

By Senator Wilson

33-49-07

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to school attendance; amending

3 s. 1003.21, F.S.; revising the requirement that

4 an exit interview be conducted before a student

5 terminates school enrollment; requiring that a

6 counselor present specified information to such

7 a student and assign to the student a followup

8 counselor who shall provide educational

9 information until the student is 18 years of

10 age; providing an effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section

15 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1003.21 School attendance.--

17 (1)

18 (c)1. A student who attains the age of 16 years during

19 the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance

20 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the

21 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate

22 school enrollment with the district school board. Public

23 school students who have attained the age of 16 years and who

24 have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance

25 until the formal declaration of intent is filed with the

26 district school board. The declaration must acknowledge that

27 terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the

28 student's earning potential and must be signed by the student

29 and the student's parent. The school district must notify the

30 student's parent of receipt of the student's declaration of

31 intent to terminate school enrollment.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 2. Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, a student
2 who withdraws from a public school for reasons other than
3 graduating or transferring to another school within or outside
4 the state must have an exit interview with a counselor who
5 presents the student with information concerning:

6 a. The value of a high school education, both
7 financial and cultural;

8 b. The alternative assessments, such as the SAT and
9 the ACT, the scores of which could help the student obtain a
10 high school diploma; and

11 c. The postsecondary options that are available,
12 including workforce training and enrolling in a community
13 college or a university, and the prerequisites for each, with
14 or without a high school diploma. The exit interview must
15 include a detailed discussion of the relative advantages and
16 disadvantages of each alternative.

17 3. During the exit interview, the counselor must also
18 determine the student's plans, and the school must assign to
19 the student a counselor who shall serve as a resource for
20 educational information until the student attains the age of
21 18 years. ~~The student's guidance counselor or other school~~
22 ~~personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student to~~
23 ~~determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate~~
24 ~~school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the~~
25 ~~student in school. The student must be informed of~~
26 ~~opportunities to continue his or her education in a different~~
27 ~~environment, including, but not limited to, adult education~~
28 ~~and GED test preparation. Additionally, the student must~~
29 ~~complete a survey in a format prescribed by the Department of~~
30 ~~Education to provide data on student reasons for terminating~~
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1 ~~enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep students~~
2 ~~enrolled.~~

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
4 law.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Revises the requirement that an exit interview be
9 conducted before a student terminates school enrollment.
10 Requires that a counselor present specified information
11 to such a student and assign to the student a followup
12 counselor who shall provide educational information until
13 the student is 18 years of age.
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