

HB 0803

2004

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

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

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 11           Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1003.43, Florida  
 12   Statutes, is amended to read:

13           1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

14           (5)(a) Each district school board shall establish  
 15   standards for graduation from its schools ~~which, and these~~  
 16   standards must include the following requirements:

17           ~~(a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.~~  
 18   ~~1008.22(3)(c).~~

19           1.(b) Each student shall complete all ~~Completion of all~~  
 20   ~~other~~ applicable requirements prescribed by the district school  
 21   board pursuant to s. 1008.25.

22           ~~(c) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 1.5~~  
 23   ~~on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for students entering 9th~~  
 24   ~~grade before the 1997-1998 school year; however, these students~~  
 25   ~~must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0~~  
 26   ~~scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by subsection~~  
 27   ~~(1) that are taken after July 1, 1997, or have an overall~~  
 28   ~~cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.~~

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

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

36 4. Each student shall take the norm-referenced test (NRT)  
 37 as prescribed.

38 5. Each student shall earn a letter grade and grade points  
 39 that correspond to the level attained on each section of the  
 40 grade 10 FCAT, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

48 6. Each student shall earn a letter grade and grade points  
 49 that correspond to the percentile ranking attained on each  
 50 section of the grade 10 norm-referenced test (NRT), as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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58 7. The average of the grade points earned from all of a  
 59 student's grade 10 FCAT subtests shall comprise 40 percent of  
 60 the student's graduation grade point average.

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

64 9. The grade point average from a student's coursework  
 65 shall comprise 40 percent of the student's graduation grade  
 66 point average.

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

69  
 70 0.40 x FCAT grade point average +  
 71 0.20 x NRT grade point average +  
 72 0.40 x coursework grade point average =  
 73 graduation grade point average

74  
 75 11. A student may not graduate unless his or her  
 76 graduation grade point average is at least 2.0.

77 (b)(e) For purposes of subparagraph (a)2. paragraphs (e)  
 78 and (d):

79 1. Each district school board shall adopt policies  
 80 designed to assist students in meeting these requirements. These  
 81 policies may include, but are not limited to: forgiveness  
 82 policies, summer school or before or after school attendance,  
 83 special counseling, volunteer or ~~and/or~~ peer tutors, school-  
 84 sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills  
 85 classes. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year and each year  
 86 thereafter, forgiveness policies for required courses shall be

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87 limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of  
 88 a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the  
 89 equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in  
 90 the same or comparable course. Forgiveness policies for elective  
 91 courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or  
 92 the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or  
 93 higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned  
 94 subsequently in another course. Any course grade not replaced  
 95 according to a district school board forgiveness policy shall be  
 96 included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point  
 97 average required for graduation.

98 2. At the end of each semester, the parent of each student  
 99 in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade point  
 100 average of less than 0.5 above the cumulative grade point  
 101 average required for graduation shall be notified that the  
 102 student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for  
 103 graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the  
 104 policies the district school board has in place to assist the  
 105 student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

106 3. Special assistance to obtain a high school equivalency  
 107 diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 may be given only when the  
 108 student has completed all requirements for graduation except the  
 109 attainment of the required cumulative grade point average.

110  
 111 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent  
 112 modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida Administrative  
 113 Code even though not defined as "rules."

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