

By Senator Wise

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the public school grading system;
3 amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; providing for identification of
4 feeder pattern schools by the school district rather than
5 the Department of Education prior to school grades being
6 issued for the school year; deleting provisions describing
7 what constitutes a school feeder pattern; providing an
8 effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1008.34, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;
15 district grade.--

16 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.--Each school that has
17 students who are tested and included in the school grading
18 system, except an alternative school that receives a school
19 improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341, shall receive a
20 school grade; however, an alternative school may choose to
21 receive a school grade under this section in lieu of a school
22 improvement rating. Additionally, a school that serves any
23 combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 which
24 does not receive a school grade because its students are not
25 tested and included in the school grading system shall receive
26 the school grade designation of a K-3 feeder pattern school
27 ~~identified by the Department of Education and verified by the~~
28 school district prior to the school grades being issued for the
29 school year. ~~A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60~~

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30 ~~percent of the students in the school serving a combination of~~
31 ~~students in kindergarten through grade 3 are scheduled to be~~
32 ~~assigned to the graded school.~~ School grades itemized in
33 subsection (2) shall be based on the following:

34 (a) Criteria.--A school's grade shall be based on a
35 combination of:

36 1. Student achievement scores, including achievement scores
37 for students seeking a special diploma.

38 2. Student learning gains as measured by annual FCAT
39 assessments in grades 3 through 10; learning gains for students
40 seeking a special diploma, as measured by an alternate assessment
41 tool, shall be included not later than the 2009-2010 school year.

42 3. Improvement of the lowest 25th percentile of students in
43 the school in reading, math, or writing on the FCAT, unless these
44 students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

45 (b) Student assessment data.--Student assessment data used
46 in determining school grades shall include:

47 1. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled
48 in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT.

49 2. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled
50 in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT, including
51 Florida Writes, and who have scored at or in the lowest 25th
52 percentile of students in the school in reading, math, or
53 writing, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory
54 performance.

55 3. Effective with the 2005-2006 school year, the
56 achievement scores and learning gains of eligible students
57 attending alternative schools that provide dropout prevention and
58 academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53. The term

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59 "eligible students" in this subparagraph does not include
60 students attending an alternative school who are subject to
61 district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or
62 serious offenses, who are in dropout retrieval programs serving
63 students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who
64 are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of
65 Juvenile Justice. The student performance data for eligible
66 students identified in this subparagraph shall be included in the
67 calculation of the home school's grade. For purposes of this
68 section and s. 1008.341, "home school" means the school the
69 student was attending when assigned to an alternative school. If
70 an alternative school chooses to be graded pursuant to this
71 section, student performance data for eligible students
72 identified in this subparagraph shall not be included in the home
73 school's grade but shall be included only in the calculation of
74 the alternative school's grade. School districts must require
75 collaboration between the home school and the alternative school
76 in order to promote student success.

77
78 The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate criteria for
79 each school grade. The criteria must also give added weight to
80 student achievement in reading. Schools designated with a grade
81 of "C," making satisfactory progress, shall be required to
82 demonstrate that adequate progress has been made by students in
83 the school who are in the lowest 25th percentile in reading,
84 math, or writing on the FCAT, including Florida Writes, unless
85 these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

86 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.