

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to high school graduation; amending s.
3 1003.428, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to general
4 requirements for high school graduation to conform to
5 changes made by the act; creating s. 1003.4281, F.S.;
6 providing requirements for graduation with a core diploma
7 beginning with students entering their first year of high
8 school in the 2010-2011 school year; creating s.
9 1003.4282, F.S.; providing requirements for graduation
10 with a college preparatory diploma beginning with students
11 entering their first year of high school in the 2010-2011
12 school year; creating s. 1003.4283, F.S.; providing
13 requirements for graduation with a career preparatory
14 diploma beginning with students entering their first year
15 of high school in the 2010-2011 school year; providing
16 credit requirements, authority to modify courses for
17 exceptional students, standards for graduation, and
18 authority for rulemaking and enforcement for the core
19 diploma, the college preparatory diploma, and the career
20 preparatory diploma; creating s. 1003.4284, F.S.;
21 authorizing the Department of Education to implement a
22 Graduation Exit Option Program under which a high school
23 student shall be awarded an alternative diploma; providing
24 requirements for participation in the program and receipt
25 of a diploma; requiring a school district to receive
26 approval annually to participate in the program; requiring
27 rulemaking; amending s. 1003.4285, F.S.; conforming
28 provisions; creating s. 1003.4286, F.S.; providing for

29 applicability of major and minor areas of interest or
30 electives as credit requirements for graduation; requiring
31 remediation in certain instances; creating s. 1003.4287,
32 F.S.; providing for applicability of physical education
33 and performing arts credit options for graduation;
34 creating s. 1003.4288, F.S.; providing for applicability
35 of district school board policies to assist students in
36 meeting grade point average requirements for graduation;
37 creating s. 1003.4289, F.S.; providing for applicability
38 of accommodations and modifications of procedures for
39 students with disabilities for purposes of graduation;
40 creating s. 1003.4295, F.S.; requiring each public high
41 school to offer specified acceleration courses; amending
42 s. 1003.43, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to general
43 requirements for high school graduation to conform to
44 changes made by the act; creating s. 1003.4305, F.S.;
45 authorizing the award of a standard high school diploma to
46 certain honorably discharged veterans; amending s.
47 1007.263, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.
48 1008.22, F.S.; requiring passing scores on the grade 10
49 FCAT to meet grade-level proficiency; conforming
50 provisions and cross-references; amending s. 1009.531,
51 F.S.; conforming provisions; amending ss. 1009.534,
52 1009.535, and 1009.536, F.S.; providing additional
53 academic requirements for receipt of Florida Bright
54 Futures Scholarship Program awards; amending s. 1009.537,
55 F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective
56 date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1) Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to s. 1003.429, beginning with students entering their first year of high school in the 2007-2008 school year, graduation requires the successful completion of a minimum of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum. Students must be advised of eligibility requirements for state scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions.

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

(a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

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

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

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

85 4. Three credits in social studies as follows: one credit
86 in American history; one credit in world history; one-half
87 credit in economics; and one-half credit in American government.

88 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and
89 debate, or a practical arts course that incorporates artistic
90 content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and
91 imagination. Eligible practical arts courses shall be identified
92 through the Course Code Directory.

93 6. One credit in physical education to include integration
94 of health. ~~Participation in an interscholastic sport at the~~
95 ~~junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons shall~~
96 ~~satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education if the~~
97 ~~student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a~~
98 ~~score of "C" or better. The competency test on personal fitness~~
99 ~~must be developed by the Department of Education. A district~~
100 ~~school board may not require that the one credit in physical~~
101 ~~education be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one~~
102 ~~semester with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class,~~
103 ~~in a physical activity class that requires participation in~~
104 ~~marching band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a~~
105 ~~dance class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education~~
106 ~~or one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be~~
107 ~~used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the~~
108 ~~requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual~~
109 ~~education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a~~
110 ~~Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant~~
111 ~~component of which is drills, shall satisfy the one-credit~~
112 ~~requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement~~

113 ~~in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the~~
114 ~~personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive~~
115 ~~physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or~~
116 ~~504 plan.~~

117 (b) Eight credits in majors, minors, or electives in a
118 combination as provided in s. 1003.4286.†

119 1. ~~Four credits in a major area of interest, such as~~
120 ~~sequential courses in a career and technical program, fine and~~
121 ~~performing arts, or academic content area, selected by the~~
122 ~~student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.~~
123 ~~Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of~~
124 ~~annual course registration processes and should update their~~
125 ~~education plan to reflect such revisions. Annually by October 1,~~
126 ~~the district school board shall approve major areas of interest~~
127 ~~and submit the list of majors to the Commissioner of Education~~
128 ~~for approval. Each major area of interest shall be deemed~~
129 ~~approved unless specifically rejected by the commissioner within~~
130 ~~60 days. Upon approval, each district's major areas of interest~~
131 ~~shall be available for use by all school districts and shall be~~
132 ~~posted on the department's website.~~

133 2. ~~Four credits in elective courses selected by the~~
134 ~~student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.~~
135 ~~These credits may be combined to allow for a second major area~~
136 ~~of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a minor area of~~
137 ~~interest, elective courses, or intensive reading or mathematics~~
138 ~~intervention courses as described in this subparagraph.~~

139 ~~a. Minor areas of interest are composed of three credits~~
 140 ~~selected by the student as part of the education plan required~~
 141 ~~by s. 1003.4156 and approved by the district school board.~~

142 ~~b. Elective courses are selected by the student in order~~
 143 ~~to pursue a complete education program as described in s.~~
 144 ~~1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for~~
 145 ~~scholarships.~~

