



Bill No. CS for CS for SB 772

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1 graduation rates through integrated academic and career  
2 curricula.

3 (b) Focus on career preparation through rigorous  
4 academics and industry certification.

5 (c) Raise student aspiration and commitment to  
6 academic achievement and work ethics.

7 (d) Support graduation requirements by providing  
8 creative, applied majors as provided by law.

9 (e) Promote acceleration mechanisms, such as dual  
10 enrollment, articulated credit, or occupational completion  
11 points, so that students may earn postsecondary credit while  
12 in high school.

13 (f) Support the state's economy by meeting industry  
14 needs for skilled employees in high-demand occupations.

15 (3) A career and professional academy may be offered  
16 as one of the following small learning communities:

17 (a) A school-within-a-school career academy, as part  
18 of an existing high school, that provides courses in one  
19 occupational cluster. Students in the high school are not  
20 required to be students in the academy.

21 (b) A total school configuration providing multiple  
22 academies, each structured around an occupational cluster.  
23 Every student in the school is in an academy.

24 (4) Each career and professional academy must:

25 (a) Provide a rigorous standards-based academic  
26 curriculum integrated with a career curriculum. The curriculum  
27 must take into consideration multiple styles of student  
28 learning; promote learning by doing through application and  
29 adaptation; maximize relevance of the subject matter; enhance  
30 each student's capacity to excel; and include an emphasis on  
31 work habits and work ethics.

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1           (b) Include one or more partnerships with  
 2 postsecondary institutions, businesses, industry, employers,  
 3 economic development organizations, or other appropriate  
 4 partners from the local community. Such partnerships must  
 5 provide opportunities for:

- 6           1. Instruction from highly skilled professionals.
- 7           2. Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.
- 8           3. A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.
- 9           4. The highest available level of industry  
 10 certification. Where no national or state certification  
 11 exists, school districts may establish a local certification  
 12 in conjunction with the local workforce development board, the  
 13 chamber of commerce, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- 14           5. Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s.  
 15 1007.23 upon program completion.

16           (c) Provide creative and tailored student advisement,  
 17 including parent participation and coordination with middle  
 18 schools to provide career exploration and education planning.  
 19 Coordination with middle schools must provide information to  
 20 middle school students about secondary and postsecondary  
 21 career education programs and academies.

22           (d) Provide a career education certification on the  
 23 high school diploma pursuant to s. 1003.431.

24           (e) Provide instruction in careers designated as high  
 25 growth, high demand, and high pay by the local workforce  
 26 development board, the chamber of commerce, or the Agency for  
 27 Workforce Innovation.

28           (f) Deliver academic content through instruction  
 29 relevant to the career, including intensive reading and  
 30 mathematics intervention, with an emphasis on strengthening  
 31 reading for information skills.

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1       (g) Offer applied courses that combine academic  
2 content with technical skills. Such courses must be submitted  
3 to the Department of Education no later than 5 months before  
4 the beginning of the school term in which such courses are  
5 planned to be offered. The State Board of Education must  
6 approve or disapprove courses no later than 3 months before  
7 the beginning of the school term in which such courses are  
8 planned to be offered. The department shall present new  
9 courses to the state board for approval a minimum of three  
10 times annually.

11       (h) Provide instruction resulting in competency,  
12 certification, or credentials in workplace skills, including,  
13 but not limited to, communication skills, interpersonal  
14 skills, decisionmaking skills, the importance of attendance  
15 and timeliness in the work environment, and work ethics.

16       (i) Provide opportunities for students to obtain the  
17 Florida Ready to Work Certification as provided by law.

18       (j) Include an evaluation plan developed jointly with  
19 the Department of Education. The evaluation plan must include  
20 a self-assessment tool based on standards, such as the Career  
21 Academy National Standards of Practice, and outcome measures  
22 including, but not limited to, graduation rates, enrollment in  
23 postsecondary education, business and industry satisfaction,  
24 employment and earnings, achievement of industry  
25 certification, awards of postsecondary credit, and FCAT  
26 achievement levels and learning gains.

