

By Senator Cowin

11-531-01

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
6 grade-point-average calculation for the Bright
7 Futures Scholarship Program; repealing s.
8 240.1163(4), F.S., relating to weighting of
9 grades in dual-enrollment and
10 advanced-placement courses; providing an
11 effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (16) of section
16 230.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 230.23 Powers and duties of school board.--The school
18 board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and
19 perform all duties listed below:

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

30 (e) Public disclosure.--Provide information regarding
31 performance of students and educational programs as required

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

18 Section 2. Section 232.24521, Florida Statutes, is
19 amended to read:

20 232.24521 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.--

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

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

30 (b) The student's conduct and behavior.
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1 (c) The student's attendance, including absences and
2 tardiness.

3 (2) A student's final report card for a school year
4 shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status
5 regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level,
6 acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and
7 promotion or nonpromotion. Grades reported on the final report
8 card must be expressed as letter grades or grade points, and,
9 on report cards issued after the first grading period of the
10 junior year, grade-point averages must be calculated using the
11 grade-weighting system adopted by the Department of Education
12 for the Academic and Merit Scholarship components of the
13 Bright Futures Scholarship Program in courses designated for
14 Bright Futures eligibility. If a different grade-weighting
15 system is used to calculate grade-point averages for class
16 ranking, it must be reported separately from the Bright
17 Futures grade-point average. Unweighted grades in academic
18 courses must also be calculated to report an academic
19 grade-point average for each student.

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.

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26 School districts shall not allow schools to exempt students
27 from academic performance requirements based on practices or
28 policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's
29 attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to
30 provide an exemption from any academic performance
31 requirement.

1 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 240.1163, Florida
2 Statutes, is repealed.

3 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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SENATE SUMMARY

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Provides that school boards must include certain information and must employ a specified format in the annual public-disclosure reports that they are required to produce. Encourages certain grading practices. Requires a grade-point-average calculation for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Repeals s. 240.1163(4), F.S., relating to weighting of grades in dual-enrollment and advanced-placement courses.