

By Senator Miller

18-815-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to requirements for high school
3 graduation; amending s. 1003.43, F.S.;
4 prescribing a formula for computing each
5 student's graduation grade point average, which
6 formula includes results from the student's
7 grade-10 FCAT and grade-10 Norm-Referenced
8 Test, as well as coursework grades; providing
9 an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1003.43, Florida
14 Statutes, is amended to read:15 1003.43 General requirements for high school
16 graduation.--17 (5)(a) Each district school board shall establish
18 standards for graduation from its schools which, ~~and these~~
19 ~~standards~~ must include the following requirements:20 ~~(a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in~~
21 ~~s. 1008.22(3)(c).~~22 1.(b) Each student shall complete all ~~Completion of~~
23 ~~all other~~ applicable requirements prescribed by the district
24 school board pursuant to s. 1008.25.25 ~~(c) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of~~
26 ~~1.5 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for students entering~~
27 ~~9th grade before the 1997-1998 school year; however, these~~
28 ~~students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on~~
29 ~~a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by~~
30 ~~subsection (1) that are taken after July 1, 1997, or have an~~
31 ~~overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.~~

1 ~~2.(d)~~ Each student shall achieve ~~Achievement~~ of a
2 cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its
3 equivalent, in the courses required by subsection (1), ~~for~~
4 ~~students entering 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and~~
5 ~~thereafter.~~

6 3. Each student shall take the FCAT in grade 10 and
7 subsequent grades as prescribed.

8 4. Each student shall take the Norm-Referenced Test
9 (NRT) as prescribed.

10 5. Each student shall earn a letter grade and grade
11 points that correspond to the level attained on each section
12 of the grade-10 FCAT test, as follows:

13 a. For Level 1, an "F" and 0 grade points.

14 b. For Level 2 with a score of less than 300, a "D"
15 and 1 grade point.

16 c. For Level 2 with a score of 300 or more, a "C" and
17 2 grade points.

18 d. For Level 3, a "B" and 3 grade points.

19 e. For Level 4 or Level 5, an "A" and 4 grade points.

20 6. Each student shall earn a letter grade and grade
21 points that correspond to the percentile ranking attained on
22 each section of the grade-10 Norm-Referenced Test (NRT), as
23 follows:

24 a. For the 1st-30th percentile, an "F" and 0 grade
25 points.

26 b. For the 31st-39th percentile, a "D" and 1 grade
27 point.

28 c. For the 40th-64th percentile, a "C" and 2 grade
29 points.

30 d. For the 65th-80th percentiles, a "B" and 3 grade
31 points.

1 e. For the 81st-99th percentile, an "A" and 4 grade
2 points.

3 7. The average of the grade points earned from all of
4 a student's grade-10 FCAT subtests shall comprise 40 percent
5 of the student's graduation grade point average.

6 8. The average of the grade points earned from all of
7 a student's NRT subtests shall comprise 20 percent of the
8 student's graduation grade point average.

9 9. The grade point average from a student's course
10 work shall comprise 40 percent of the student's graduation
11 grade point average.

12 10. A student's graduation grade point average shall
13 be determined as follows:

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15 .40 x FCAT grade point average +
16 .20 x NRT grade point average +
17 .40 x coursework grade point average =
18 graduation grade point average

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20 11. A student may not graduate unless his or her
21 graduation grade point average is at least 2.0.

22 ~~(b)(e)~~ For purposes of subparagraph (a)2. paragraphs
23 ~~(c) and (d):~~

24 1. Each district school board shall adopt policies
25 designed to assist students in meeting these requirements.
26 These policies may include, but are not limited to:
27 forgiveness policies, summer school or before or after school
28 attendance, special counseling, volunteer or ~~and/or~~ peer
29 tutors, school-sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and
30 study skills classes. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year
31 and each year thereafter, forgiveness policies for required

1 courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F,"
2 or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of
3 "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher,
4 earned subsequently in the same or comparable course.
5 Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to
6 replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade
7 of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the
8 equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in
9 another course. Any course grade not replaced according to a
10 district school board forgiveness policy shall be included in
11 the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required
12 for graduation.

13 2. At the end of each semester, the parent of each
14 student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade
15 point average of less than 0.5 above the cumulative grade
16 point average required for graduation shall be notified that
17 the student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for
18 graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the
19 policies the district school board has in place to assist the
20 student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

21 3. Special assistance to obtain a high school
22 equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 may be given only
23 when the student has completed all requirements for graduation
24 except the attainment of the required cumulative grade point
25 average.

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27 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent
28 modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida
29 Administrative Code even though not defined as "rules."

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Amends the general requirements for high school graduation by prescribing a formula for computing each student's graduation grade point average, which formula includes results from the student's grade-10 FCAT and grade-10 Norm-Referenced Test, as well as coursework grades.