146 ~~c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on~~
 147 ~~FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an~~
 148 ~~intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level~~
 149 ~~2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content~~
 150 ~~area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be~~
 151 ~~determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall~~
 152 ~~provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and~~
 153 ~~meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading~~
 154 ~~below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered~~
 155 ~~pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.~~
 156 ~~1011.62(9).~~

157 ~~d. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or~~
 158 ~~Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive~~
 159 ~~remediation the following year. These courses may be taught~~
 160 ~~through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject~~
 161 ~~to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code~~
 162 ~~Directory.~~

163 (3) (a) A district school board may require specific
 164 courses and programs of study within the minimum credit
 165 requirements for high school graduation and shall modify basic
 166 courses, as necessary, to assure exceptional students the

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167 opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a standard
168 diploma, using one of the following strategies:

169 1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an exceptional
170 education class for instruction in a basic course with the same
171 student performance standards as those required of
172 nonexceptional students in the district school board student
173 progression plan; or

174 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic
175 education class for instruction that is modified to accommodate
176 the student's exceptionality.

177 (b) The district school board shall determine which of
178 these strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the
179 student's needs and shall reflect this decision in the student's
180 individual education plan.

181 (4) Each district school board shall establish standards
182 for graduation from its schools, which must include:

183 (a) Successful completion of the academic credit or
184 curriculum requirements of subsections (1) and (2).

185 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.
186 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are
187 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s.
188 1008.22(10).

189 (c) Completion of all other applicable requirements
190 prescribed by the district school board pursuant to s. 1008.25.

191 (d) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 2.0
192 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by
193 this section.

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195 ~~Each district school board shall adopt policies designed to~~
196 ~~assist students in meeting the requirements of this subsection.~~
197 ~~These policies may include, but are not limited to: forgiveness~~
198 ~~policies, summer school or before or after school attendance,~~
199 ~~special counseling, volunteers or peer tutors, school-sponsored~~
200 ~~help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills classes.~~
201 ~~Forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to~~
202 ~~replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of~~
203 ~~"D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of~~
204 ~~a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in the same or~~
205 ~~comparable course. Forgiveness policies for elective courses~~
206 ~~shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the~~
207 ~~equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or~~
208 ~~higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned~~
209 ~~subsequently in another course. The only exception to these~~
210 ~~forgiveness policies shall be made for a student in the middle~~
211 ~~grades who takes any high school course for high school credit~~
212 ~~and earns a grade of "C," "D," or "F" or the equivalent of a~~
213 ~~grade of "C," "D," or "F." In such case, the district~~
214 ~~forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the grade with~~
215 ~~a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or~~
216 ~~higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. In~~
217 ~~all cases of grade forgiveness, only the new grade shall be used~~
218 ~~in the calculation of the student's grade point average. Any~~
219 ~~course grade not replaced according to a district school board~~
220 ~~forgiveness policy shall be included in the calculation of the~~
221 ~~cumulative grade point average required for graduation.~~

222 ~~(5) The State Board of Education, after a public hearing~~
223 ~~and consideration, shall adopt rules based upon the~~
224 ~~recommendations of the commissioner for the provision of test~~
225 ~~accommodations and modifications of procedures as necessary for~~
226 ~~students with disabilities which will demonstrate the student's~~
227 ~~abilities rather than reflect the student's impaired sensory,~~
228 ~~manual, speaking, or psychological process skills.~~

229 ~~(6) The public hearing and consideration required in~~
230 ~~subsection (5) shall not be construed to amend or nullify the~~
231 ~~requirements of security relating to the contents of~~
232 ~~examinations or assessment instruments and related materials or~~
233 ~~data as prescribed in s. 1008.23.~~

234 (5)~~(7)~~(a) A student who meets all requirements prescribed
235 in subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) shall be awarded a
236 standard diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of
237 Education.

238 (b) A student who completes the minimum number of credits
239 and other requirements prescribed by subsections (1), (2), and
240 (3), but who is unable to meet the standards of paragraph
241 (4) (b), paragraph (4) (c), or paragraph (4) (d), shall be awarded
242 a certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State
243 Board of Education. However, any student who is otherwise
244 entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in
245 the secondary school either as a full-time student or a part-
246 time student for up to 1 additional year and receive special
247 instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
248 deficiencies.

249 ~~(8)(a) Each district school board must provide instruction~~
 250 ~~to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate proficiency~~
 251 ~~in the core content knowledge and skills necessary for~~
 252 ~~successful grade-to-grade progression and high school~~
 253 ~~graduation.~~

254 ~~(b) A student with a disability, as defined in s.~~
 255 ~~1007.02(2), for whom the individual education plan (IEP)~~
 256 ~~committee determines that the FCAT cannot accurately measure the~~
 257 ~~student's abilities taking into consideration all allowable~~
 258 ~~accommodations, shall have the FCAT requirement of paragraph~~
 259 ~~(4)(b) waived for the purpose of receiving a standard high~~
 260 ~~school diploma, if the student:~~

261 ~~1. Completes the minimum number of credits and other~~
 262 ~~requirements prescribed by subsections (1), (2), and (3).~~

263 ~~2. Does not meet the requirements of paragraph (4)(b)~~
 264 ~~after one opportunity in 10th grade and one opportunity in 11th~~
 265 ~~grade.~~

