

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to career and professional education;
3 amending s. 1003.491, F.S.; creating the Florida Career
4 and Professional Education Act for the purpose of
5 improving academic performance and responding to the
6 state's workforce needs; requiring that district school
7 boards develop strategic plans to address and meet local
8 and regional workforce needs; requiring that all school
9 districts establish a career and professional academy by a
10 specified date; providing additional requirements for each
11 school board's strategic plan; requiring that the State
12 Board of Education establish a process to review newly
13 proposed core secondary courses; requiring a curriculum
14 review committee; providing for the membership of the
15 committee; requiring that approved courses be added to the
16 Course Code Directory; providing for an appeal if a
17 proposed core course is denied; amending s. 1003.492,
18 F.S.; providing for coordination between career and
19 professional academies and industry; requiring the State
20 Board of Education to adopt rules using the expertise of
21 Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc.;
22 requiring the Department of Education to collect and
23 analyze data concerning student achievement and
24 performance; providing requirements for such analysis;
25 requiring that the department report the results of the
26 analysis annually to the Legislature; deleting obsolete
27 provisions concerning a study by the department; amending
28 s. 1003.493, F.S.; redefining the term "career and

29 professional academy" to mean a program that integrates an
30 academic curriculum with an industry-specific curriculum;
31 requiring public schools and school districts to offer
32 career and professional academies; revising the goals of
33 and requirements for a career and professional academy;
34 requiring the Department of Education, in consultation
35 with the Board of Governors of the State University
36 System, to establish a mechanism for transferring credits
37 to postsecondary institutions; requiring that a career and
38 professional academy provide opportunities for students to
39 attain the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award;
40 requiring that career courses lead to industry
41 certification; requiring that specified percentages of
42 students achieve certification or college credit in order
43 for a course to continue to be offered; requiring the
44 Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes to
45 advise and assist newly established career and
46 professional academies; repealing s. 1003.494, F.S.,
47 relating to the Career High-Skill Occupational Initiative
48 for Career Education (CHOICE) academies; amending s.
49 1011.62, F.S.; providing for calculating the value of
50 full-time equivalent student membership for students
51 enrolled in a career and professional academy program;
52 providing an effective date.

53
54 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

55
56 Section 1. Section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, is amended

57 to read:

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

60 1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education
61 Act.--The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is
62 created to provide a statewide planning partnership between the
63 business and education communities in order to attract, expand,
64 and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a
65 strong, knowledge-based economy.

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

68 (a) Improve middle and high school academic performance by
69 providing rigorous and relevant curriculum opportunities;

70 (b) Provide rigorous and relevant career-themed courses
71 that articulate to postsecondary-level coursework and lead to
72 industry certification;

73 (c) Support local and regional economic development;

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

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

77 (2) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each
78 district school board shall develop, in collaboration with local
79 workforce boards and postsecondary institutions approved to
80 operate in the state, a strategic 5-year plan to address and
81 meet local and regional workforce demands. If involvement of the
82 local workforce board in the strategic plan development is not
83 feasible, the local school board, with the approval of the
84 Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall collaborate with the most

85 appropriate local business leadership board. Two or more school
86 districts may collaborate in the development of the strategic
87 plan and offer a career and professional academy as a joint
88 venture. Such plans must describe in detail provisions for
89 efficient transportation of students, maximum use of shared
90 resources, and access to courses through the Florida Virtual
91 School when appropriate. Each strategic plan shall be completed
92 no later than June 30, 2008, and shall include provisions to
93 have in place at least one operational career and professional
94 academy, pursuant to s. 1003.492, no later than the beginning of
95 the 2008-2009 school year.

96 (3) The strategic 5-year plan developed jointly between
97 the local school district, local workforce boards, and state-
98 approved postsecondary institutions shall be constructed and
99 based on:

100 (a) Research conducted to objectively determine local and
101 regional workforce needs for the ensuing 5 years, using labor
102 projections of the United States Department of Labor and the
103 Agency for Workforce Innovation;

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

106 (c) Maximum use of private-sector facilities and
107 personnel;

108 (d) Strategies that ensure instruction by industry-
109 certified faculty and standards and strategies to maintain
110 current industry credentials and for recruiting and retaining
111 faculty to meet those standards;

112 (e) Alignment to requirements for middle school career

113 exploration and high school redesign;

114 (f) Provisions to ensure that courses offered through
115 career and professional academies are academically rigorous,
116 meet or exceed appropriate state-adopted subject area standards,
117 result in attainment of industry certification, and, when
118 appropriate, result in postsecondary credit;

