certain  
10          circumstances; restricting access to certain  
11          high school courses; providing for satisfaction  
12          of certain requirements; revising credit  
13          requirements; correcting cross references;  
14          amending s. 232.2454, F.S.; revising provisions  
15          relating to student performance standards;  
16          amending ss. 229.565 and 233.011, F.S.;  
17          correcting cross references; amending s.  
18          240.116, F.S.; requiring the development of  
19          standards for dual enrollment courses; amending  
20          s. 240.117, F.S., relating to the common  
21          placement test for postsecondary education;  
22          revising a dual enrollment requirement;  
23          amending s. 240.118, F.S.; requiring the  
24          recommendation of statutory changes to reduce  
25          postsecondary remediation; providing an  
26          effective date.

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28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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1           Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 232.245, Florida  
2 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to said  
3 section, to read:

4           232.245 Pupil progression.--

5           (3) Each district comprehensive program for pupil  
6 progression shall reflect an effort to identify students at  
7 each grade level in grades 9 through 12 who have attained a  
8 cumulative grade point average at ~~of 1.5~~ or below the  
9 cumulative grade point average required for graduation  
10 pursuant to s. 232.246(5). The program shall further include  
11 provisions for assisting such students to achieve such  
12 required ~~the 1.5~~ cumulative grade point average ~~required for~~  
13 ~~graduation pursuant to s. 232.246~~.

14           (4) Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year, any  
15 student two grades below grade level in reading skills, based  
16 on locally determined assessments at grade 5, grade 6, or  
17 grade 7 or teacher recommendation, shall be required to take  
18 one course in reading at grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8.  
19 Additionally, any student two grades below grade level in  
20 reading at grade 9 must take a reading course as an elective  
21 at grade 9.

22           Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 232.2454, Florida  
23 Statutes, is amended to read:

24           232.2454 District student performance standards,  
25 instruments, and assessment procedures.--

26           (2) Each district school board shall adopt student  
27 performance standards for each course ~~academic program~~ in  
28 grades 9 through 12 for which credit toward high school  
29 graduation is awarded. The board shall also establish  
30 policies which shall require ~~as to~~ student mastery of  
31 performance standards before credit for a course ~~program~~ may

1 be awarded. Teacher observations, classroom assignments, and  
2 examinations may be considered appropriate methods of  
3 assessing student mastery.

4 Section 3. Subsections (1), (9), and (10) and  
5 paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 232.246, Florida  
6 Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (d) is added to  
7 subsection (7) of said section, to read:

8 232.246 General requirements for high school  
9 graduation.--

10 (1) Successful completion of a minimum of 24 academic  
11 credits in grades 9 through 12 shall be required for  
12 graduation, provided that student completion of an  
13 International Baccalaureate curriculum shall be deemed to meet  
14 the curricular requirements of this subsection. Access to  
15 Level I courses for graduation credit shall be limited to only  
16 those students for whom assessment or previous course  
17 performance indicates a more rigorous course of study would be  
18 inappropriate. A course designated in the Course Code  
19 Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 which is taken below the  
20 ninth grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation  
21 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars' Certificate Program  
22 requirements as specified in a district's pupil progression  
23 plan. The 24 credits shall be distributed as follows:

24 (a) Four credits in English, with major concentration  
25 in composition and literature.

26 (b) Three credits in mathematics, one of which must be  
27 Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a  
28 higher-level course. The requirement of one credit in Algebra  
29 I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a  
30 higher-level course shall be effective for students entering  
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1 ninth grade for the first time in the 1997-1998 school year  
2 and thereafter.

3 (c) Three credits in science, two of which must have a  
4 laboratory component. The State Board of Education may grant  
5 an annual waiver of the laboratory requirement to a school  
6 district that certifies that its laboratory facilities are  
7 inadequate, provided the district submits a capital outlay  
8 plan to provide adequate facilities and makes the funding of  
9 this plan a priority of the school board.

10 (d) One credit in American history.

11 (e) One credit in world history, including a  
12 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
13 all major political systems.

14 (f) One-half credit in economics, including a  
15 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
16 all major economic systems. The Florida Council on Economic  
17 Education shall provide technical assistance to the department  
18 and local school boards in developing curriculum materials for  
19 the study of economics.

20 (g) One-half credit in American government.