266 ~~(9) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard~~
 267 ~~high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started~~
 268 ~~high school between 1937 and 1946 and were scheduled to graduate~~
 269 ~~between 1941 and 1950 but were inducted into the United States~~
 270 ~~Armed Forces between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946,~~
 271 ~~prior to completing the necessary high school graduation~~
 272 ~~requirements. Upon the recommendation of the commissioner, the~~
 273 ~~State Board of Education may develop criteria and guidelines for~~
 274 ~~awarding such diplomas.~~

275 ~~(10) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard~~
 276 ~~high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started~~

277 ~~high school between 1946 and 1950 and were scheduled to graduate~~
 278 ~~between 1950 and 1954, but were inducted into the United States~~
 279 ~~Armed Forces between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, and~~
 280 ~~served during the Korean Conflict prior to completing the~~
 281 ~~necessary high school graduation requirements. Upon the~~
 282 ~~recommendation of the commissioner, the State Board of Education~~
 283 ~~may develop criteria and guidelines for awarding such diplomas.~~

284 (6)~~(11)~~ The State Board of Education may adopt rules
 285 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
 286 provisions of this section and may enforce the provisions of
 287 this section pursuant to s. 1008.32.

288 Section 2. Section 1003.4281, Florida Statutes, is created
 289 to read:

290 1003.4281 Core diploma graduation requirements.--

291 (1) Beginning with students entering their first year of
 292 high school in the 2010-2011 school year, graduation with a core
 293 diploma requires the successful completion of a minimum of 24
 294 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an
 295 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum.
 296 Students must be advised of eligibility requirements for state
 297 scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions.

298 (2) The 24 credits for the core diploma may be earned
 299 through applied, integrated, and combined courses approved by
 300 the Department of Education and shall be distributed as follows:

301 (a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

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

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304 2. Four credits in mathematics, which must include one
305 credit in Algebra I or in a series of courses equivalent to
306 Algebra I and at least one credit in a higher-level mathematics
307 course.

308 3. Three credits in science, which must include one credit
309 in Biology I or in a series of courses that have been approved
310 by the State Board of Education as equivalent to Biology I, one
311 credit in physical science, and one credit in earth science,
312 space science, or environmental science, or in a series of
313 courses equivalent to life science, physical science, and earth
314 science, space science, or environmental science. At least two
315 of the science courses must have a laboratory component.

316 4. Three credits in social studies, which must include one
317 credit in American history, one credit in world history, one-
318 half credit in economics, and one-half credit in American
319 government.

320 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and
321 debate, or practical arts that incorporates artistic content and
322 techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination.
323 Eligible practical arts courses shall be identified through the
324 Course Code Directory.

325 6. One credit in physical education to include integration
326 of health.

327 (b) Eight credits in majors, minors, or electives in a
328 combination as provided in s. 1003.4286.

329 (3) (a) A district school board may require specific
330 courses and programs of study within the minimum credit
331 requirements for high school graduation and shall modify basic

332 courses, as necessary, to ensure that exceptional students have
333 the opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a core
334 diploma, using one of the following strategies:

335 1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an exceptional
336 education class for instruction in a basic course with the same
337 student performance standards as those required of
338 nonexceptional students in the district school board student
339 progression plan; or

340 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic
341 education class for instruction that is modified to accommodate
342 the student's exceptionality.

343 (b) The district school board shall determine which of
344 these strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the
345 student's needs and shall reflect this decision in the student's
346 individual education plan.

347 (4) Each district school board shall establish standards
348 for graduation from its schools, which must include:

349 (a) Successful completion of the academic credit or
350 curriculum requirements of subsections (1) and (2).

351 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.
352 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are
353 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.
354 1008.22(10).

355 (c) Completion of all other applicable requirements
356 prescribed by the district school board pursuant to s. 1008.25.

357 (d) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 2.0
358 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by
359 this section.

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360 (5) (a) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
361 subsections (1)-(4) shall be awarded a core diploma in a form
362 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

363 (b) A student who completes the minimum number of credits
364 and other requirements prescribed in subsections (1)-(3), but
365 who is unable to meet the standards of paragraph (4) (b),
366 paragraph (4) (c), or paragraph (4) (d), shall be awarded a
367 certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State
368 Board of Education. However, any student who is otherwise
369 entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in
370 the secondary school either as a full-time student or a part-
371 time student for up to 1 additional year and receive special
372 instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
373 deficiencies.

374 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
375 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
376 section and may enforce the provisions of this section pursuant
377 to s. 1008.32.

378 Section 3. Section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is created
379 to read:

380 1003.4282 College preparatory diploma graduation
381 requirements.--

382 (1) Beginning with students entering their first year of
383 high school in the 2010-2011 school year, graduation with a
384 college preparatory diploma requires the successful completion
385 of a minimum of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate
386 curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of
387 Education curriculum. Students must be advised of eligibility

388 requirements for state scholarship programs and postsecondary
389 admissions.

390 (2) The 24 credits for the college preparatory diploma may
391 be earned through applied, integrated, and combined courses
392 approved by the Department of Education and shall be distributed
393 as follows:

394 (a) Twenty core curriculum credits:

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

397 2. Four credits in mathematics, which must include one
398 credit in Algebra I, one credit in geometry, one credit in
399 Algebra II, and one credit in a course higher than Algebra II or
400 in a higher-level mathematics course.

401 3. Four credits in science, which must include one credit
402 in Biology I or in a series of courses that have been approved
403 by the State Board of Education as equivalent to Biology I, one
404 credit in physical science, and one credit in earth science,
405 space science, or environmental science, or in a series of
406 courses equivalent to life science, physical science, and earth
407 science, space science, or environmental science. At least two
408 of the science courses must have a laboratory component.