119 (g) Establishment of student eligibility criteria in
120 career and professional academies which include opportunities
121 for students who have been unsuccessful in traditional
122 classrooms but who show aptitude to participate in academies.
123 School boards shall address the analysis of eighth grade student
124 achievement data to provide opportunities for students who may
125 be deemed as potential dropouts to participate in career and
126 professional academies;

127 (h) Strategies to provide sufficient space within
128 academies to meet workforce needs and to provide access to all
129 interested and qualified students;

130 (i) Strategies to engage Department of Juvenile Justice
131 students in career and professional academy training that leads
132 to industry certification;

133 (j) Opportunities for high school students to earn
134 weighted or dual enrollment credit for higher-level career and
135 technical courses;

136 (k) Promotion of the benefits of the Gold Seal Bright
137 Futures Scholarship;

138 (l) Strategies to ensure the review of district pupil-
139 progression plans and to amend such plans to include career and
140 professional courses and to include courses that may qualify as

141 substitute courses for core graduation requirements and those
142 that may be counted as elective courses; and

143 (m) Strategies to provide professional development for
144 secondary guidance counselors on the benefits of career and
145 professional academies.

146 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish a process
147 for the continual and uninterrupted review of newly proposed
148 core secondary courses and existing courses requested to be
149 considered as core courses to ensure that sufficient rigor and
150 relevance is provided for workforce skills and postsecondary
151 education and aligned to state curriculum standards. The review
152 of newly proposed core secondary courses shall be the
153 responsibility of a curriculum review committee whose membership
154 is approved by the Workforce Florida Board as described in s.
155 445.004, and shall include:

156 (a) Three certified high school guidance counselors
157 recommended by the Florida Association of Student Services
158 Administrators.

159 (b) Three assistant superintendents for curriculum and
160 instruction, recommended by the Florida Association of District
161 School Superintendents and who serve in districts that operate
162 successful career and professional academies pursuant to s.
163 1003.492. Committee members in this category shall employ the
164 expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in the review
165 of proposed courses.

166 (c) Three workforce representatives recommended by the
167 Agency for Workforce Innovation.

168 (d) Three admissions directors of postsecondary

169 institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges
170 and Schools, representing both public and private institutions.

171 (e) The Deputy Commissioner of Education responsible for
172 K-12 curriculum and instruction. The Deputy Commissioner shall
173 employ the expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in
174 the review of proposed courses.

175 (5) The submission and review of newly proposed core
176 courses shall be conducted electronically and each proposed core
177 course shall be approved or denied within 60 days. All courses
178 approved as core courses for high school graduation purposes
179 shall be immediately added to the Course Code Directory.

180 Approved core courses shall also be reviewed and considered for
181 approval for dual enrollment credit. The Board of Governors and
182 the Commissioner of Education shall jointly recommend an annual
183 deadline for approval of new core courses to be included for
184 purposes of postsecondary admissions and dual enrollment credit
185 the following academic year. The State Board of Education shall
186 establish an appeals process in the event that a proposed course
187 is denied which shall require a consensus ruling by the Agency
188 for Workforce Innovation and the Commissioner of Education
189 within 15 days. The curriculum review committee must be
190 established and operational no later than September 1, 2007.

191 Section 2. Section 1003.492, Florida Statutes, is amended
192 to read:

193 1003.492 Industry-certified career education programs.--

194 (1) A Career and professional academies education program
195 ~~within a comprehensive high school program of study~~ shall be
196 coordinated with the appropriate industry indicating that all

197 components of the program are relevant and appropriate to
 198 prepare the student for further education or for employment in
 199 that industry.

200 (2) The State Board of Education shall use the expertise
 201 of Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc., to
 202 develop and adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54
 203 for implementing an industry certification process, ~~which rules~~
 204 ~~must establish any necessary procedures for obtaining~~
 205 ~~appropriate business partners and requirements for business and~~
 206 ~~industry involvement in curriculum oversight and equipment~~
 207 ~~procurement.~~ Industry certification shall be defined by the
 208 Agency for Workforce Innovation, based upon the highest
 209 available national standards for specific industry
 210 certification, to ensure student skill proficiency and to
 211 address emerging labor-market and industry trends. A regional
 212 workforce board or a career and professional academy may apply
 213 to Workforce Florida, Inc., to request additions to the approved
 214 list of industry certifications based on high-demand job
 215 requirements in the regional economy. The list of industry
 216 certifications approved by Workforce Florida, Inc., shall be
 217 published and updated annually by a date certain, to be included
 218 in the adopted rule.

