

By the Committee on Education and Senator Sullivan

304-1701-98

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to education; amending s.
232.246, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
high school graduation credit requirements;
providing for early graduation; amending s.
236.081, F.S., relating to funds for operation
of schools; providing for calculation of
full-time-equivalent student membership for
students who graduate early; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1), (4), and (9) of section
232.246, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

232.246 General requirements for high school
graduation.--

(1) Graduation requires successful completion of
either ~~a minimum of~~ 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12
or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. Upon meeting
either of these requirements, a student may request a diploma
pursuant to this section and shall be awarded the diploma upon
such request. The student must request the diploma of the
district school board prior to the start of the semester in
which he or she expects to complete the graduation
requirements. The provisions of this section shall not
preclude a student who chooses not to request a diploma from
remaining in school through the 12th grade and accumulating
additional credits.The 24 credits shall be distributed as
follows:

1 (a) Four credits in English, with major concentration
2 in composition and literature.

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

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

15 (d) One credit in American history.

16 (e) One credit in world history, including a
17 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of
18 all major political systems.

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

25 (g) One-half credit in American government, including
26 study of the Constitution of the United States. For students
27 entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and
28 thereafter, the study of Florida government, including study
29 of the State Constitution, the three branches of state
30 government, and municipal and county government, shall be
31 included as part of the required study of American government.

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

6 2. One credit in performing fine arts to be selected
7 from music, dance, drama, painting, or sculpture. A course in
8 any art form, in addition to painting or sculpture, that
9 requires manual dexterity, or a course in speech and debate,
10 may be taken to satisfy the high school graduation requirement
11 for one credit in performing arts pursuant to this
12 subparagraph; or

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

16
17 Such credit for practical arts career education or exploratory
18 career education or for performing fine arts shall be made
19 available in the 9th grade, and students shall be scheduled
20 into a 9th grade course as a priority.

21 (i) One-half credit in life management skills to
22 include consumer education, positive emotional development,
23 nutrition, prevention of human immunodeficiency virus
24 infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other
25 sexually transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence
26 and consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and
27 instruction on breast cancer detection and breast
28 self-examination, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug
29 education, and the hazards of smoking. Such credit shall be
30 given for a course to be taken by all students in either the
31 9th or 10th grade.

1 (j) One-half credit in physical education to include
2 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.
3 Participation in an interscholastic sport, ~~whether~~ at the
4 ~~freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level, for two a full~~
5 seasons season, shall satisfy the one-half credit requirement
6 in physical education if the student passes a competency test
7 on personal fitness with a score of "C" or better. A school
8 board may not require that the one-half credit in physical
9 education be taken during the 9th-grade year.

10 (k) Nine elective credits.

11
12 School boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in social
13 studies and one-half elective credit for student completion of
14 nonpaid voluntary community or school service work. Students
15 choosing this option must complete a minimum of 75 hours of
16 service in order to earn the one-half credit in either
17 category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for service
18 provided as a result of court action. School boards that
19 approve the award of credit for student volunteer service
20 shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the credit,
21 and school principals are responsible for approving specific
22 volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course Code
23 Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 which is taken below the
24 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation
25 requirements or Florida Academic Scholar's Certificate Program
26 requirements as specified in a district's pupil progression
27 plan.

28 (4)(a) A district school board may require specific
29 courses and programs of study within the ~~minimum~~ credit
30 requirements for high school graduation and shall modify basic
31 courses, as necessary, to assure exceptional students the

1 opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a standard
2 diploma, using one of the following strategies:

3 1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an
4 exceptional education class for instruction in a basic course
5 with the same student performance standards as those required
6 of nonexceptional students in the district pupil progression
7 plan; or

8 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic
9 education class for instruction which is modified to
10 accommodate the student's exceptionality.

11 (b) The district shall determine which of these
12 strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the student's
13 needs and shall reflect this decision in the student's
14 individual educational plan.

15 (c) District school boards are authorized and
16 encouraged to establish a grade point average requirement
17 ~~requirements~~ for high school graduation in excess of the
18 minimum requirement requirements; however, an increase in the
19 ~~academic credit or~~ minimum grade point average requirement
20 ~~requirements~~ shall not apply to those students enrolled in
21 grades 9 through 12 at the time the district school board
22 increases the requirement requirements.

23 (9) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
24 subsections (1), (4), and (5) shall be awarded a standard
25 diploma in a form prescribed by the state board. A school
26 board may attach the Florida gold seal vocational endorsement
27 to a standard diploma or, instead of the standard diploma,
28 award differentiated diplomas to those exceeding the
29 prescribed requirements minimums. A student who completes the
30 ~~minimum~~ number of credits and other requirements prescribed by
31 subsections (1) and (4), but who is unable to meet the

1 standards of paragraph (5)(a), paragraph (5)(b), or paragraph
2 (5)(c), shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form
3 prescribed by the state board. However, any student who is
4 otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to
5 remain in the secondary school either as a full-time student
6 or a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive
7 special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
8 deficiencies. This special instruction shall be funded from
9 the state compensatory education funds of the district.

10 Section 2. Paragraph (q) is added to subsection (1) of
11 section 236.081, Florida Statutes, to read:

12 236.081 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual
13 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
14 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
15 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
16 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
17 follows:

18 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR
19 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in
20 determining the annual allocation to each district for
21 operation:

22 (q) Calculation of full-time-equivalent student
23 membership for students who graduate early.--Public schools
24 shall assist any student who is academically qualified and
25 motivated to graduate early from high school. Additional
26 full-time-equivalent student membership shall be calculated
27 for each student who graduates early. A value of 0.25
28 full-time-equivalent student membership shall be calculated
29 for the semester subsequent to the student's graduation for
30 each student who graduates at the end of the first semester of
31 12th grade. A value of 0.50 full-time-equivalent student

1 membership shall be calculated for the school year subsequent
2 to the student's graduation for each student who graduates at
3 the end of 11th grade. The additional full-time-equivalent
4 student membership shall be added to the school district's
5 full-time-equivalent student membership and funded as regular
6 full-time-equivalent students.

7 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1 of the
8 year in which enacted.

9
10 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
12 SB 706

13 The Committee Substitute differs from Senate Bill 706 in that
14 it would require a student who wishes to graduate early from
15 high school to notify the school district of his or her
intention prior to the semester in which he or she expects to
graduate.