

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; amending s.  
3           230.23, F.S.; clarifying requirements relating  
4           to annual public disclosure reports; amending  
5           s. 232.24521, F.S.; encouraging certain grading  
6           practices; prohibiting certain exemption;  
7           amending s. 232.2463, F.S.; authorizing school  
8           districts to abandon certain high school  
9           grading practices; providing definitions;  
10          authorizing a weighted grading system for  
11          purposes of class ranking; providing an  
12          effective date.

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

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16           Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (16) of section  
17 230.23, F.S., is amended to read:

18           230.23 Powers and duties of school board.--The school  
19 board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and  
20 perform all duties listed below:

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

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1 (e) Public disclosure.--Provide information regarding  
2 performance of students and educational programs as required  
3 pursuant to ss. 229.555 and 229.57(5) and implement a system  
4 of school reports as required by statute and State Board of  
5 Education rule which shall include schools operating for the  
6 purpose of providing educational services to youth in  
7 Department of Juvenile Justice programs, and for those  
8 schools, report on the elements specified in s. 230.23161(21).  
9 Annual public disclosure reports must ~~shall~~ be a profile of  
10 each school in an easy-to-read report card format and must  
11 ~~shall~~ include the school's student and school performance  
12 grade category designation and performance data as specified  
13 in state board rule.

14 Section 2. Section 232.24521, Florida Statutes, is  
15 amended to read:

16 232.24521 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.--

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

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

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

28 (c) The student's attendance, including absences and  
29 tardiness.

30 (2) A student's final report card for a school year  
31 shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status

1 regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level,  
2 acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and  
3 promotion or nonpromotion. Grades reported on the final report  
4 card must be expressed as letter grades or grade points.

5 (3) Academic achievement should be graded upon  
6 measurement of academic performance and timely completion of  
7 academic requirements. Academic achievement grades should be  
8 separated from grades for other matters, such as academic  
9 improvement, conduct, attitude, attendance, or tardiness.

10 School districts shall not allow schools to exempt students  
11 from academic performance requirements based on practices or  
12 policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's  
13 attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to  
14 provide an exemption from any academic performance  
15 requirement.

16 Section 3. Section 232.2463, Florida Statutes, is  
17 amended to read:

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

20 232.2463 High school grading system.--The Legislature  
21 finds that the percentage equivalents of high school letter  
22 grades depend upon the difficulty of material assigned and  
23 tested by the teacher. An equal percentage of correct answers  
24 could indicate unequal levels of mastery, depending on the  
25 difficulty of the test questions. Therefore, grades expressed  
26 as a percentage are not expected to be consistently equated to  
27 the same level of mastery. School districts are not required  
28 to adopt a system of interpreting percentage grades, and  
29 school teachers may use grading systems that vary the  
30 interpretation of percentage grades according to the  
31 difficulty of material tested, such as "curving" the grades.

1 For purposes of interpreting percentage grades when teachers  
2 do not assign letter grades, school districts should use a  
3 grading scale that is similar to those used by other states,  
4 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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23 For the purposes of class ranking, school districts may  
24 exercise a weighted grading system.

25 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.  
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