409 4. Four credits in social studies, which must include one
410 credit in American history, one credit in world history, one-
411 half credit in economics, and one-half credit in American
412 government.

413 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and
414 debate, or practical arts that incorporates artistic content and
415 techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination.

416 Eligible practical arts courses shall be identified through the
417 Course Code Directory.

418 6. One credit in physical education to include integration
419 of health.

420 7. Two credits in the same second language unless the
421 student is a native speaker of, or can otherwise demonstrate
422 competency in, a language other than English. If the student
423 demonstrates competency in another language, the student may
424 replace the language requirement with two credits in electives.

425 (b) Four credits in majors, minors, or electives in a
426 combination as provided in s. 1003.4286.

427 (3)(a) A district school board may require specific
428 courses and programs of study within the minimum credit
429 requirements for high school graduation and shall modify basic
430 courses, as necessary, to ensure that exceptional students have
431 the opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a
432 college preparatory diploma, using one of the following
433 strategies:

434 1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an exceptional
435 education class for instruction in a basic course with the same
436 student performance standards as those required of
437 nonexceptional students in the district school board student
438 progression plan; or

439 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic
440 education class for instruction that is modified to accommodate
441 the student's exceptionality.

442 (b) The district school board shall determine which of
443 these strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the

444 student's needs and shall reflect this decision in the student's
445 individual education plan.

446 (4) Each district school board shall establish standards
447 for graduation from its schools, which must include:

448 (a) Successful completion of the academic credit or
449 curriculum requirements of subsections (1) and (2).

450 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.
451 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are
452 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.
453 1008.22(10).

454 (c) Completion of all other applicable requirements
455 prescribed by the district school board pursuant to s. 1008.25.

456 (d) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 2.0
457 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by
458 this section.

459 (5)(a) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
460 subsections (1)-(4) shall be awarded a college preparatory
461 diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

462 (b) A student who completes the minimum number of credits
463 and other requirements prescribed in subsections (1)-(3), but
464 who is unable to meet the standards of paragraph (4)(b),
465 paragraph (4)(c), or paragraph (4)(d), shall be awarded a
466 certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State
467 Board of Education. However, any student who is otherwise
468 entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in
469 the secondary school either as a full-time student or a part-
470 time student for up to 1 additional year and receive special

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471 instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
472 deficiencies.

473 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
474 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
475 section and may enforce the provisions of this section pursuant
476 to s. 1008.32.

477 Section 4. Section 1003.4283, Florida Statutes, is created
478 to read:

479 1003.4283 Career preparatory diploma graduation
480 requirements.--

481 (1) Beginning with students entering their first year of
482 high school in the 2010-2011 school year, graduation with a
483 career preparatory diploma requires the successful completion of
484 a minimum of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate
485 curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of
486 Education curriculum. Students must be advised of eligibility
487 requirements for state scholarship programs and postsecondary
488 admissions.

489 (2) The 24 credits for the career preparatory diploma may
490 be earned through applied, integrated, and combined courses
491 approved by the Department of Education and shall be distributed
492 as follows:

493 (a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

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

496 2. Four credits in mathematics, which must include one
497 credit in Algebra I or in a series of courses equivalent to
498 Algebra I, one credit in geometry or in a series of courses

499 equivalent to geometry, and one credit in a higher-level
500 mathematics course.

501 3. Three credits in science, which must include one credit
502 in Biology I or in a series of courses that have been approved
503 by the State Board of Education as equivalent to Biology I, one
504 credit in physical science, and one credit in earth science,
505 space science, or environmental science, or in a series of
506 courses equivalent to life science, physical science, and earth
507 science, space science, or environmental science. At least two
508 of the science courses must have a laboratory component.

509 4. Three credits in social studies, which must include one
510 credit in American history, one credit in world history, one-
511 half credit in economics, and one-half credit in American
512 government.

513 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and
514 debate, or practical arts that incorporates artistic content and
515 techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination.
516 Eligible practical arts courses shall be identified through the
517 Course Code Directory.

518 6. One credit in physical education to include integration
519 of health.

520 (b) Eight credits in majors, minors, or electives in a
521 combination as provided in s. 1003.4286.

522 (3) (a) A district school board may require specific
523 courses and programs of study within the minimum credit
524 requirements for high school graduation and shall modify basic
525 courses, as necessary, to ensure that exceptional students have

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526 the opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a career
527 preparatory diploma, using one of the following strategies:

528 1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an exceptional
529 education class for instruction in a basic course with the same
530 student performance standards as those required of
531 nonexceptional students in the district school board student
532 progression plan; or

533 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic
534 education class for instruction that is modified to accommodate
535 the student's exceptionality.

536 (b) The district school board shall determine which of
537 these strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the
538 student's needs and shall reflect this decision in the student's
539 individual education plan.

540 (4) Each district school board shall establish standards
541 for graduation from its schools, which must include:

542 (a) Successful completion of the academic credit or
543 curriculum requirements of subsections (1) and (2).

544 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.
545 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are
546 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.
547 1008.22(10).

548 (c) Completion of all other applicable requirements
549 prescribed by the district school board pursuant to s. 1008.25.

550 (d) Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 2.0
551 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by
552 this section.

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553 (e) Earning a minimum score of 5 on all three Florida
554 Ready to Work Certification Program assessments, as described in
555 s. 1004.99.

