

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public school attendance; creating s.
 3 1003.215, F.S.; creating the Compulsory Attendance Pilot
 4 Program; requiring receipt of a high school diploma, a
 5 high school equivalency diploma and ready to work
 6 certification, career or job training certification or
 7 licensure, or ready to work certification in order to
 8 terminate school enrollment between ages 16 and 18 years;
 9 providing for an application and selection process for
 10 school district participation in the pilot program;
 11 providing student and parent rights; specifying school
 12 attendance requirements and procedures for termination of
 13 school enrollment; requiring an annual study and reporting
 14 by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
 15 Accountability; providing an effective date.

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

18
 19 Section 1. Section 1003.215, Florida Statutes, is created
 20 to read:

21 1003.215 Compulsory Attendance Pilot Program.--

22 (1) The Legislature finds it to be in the public interest
 23 that all students exit from the public schools with academic
 24 skills that provide the students with the opportunity to pursue
 25 postsecondary education or with skills that lead to ready to
 26 work certification, industry certification, or skill licensure.

27 (2) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, and
 28 continuing through the 2013-2014 school year, there is created

29 the Compulsory Attendance Pilot Program (CAPP) to be piloted by
30 school districts. Beginning with incoming ninth graders in the
31 2008-2009 school year, all students enrolled in a pilot school
32 district shall be subject to the attendance requirements of this
33 section, notwithstanding ss. 1002.20(2)(a)1. and (b) and
34 1003.21(1)(a)1. and (c) and any other provision of law to the
35 contrary.

36 (3) The Department of Education shall develop an
37 application process for school districts to participate in the
38 pilot program. The State Board of Education shall select the
39 pilot school districts from the applications submitted, one of
40 which shall be the Duval County School District.

41 (4) Parents of public school students enrolled in a pilot
42 school district must receive accurate and timely information
43 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
44 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. These K-
45 12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
46 rights, including, but not limited to, the following:

47 (a) The compulsory school attendance laws apply to all
48 children in a pilot school district between the ages of 6 and 18
49 years, as provided in, and in accordance with, subsection (5)
50 and s. 1003.21(1)(a)2., (b), (d), (e), and (f). A student who
51 attains the age of 16 years during the school year has the right
52 to file a formal declaration of intent to terminate school
53 enrollment if the declaration is signed by the parent. The
54 parent has the right to be notified by the school district of
55 the district's receipt of the student's declaration of intent to
56 terminate school enrollment. However, any student who files a

HB 817

2008

57 declaration seeking to terminate school enrollment but has not
58 reached the age of 18 years shall be required to continue
59 pursuing credits toward a high school diploma, pursue a high
60 school equivalency diploma with participation in the Florida
61 Ready to Work Certification Program under s. 1004.99,
62 participate in a career or job training program leading to
63 industry certification or skill licensure that is developed by
64 or in cooperation with the district school board, or participate
65 in the Ready to Work Certification Program under s. 1004.99.

66 (b) Students who become or have become married or who are
67 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and
68 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other
69 students.

70 (c) Parents of students who have attained the age of 6
71 years by February 1 of any school year but who have not attained
72 the age of 18 years must comply with the compulsory school
73 attendance laws. Parents have the option to comply with the
74 school attendance laws by attendance of the student in a public
75 school; a parochial, religious, or denominational school; a
76 private school; a home education program; or a private tutoring
77 program, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.01(13).

78 (5) (a) All children in a pilot school district who have
79 attained the age of 6 years or who will have attained the age of
80 6 years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than 6
81 years of age but who have not attained the age of 18 years,
82 except as otherwise provided, are required to attend school
83 regularly during the entire school term.

84 (b) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the
85 school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance
86 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the
87 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school
88 enrollment with the district school board and has received a
89 high school diploma, has received a high school equivalency
90 diploma and obtained a bronze or higher level Florida Ready to
91 Work Credential under s. 1004.99, has obtained industry
92 certification or skill licensure, or has obtained a Florida
93 Ready to Work Credential under s. 1004.99. The declaration must
94 acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to
95 reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the
96 student and the student's parent. The school district must
97 notify the student's parent of receipt of the student's
98 declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. The
99 student's guidance counselor or other school personnel must
100 conduct an interview with the student to determine the reasons
101 for the student's decision to terminate school enrollment and
102 actions that could be taken to keep the student in school. If,
103 after the interview, the student still wishes to terminate
104 school enrollment, the student must continue his or her
105 education to complete high school graduation credit
106 requirements, receive a high school equivalency diploma with
107 completion of the Florida Ready to Work Certification Program,
108 complete a career or job training program leading to industry
109 certification or skill licensure that is developed by or in
110 cooperation with the district school board, or complete the
111 Florida Ready to Work Certification Program. Such student shall

HB 817

2008

112 be required to receive a high school diploma, a high school
113 equivalency diploma and a bronze or higher level Florida Ready
114 to Work Credential, industry certification or skill licensure,
115 or a Florida Ready to Work Credential. Additionally, the student
116 must complete a survey in a format prescribed by the Department
117 of Education to provide data on student reasons for seeking to
118 terminate enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep
119 students enrolled.

120 (6) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
121 Accountability (OPPAGA), in cooperation with the pilot school
122 districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices and regional
123 workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the
124 Department of Education, and the Department of Juvenile Justice,
125 shall conduct a study annually of the impact of the pilot
126 program on dropout and graduation rates, on the employability of
127 students, and on juvenile crime, using 2007-2008 data as the
128 baseline for the research. OPPAGA shall develop criteria for
129 collection and reporting of data with input from the cooperating
130 entities. The results of each annual report shall be made
131 available to participating pilot school districts, the
132 applicable state attorneys' offices and regional workforce
133 boards, the Agency for Workforce Education, the Department of
134 Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Office of the
135 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
136 House of Representatives by January 1 following each school
137 year, beginning January 1, 2011.

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