

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Cowin

304-2551-04

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to student report cards;
amending s. 1033.33, F.S.; requiring district
school boards to prohibit schools from using a
student's grade for conduct and behavior or for
attendance in calculating the student's grade
for academic performance; providing an
exception; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.33, Florida Statutes, is
amended to read:

1003.33 Report cards; end-of-the-year status.--

(1) Each district school board shall establish and
publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of
student report cards for all elementary school, middle school,
and high school students. These report cards must clearly
depict and separately grade each of the following:

(a) The student's academic performance in each class
or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon
examinations as well as written papers, class participation,
and other academic performance criteria, and must include the
student's performance or nonperformance at his or her grade
level.

(b) The student's conduct and behavior.

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

The district school board may not allow schools to use a
student's grade for conduct and behavior under paragraph (b).

1 or a student's grade for attendance under paragraph (c) in
2 calculating the student's grade for academic performance under
3 paragraph (a). If a student has been absent from school,
4 whether the absence is excused or unexcused, and the student
5 has not made up the required work, the student may be given a
6 grade and the grade may be applied to the student's academic
7 performance.

8 (2) A student's final report card for a school year
9 shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status
10 regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level,
11 acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and
12 promotion or nonpromotion.

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14 District school boards shall not allow schools to exempt
15 students from academic performance requirements based on
16 practices or policies designed to encourage student
17 attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in
18 whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic
19 performance requirement.

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

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22 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
23 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
24 SB 1302

25 The CS provides an exception to the prohibition on using a
26 student's grade for conduct, behavior, or attendance in
27 calculating the student's grade for academic performance. The
28 exception occurs when the student is absent from school and
29 fails to make up the required work.
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