556 (5) (a) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
557 subsections (1)-(4) shall be awarded a career preparatory
558 diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

559 (b) A student who completes the minimum number of credits
560 and other requirements prescribed in subsections (1)-(3), but
561 who is unable to meet the standards of paragraph (4) (b),
562 paragraph (4) (c), paragraph (4) (d), or paragraph (4) (e), shall
563 be awarded a certificate of completion in a form prescribed by
564 the State Board of Education. However, any student who is
565 otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to
566 remain in the secondary school either as a full-time student or
567 a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive
568 special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
569 deficiencies.

570 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
571 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
572 section and may enforce the provisions of this section pursuant
573 to s. 1008.32.

574 Section 5. Section 1003.4284, Florida Statutes, is created
575 to read:

576 1003.4284 Graduation Exit Option Program; alternative
577 diploma.--

578 (1) The Department of Education may implement a Graduation
579 Exit Option Program under which a high school student shall be

580 awarded an alternative diploma. To be eligible to participate in
 581 the program, a high school student must:

582 (a) Be at least 16 years old.

583 (b) Be enrolled in high school courses that meet high
 584 school graduation requirements.

585 (c) Be at risk of failing to graduate.

586 (d) Meet criteria developed by the department to ensure
 587 that the program is not used as a means for early graduation and
 588 to target students who have the ability to pass the grade 10
 589 FCAT and the general educational development (GED) test.

590 (2) To receive an alternative diploma under the Graduation
 591 Exit Option Program, a high school student must:

592 (a) Meet minimum reading levels and earn minimum scores on
 593 GED practice tests, as established by the department.

594 (b) Earn passing scores on the reading and mathematics
 595 portions of the FCAT, as defined in s. 1008.22(3), or scores on
 596 a standardized test that are concordant with passing scores on
 597 the FCAT, as defined in s. 1008.22(10).

598 (c) Pass each of the five sections of the GED test.

599 (d) Earn at least 14 credits toward high school
 600 graduation, at least 8 of which are earned in English, reading,
 601 mathematics, science, or social studies.

602 (3) A school district must annually request and receive
 603 approval from the department in order to participate in the
 604 Graduation Exit Option Program.

605 (4) An alternative diploma awarded under this section may
 606 not be used for calculating graduation rates for any purpose.

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607 (5) The department shall design the alternative diploma to
608 distinguish the diploma from a standard diploma and a core
609 diploma.

610 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
611 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

612 Section 6. Section 1003.4285, Florida Statutes, is amended
613 to read:

614 1003.4285 ~~Standard~~ High school diploma designations.--By
615 the 2008-2009 school year, each ~~standard~~ high school diploma
616 shall include, as applicable:

617 (1) A designation of the student's major area of interest
618 pursuant to the student's completion of credits ~~as provided in~~
619 ~~s. 1003.428.~~

620 (2) A designation reflecting completion of four or more
621 accelerated college credit courses if the student is eligible
622 for college credit pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271 in
623 Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced
624 International Certificate of Education, or dual enrollment
625 courses. The Commissioner of Education shall establish
626 guidelines for successful passage of examinations or coursework
627 in each of the accelerated college credit options for purposes
628 of this subsection.

629 (3) A designation reflecting career education
630 certification in accordance with s. 1003.431.

631 (4) A designation reflecting a Florida Ready to Work
632 Credential in accordance with s. 1004.99.

633 Section 7. Section 1003.4286, Florida Statutes, is created
634 to read:

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635 1003.4286 Major and minor areas of interest, electives,
636 remediation; graduation requirements.--For purposes of credit
637 requirements for high school graduation, students shall earn
638 major or minor areas of interest or electives as follows:

639 (1) To earn a major area of interest, a student must take
640 four credits, such as sequential courses in a career and
641 technical program, fine and performing arts, or academic content
642 area, selected by the student as part of the education plan
643 required by s. 1003.4156. Students may revise major areas of
644 interest each year as part of annual course registration
645 processes and should update their education plan to reflect such
646 revisions. Annually by October 1, the district school board
647 shall approve major areas of interest and submit the list of
648 majors to the Commissioner of Education for approval. Each major
649 area of interest shall be deemed approved unless specifically
650 rejected by the commissioner within 60 days. Upon approval, each
651 district's major areas of interest shall be available for use by
652 all school districts and shall be posted on the department's
653 Internet website.

654 (2) Elective courses, selected by a student as part of the
655 education plan required by s. 1003.4156, may be combined to
656 allow for a second major area of interest pursuant to subsection
657 (1) or a minor area of interest, elective courses, or intensive
658 reading or mathematics intervention courses, as described in
659 this subsection.

660 (a) Minor areas of interest are composed of three credits
661 selected by a student as part of the education plan required by
662 s. 1003.4156 and approved by the district school board.

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663 (b) Elective courses are selected by a student in order to
664 pursue a complete education program as described in s.
665 1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for
666 scholarships.

667 (c) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on
668 FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an
669 intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level
670 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content
671 area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be
672 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
673 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
674 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading
675 below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
676 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
677 1011.62(9).

678 (d) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or
679 Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive
680 remediation the following year. These courses may be taught
681 through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject
682 to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code
683 Directory.

684 Section 8. Section 1003.4287, Florida Statutes, is created
685 to read:

686 1003.4287 Physical education and performing arts credit
687 options; graduation requirements.--For purposes of credit
688 requirements in physical education for high school graduation,
689 participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity
690 or varsity level for two full seasons shall satisfy the one-

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691 credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a
692 competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or
693 better. The competency test on personal fitness must be
694 developed by the Department of Education. A district school
695 board may not require that the one credit in physical education
696 be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester
697 with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a
698 physical activity class that requires participation in marching
699 band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance
700 class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or
701 one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used
702 to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement
703 for adaptive physical education under an individual education
704 plan or 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a Reserve Officer
705 Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of
706 which is drills, shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in
707 physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing
708 arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal
709 fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical
710 education under an individual education plan or 504 plan.