219 (3) The Department of Education shall collect ~~study~~
 220 student achievement and performance data in industry-certified
 221 career education programs and shall work with Workforce Florida,
 222 Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc., in the analysis of collected
 223 data. ~~The department shall identify districts that currently~~
 224 ~~operate industry certified career education programs.~~ The data

CS/HB 965

2007

225 collection and analyses ~~study~~ shall examine the performance of
226 participating students over time. Performance factors shall
227 include, but not be limited to, graduation rates, retention
228 rates, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, additional
229 educational attainment, employment records, earnings, ~~and~~
230 industry certification, and employer satisfaction. The results
231 of this study shall be submitted to the President of the Senate
232 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually by
233 December 31, ~~2004~~.

234 ~~(4) The Department of Education shall conduct a study to~~
235 ~~determine if a cost factor should be applied to industry-~~
236 ~~certified career education programs and review the need for~~
237 ~~startup funding for the programs. The study shall be completed~~
238 ~~by December 31, 2004, and shall be submitted to the President of~~
239 ~~the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.~~

240 Section 3. Section 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is amended
241 to read:

242 1003.493 Career and professional academies.--

243 (1) A "career and professional academy" is a research-
244 based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum
245 with an industry-specific ~~industry-driven career~~ curriculum
246 aligned directly to priority workforce needs established by the
247 regional workforce board. Career and professional academies
248 shall ~~may~~ be offered by public schools and, ~~and~~ school districts.
249 ~~or~~ The Florida Virtual School is encouraged to develop and offer
250 rigorous career and professional courses as appropriate.
251 Students completing career and professional academy programs
252 must receive a standard high school diploma, the highest

253 available industry certification, and opportunities to earn
 254 postsecondary credit if the academy partners with a
 255 postsecondary institution approved to operate in the state.

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

257 (a) Increase student academic achievement and graduation
 258 rates through integrated academic and career curricula.

259 (b) Prepare graduating high school students to make
 260 appropriate choices relative to employment and future
 261 educational experiences.

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

264 (d)~~(e)~~ Raise student aspiration and commitment to academic
 265 achievement and work ethics through relevant coursework.

266 (e)~~(d)~~ Support graduation requirements pursuant to s.
 267 1003.428 by providing creative, applied major areas of interest
 268 ~~by providing creative, applied majors as provided by law.~~

269 (f)~~(e)~~ Promote acceleration mechanisms, such as dual
 270 enrollment, articulated credit, or occupational completion
 271 points, so that students may earn postsecondary credit while in
 272 high school.

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

275 (3) Existing career education courses may serve as a
 276 foundation for the creation of a career and professional
 277 academy. A career and professional academy may be offered as one
 278 of the following small learning communities:

279 (a) A school-within-a-school career academy, as part of an
 280 existing high school, that provides courses in one occupational

281 cluster. Students in the high school are not required to be
 282 students in the academy.

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

286 (4) Each career and professional academy must:

287 (a) Provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum
 288 integrated with a career curriculum. The curriculum must take
 289 into consideration multiple styles of student learning; promote
 290 learning by doing through application and adaptation; maximize
 291 relevance of the subject matter; enhance each student's capacity
 292 to excel; and include an emphasis on work habits and work
 293 ethics.

294 (b) Include one or more partnerships with postsecondary
 295 institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic
 296 development organizations, or other appropriate partners from
 297 the local community. Such partnerships shall be delineated in
 298 articulation agreements to provide for career-based courses that
 299 earn postsecondary credit. Such agreements may include
 300 articulation between the academy and public or private 2-year
 301 and 4-year postsecondary institutions and technical centers. The
 302 Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of
 303 Governors, shall establish a mechanism to ensure articulation
 304 and transfer of credits to postsecondary institutions in this
 305 state. Such partnerships must provide opportunities for:

306 1. Instruction from highly skilled professionals who
 307 possess industry-certification credentials for courses they are
 308 teaching.

- 309 2. Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.
- 310 3. A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.
- 311 4. The highest available level of industry certification.

312 ~~Where no national or state certification exists, school~~
 313 ~~districts may establish a local certification in conjunction~~
 314 ~~with the local workforce development board, the chamber of~~
 315 ~~commerce, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation.~~

- 316 5. Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s. 1007.23
- 317 upon program completion.

