

By Senator Miller

18-325-05

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to requirements for high school graduation; amending s. 1003.43, F.S.; 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; providing an effective date.

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

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

1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

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

~~(a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s. 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s. 1008.22(9).~~

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

~~(c) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 1.5 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for students entering 9th grade before the 1997-1998 school year; however, these students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by~~

1 ~~subsection (1) that are taken after July 1, 1997, or have an~~  
2 ~~overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 c. For Level 2 with a score of 300 or more, a "C" and  
19 2 grade points.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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17           0.40 x FCAT grade point average +  
18           0.20 x NRT grade point average +  
19           0.40 x coursework grade point average =  
20           graduation grade point average

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

24           (b)(e) For purposes of subparagraph (a)2. paragraphs  
25 (c) and (d):

26           1. Each district school board shall adopt policies  
27 designed to assist students in meeting these requirements.  
28 These policies may include, but are not limited to:  
29 forgiveness policies, summer school or before or after school  
30 attendance, special counseling, volunteer or ~~and/or~~ peer  
31 tutors, school-sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and

1 study skills classes. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year  
2 and each year thereafter, forgiveness policies for required  
3 courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F,"  
4 or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of  
5 "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher,  
6 earned subsequently in the same or comparable course.  
7 Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to  
8 replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade  
9 of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the  
10 equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in  
11 another course. Any course grade not replaced according to a  
12 district school board forgiveness policy shall be included in  
13 the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required  
14 for graduation.

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

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

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

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

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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.