

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2       An act relating to public K-12 educational instruction;  
 3       creating s. 1003.495, F.S.; providing purpose and  
 4       definitions relating to Advanced Placement courses and  
 5       teacher training; requiring each high school to offer  
 6       Advanced Placement courses taught by Advanced Placement  
 7       teachers; requiring the State Board of Education to  
 8       establish guidelines for teacher training; providing for  
 9       the appropriation of funds for Advanced Placement and Pre-  
 10      Advanced Placement teacher training and specifying  
 11      requirements; requiring school districts to offer rigorous  
 12      courses as preparation for Advanced Placement coursework;  
 13      providing state board duties relating to funding,  
 14      implementation of an integrated instructional program,  
 15      communication of information, and evaluation; providing an  
 16      effective date.

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

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 20           Section 1. Section 1003.495, Florida Statutes, is created  
 21 to read:

22           1003.495 Advanced Placement courses and teacher  
 23 training.--

24           (1) The purpose of this section is to ensure that each  
 25 Florida student receives a sufficient education for success  
 26 after high school and that all students have equal access to a  
 27 substantive and rigorous curriculum that is designed to

28 challenge their minds, enhance their knowledge and skills, and  
29 prepare them for success in college and work.

30 (2) For purposes of this section:

31 (a) "Advanced Placement course" means a course sponsored  
32 by the College Board that is offered for college credit at the  
33 high school level and taught by an Advanced Placement teacher.

34 (b) "Advanced Placement Vertical Team" means a group of  
35 teachers and educators from different grade levels in a given  
36 discipline who work cooperatively to develop and implement a  
37 vertically aligned program aimed at helping students from  
38 diverse backgrounds acquire the academic skills necessary for  
39 success in Advanced Placement courses and other challenging  
40 courses.

41 (c) "Pre-Advanced Placement teacher training" means a set  
42 of professional development resources and services designed to  
43 equip middle and high school teachers with the strategies and  
44 tools they need to engage their students in active, high-level  
45 learning, thereby ensuring that middle and high school students  
46 develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts they need to  
47 succeed in Advanced Placement courses.

48 (3) By the 2007-2008 school year, each high school in the  
49 state must offer at least four Advanced Placement courses, one  
50 each in English, mathematics, science, and a foreign language  
51 taught by an Advanced Placement teacher.

52 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish clear,  
53 specific, and challenging training guidelines that require each  
54 teacher of an Advanced Placement course to have obtained

55 recognized Advanced Placement teacher training endorsed by the  
56 College Board.

57 (5) Funds to provide Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced  
58 Placement teacher training to Florida teachers shall be provided  
59 annually in the General Appropriations Act. This training shall:

60 (a) Provide Advanced Placement teachers and Pre-Advanced  
61 Placement teachers with the necessary content knowledge and  
62 instructional skills to prepare students for success in Advanced  
63 Placement courses and examinations and other advanced course  
64 examinations and mastery of postsecondary course content.

65 (b) Provide school administrators and counselors with  
66 professional development that will enable them to create strong  
67 and effective Advanced Placement programs in their schools.

68 (c) Provide teachers in the middle grades and high school  
69 with Advanced Placement Vertical Team training and other Pre-  
70 Advanced Placement professional development to prepare students  
71 for success in Advanced Placement courses.

72 (d) Support the implementation of an instructional program  
73 for students in grades 6-12 that provides an integrated set of  
74 instructional materials, diagnostic assessments, and teacher  
75 professional development in reading, writing, and mathematics  
76 that prepares all students for enrollment and success in  
77 Advanced Placement courses and in college.

78 (6) In order to ensure that each student receives a  
79 sufficient education for success in college or work after high  
80 school and that all students have equal access to a substantive  
81 and rigorous curriculum that is designed to challenge their  
82 minds and enhance their knowledge and skills, school districts

83 must offer rigorous courses in grades 6-11 that prepare students  
84 for the demands of Advanced Placement coursework.

85 (7) The State Board of Education shall:

86 (a) Seek federal funding through the Advanced Placement  
87 Incentive Program and the Math and Science Partnership Program  
88 to support Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced Placement teacher  
89 training and the implementation of an integrated instructional  
90 program for students in grades 6-12 in reading, writing, and  
91 mathematics that prepares all students for enrollment and  
92 success in Advanced Placement courses and in college.

93 (b) Focus state and federal funding to carry out  
94 activities that target school districts serving high  
95 concentrations of low-income and underrepresented students.

96 (c) Provide a plan of communication which includes, but  
97 need not be limited to, disseminating to parents materials that  
98 emphasize the importance of Advanced Placement courses or other  
99 advanced courses to a student's ability to gain access to and to  
100 succeed in postsecondary education and materials that emphasize  
101 the importance of the PSAT/NMSQT, which provide diagnostic  
102 feedback on skills and relate student scores to the probability  
103 of success in Advanced Placement courses and examinations. Such  
104 information shall also be disseminated to students, teachers,  
105 counselors, administrators, school districts, community  
106 colleges, and state universities.

107 (d) Annually evaluate the impact of the implementation of  
108 this section on the rates of student enrollment and success in  
109 Advanced Placement courses, on high school graduation rates, and  
110 on college enrollment rates.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.