711 Section 9. Section 1003.4288, Florida Statutes, is created
712 to read:

713 1003.4288 Assistance in meeting grade point average
714 requirements.--

715 (1) Each district school board shall adopt policies
716 designed to assist students in meeting the grade point average
717 requirements for high school graduation. These policies may
718 include, but are not limited to, grade forgiveness, summer

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719 school attendance, before-school or after-school attendance,
720 special counseling, volunteer or peer tutoring, school-sponsored
721 help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills classes.

722 (2) A forgiveness policy for required courses shall be
723 limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of
724 a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the
725 equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in
726 the same or a comparable course. A forgiveness policy for
727 elective courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or
728 "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of
729 "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher,
730 earned subsequently in another course. The only exception to
731 these forgiveness policies may be made for a student in the
732 middle grades who takes any high school course for high school
733 credit and earns a grade of "C," "D," or "F" or the equivalent
734 of a grade of "C," "D," or "F." In such case, the district
735 forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the grade with
736 a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or
737 higher, earned subsequently in the same or a comparable course.
738 Any course grade not replaced according to a district school
739 board forgiveness policy shall be included in the calculation of
740 the cumulative grade point average required for graduation.

741 Section 10. Section 1003.4289, Florida Statutes, is
742 created to read:

743 1003.4289 Accommodations and modifications of procedures
744 for students with disabilities; graduation requirements.--For
745 purposes of high school graduation:

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746 (1) The State Board of Education, after a public hearing
747 and consideration, shall adopt rules based upon the
748 recommendations of the Commissioner of Education for the
749 provision of test accommodations and modifications of procedures
750 as necessary for students with disabilities which will
751 demonstrate the student's abilities rather than reflect the
752 student's impaired sensory, manual, speaking, or psychological
753 process skills.

754 (2) The public hearing and consideration required in
755 subsection (1) shall not be construed to amend or nullify the
756 requirements of security relating to the contents of
757 examinations or assessment instruments and related materials or
758 data as prescribed in s. 1008.23.

759 (3) (a) Each district school board must provide instruction
760 to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate proficiency
761 in the core content knowledge and skills necessary for
762 successful grade-to-grade progression and high school
763 graduation.

764 (b) A student with a disability, as defined in s.
765 1007.02(2), for whom the individual education plan committee
766 determines that the FCAT cannot accurately measure the student's
767 abilities taking into consideration all allowable
768 accommodations, shall have the FCAT requirement of s.
769 1003.428(4)(b), s. 1003.4281(4)(b), s. 1003.4282(4)(b), s.
770 1003.4283(4)(b), or s. 1003.43(5)(a) waived for the purpose of
771 receiving a high school diploma, if the student:

772 1. Completes the minimum number of credits and other
773 requirements prescribed in s. 1003.428(1)-(3), s. 1003.4281(1)-

774 (3), s. 1003.4282(1)-(3), s. 1003.4283(1)-(3), or s. 1003.43(1)
 775 and (4).

776 2. Does not meet the FCAT requirements of s.
 777 1003.428(4)(b), s. 1003.4281(4)(b), s. 1003.4282(4)(b), s.
 778 1003.4283(4)(b), or s. 1003.43(5)(a) after one opportunity in
 779 grade 10 and one opportunity in grade 11.

780 Section 11. Section 1003.4295, Florida Statutes, is
 781 created to read:

782 1003.4295 Acceleration courses.--

783 (1) The purpose of this section is to ensure that all
 784 Florida public high school students have equal access to a
 785 substantive and rigorous curriculum that is designed to
 786 challenge their minds, enhance their knowledge and skills, and
 787 prepare them for success in college and work.

788 (2) By the 2010-2011 school year, each public high school
 789 in the state must offer at least four Advanced Placement,
 790 International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate
 791 of Education, or dual enrollment courses, one each in English,
 792 mathematics, science, and social studies. To fulfill this
 793 requirement, schools may utilize the course offerings provided
 794 by the Florida Virtual School established under s. 1002.37.

795 Section 12. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1), paragraph (e)
 796 of subsection (5), and subsections (8) through (13) of section
 797 1003.43, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

798 1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

799 (1) Graduation requires successful completion of either a
 800 minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 or an

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801 International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits shall be
802 distributed as follows:

803 (j) One credit in physical education to include
804 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.
805 ~~Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity~~
806 ~~or varsity level, for two full seasons, shall satisfy the one-~~
807 ~~credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a~~
808 ~~competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or~~
809 ~~better. The competency test on personal fitness must be~~
810 ~~developed by the Department of Education. A district school~~
811 ~~board may not require that the one credit in physical education~~
812 ~~be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester~~
813 ~~with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a~~
814 ~~physical activity class that requires participation in marching~~
815 ~~band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a Reserve~~
816 ~~Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class a significant component~~
817 ~~of which is drills shall satisfy a one-half credit requirement~~
818 ~~in physical education. This one-half credit may not be used to~~
819 ~~satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for~~
820 ~~adaptive physical education under an individual educational plan~~
821 ~~(IEP) or 504 plan.~~

822
823 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in
824 social studies and one-half elective credit for student
825 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
826 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of
827 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
828 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for

829 service provided as a result of court action. District school
830 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
831 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
832 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
833 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course
834 Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below
835 the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation
836 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as
837 specified in a district school board's student progression plan.
838 A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the
839 requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as
840 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual
841 enrollment.

