

HB 265

2008

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to health education; amending s. 1003.428,
3 F.S.; providing for a mandatory one-half credit in health
4 education, independent of physical education credit
5 requirements, for all high school students beginning with
6 those entering the first year of high school in 2007-2008;
7 providing a waiver for students who request to take and
8 successfully complete a health assessment created by the
9 Department of Education; reducing the number of elective
10 courses chosen by students; 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. Subsection (2) of section 1003.428, Florida
15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
17 revised.--

18 (2) The 24 credits may be earned through applied,
19 integrated, and combined courses approved by the Department of
20 Education and shall be distributed as follows:

21 (a) Sixteen and one-half core curriculum credits:

22 1. Four credits in English, with major concentration in
23 composition, reading for information, and literature.

24 2. Four credits in mathematics, one of which must be
25 Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a
26 higher-level mathematics course. School districts are encouraged
27 to set specific goals to increase enrollments in, and successful
28 completion of, geometry and Algebra II.

29 3. Three credits in science, two of which must have a
30 laboratory component.

31 4. Three credits in social studies as follows: one credit
32 in American history; one credit in world history; one-half
33 credit in economics; and one-half credit in American government.

34 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, which may
35 include speech and debate.

36 6. One credit in physical education ~~to include integration~~
37 ~~of health~~. Participation in an interscholastic sport at the
38 junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons shall
39 satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education if the
40 student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a
41 score of "C" or better. The competency test on personal fitness
42 must be developed by the Department of Education. A district
43 school board may not require that the one credit in physical
44 education be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one
45 semester with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class,
46 in a physical activity class that requires participation in
47 marching band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a
48 dance class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education
49 or one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be
50 used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the
51 requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual
52 education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a
53 Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant
54 component of which is drills, shall satisfy the one-credit
55 requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement
56 in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the

57 | personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive
 58 | physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or
 59 | 504 plan.

60 | 7. One-half credit in health education. A student may
 61 | waive the health education requirement if the student requests
 62 | to take the health education assessment and scores a "C" or
 63 | better. The Department of Education shall develop the health
 64 | education assessment.

65 | (b) Seven and one-half ~~Eight~~ credits in majors, minors, or
 66 | electives:

67 | 1. Four credits in a major area of interest, such as
 68 | sequential courses in a career and technical program, fine and
 69 | performing arts, or academic content area, selected by the
 70 | student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.
 71 | Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of
 72 | annual course registration processes and should update their
 73 | education plan to reflect such revisions. Annually by October 1,
 74 | the district school board shall approve major areas of interest
 75 | and submit the list of majors to the Commissioner of Education
 76 | for approval. Each major area of interest shall be deemed
 77 | approved unless specifically rejected by the commissioner within
 78 | 60 days. Upon approval, each district's major areas of interest
 79 | shall be available for use by all school districts and shall be
 80 | posted on the department's website.

81 | 2. Three and one-half ~~Four~~ credits in elective courses
 82 | selected by the student as part of the education plan required
 83 | by s. 1003.4156. These credits may be combined to allow for a
 84 | second major area of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a

85 | minor area of interest, elective courses, or intensive reading
86 | or mathematics intervention courses as described in this
87 | subparagraph.

88 | a. Minor areas of interest are composed of three credits
89 | selected by the student as part of the education plan required
90 | by s. 1003.4156 and approved by the district school board.

91 | b. Elective courses are selected by the student in order
92 | to pursue a complete education program as described in s.
93 | 1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for
94 | scholarships.

95 | c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on
96 | FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an
97 | intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level
98 | 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content
99 | area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be
100 | determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
101 | provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
102 | meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading
103 | below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
104 | pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
105 | 1011.62(9) ~~s. 1011.62(8)~~.

106 | d. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or
107 | Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive
108 | remediation the following year. These courses may be taught
109 | through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject
110 | to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code
111 | Directory.

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