

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Gaetz

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the designation of high school grades;
3 amending s. 1008.34, F.S, relating to the school grading
4 system; providing for a revised high school grading system
5 beginning with the 2009-2010 school year which includes
6 the statewide standardized assessment, graduation rates,
7 performance and participation in certain courses,
8 postsecondary readiness as measured by certain
9 examinations, and the change in these factors from year to
10 year; specifying the data components to be used in
11 determining the revised high school grading system;
12 requiring that the criteria for school grades give added
13 weight to the graduation rate of all eligible at-risk
14 students; providing an effective date.

15
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

20 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;
21 district grade.--

22 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.--Each school that has
23 students who are tested and included in the school grading
24 system, except an alternative school that receives a school
25 improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341, shall receive a
26 school grade; however, an alternative school may choose to
27 receive a school grade under this section in lieu of a school
28 improvement rating. Additionally, a school that serves any
29 combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 which

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30 does not receive a school grade because its students are not
31 tested and included in the school grading system shall receive
32 the school grade designation of a K-3 feeder pattern school
33 identified by the Department of Education and verified by the
34 school district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60
35 percent of the students in the school serving a combination of
36 students in kindergarten through grade 3 are scheduled to be
37 assigned to the graded school. School grades itemized in
38 subsection (2) shall be based on the following:

39 (a) 1. Criteria. ~~---~~A school's grade shall be based on a
40 combination of:

41 a.1. Student achievement scores, including achievement
42 scores for students seeking a special diploma.

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

47 c.3. Improvement of the lowest 25th percentile of students
48 in the school in reading, math, or writing on the FCAT, unless
49 these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

50 2. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year for schools
51 comprised of high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10,
52 11, and 12, 50 percent of the school grade shall be based on a
53 combination of the factors listed in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-c.
54 and the remaining 50 percent on the following factors:

55 a. The high school graduation rate of the school;

56 b. As valid data becomes available, the performance and
57 participation of the school's students in College Board Advanced
58 Placement courses; International Baccalaureate courses; dual

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59 enrollment courses; Advanced International Certificate of
60 Education courses; and achievement of industry certification, as
61 determined by the Agency for Workforce Innovation under s.
62 1003.492(2) in a career and professional academy, as described in
63 s. 1003.493;

64 c. Postsecondary readiness of the school's students as
65 measured by the SAT, ACT, or the common placement test;

66 d. The high school graduation rate of at-risk students who
67 scored at Level 2 or lower on the 8th grade FCAT Reading and
68 Mathematics examinations;

69 e. As valid data becomes available, the performance of the
70 school's students on statewide standardized end-of-course
71 assessments approved by the Department of Education; and

72 f. The growth or decline in the components listed in sub-
73 subparagraphs a. through e. from year to year.

74 (b) ~~Student assessment data.~~—Student assessment data used
75 in determining school grades shall include:

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

78 2. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled
79 in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT, including
80 Florida Writes, and who have scored at or in the lowest 25th
81 percentile of students in the school in reading, math, or
82 writing, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory
83 performance.

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

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88 "eligible students" in this subparagraph does not include
89 students attending an alternative school who are subject to
90 district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or
91 serious offenses, who are in dropout retrieval programs serving
92 students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who
93 are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of
94 Juvenile Justice. The student performance data for eligible
95 students identified in this subparagraph shall be included in the
96 calculation of the home school's grade. For purposes of this
97 section and s. 1008.341, "home school" means the school the
98 student was attending when assigned to an alternative school. If
99 an alternative school chooses to be graded pursuant to this
100 section, student performance data for eligible students
101 identified in this subparagraph shall not be included in the home
102 school's grade but shall be included only in the calculation of
103 the alternative school's grade. School districts must require
104 collaboration between the home school and the alternative school
105 in order to promote student success.

106 4. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year for schools
107 comprised of high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10,
108 11, and 12, the data listed in subparagraphs 1. through 3. and
109 the following data as the Department of Education determines such
110 data are valid and available:

111 a. The high school graduation rate of the school as
112 calculated by the Department of Education;

113 b. The participation rate of all eligible students enrolled
114 in the school and enrolled in College Board Advanced Placement
115 courses; International Baccalaureate courses; dual enrollment
116 courses; Advanced International Certificate of Education courses;

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117 and courses or sequence of courses leading to industry
118 certification, as determined by the Agency for Workforce
119 Innovation under s. 1003.492(2) in a career and professional
120 academy, as described in s. 1003.493;

121 c. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled
122 in the school in College Board Advanced Placement courses,
123 International Baccalaureate courses, and Advanced International
124 Certificate of Education courses;

125 d. Earning of college credit by all eligible students
126 enrolled in the school in dual enrollment programs under s.
127 1007.271;

128 e. Earning of an industry certification, as determined by
129 the Agency for Workforce Innovation under s. 1003.492(2) in a
130 career and professional academy, as described in s. 1003.493;

131 f. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled
132 in the school in reading, mathematics, and other subjects as
133 measured by the SAT, ACT, and common placement test for
134 postsecondary readiness;

135 g. The high school graduation rate of all eligible at-risk
136 students enrolled in the school who scored at Level 2 or lower on
137 the 8th grade FCAT Reading and Mathematics examinations;

138 h. The performance of the school's students on statewide
139 standardized end-of-course assessments approved by the Department
140 of Education; and

141 i. The growth or decline in the data components listed in
142 sub-subparagraphs a. through h. from year to year.

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144 The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate criteria for
145 each school grade. The criteria must also give added weight to

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146 student achievement in reading. Schools designated with a grade
147 of "C," making satisfactory progress, shall be required to
148 demonstrate that adequate progress has been made by students in
149 the school who are in the lowest 25th percentile in reading,
150 math, or writing on the FCAT, including Florida Writes, unless
151 these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance. Beginning
152 with the 2009-2010 school year for schools comprised of high
153 school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12, the
154 criteria for school grades must also give added weight to the
155 graduation rate of all eligible at-risk students, as defined in
156 this paragraph. Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, in order
157 for a high school to be designated as having a grade of "A,"
158 making excellent progress, the school must demonstrate that at-
159 risk students, as defined in this paragraph, in the school are
160 making adequate progress.

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