

1  
2 An act relating to career and professional  
3 education; amending s. 1003.491, F.S.; creating  
4 the Florida Career and Professional Education  
5 Act for the purpose of improving academic  
6 performance and responding to the state's  
7 workforce needs; requiring that district school  
8 boards develop strategic plans to address and  
9 meet local and regional workforce needs;  
10 requiring that all school districts establish a  
11 career and professional academy by a specified  
12 date; providing additional requirements for  
13 each school board's strategic plan; requiring  
14 that the State Board of Education establish a  
15 process to review newly proposed core secondary  
16 courses; requiring a curriculum review  
17 committee; providing for the membership of the  
18 committee; requiring that approved courses be  
19 added to the Course Code Directory; providing  
20 for an appeal if a proposed core course is  
21 denied; amending s. 1003.492, F.S.; providing  
22 for coordination between career and  
23 professional academies and industry; requiring  
24 the State Board of Education to adopt rules  
25 using the expertise of Workforce Florida, Inc.,  
26 and Enterprise Florida, Inc.; requiring the  
27 Department of Education to collect and analyze  
28 data concerning student achievement and  
29 performance; providing requirements for such  
30 analysis; requiring that the department report  
31 the results of the analysis annually to the

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1 | Legislature; deleting obsolete provisions  
2 | concerning a study by the department; amending  
3 | s. 1003.493, F.S.; redefining the term "career  
4 | and professional academy" to mean a program  
5 | that integrates an academic curriculum with an  
6 | industry-specific curriculum; requiring public  
7 | schools and school districts to offer career  
8 | and professional academies; revising the goals  
9 | of and requirements for a career and  
10 | professional academy; requiring the Department  
11 | of Education, in consultation with the Board of  
12 | Governors of the State University System, to  
13 | establish a mechanism for transferring credits  
14 | to postsecondary institutions; requiring that a  
15 | career and professional academy provide  
16 | opportunities for students to attain the  
17 | Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award;  
18 | requiring that career courses lead to industry  
19 | certification; requiring that specified  
20 | percentages of students achieve certification  
21 | or college credit in order for a course to  
22 | continue to be offered; requiring the Okaloosa  
23 | County School District CHOICE Institutes to  
24 | advise and assist newly established career and  
25 | professional academies; repealing s. 1003.494,  
26 | F.S., relating to the Career High-Skill  
27 | Occupational Initiative for Career Education  
28 | (CHOICE) academies; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.;  
29 | providing for calculating the value of  
30 | full-time equivalent student membership for  
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1 students enrolled in a career and professional  
2 academy program; providing an effective date.

3  
4 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

5  
6 Section 1. Section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, is  
7 amended to read:

8 (Substantial rewording of section. See  
9 s. 1003.491, F.S., for present text.)

10 1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education  
11 Act.--The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is  
12 created to provide a statewide planning partnership between  
13 the business and education communities in order to attract,  
14 expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to  
15 sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.

16 (1) The primary purpose of the Florida Career and  
17 Professional Education Act is to:

18 (a) Improve middle and high school academic  
19 performance by providing rigorous and relevant curriculum  
20 opportunities;

21 (b) Provide rigorous and relevant career-themed  
22 courses that articulate to postsecondary-level coursework and  
23 lead to industry certification;

24 (c) Support local and regional economic development;

25 (d) Respond to Florida's critical workforce needs; and

26 (e) Provide state residents with access to high-wage  
27 and high-demand careers.

28 (2) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each  
29 district school board shall develop, in collaboration with  
30 local workforce boards and postsecondary institutions approved  
31 to operate in the state, a strategic 5-year plan to address

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1 and meet local and regional workforce demands. If involvement  
2 of the local workforce board in the strategic plan development  
3 is not feasible, the local school board, with the approval of  
4 the Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall collaborate with  
5 the most appropriate local business leadership board. Two or  
6 more school districts may collaborate in the development of  
7 the strategic plan and offer a career and professional academy  
8 as a joint venture. Such plans must describe in detail  
9 provisions for efficient transportation of students, maximum  
10 use of shared resources, and access to courses through the  
11 Florida Virtual School when appropriate. Each strategic plan  
12 shall be completed no later than June 30, 2008, and shall  
13 include provisions to have in place at least one operational  
14 career and professional academy, pursuant to s. 1003.492, no  
15 later than the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

16 (3) The strategic 5-year plan developed jointly  
17 between the local school district, local workforce boards, and  
18 state-approved postsecondary institutions shall be constructed  
19 and based on:

20 (a) Research conducted to objectively determine local  
21 and regional workforce needs for the ensuing 5 years, using  
22 labor projections of the United States Department of Labor and  
23 the Agency for Workforce Innovation;

24 (b) Strategies to develop and implement career  
25 academies based on those careers determined to be in high  
26 demand;

