

By Senator Justice

16-00350-08

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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.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
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

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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 credit  
33 in economics; and one-half credit in American government.

34 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, which may include  
35 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 score  
41 of "C" or better. The competency test on personal fitness must be  
42 developed by the Department of Education. A district school board  
43 may not require that the one credit in physical education be  
44 taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester with  
45 a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a physical  
46 activity class that requires participation in marching band  
47 activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance class  
48 shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or one-half  
49 credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy  
50 the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive  
51 physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or  
52 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a Reserve Officer Training  
53 Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of which is  
54 drills, shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical  
55 education and the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This  
56 credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness  
57 requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education  
58 under an individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

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

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

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

80            2. Three and one-half ~~Four~~ credits in elective courses  
81 selected by the student as part of the education plan required by  
82 s. 1003.4156. These credits may be combined to allow for a second  
83 major area of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a minor area  
84 of interest, elective courses, or intensive reading or  
85 mathematics intervention courses as described in this  
86 subparagraph.

87            a. Minor areas of interest are composed of three credits

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88 selected by the student as part of the education plan required by  
89 s. 1003.4156 and approved by the district school board.

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

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

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

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