842 (5) Each district school board shall establish standards
843 for graduation from its schools, and these standards must
844 include:

845 (e) For purposes of paragraphs (c) and (d):

846 ~~1. Each district school board shall adopt policies~~
847 ~~designed to assist students in meeting these requirements. These~~
848 ~~policies may include, but are not limited to: forgiveness~~
849 ~~policies, summer school or before or after school attendance,~~
850 ~~special counseling, volunteer and/or peer tutors, school-~~
851 ~~sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills~~
852 ~~classes. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year and each year~~
853 ~~thereafter, forgiveness policies for required courses shall be~~
854 ~~limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of~~
855 ~~a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the~~
856 ~~equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in~~

857 ~~the same or comparable course. Forgiveness policies for elective~~
858 ~~courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or~~
859 ~~the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or~~
860 ~~higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned~~
861 ~~subsequently in another course. Any course grade not replaced~~
862 ~~according to a district school board forgiveness policy shall be~~
863 ~~included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point~~
864 ~~average required for graduation.~~

865 1.2. At the end of each semester, the parent of each
866 student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade
867 point average of less than 0.5 above the cumulative grade point
868 average required for graduation shall be notified that the
869 student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for
870 graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the
871 policies the district school board has in place to assist the
872 student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

873 2.3. Special assistance to obtain a high school
874 equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 may be given only
875 when the student has completed all requirements for graduation
876 except the attainment of the required cumulative grade point
877 average.

878
879 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent
880 modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida Administrative
881 Code even though not defined as "rules."

882 ~~(8) The State Board of Education, after a public hearing~~
883 ~~and consideration, shall adopt rules based upon the~~
884 ~~recommendations of the commissioner for the provision of test~~

885 ~~accommodations and modifications of procedures as necessary for~~
886 ~~students with disabilities which will demonstrate the student's~~
887 ~~abilities rather than reflect the student's impaired sensory,~~
888 ~~manual, speaking, or psychological process skills.~~

889 ~~(9) The public hearing and consideration required in~~
890 ~~subsection (8) shall not be construed to amend or nullify the~~
891 ~~requirements of security relating to the contents of~~
892 ~~examinations or assessment instruments and related materials or~~
893 ~~data as prescribed in s. 1008.23.~~

894 (8)~~(10)~~(a) A student who meets all requirements prescribed
895 in subsections (1), (4), and (5) shall be awarded a standard
896 diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education. A
897 district school board may attach the Florida gold seal career
898 endorsement to a standard diploma or, instead of the standard
899 diploma, award differentiated diplomas to those exceeding the
900 prescribed minimums.

901 (b) A student who completes the minimum number of credits
902 and other requirements prescribed by subsections (1) and (4),
903 but who is unable to meet the standards of paragraph (5)(a),
904 paragraph (5)(b), or paragraph (5)(c), shall be awarded a
905 certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State
906 Board of Education. However, any student who is otherwise
907 entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in
908 the secondary school either as a full-time student or a part-
909 time student for up to 1 additional year and receive special
910 instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
911 deficiencies.

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912 ~~(11) (a) Each district school board must provide~~
913 ~~instruction to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate~~
914 ~~proficiency in the core content knowledge and skills necessary~~
915 ~~for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school~~
916 ~~graduation.~~

917 ~~(b) A student with a disability, as defined in s.~~
918 ~~1007.02(2), for whom the individual educational plan (IEP)~~
919 ~~committee determines that the FCAT cannot accurately measure the~~
920 ~~student's abilities taking into consideration all allowable~~
921 ~~accommodations, shall have the FCAT requirement of paragraph~~
922 ~~(5) (a) waived for the purpose of receiving a standard high~~
923 ~~school diploma, if the student:~~

924 ~~1. Completes the minimum number of credits and other~~
925 ~~requirements prescribed by subsections (1) and (4).~~

926 ~~2. Does not meet the requirements of paragraph (5) (a)~~
927 ~~after one opportunity in 10th grade and one opportunity in 11th~~
928 ~~grade.~~

929 ~~(12) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard~~
930 ~~high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started~~
931 ~~high school between 1937 and 1946 and were scheduled to graduate~~
932 ~~between 1941 and 1950 but were inducted into the United States~~
933 ~~Armed Forces between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946,~~
934 ~~prior to completing the necessary high school graduation~~
935 ~~requirements. Upon the recommendation of the commissioner, the~~
936 ~~State Board of Education may develop criteria and guidelines for~~
937 ~~awarding such diplomas.~~

938 ~~(13) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard~~
939 ~~high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started~~

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940 ~~high school between 1946 and 1950 and were scheduled to graduate~~
941 ~~between 1949 and 1955, but were inducted into the United States~~
942 ~~Armed Forces between June 1949 and January 1955, and served~~
943 ~~during the Korean War prior to completing the necessary high~~
944 ~~school graduation requirements. Upon the recommendation of the~~
945 ~~commissioner, the State Board of Education may develop criteria~~
946 ~~and guidelines for awarding such diplomas.~~

947 Section 13. Section 1003.4305, Florida Statutes, is
948 created to read:

949 1003.4305 Recognition of veterans; high school diploma.--

950 (1) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard
951 high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started
952 high school between 1937 and 1946 and were scheduled to graduate
953 between 1941 and 1950 but were inducted into the United States
954 Armed Forces between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946,
955 prior to completing the necessary high school graduation
956 requirements. Upon the recommendation of the commissioner, the
957 State Board of Education may develop criteria and guidelines for
958 awarding such diplomas.

