

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1302

SPONSOR: Education Committee and Senator Cowin

SUBJECT: Student Report Cards

DATE: April 13, 2004

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>deMarsh-Mathues</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>AED</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

For purposes of student report cards, the bill requires a separate grade for the following: the student's academic performance; the student's conduct and behavior; and the student's attendance. The bill prohibits a district school board from using a student's grade for conduct and behavior or a student's grade for attendance in calculating the student's grade for academic performance. The bill also provides an exception to this prohibition. When the student is absent from school (either an unexcused or an excused absence) and the student fails to make up the required work, the student's grade can be applied to his or her academic performance.

This bill substantially amends s. 1003.33, F.S.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2004.

II. Present Situation:

District school boards are required to establish and publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of report cards for students in elementary school, middle school, and high school. The law requires the report card to depict and grade the following:

- the student's academic performance in each grade or course;
- the student's conduct and behavior; and
- the student attendance, including absences and tardiness.

The student's academic performance for grades 1 through 12 must be based on examinations, written papers, class participation, and other academic performance criteria. It must also include the student's performance or nonperformance at his or her grade level. The law prohibits district school boards from allowing schools to exempt students from academic performance requirements based on practices or policies designed to encourage attendance. Student

attendance records may not be used in whole or in part to exempt a student from any academic performance requirement.

The final school year report card for a student must contain a statement indicating end-of-the year status for the following:

- performance or nonperformance at grade level;
- acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance; and
- promotion or nonpromotion.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. For purposes of student report cards, the bill requires a separate grade for the following: the student's academic performance; the student's conduct and behavior; and the student's attendance. The bill amends s. 1003.33, F.S., to prohibit a district school board from using a student's grade for conduct and behavior or a student's grade for attendance in calculating the student's grade for academic performance. The bill also provides an exception to this prohibition. When the student is absent from school (either an unexcused or an excused absence) and the student fails to make up the required work, the student's grade can be applied to his or her academic performance.

Section 2. The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2004.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

School districts may incur some expenses, to the extent that format changes are required for report card formats.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