21 (h)1. One credit in practical arts career education or  
22 exploratory career education. Any vocational course as  
23 defined in s. 228.041(22) may be taken to satisfy the high  
24 school graduation requirement for one credit in practical arts  
25 or exploratory career education provided in this subparagraph;

26 2. One credit in performing fine arts to be selected  
27 from music, dance, drama, painting, or sculpture. A course in  
28 any art form, in addition to painting or sculpture, that  
29 requires manual dexterity, or a course in speech and debate,  
30 may be taken to satisfy the high school graduation requirement

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1 for one credit in performing arts pursuant to this  
2 subparagraph; or

3 3. One-half credit each in practical arts career  
4 education or exploratory career education and performing fine  
5 arts, as defined in this paragraph.

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

11 (i) One-half credit in life management skills to  
12 include consumer education, positive emotional development,  
13 nutrition, prevention of human immunodeficiency virus  
14 infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other  
15 sexually transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence  
16 and consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and  
17 instruction on breast cancer detection and breast  
18 self-examination, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug  
19 education, and the hazards of smoking. Such credit shall be  
20 given for a course to be taken by all students in either the  
21 9th or 10th grade.

22 (j) One-half credit in physical education to include  
23 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.

24 (k) Nine elective credits.

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26 School boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in social  
27 studies and one-half elective credit for student completion of  
28 nonpaid voluntary community or school service work. Students  
29 choosing this option shall complete a minimum of 75 hours of  
30 service in order to earn the one-half credit in either  
31 category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for service

1 provided as a result of court action. School boards that  
2 approve the award of credit for student volunteer service  
3 shall develop guidelines regarding the award of such credit  
4 and school principals shall be responsible for approving  
5 specific volunteer activities.

6 (5) Each district school board shall establish  
7 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include:

8 (c) Achievement of ~~Effective for the 1988-1989 school~~  
9 ~~year and each year thereafter,~~ a cumulative grade point  
10 average of 1.5 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for students  
11 entering ninth grade prior to the 1997-1998 school year and a  
12 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for students entering  
13 ninth grade for first time in the 1997-1998 school year and  
14 thereafter ~~required courses for graduation.~~

15 1. Each district shall adopt policies which are  
16 designed to assist students in meeting this requirement. Such  
17 policies may include, but shall not be limited to: forgiveness  
18 policies, summer school attendance, special counseling,  
19 volunteer and/or peer tutors, school-sponsored help sessions,  
20 homework hotlines, and study skills classes.

21 2. At the end of each semester, the parent or guardian  
22 of each student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a  
23 cumulative grade point average of less than 0.5 of a point  
24 above the grade point average required for graduation ~~2.0~~  
25 shall be notified that the student is at risk of not meeting  
26 the requirements for graduation. The notice shall contain an  
27 explanation of the policies the district has put in place to  
28 assist the student in meeting the grade point average  
29 requirement.

30 3. Special assistance to obtain a high school  
31 equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 229.814 shall be given only

1 in such cases where the student has completed all requirements  
2 for graduation except the attainment of the a 1.5 cumulative  
3 grade point average required for graduation.

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5 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent  
6 modifications thereto, shall be reprinted in the Florida  
7 Administrative Code even though such standards are not defined  
8 as "rules."

9 (7) No student may be granted credit toward high  
10 school graduation for enrollment in the following courses or  
11 programs:

12 (d) More than one credit in mathematics at Level I as  
13 defined in the Course Code Directory, unless individual  
14 assessment clearly demonstrates the appropriateness of more  
15 than one Level I course.

16 (9) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in  
17 subsections (1), (4)(5), and (5)(6) shall be awarded a  
18 standard diploma in a form prescribed by the state board. A  
19 school board may attach the Florida gold seal vocational  
20 endorsement to a standard diploma pursuant to s. 239.217 or,  
21 in lieu of the standard diploma, award differentiated diplomas  
22 to those exceeding the prescribed minimums. A student who  
23 completes the minimum number of credits and other requirements  
24 prescribed by subsections (1) and (5), but who is unable to  
25 meet the standards of paragraph (5)(6)(a), paragraph  
26 (5)(6)(b), or paragraph (5)(c)(6)(d), shall be awarded a  
27 certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the state  
28 board. However, any student who is otherwise entitled to a  
29 certificate of completion may elect to remain in the secondary  
30 school either as a full-time student or a part-time student  
31 for up to 1 additional year and receive special instruction

1 designed to remedy his or her identified deficiencies. This  
2 special instruction shall be funded from the state  
3 compensatory education funds of the district.