27       Section 9. Section 1003.494, Florida Statutes, is  
28 created to read:

29       1003.494 Career High-Skill Occupational Initiative for  
30 Career Education (CHOICE) academies.--

31       (1) The Department of Education shall establish a

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1 Career High-Skill Occupational Initiative for Career Education  
 2 (CHOICE) project. The project shall consist of a competitive  
 3 process for selecting and designating school districts as  
 4 participants in the project and designating CHOICE academies  
 5 within participating school districts.

6       (2) A "CHOICE academy" is a career and professional  
 7 academy that meets the goals and requirements specified in s.  
 8 1003.493 and offers a rigorous and relevant academic  
 9 curriculum leading to industry-recognized certification,  
 10 college credit, and credit toward a high school diploma.  
 11 Existing career education courses may serve as a foundation  
 12 for the creation of a CHOICE academy.

13       (3) The purposes of a CHOICE academy are to:

14       (a) Draw upon ongoing partnerships between education  
 15 and workforce development or economic development  
 16 organizations to enhance the quality and opportunities for  
 17 career education for high school students by exposure to  
 18 in-demand career education as identified by such organizations  
 19 in the local community.

20       (b) Build upon the state system of school improvement  
 21 and education accountability by providing students with a  
 22 solid academic foundation, opportunities to obtain  
 23 industry-recognized certification or credentials, and  
 24 preparation for postsecondary educational experiences in  
 25 related fields.

26       (c) Prepare graduating high school students to make  
 27 appropriate choices relative to employment and future  
 28 educational experiences.

29       (4) The Department of Education may establish  
 30 application guidelines for an annual competitive process and  
 31 eligibility criteria for school district participation. A

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1 school district may apply to the department for designation as  
 2 a CHOICE project participating district, and the department,  
 3 in consultation with Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise  
 4 Florida, Inc., may designate as many school districts as it  
 5 deems advisable each year. Eligibility criteria for  
 6 designation of a school district as a CHOICE project  
 7 participant shall include, but not be limited to:

8 (a) The willingness and ability of associated  
 9 businesses or industries to form partnerships with and support  
 10 CHOICE academies.

11 (b) The dedication of school district resources to  
 12 CHOICE academies.

13 (5) The Department of Education, in consultation with  
 14 Workforce Florida, Inc., shall establish standards for  
 15 designating specific CHOICE academies in each participating  
 16 school district. A participating school district may apply to  
 17 the department for designation of a CHOICE academy within the  
 18 district. Eligibility criteria for such designation shall  
 19 include, but not be limited to:

20 (a) Partnerships with an associated business or  
 21 industry and a regional workforce board or the primary local  
 22 economic development organization in the county as recognized  
 23 by Enterprise Florida, Inc. The partnership of the business or  
 24 industry with the CHOICE academy must be based on the  
 25 connection of the business or industry with the academy's  
 26 career theme and must involve future plans for improving the  
 27 local economy. The business or industry partner must be  
 28 consulted during the planning stages of a CHOICE academy and  
 29 provide business or industry support and resources devoted to  
 30 the CHOICE academy. The Consortium of Florida Education  
 31 Foundations or a designee must also be consulted during the

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1 planning stages of a CHOICE academy and may provide support  
2 and resources devoted to the CHOICE academy.

3 (b) At least one established partnership and an  
4 articulation agreement for credit with a postsecondary  
5 institution.

6 (c) A plan for sustaining the CHOICE academy.

7  
8 The Okaloosa County School District and other school districts  
9 that have received funding from Workforce Florida, Inc., for  
10 the establishment of CHOICE academies prior to July 1, 2006,  
11 shall receive an expedited review for CHOICE academy  
12 designation by the department.

13 (6) A participating school district shall:

14 (a) Identify an appropriate location for classes.