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

320 (d)~~(e)~~ Provide personalized ~~creative and tailored~~ student
 321 advisement, including a parent-participation component, ~~parent~~
 322 ~~participation~~ and coordination with middle schools to promote
 323 and support ~~provide~~ career exploration and education planning as
 324 required under s. 1003.4156. Coordination with middle schools
 325 must provide information to middle school students about
 326 secondary and postsecondary career education programs and
 327 academies.

328 (e)~~(d)~~ Promote and provide opportunities for career and
 329 professional academy students to attain, at minimum, the Florida
 330 Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award pursuant to s. 1009.536 a
 331 ~~career education certification on the high school diploma~~
 332 ~~pursuant to s. 1003.431.~~

333 (f)~~(e)~~ Provide instruction in careers designated as high
 334 growth, high demand, and high pay by the local workforce
 335 development board, the chamber of commerce, or the Agency for
 336 Workforce Innovation.

337 (g)~~(f)~~ Deliver academic content through instruction
 338 relevant to the career, including intensive reading and
 339 mathematics intervention required by s. 1003.428, with an
 340 emphasis on strengthening reading for information skills.

341 (h)~~(g)~~ Offer applied courses that combine academic content
 342 with technical skills. ~~Such courses must be submitted to the~~
 343 ~~Department of Education no later than 5 months before the~~
 344 ~~beginning of the school term in which such courses are planned~~
 345 ~~to be offered. The State Board of Education must approve or~~
 346 ~~disapprove courses no later than 3 months before the beginning~~
 347 ~~of the school term in which such courses are planned to be~~
 348 ~~offered. The department shall present new courses to the state~~
 349 ~~board for approval a minimum of three times annually.~~

350 (i)~~(h)~~ Provide instruction resulting in competency,
 351 certification, or credentials in workplace skills, including,
 352 but not limited to, communication skills, interpersonal skills,
 353 decisionmaking skills, the importance of attendance and
 354 timeliness in the work environment, and work ethics.

355 (j)~~(i)~~ Provide opportunities for students to obtain the
 356 Florida Ready to Work Certification pursuant to s. 1004.99.

357 (k)~~(j)~~ Include an evaluation plan developed jointly with
 358 the Department of Education and the local workforce board. The
 359 evaluation plan must include an assessment ~~a self-assessment~~
 360 tool based on national industry standards, such as the Career
 361 Academy National Standards of Practice, and outcome measures,
 362 including, but not limited to, achievement of industry
 363 certifications, graduation rates, enrollment in postsecondary
 364 education, business and industry satisfaction, employment and

365 ~~earnings, achievement of industry certification,~~ awards of
 366 postsecondary credit and scholarships, and FCAT achievement
 367 levels and learning gains. The Department of Education shall use
 368 Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc., in
 369 identifying industry experts to participate in developing and
 370 implementing such assessments.

371 (1) Include a plan to sustain career and professional
 372 academies.

373 (m) Redirect appropriated career funding to career and
 374 professional academies.

375 (5) All career courses offered in a career and
 376 professional academy must lead to industry certification or
 377 college credit linked directly to the career theme of the
 378 course. At least 50 percent of students enrolled in a career
 379 course must achieve industry certifications or college credits
 380 during the second year the course is offered in order for the
 381 course to be offered a third year. At least 66 percent of
 382 students enrolled in such a course must achieve industry
 383 certifications or college credits during the third year the
 384 course is offered in order for it to be offered a fourth year
 385 and thereafter.

386 (6) The Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes
 387 shall serve in an advisory role and shall offer technical
 388 assistance in the development of newly established career and
 389 professional academies for a 3-year period beginning July 1,
 390 2007.

391 Section 4. Section 1003.494, Florida Statutes, is
 392 repealed.

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

397 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual
398 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
399 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
400 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
401 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
402 follows:

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

407 (p) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent
408 membership based on certification of successful completion of
409 industry-certified career and professional academy programs
410 pursuant to s. 1003.492.--A value of 0.3 full-time equivalent
411 student membership shall be calculated for each student who
412 completes an industry-certified career and professional academy
413 program under s. 1003.492 and who is issued an industry
414 certificate. Such value shall be added to the total full-time
415 equivalent student membership in secondary career education
416 programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent year for
417 courses that were not funded through dual enrollment. Unless a
418 different amount is specified in the General Appropriations Act,
419 the appropriation for this calculation is limited to \$30 million
420 annually. If the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund the

CS/HB 965

2007

421 total calculation, the appropriation shall be prorated.

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