27 (c) Maximum use of private-sector facilities and  
28 personnel;

29 (d) Strategies that ensure instruction by  
30 industry-certified faculty and standards and strategies to  
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1 maintain current industry credentials and for recruiting and  
2 retaining faculty to meet those standards;

3 (e) Alignment to requirements for middle school career  
4 exploration and high school redesign;

5 (f) Provisions to ensure that courses offered through  
6 career and professional academies are academically rigorous,  
7 meet or exceed appropriate state-adopted subject area  
8 standards, result in attainment of industry certification,  
9 and, when appropriate, result in postsecondary credit;

10 (g) Establishment of student eligibility criteria in  
11 career and professional academies which include opportunities  
12 for students who have been unsuccessful in traditional  
13 classrooms but who show aptitude to participate in academies.  
14 School boards shall address the analysis of eighth grade  
15 student achievement data to provide opportunities for students  
16 who may be deemed as potential dropouts to participate in  
17 career and professional academies;

18 (h) Strategies to provide sufficient space within  
19 academies to meet workforce needs and to provide access to all  
20 interested and qualified students;

21 (i) Strategies to engage Department of Juvenile  
22 Justice students in career and professional academy training  
23 that leads to industry certification;

24 (j) Opportunities for high school students to earn  
25 weighted or dual enrollment credit for higher-level career and  
26 technical courses;

27 (k) Promotion of the benefits of the Gold Seal Bright  
28 Futures Scholarship;

29 (l) Strategies to ensure the review of district  
30 pupil-progression plans and to amend such plans to include  
31 career and professional courses and to include courses that

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1 may qualify as substitute courses for core graduation  
2 requirements and those that may be counted as elective  
3 courses; and

4 (m) Strategies to provide professional development for  
5 secondary guidance counselors on the benefits of career and  
6 professional academies.

7 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish a  
8 process for the continual and uninterrupted review of newly  
9 proposed core secondary courses and existing courses requested  
10 to be considered as core courses to ensure that sufficient  
11 rigor and relevance is provided for workforce skills and  
12 postsecondary education and aligned to state curriculum  
13 standards. The review of newly proposed core secondary courses  
14 shall be the responsibility of a curriculum review committee  
15 whose membership is approved by the Workforce Florida Board as  
16 described in s. 445.004, and shall include:

17 (a) Three certified high school guidance counselors  
18 recommended by the Florida Association of Student Services  
19 Administrators.

20 (b) Three assistant superintendents for curriculum and  
21 instruction, recommended by the Florida Association of  
22 District School Superintendents and who serve in districts  
23 that operate successful career and professional academies  
24 pursuant to s. 1003.492. Committee members in this category  
25 shall employ the expertise of appropriate subject area  
26 specialists in the review of proposed courses.

27 (c) Three workforce representatives recommended by the  
28 Agency for Workforce Innovation.

29 (d) Three admissions directors of postsecondary  
30 institutions accredited by the Southern Association of

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1 Colleges and Schools, representing both public and private  
2 institutions.

3 (e) The Deputy Commissioner of Education responsible  
4 for K-12 curriculum and instruction. The Deputy Commissioner  
5 shall employ the expertise of appropriate subject area  
6 specialists in the review of proposed courses.

7 (5) The submission and review of newly proposed core  
8 courses shall be conducted electronically and each proposed  
9 core course shall be approved or denied within 60 days. All  
10 courses approved as core courses for high school graduation  
11 purposes shall be immediately added to the Course Code  
12 Directory. Approved core courses shall also be reviewed and  
13 considered for approval for dual enrollment credit. The Board  
14 of Governors and the Commissioner of Education shall jointly  
15 recommend an annual deadline for approval of new core courses  
16 to be included for purposes of postsecondary admissions and  
17 dual enrollment credit the following academic year. The State  
18 Board of Education shall establish an appeals process in the  
19 event that a proposed course is denied which shall require a  
20 consensus ruling by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and  
21 the Commissioner of Education within 15 days. The curriculum  
22 review committee must be established and operational no later  
23 than September 1, 2007.

24 Section 2. Section 1003.492, Florida Statutes, is  
25 amended to read:

26 1003.492 Industry-certified career education  
27 programs.--

28 (1) ~~A Career and professional academies education~~  
29 ~~program within a comprehensive high school program of study~~  
30 shall be coordinated with the appropriate industry indicating  
31 that all components of the program are relevant and

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1 appropriate to prepare the student for further education or  
2 for employment in that industry.