15 (b) Ensure that a CHOICE academy is flexible enough to  
16 respond both to the needs and abilities of students and to the  
17 needs of associated businesses or industries.

18 (c) Redirect appropriated funding from ongoing  
19 activities to a CHOICE academy.

20 (d) Plan for sustaining a CHOICE academy as an ongoing  
21 program without additional funding.

22 (7) The Department of Education shall:

23 (a) With assistance from Workforce Florida, Inc.,  
24 provide technical assistance to participating school districts  
25 in submitting applications for designation of specific CHOICE  
26 academies located in specific schools in the school district,  
27 reorganizing career education opportunities, developing CHOICE  
28 academies with career themes in areas deemed appropriate by  
29 Workforce Florida, Inc., or local economic development  
30 organizations, and developing funding plans.

31 (b) Jointly with Workforce Florida, Inc., and in

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1 consultation with school districts, develop evaluation  
2 criteria for CHOICE academies. Such criteria shall include  
3 increased academic performance of students and schools using  
4 school-level accountability data.

5 (c) Report to the State Board of Education, the  
6 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
7 House of Representatives by July 1 of each year on school  
8 district participation in the CHOICE project, designated  
9 CHOICE academies with enrollment and completion data for such  
10 academies, and appropriate outcomes for students who have  
11 completed a CHOICE academy program. Such outcomes may include  
12 continuing educational experiences of CHOICE academy  
13 graduates, business or industry satisfaction with the CHOICE  
14 academies, placement of CHOICE academy graduates in  
15 employment, and earnings of such graduates.

16 (d) Promote CHOICE academies and provide planning and  
17 startup resources as available.

18 (8) As provided in the General Appropriations Act, the  
19 Department of Education shall award one-time startup funds to  
20 school districts designated as participants in the CHOICE  
21 project for the development of CHOICE academies. All school  
22 districts designated by the department are authorized to  
23 establish one or more CHOICE academies without incentive  
24 funds.

25 Section 10. Subsection (7) is added to section  
26 288.9015, Florida Statutes, to read:

27 288.9015 Enterprise Florida, Inc.; purpose; duties.--

28 (7) Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall work with the  
29 Department of Education and Workforce Florida, Inc., in the  
30 designation of school districts as participants in the CHOICE  
31 project pursuant to s. 1003.494.



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1 Section 11. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (5)  
2 of section 445.004, Florida Statutes, to read:

3 445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;  
4 membership; duties and powers.--

5 (5) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall have all the powers  
6 and authority, not explicitly prohibited by statute, necessary  
7 or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes as  
8 determined by statute, Pub. L. No. 105-220, and the Governor,  
9 as well as its functions, duties, and responsibilities,  
10 including, but not limited to, the following:

11 (i) Working with the Department of Education and  
12 Enterprise Florida, Inc., in the implementation of the CHOICE  
13 project pursuant to s. 1003.494.

14  
15 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

16  
17  
18 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

19 And the title is amended as follows:

20 On page 2, line 18, after the semicolon,

21  
22 insert:

23 creating s. 1003.493, F.S.; defining "career  
24 and professional academy"; providing academy  
25 goals and duties; authorizing an academy to be  
26 offered as a described small learning  
27 community; creating s. 1003.494, F.S.;  
28 requiring the Department of Education to  
29 establish a Career High-Skill Occupational  
30 Initiative for Career Education (CHOICE)  
31 project as a competitive process for the

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1 designation of school district participants and  
2 CHOICE academies; defining "CHOICE academy" and  
3 providing purposes thereof; providing  
4 eligibility criteria for such designation and  
5 duties of participating school districts and  
6 the department; providing for the award to  
7 school district participants in the CHOICE  
8 project of startup funds for the development of  
9 CHOICE academies; amending ss. 288.9015 and  
10 445.004, F.S.; providing duties of Enterprise  
11 Florida, Inc., and Workforce Florida, Inc., to  
12 conform;

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