## Florida Senate - 2006

By Senator Siplin

19-210A-06

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to student assessments;
3	creating s. 1008.225, F.S.; providing for a
4	Standardized Test Academic Grade, or STAG, to
5	create a balance between the standardized test
б	scores and the academic performance of a
7	student, to enhance students' options for
8	promotion and graduation, and to enhance school
9	options for accountability and fairness in the
10	grading process; providing legislative
11	findings; requiring that the Commissioner of
12	Education develop and implement the STAG
13	program by a specified date; providing
14	purposes; providing eligibility requirements
15	for student use of STAG; providing a formula
16	for computing a student's STAG score; requiring
17	the Department of Education to study the
18	program and report its findings to the
19	Legislature and the Commissioner of Education;
20	amending ss. 1003.43 and 1008.22, F.S., to
21	conform; providing an effective date.
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23	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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25	Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
26	1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
27	1003.43 General requirements for high school
28	graduation
29	(5) Each district school board shall establish
30	standards for graduation from its schools, and these standards
31	must include:
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SB 302

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1 (a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in 2 s. 1008.22(3)(c), or <u>a satisfactory Standardized Test Academic</u> Grade under s. 1008.225 scores on a standardized test that are 3 4 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s.  $\frac{1008.22(9)}{1008.22(9)}$ . 5 б 7 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida 8 Administrative Code even though not defined as "rules." 9 10 Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 11 12 1008.22 Student assessment program for public 13 schools.--(9) EQUIVALENCIES FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS.--14 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall approve the 15 use of STAG scores in accordance with s. 1008.225 the SAT and 16 17 ACT tests as alternative assessments to the grade 10 FCAT for the 2007-2008 2003 2004 school year and thereafter. Students 18 who attain <u>satisfactory STAG</u> scores on the SAT or ACT which 19 equate to the passing scores on the grade 10 FCAT for purposes 2.0 21 of high school graduation shall satisfy the assessment 22 requirement for a standard high school diploma as provided in 23 s. 1003.429(6)(a) or s. 1003.43(5)(a) for the 2003 2004 school 2.4 year if the students meet the requirement in paragraph (b). 25 (b) A student shall be required to take the grade 10 FCAT a total of three times without earning a passing score in 26 27 order to use the scores on an alternative assessment pursuant 2.8 to paragraph (a). This requirement shall not apply to a 29 student who is a new student to the public school system in 30 grade 12. 31

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1 Section 3. Section 1008.225, Florida Statutes, is 2 created to read: 1008.225 Standardized Test Academic Grade (STAG) .--3 4 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. -- The Legislature finds that it is undesirable to evaluate all students on the basis of a 5 6 single assessment such as the Florida Comprehensive Assessment 7 Test (FCAT). The Legislature further finds that, in many 8 instances, it is more sensible to strike a balance between standardized test scores and academic performance in assessing 9 10 whether a student is qualified to be a high school graduate. (2) DEVELOPMENT.--Pursuant to the statewide assessment 11 12 program, the Commissioner of Education shall develop and implement during the 2007-2008 school year the Standardized 13 Test Academic Grade, or STAG. 14 (3) PURPOSE. -- Use of the Standardized Test Academic 15 Grade is intended to create a balance between the standardized 16 17 test scores and the academic performance of a student, to 18 enhance student options for school promotion, to increase the options for a student to obtain a high school diploma, to 19 create options for school accountability, and to promote the 20 21 normal grading scale and common grade point average that 2.2 people understand. 23 (4) ELIGIBILITY TO ELECT ASSESSMENT BY STAG. -- A 2.4 student may choose to be assessed through the STAG program if 25 the student: (a) Is reading at grade level; 2.6 27 (b) Has a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or 2.8 better; (c) Has had no major disciplinary problems or 29 30 disciplinary actions during high school; 31

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1 (d) Has not accumulated more than 21 days of absence 2 from classes during each school year in grades 9 through 12; 3 and 4 (e) Has a parent or quardian who is involved in the 5 student's education, as evidenced by the parent's or б quardian's having reviewed the student's portfolio at least 7 twice per academic year during grades 9 through 12. 8 (5) COMPUTATION OF STAG. --9 (a) A student's STAG score is the average of two 10 component scores earned by the student: 1. The cumulative grade point average; and 11 12 The standardized test grade point average, or 2. STGPA, as calculated under paragraph (b). 13 (b) To calculate the STGPA, the school must: 14 1. Convert the student's FCAT scores from levels to 15 grades and assign to each grade the number of guality points 16 17 assigned in accordance with the scale used in calculating the 18 grade point average: FCAT Level 19 <u>Letter Grade</u> <u>Quality</u> 20 <u>Points</u> 21 5 4 A 22 4 В 3 23 3 С 2 2.4 2 D 1 1 25 F 0 26 27 2. Add the number of quality points that the student 28 earned on all FCAT subtests and divide by the number of FCAT subtests to calculate the average of the quality points. That 29 30 average is the STGPA. 31

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1	(c) The STAG must equal 2.5 or better before a student
2	is promoted to the next level or obtains a regular high school
3	diploma.
4	(6) PROGRAM ASSESSMENTThe Department of Education
5	shall, by August 1, 2009, study the results of implementing
б	the STAG method of assessment and shall report its findings to
7	the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
8	Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education by December
9	<u>1, 2008.</u>
10	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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13	SENATE SUMMARY
14	Provides for a Standardized Test Academic Grade, or STAG, to create a balance between the standardized test scores
15	and the academic performance of a student, to enhance
16	students' options for promotion and graduation, and to enhance school options for accountability and fairness in
17	the grading process. Provides legislative findings. Requires that the Commissioner of Education develop and
18	implement the STAG program by a specified date. Provides purposes of the program. Provides eligibility
19	requirements for student use of STAG. Provides a formula for computing a student's STAG score. Requires the
20	Department of Education to study the program and report its findings to legislative leaders and to the Commissioner of Education.
21	commissioner of Education.
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