3 (2) The State Board of Education shall use the  
4 expertise of Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida,  
5 Inc., to develop and adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)  
6 and 120.54 for implementing an industry certification process,  
7 ~~which rules must establish any necessary procedures for~~  
8 ~~obtaining appropriate business partners and requirements for~~  
9 ~~business and industry involvement in curriculum oversight and~~  
10 ~~equipment procurement.~~ Industry certification shall be defined  
11 by the Agency for Workforce Innovation, based upon the highest  
12 available national standards for specific industry  
13 certification, to ensure student skill proficiency and to  
14 address emerging labor-market and industry trends. A regional  
15 workforce board or a career and professional academy may apply  
16 to Workforce Florida, Inc., to request additions to the  
17 approved list of industry certifications based on high-demand  
18 job requirements in the regional economy. The list of industry  
19 certifications approved by Workforce Florida, Inc., shall be  
20 published and updated annually by a date certain, to be  
21 included in the adopted rule.

22 (3) The Department of Education shall collect ~~study~~  
23 student achievement and performance data in industry-certified  
24 career education programs and shall work with Workforce  
25 Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc., in the analysis  
26 of collected data. ~~The department shall identify districts~~  
27 ~~that currently operate industry certified career education~~  
28 ~~programs.~~ The data collection and analyses ~~study~~ shall examine  
29 the performance of participating students over time.  
30 Performance factors shall include, but not be limited to,  
31 graduation rates, retention rates, Florida Bright Futures



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1 Scholarship awards, additional educational attainment,  
2 employment records, earnings, ~~and~~ industry certification, and  
3 employer satisfaction. The results of this study shall be  
4 submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
5 the House of Representatives annually by December 31, ~~2004~~.

6 ~~(4) The Department of Education shall conduct a study~~  
7 ~~to determine if a cost factor should be applied to~~  
8 ~~industry certified career education programs and review the~~  
9 ~~need for startup funding for the programs. The study shall be~~  
10 ~~completed by December 31, 2004, and shall be submitted to the~~  
11 ~~President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of~~  
12 ~~Representatives.~~

13 Section 3. Section 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is  
14 amended to read:

15 1003.493 Career and professional academies.--

16 (1) A "career and professional academy" is a  
17 research-based program that integrates a rigorous academic  
18 curriculum with an industry-specific industry driven career  
19 curriculum aligned directly to priority workforce needs  
20 established by the regional workforce board. Career and  
21 professional academies shall ~~may~~ be offered by public schools  
22 and, ~~school districts,~~ ~~or~~ The Florida Virtual School is  
23 encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career and  
24 professional courses as appropriate. Students completing  
25 career and professional academy programs must receive a  
26 standard high school diploma, the highest available industry  
27 certification, and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit  
28 if the academy partners with a postsecondary institution  
29 approved to operate in the state.

30 (2) The goals of a career and professional academy are  
31 to:

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1 (a) Increase student academic achievement and  
2 graduation rates through integrated academic and career  
3 curricula.

4 (b) Prepare graduating high school students to make  
5 appropriate choices relative to employment and future  
6 educational experiences.

7 ~~(c)(b)~~ Focus on career preparation through rigorous  
8 academics and industry certification.

9 ~~(d)(e)~~ Raise student aspiration and commitment to  
10 academic achievement and work ethics through relevant  
11 coursework.

12 ~~(e)(d)~~ Support graduation requirements pursuant to s.  
13 1003.428 by providing creative, applied major areas of  
14 interest by providing creative, applied majors as provided by  
15 law.

16 ~~(f)(e)~~ Promote acceleration mechanisms, such as dual  
17 enrollment, articulated credit, or occupational completion  
18 points, so that students may earn postsecondary credit while  
19 in high school.

20 ~~(g)(f)~~ Support the state's economy by meeting industry  
21 needs for skilled employees in high-demand occupations.

22 (3) Existing career education courses may serve as a  
23 foundation for the creation of a career and professional  
24 academy. A career and professional academy may be offered as  
25 one of the following small learning communities:

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

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

4 (4) Each career and professional academy must:

5 (a) Provide a rigorous standards-based academic  
6 curriculum integrated with a career curriculum. The curriculum  
7 must take into consideration multiple styles of student  
8 learning; promote learning by doing through application and  
9 adaptation; maximize relevance of the subject matter; enhance  
10 each student's capacity to excel; and include an emphasis on  
11 work habits and work ethics.

12 (b) Include one or more partnerships with  
13 postsecondary institutions, businesses, industry, employers,  
14 economic development organizations, or other appropriate  
15 partners from the local community. Such partnerships shall be  
16 delineated in articulation agreements to provide for  
17 career-based courses that earn postsecondary credit. Such  
18 agreements may include articulation between the academy and  
19 public or private 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions  
20 and technical centers. The Department of Education, in  
21 consultation with the Board of Governors, shall establish a  
22 mechanism to ensure articulation and transfer of credits to  
23 postsecondary institutions in this state. Such partnerships  
24 must provide opportunities for:

25 1. Instruction from highly skilled professionals who  
26 possess industry-certification credentials for courses they  
27 are teaching.

