

By Representative Kilmer

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; amending s.
3 230.23, F.S.; requiring certain reports;
4 amending s. 232.24521, F.S.; encouraging
5 certain grading practices; requiring a grade
6 point average calculation for the Bright
7 Futures Scholarship Program; prohibiting
8 certain exemption; amending s. 232.2463, F.S.;
9 authorizing school districts to abandon certain
10 high school grading practices; providing
11 definitions; repealing s. 240.1163(4), F.S.,
12 relating to weighting of grades in dual
13 enrollment and advanced placement courses;
14 providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (16) of section
19 230.23, F.S., is amended to read:

20 230.23 Powers and duties of school board.--The school
21 board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and
22 perform all duties listed below:

23 (16) IMPLEMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND
24 ACCOUNTABILITY.--Maintain a system of school improvement and
25 education accountability as provided by statute and State
26 Board of Education rule. This system of school improvement and
27 education accountability shall be consistent with, and
28 implemented through, the district's continuing system of
29 planning and budgeting required by this section and ss.
30 229.555 and 237.041. This system of school improvement and
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1 education accountability shall include, but is not limited to,
2 the following:

3 (e) Public disclosure.--Provide information regarding
4 performance of students and educational programs as required
5 pursuant to ss. 229.555 and 229.57(5) and implement a system
6 of school reports as required by statute and State Board of
7 Education rule which shall include schools operating for the
8 purpose of providing educational services to youth in
9 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, and for those
10 schools, report on the elements specified in s. 230.23161(21).
11 Annual public disclosure reports must ~~shall~~ be a profile of
12 each school in an easy-to-read report card format and must
13 ~~shall~~ include the school's student and school performance
14 grade category designation and performance data as specified
15 in state board rule. The school board shall report academic
16 achievement of high school students as measured by all
17 statewide assessments, by national assessments, and by grades
18 in high school courses. Grade reports on high school courses
19 must specify the number and percentage of students who
20 received each letter grade in all courses and in each type of
21 course, organized by level and category.

22 Section 2. Section 232.24521, Florida Statutes, is
23 amended to read:

24 232.24521 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.--

25 (1) Each school district shall establish and publish
26 policies requiring the content and regular issuance of student
27 report cards for all elementary school, middle school, and
28 high school students. These report cards must clearly depict
29 and grade:

30 (a) The student's academic achievement ~~performance~~ in
31 each class or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be

1 based upon examinations as well as written papers, class
2 participation, and other measures of academic achievement
3 ~~performance criteria~~.
4 (b) The student's conduct and behavior.
5 (c) The student's attendance, including absences and
6 tardiness.
7 (2) A student's final report card for a school year
8 shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status
9 regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level,
10 acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and
11 promotion or nonpromotion. Grades reported on the final report
12 card must be expressed as letter grades or grade points and,
13 effective July 1, 2001, grade point averages must be
14 calculated using the grade weighting system adopted by the
15 Department of Education for the Bright Futures Scholarship
16 Program in courses designated for Bright Futures eligibility.
17 If a different grade weighting system is used to calculate
18 grade point averages for class ranking, it must be reported
19 separately from the Bright Futures grade point average.
20 (3) Academic achievement should be graded upon
21 measurement of academic performance and timely completion of
22 academic requirements. Academic achievement grades should be
23 separated from grades for other matters, such as academic
24 improvement, conduct, attitude, attendance, or tardiness.
25 School districts shall not allow schools to exempt students
26 from academic performance requirements based on practices or
27 policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's
28 attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to
29 provide an exemption from any academic performance
30 requirement.
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1 Section 3. Section 232.2463, Florida Statutes, is
2 amended to read:

3 (Substantial rewording of section. See s. 232.2463,
4 F.S., for present text.)

5 232.2463 High school grading system.--The Legislature
6 finds that the percentage equivalents of high school letter
7 grades depend upon the difficulty of material assigned and
8 tested by the teacher. An equal percentage of correct answers
9 could indicate unequal levels of mastery, depending on the
10 difficulty of the test questions. Therefore, grades expressed
11 as a percentage are not expected to be consistently equated to
12 the same level of mastery. School districts are not required
13 to adopt a system of interpreting percentage grades, and
14 school teachers may use grading systems that vary the
15 interpretation of percentage grades according to the
16 difficulty of material tested, such as "curving" the grades.
17 For purposes of interpreting percentage grades when teachers
18 do not assign letter grades, school districts should use a
19 grading scale that is similar to those used by other states,
20 as follows:

21 (1) Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent,
22 has a grade point average value of 4, and is defined as
23 "outstanding progress."

24 (2) Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent,
25 has a grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above
26 average progress."

27 (3) Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent,
28 has a grade point average value of 2, and is defined as
29 "average progress."

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1 (4) Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent,
2 has a grade point average value of 1, and is defined as
3 "lowest acceptable progress."

4 (5) Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent,
5 has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as
6 "failure."

7 (6) Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point
8 average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

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10 For the purposes of class ranking, school districts may
11 exercise a weighted grading system. However, if a school
12 district uses a weighted grading system that differs from the
13 system used by the Department of Education for the Florida
14 Bright Futures Scholarship Program, each high school principal
15 must inform students and their parents of the difference. On
16 student report cards, grade point averages must be calculated
17 by the weighted system used by both the Department of
18 Education and the school district.

19 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 240.1163, Florida
20 Statutes, is repealed.

21 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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24 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

25 Requires school boards to report on the academic
26 achievement of high school students and to include in
27 such reports the number and percentage of students who
28 received each letter grade. Provides clarification
29 regarding what information report cards must show.
30 Requires academic achievement grades to be separated from
31 grades for other factors. Revises provisions that
 establish standards for the high school grading system.
 Establishes guidelines for the assignment of letter
 grades to grades for percentage of correct answers.
 Repeals a provision relating to the weighting of grades
 in certain courses. (See bill for details.)