4 (10) The public hearing and consideration required in  
5 ~~paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (6) and in subsection (8)~~  
6 ~~<0>(9)~~ shall not be construed to amend or nullify the  
7 requirements of security relating to the contents of  
8 examinations or assessment instruments and related materials  
9 or data as prescribed in s. 232.248.

10 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 232.425, Florida  
11 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

12 232.425 Student standards for participation in  
13 interscholastic extracurricular student activities;  
14 regulation.--

15 (3)(a) To be eligible to participate in  
16 interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student  
17 must maintain a grade point average of 1.5 on a 4.0 scale, or  
18 its equivalent, prior to the 1997-1998 school year; 1.6 on a  
19 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for the 1997-1998 school year;  
20 1.8 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for the 1998-1999  
21 school year; and 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for  
22 the 1999-2000 school year and each year thereafter.

23 Additionally, the student and must pass five subjects for the  
24 grading period immediately preceding participation; except  
25 that student eligibility for the first grading period of each  
26 new school year shall be based on passing five subjects and  
27 maintaining the required grade point average the previous  
28 school year, including subjects completed during the interim  
29 summer school session.

30 (b) Any student who is exempt from attending a full  
31 school day under s. 228.041(13) must maintain the ~~a 1.5~~ grade



1 point average required by this section and pass each class for  
2 which he or she is enrolled.

3 (c) An individual home education student shall be  
4 eligible to participate at a public school, and may develop an  
5 agreement to participate at a nonpublic school, in the  
6 interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school,  
7 provided the following conditions are met:

8 1. The home education student must meet the  
9 requirements of the home education program pursuant to s.  
10 232.02(4).

11 2. During the period of participation at a school, the  
12 home education student must demonstrate educational progress  
13 as required in paragraph (b) in all subjects taken in the home  
14 education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the  
15 parent and the principal which may include: review of the  
16 student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent;  
17 grades earned through correspondence; grades earned in courses  
18 taken at a community college, university, or trade school;  
19 standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any  
20 other method designated in s. 232.02(4).

21 3. The home education student must meet the same  
22 residency requirements as other students in the school at  
23 which he or she participates.

24 4. The home education student must meet the same  
25 standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required  
26 of other students in extracurricular activities.

27 5. The student must register with the school his or  
28 her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular  
29 activities as a representative of the school prior to the  
30 beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or  
31 she wishes to participate.

1           6. A student who transfers from a home education  
2 program to a public school prior to or during the first  
3 grading period of the school year shall be academically  
4 eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular  
5 activities during the first grading period provided the  
6 student has a successful evaluation from the previous school  
7 year, pursuant to subparagraph 2.

8           7. Any public school or nonpublic school student who  
9 has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for  
10 participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities  
11 shall be ineligible to participate in such activities as a  
12 home education student until such time as the student has  
13 successfully completed one grading period in home education  
14 pursuant to subparagraph 2. to become eligible to participate  
15 as a home education student.

16           Section 5. Paragraph (i) of subsection (3) of section  
17 229.565, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18           229.565 Educational evaluation procedures.--

19           (3) EDUCATION EVALUATION.--The Commissioner of  
20 Education, or the Auditor General as provided in paragraph  
21 (a), shall periodically examine and evaluate procedures,  
22 records, and programs in each district to determine compliance  
23 with law and rules established by the state board and in each  
24 correctional institution operated by the Department of  
25 Corrections to determine compliance with law and rules  
26 established by the Department of Corrections for the  
27 Correctional Education Program pursuant to s. 944.801. Such  
28 evaluations shall include, but not be limited to:

29           (i) Determination of school district achievement in  
30 meeting the performance standards specified in s. 232.2454~~(1)~~.

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1           Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
2 233.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3           233.011 Accountability in curriculum, educational  
4 instructional materials, and testing.--

5           (2)(a) Subject to State Board of Education review and  
6 approval, the Department of Education shall develop, by April  
7 1, 1985, guidelines for the identification or development,  
8 evaluation, oversight, and revision of:

9           1. Curriculum frameworks as specified in subsection  
10 (3).

