

By Senator Dawson

30-1408-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to school performance grade  
 3           categories; amending s. 229.57, F.S.; requiring  
 4           specific criteria to be used in the analysis of  
 5           student performance; prohibiting the use of  
 6           certain students' FCAT scores in the  
 7           determination of school performance grades;  
 8           requiring the Department of Education to study  
 9           the effects of poverty on student achievement  
 10          and to report to the Legislature; prohibiting  
 11          the use of the FCAT scores of impoverished  
 12          students in determining school performance  
 13          grades, except in specified circumstances;  
 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. Subsections (5) and (8) of section 229.57,  
 19 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

20           229.57 Student assessment program.--

21           (5) SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAMS.--Each public school,  
 22 unless specifically exempted by state board rule based on  
 23 serving a specialized population for which standardized  
 24 testing is not appropriate, shall participate in the state  
 25 assessment program. Student performance data shall be analyzed  
 26 and reported to parents, the community, and the state. Student  
 27 performance data shall be used in developing objectives of the  
 28 school improvement plan, evaluation of instructional  
 29 personnel, evaluation of administrative personnel, assignment  
 30 of staff, allocation of resources, acquisition of  
 31 instructional materials and technology, performance-based

1 budgeting, and promotion and assignment of students into  
2 educational programs. The analysis of student performance data  
3 also must identify strengths and needs in the educational  
4 program and trends over time and consider the effects of  
5 poverty and limited English proficiency on student progress  
6 individually and in populations. The analysis must be used in  
7 conjunction with the budgetary planning processes developed  
8 pursuant to s. 229.555 and the development of the programs of  
9 remediation described in s. 233.051.

10 (8) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE  
11 CATEGORIES.--School performance grade category designations  
12 itemized in subsection (7) shall be based on the following:

13 (a) Timeframes.--

14 1. School performance grade category designations  
15 shall be based on one school year of performance.

16 2. In school years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000, a school's  
17 performance grade category designation shall be determined by  
18 the student achievement levels on the FCAT, and on other  
19 appropriate performance data, including, but not limited to,  
20 attendance, dropout rate, school discipline data, and student  
21 readiness for college, in accordance with state board rule.

22 3. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, a  
23 school's performance grade category designation shall be based  
24 on a combination of student achievement scores as measured by  
25 the FCAT, on the degree of measured learning gains of the  
26 students, and on other appropriate performance data,  
27 including, but not limited to, attendance, dropout rate,  
28 school discipline data, and student readiness for college.

29 4. Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year and  
30 thereafter, a school's performance grade category designation  
31 shall be based on student learning gains as measured by annual

1 FCAT assessments in grades 3 through 10, and on other  
2 appropriate performance data, including, but not limited to,  
3 attendance, dropout rate, school discipline data, cohort  
4 graduation rate, and student readiness for college.

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6 For the purpose of implementing ss. 229.0535 and 229.0537, if  
7 any of the four schools that were identified as critically low  
8 performing, based on both 1996-1997 and 1997-1998 school  
9 performance data and state board adopted criteria, receives a  
10 performance grade category designation of "F," based on  
11 1998-1999 school performance data, that school shall be  
12 considered as having failed to make adequate progress for 2  
13 years in a 4-year period. All other schools that receive a  
14 performance grade category designation of "F," based on  
15 1998-1999 school performance data, shall be considered as  
16 having failed to make adequate progress for 1 year.

17 (b) Student assessment data.--Student assessment data  
18 used in determining school performance grade categories shall  
19 include:

20 1. The median scores of all eligible students enrolled  
21 in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT.

22 2. The median scores of all eligible students enrolled  
23 in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT and who have  
24 scored at or in the lowest 25th percentile of the state in the  
25 previous school year.

26 3. The scores of students with limited English  
27 proficiency must not be used in calculating the performance  
28 grade category of a school.

29  
30 The Department of Education shall study the effects of  
31 mobility on the performance of highly mobile students and

1 recommend programs to improve the performance of such  
2 students. The Department of Education shall study the effects  
3 of poverty on the performance of students. This study must be  
4 completed and recommendations made to the Legislature by  
5 September 1, 2000. Unless the study recommends otherwise and  
6 the Legislature enacts that recommendation, subsequent to the  
7 completion of this study, the department may not use the  
8 scores of impoverished students in the calculation of the  
9 performance grade category of schools that have high  
10 populations of students who qualify for free or reduced-price  
11 lunch, as determined by state board rule.The state board  
12 shall adopt appropriate criteria for each school performance  
13 grade category. The criteria must also give added weight to  
14 student achievement in reading. Schools designated as  
15 performance grade category "C," making satisfactory progress,  
16 shall be required to demonstrate that adequate progress has  
17 been made by students who have scored among the lowest 25  
18 percent of students in the state as well as by the overall  
19 population of students in the school.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Relates to school performance grade categories. Requires  
25 certain criteria to be used in the analysis of student  
26 performance. Prohibits the use of the FCAT scores of  
27 students who have limited English proficiency in  
28 determining the performance grades of schools. Requires  
29 the Department of Education to conduct a study of the  
30 effects of poverty on student achievement and to report  
31 its recommendations to the Legislature by September 1,  
2000. Prohibits using the FCAT scores of impoverished  
students in determining the performance grades of  
schools, unless the departmental study recommends  
otherwise and the Legislature provides otherwise.