

By Senator Cowin

11-1533-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; amending s.
3 228.041, F.S.; revising the definitions of
4 "graduation rate" and "dropout rate"; providing
5 an effective date.

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

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9 Section 1. Subsections (40) and (42) of section
10 228.041, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are amended to
11 read:

12 228.041 Definitions.--Specific definitions shall be as
13 follows, and wherever such defined words or terms are used in
14 the Florida School Code, they shall be used as follows:

15 (40) GRADUATION RATE.--The term "graduation rate"
16 means the percentage calculated by dividing the number of
17 entering 9th graders, minus the number of students who have
18 transferred out of the student population to enroll in another
19 school system, a private school, a home education program, or
20 an adult education program, and deceased students, into the
21 number of students who receive, 4 years later, a standard high
22 school diploma, ~~a special diploma, or a certificate of~~
23 ~~completion,~~ as provided for in s. 232.246, or who receive a
24 special certificate of completion, as provided in s. 232.247,
25 and students 19 years of age or younger who receive a general
26 equivalency diploma, as provided in s. 229.814. For purposes
27 of this calculation, incoming transfer students are to be
28 included in the class of entering 9th graders with whom they
29 are scheduled to graduate. ~~The number of 9th grade students~~
30 ~~used in the calculation of a graduation rate for this state~~
31 ~~shall be students enrolling in the grade for the first time.~~

1 (42) DROPOUT RATE.--The term "dropout rate" means the
2 annual percentage calculated by dividing the number of
3 students in grades 9 through 12 who are classified as
4 dropouts, pursuant to s. 228.041(29), by the total number of
5 students in grades 9-12 in attendance over the age of
6 compulsory school attendance, pursuant to s. 232.01, at the
7 time of the fall membership count, into the number of students
8 who withdraw from school during a given school year and who
9 are classified as dropouts pursuant to subsection (29).

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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13 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

14 Revises the definitions of "graduation rate" and "dropout
15 rate" for purposes of the Florida School Code.