11           2. Student performance standards as specified in ss.  
12 232.2454~~(1)~~and 229.565(1) and (2).

13           3. Model standards and procedures for the adoption of  
14 state and district instructional materials and software  
15 consistent with curriculum frameworks and student performance  
16 standards as specified in this paragraph. Such models shall  
17 provide the diverse student populations of the state with the  
18 highest quality instructional materials and software in the  
19 most cost-effective manner possible. Such models shall  
20 include a component to ensure the production of instructional  
21 materials and software by the state, or a consortium of  
22 states, when economical or superior quality instructional  
23 materials or software are unavailable from commercial sources  
24 by special contract.

25           4. Model standards and procedures for state and  
26 district adoption, analyses, and use of nationally normed  
27 student achievement tests or other nationally normed  
28 assessment instruments, as specified in subsection (4).

29           5. Criteria and procedures to determine the individual  
30 school programs which are most deficient in student  
31 performance. Such criteria and procedures shall take into

1 account testing results under the provisions of ss. 229.565  
2 and 232.2454, and subsection (4).

3           6. Model training procedures for state-level and  
4 district-level personnel assigned responsibilities for  
5 evaluating and selecting instructional materials, software,  
6 and norm-referenced achievement measures.

7           7. Standards for effective evaluation and comparable  
8 evaluation and testing procedures among districts.

9           Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
10 240.116, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to  
11 read:

12           240.116 Articulated acceleration.--

13           (2)(a)1. The dual enrollment program shall be the  
14 enrollment of an eligible secondary student in a postsecondary  
15 course creditable toward a vocational certificate or an  
16 associate or baccalaureate degree. For the purpose of this  
17 paragraph, an eligible secondary student is defined as a  
18 student who is enrolled in a Florida public secondary school  
19 or in a Florida nonpublic secondary school which is in  
20 compliance with s. 229.808 and conducts a secondary curriculum  
21 pursuant to s. 232.246. Students enrolled in postsecondary  
22 instruction that is not creditable toward the high school  
23 diploma shall not be classified as dual enrollments. Students  
24 shall be permitted to enroll in dual enrollment courses  
25 conducted during school hours, after school hours, and during  
26 the summer term. Any student so enrolled shall be exempt from  
27 the payment of registration, matriculation, and laboratory  
28 fees. With the exception of vocational-preparatory  
29 instruction, college-preparatory instruction, and other forms  
30 of precollegiate instruction, as well as physical education  
31 courses that focus on the physical execution of a skill rather

1 than the intellectual attributes of the activity, shall be  
2 ineligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment program.  
3 Recreation and leisure studies courses shall be evaluated  
4 individually in the same manner as physical education courses  
5 for potential inclusion in the program.

6 2. The Department of Education shall develop standards  
7 to ensure that the qualifications of students who are enrolled  
8 in dual enrollment courses are comparable across school  
9 districts and reflect a readiness for college-level  
10 coursework.

11 Section 8. Subsection (5) of section 240.117, Florida  
12 Statutes, is amended to read:

13 240.117 Common placement testing for public  
14 postsecondary education.--

15 (5) No student shall be enrolled in a college credit  
16 ~~mathematics or English~~ course on a dual enrollment basis  
17 unless the student has demonstrated adequate precollegiate  
18 preparation on the ~~section of the~~ basic computation and  
19 communication skills assessment required pursuant to  
20 subsection (1) ~~that is appropriate for successful student~~  
21 ~~participation in the course.~~

22 Section 9. Subsection (5) is added to section 240.118,  
23 Florida Statutes, to read:

24 240.118 Postsecondary feedback of information to high  
25 schools.--

26 (5) The Commissioner of Education shall annually  
27 recommend statutory changes to the Legislature to reduce the  
28 incidence of postsecondary remediation in mathematics,  
29 reading, and writing for first-time enrolled recent high  
30 school graduates.

31 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Raises the required cumulative grade point average for purposes of the school district comprehensive program for pupil progression, high school graduation, and participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities. Requires reading courses for certain students below grade level in reading skills. Restricts access to certain high school courses and provides for satisfaction of certain requirements. Revises certain credit requirements. Revises provisions relating to student performance standards. Requires development of standards relating to dual enrollment courses. Requires the recommendation of statutory changes to reduce the incidence of postsecondary remediation.