28 2. Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.

29 3. A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.

30 4. The highest available level of industry  
31 certification. ~~Where no national or state certification~~

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1 ~~exists, school districts may establish a local certification~~  
2 ~~in conjunction with the local workforce development board, the~~  
3 ~~chamber of commerce, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation.~~

4 5. Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s.  
5 1007.23 upon program completion.

6 (c) Provide shared, maximum use of private-sector  
7 facilities and personnel.

8 (d)(e) Provide personalized creative and tailored  
9 student advisement, including a parent-participation  
10 component, parent participation and coordination with middle  
11 schools to promote and support ~~provide~~ career exploration and  
12 education planning as required under s. 1003.4156.

13 Coordination with middle schools must provide information to  
14 middle school students about secondary and postsecondary  
15 career education programs and academies.

16 (e)(d) Promote and provide opportunities for career  
17 and professional academy students to attain, at minimum, the  
18 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award pursuant to s.  
19 1009.536 ~~a career education certification on the high school~~  
20 ~~diploma pursuant to s. 1003.431.~~

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

25 (g)(f) Deliver academic content through instruction  
26 relevant to the career, including intensive reading and  
27 mathematics intervention required by s. 1003.428, with an  
28 emphasis on strengthening reading for information skills.

29 (h)(g) Offer applied courses that combine academic  
30 content with technical skills. Such courses must be submitted  
31 to the Department of Education no later than 5 months before

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1 ~~the beginning of the school term in which such courses are~~  
2 ~~planned to be offered. The State Board of Education must~~  
3 ~~approve or disapprove courses no later than 3 months before~~  
4 ~~the beginning of the school term in which such courses are~~  
5 ~~planned to be offered. The department shall present new~~  
6 ~~courses to the state board for approval a minimum of three~~  
7 ~~times annually.~~

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

13 (j)(i) Provide opportunities for students to obtain  
14 the Florida Ready to Work Certification pursuant to s.  
15 1004.99.

16 (k)(j) Include an evaluation plan developed jointly  
17 with the Department of Education and the local workforce  
18 board. The evaluation plan must include an assessment a  
19 ~~self assessment~~ tool based on national industry standards,  
20 such as the Career Academy National Standards of Practice, and  
21 outcome measures, including, but not limited to, achievement  
22 of industry certifications, 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  
26 scholarships, and FCAT achievement levels and learning gains.  
27 The Department of Education shall use Workforce Florida, Inc.,  
28 and Enterprise Florida, Inc., in identifying industry experts  
29 to participate in developing and implementing such  
30 assessments.

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1           (l) Include a plan to sustain career and professional  
2 academies.

3           (m) Redirect appropriated career funding to career and  
4 professional academies.

5           (5) All career courses offered in a career and  
6 professional academy must lead to industry certification or  
7 college credit linked directly to the career theme of the  
8 course. At least 50 percent of students enrolled in a career  
9 course must achieve industry certifications or college credits  
10 during the second year the course is offered in order for the  
11 course to be offered a third year. At least 66 percent of  
12 students enrolled in such a course must achieve industry  
13 certifications or college credits during the third year the  
14 course is offered in order for it to be offered a fourth year  
15 and thereafter.

16           (6) The Okaloosa County School District CHOICE  
17 Institutes shall serve in an advisory role and shall offer  
18 technical assistance in the development of newly established  
19 career and professional academies for a 3-year period  
20 beginning July 1, 2007.

21           Section 4. Section 1003.494, Florida Statutes, is  
22 repealed.

23           Section 5. Present paragraphs (p) through (t) of  
24 subsection (1) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are  
25 redesignated as paragraphs (q) through (u), respectively, and  
26 a new paragraph (p) is added to that subsection, to read:

27           1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual  
28 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
29 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
30 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
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1 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
2 follows:

3 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR  
4 OPERATION.--The following procedure shall be followed in  
5 determining the annual allocation to each district for  
6 operation:

7 (p) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent  
8 membership based on certification of successful completion of  
9 industry-certified career and professional academy programs  
10 pursuant to s. 1003.492.--A value of 0.3 full-time equivalent  
11 student membership shall be calculated for each student who  
12 completes an industry-certified career and professional  
13 academy program under s. 1003.492 and who is issued an  
14 industry certificate. Such value shall be added to the total  
15 full-time equivalent student membership in secondary career  
16 education programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent  
17 year for courses that were not funded through dual enrollment.  
18 Unless a different amount is specified in the General  
19 Appropriations Act, the appropriation for this calculation is  
20 limited to \$30 million annually. If the appropriation is  
21 insufficient to fully fund the total calculation, the  
22 appropriation shall be prorated.

23 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.  
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