

By Senator Lee

23-928A-00

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; amending s.
3 232.24521, F.S.; requiring school districts to
4 disclose on high school students' report cards
5 any differences between the grade point average
6 as calculated for purposes of the Bright
7 Futures Scholarship Program and the grade point
8 average as calculated for school district
9 purposes; amending s. 240.40202, F.S., relating
10 to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
11 Program; revising criteria for calculating and
12 weighting students' grade point averages;
13 providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Section 232.24521, Florida Statutes, is
18 amended to read:

19 232.24521 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.--

20 (1) Each school district shall establish and publish
21 policies requiring the content and regular issuance of student
22 report cards for all elementary school, middle school, and
23 high school students. These report cards must clearly depict
24 and grade:

25 (a) The student's academic performance in each class
26 or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon
27 examinations as well as written papers, class participation,
28 and other academic performance criteria.

29 (b) The student's conduct and behavior.

30 (c) The student's attendance, including absences and
31 tardiness.

1 (2) A student's final report card for a school year
2 shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status
3 regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level,
4 acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and
5 promotion or nonpromotion.

6 (3) School districts shall not allow schools to exempt
7 students from academic performance requirements based on
8 practices or policies designed to encourage student
9 attendance.

10 (4) On report cards that the school district issues to
11 high school students, each school district must report the
12 grade point average as calculated for purposes of the Bright
13 Futures Scholarship Program and the grade point average as
14 calculated for district purposes. If different methods are
15 used in calculating the district grade point average than are
16 used in calculating the Bright Futures average, the report
17 card must disclose how the methods for calculating the two
18 averages differ from one another.

19 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 240.40202,
20 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 240.40202 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
22 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

23 (3) For purposes of calculating the grade point
24 average to be used in determining initial eligibility for a
25 Florida Bright Futures scholarship, the department shall
26 assign additional weights to grades earned in the following
27 courses:

28 (a) Courses identified in the course code directory as
29 Advanced Placement, pre-International Baccalaureate, or
30 International Baccalaureate.

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

3 (c) Courses designated as honors classes by the
4 district school board.

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6 The department may assign additional weights to courses, other
7 than those described in paragraphs (a) and (b), that are
8 identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as
9 containing rigorous academic curriculum and performance
10 standards. The additional weight assigned to a course pursuant
11 to this subsection shall not exceed 1.0 ~~0.5~~ per course. The
12 weighted system shall be developed and distributed to all high
13 schools in the state prior to January 1, 2001 ~~1998~~. The
14 department shall ~~may~~ determine a student's eligibility status
15 during the senior year before graduation and shall ~~may~~ inform
16 the student of the award at that time.

17 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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20 SENATE SUMMARY

21 Requires school districts to disclose on report cards
22 issued to high school students any differences between
23 the grade point average as calculated for purposes of the
24 Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the grade point
25 average as calculated for school district purposes.
26 Revises criteria used in calculating students' grade
27 point averages for purposes of awarding Bright Futures
28 Scholarships. Requires the Department of Education to
29 assign additional weights to grades earned in courses
30 designated by a school district as honors courses.
31 Increases the amount by which the grades for various
types of courses may be assigned additional weights.