959 (2) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard
960 high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started
961 high school between 1946 and 1950 and were scheduled to graduate
962 between 1949 and 1955 but were inducted into the United States
963 Armed Forces between June 1949 and January 1955 and served
964 during the Korean War prior to completing the necessary high
965 school graduation requirements. Upon the recommendation of the
966 commissioner, the State Board of Education may develop criteria
967 and guidelines for awarding such diplomas.

968 Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 1007.263, Florida
 969 Statutes, is amended to read:

970 1007.263 Community colleges; admissions of students.--Each
 971 community college board of trustees is authorized to adopt rules
 972 governing admissions of students subject to this section and
 973 rules of the State Board of Education. These rules shall include
 974 the following:

975 (4) A student who has been awarded a special diploma as
 976 defined in s. 1003.438 or a certificate of completion as defined
 977 in s. 1003.43(8)~~(10)~~ is eligible to enroll in certificate career
 978 education programs.

979
 980 Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify
 981 students about, and place students into, adult basic education,
 982 adult secondary education, or other instructional programs that
 983 provide students with alternatives to traditional college-
 984 preparatory instruction, including private provider instruction.
 985 A student is prohibited from enrolling in additional college-
 986 level courses until the student scores above the cut-score on
 987 all sections of the common placement test.

988 Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraph (c)
 989 of subsection (3), subsection (9), and paragraph (b) of
 990 subsection (10) of section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, are
 991 amended to read:

992 1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.--

993 (1) PURPOSE.--The primary purposes of the student
 994 assessment program are to provide information needed to improve
 995 the public schools by enhancing the learning gains of all

996 students and to inform parents of the educational progress of
 997 their public school children. The program must be designed to:
 998 (c) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
 999 students and the readiness of students to be promoted to the
 1000 next grade level or to graduate from high school with a ~~standard~~
 1001 ~~or special~~ high school diploma.
 1002 (3) STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.--The commissioner shall
 1003 design and implement a statewide program of educational
 1004 assessment that provides information for the improvement of the
 1005 operation and management of the public schools, including
 1006 schools operating for the purpose of providing educational
 1007 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs.
 1008 The commissioner may enter into contracts for the continued
 1009 administration of the assessment, testing, and evaluation
 1010 programs authorized and funded by the Legislature. Contracts may
 1011 be initiated in 1 fiscal year and continue into the next and may
 1012 be paid from the appropriations of either or both fiscal years.
 1013 The commissioner is authorized to negotiate for the sale or
 1014 lease of tests, scoring protocols, test scoring services, and
 1015 related materials developed pursuant to law. Pursuant to the
 1016 statewide assessment program, the commissioner shall:
 1017 (c) Develop and implement a student achievement testing
 1018 program known as the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test
 1019 (FCAT) as part of the statewide assessment program to measure a
 1020 student's content knowledge and skills in reading, writing,
 1021 science, and mathematics. Other content areas may be included as
 1022 directed by the commissioner. Comprehensive assessments of
 1023 reading and mathematics shall be administered annually in grades

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1024 3 through 10. Comprehensive assessments of writing and science
1025 shall be administered at least once at the elementary, middle,
1026 and high school levels. End-of-course assessments for a subject
1027 may be administered in addition to the comprehensive assessments
1028 required for that subject under this paragraph. An end-of-course
1029 assessment must be rigorous, statewide, standardized, and
1030 developed or approved by the department. The content knowledge
1031 and skills assessed by comprehensive and end-of-course
1032 assessments must be aligned to the core curricular content
1033 established in the Sunshine State Standards. The commissioner
1034 may select one or more nationally developed comprehensive
1035 examinations, which may include, but need not be limited to,
1036 examinations for a College Board Advanced Placement course,
1037 International Baccalaureate course, or Advanced International
1038 Certificate of Education course or industry-approved
1039 examinations to earn national industry certifications as defined
1040 in s. 1003.492, for use as end-of-course assessments under this
1041 paragraph, if the commissioner determines that the content
1042 knowledge and skills assessed by the examinations meet or exceed
1043 the grade level expectations for the core curricular content
1044 established for the course in the Next Generation Sunshine State
1045 Standards. The commissioner may collaborate with the American
1046 Diploma Project in the adoption or development of rigorous end-
1047 of-course assessments that are aligned to the Next Generation
1048 Sunshine State Standards. The testing program must be designed
1049 as follows:

1050 1. The tests shall measure student skills and competencies
1051 adopted by the State Board of Education as specified in

1052 paragraph (a). The tests must measure and report student
1053 proficiency levels of all students assessed in reading, writing,
1054 mathematics, and science. The commissioner shall provide for the
1055 tests to be developed or obtained, as appropriate, through
1056 contracts and project agreements with private vendors, public
1057 vendors, public agencies, postsecondary educational
1058 institutions, or school districts. The commissioner shall obtain
1059 input with respect to the design and implementation of the
1060 testing program from state educators, assistive technology
1061 experts, and the public.

1062 2. The testing program shall be composed of criterion-
1063 referenced tests that shall, to the extent determined by the
1064 commissioner, include test items that require the student to
1065 produce information or perform tasks in such a way that the core
1066 content knowledge and skills he or she uses can be measured.

1067 3. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, the
1068 commissioner shall discontinue administration of the selected-
1069 response test items on the comprehensive assessments of writing.
1070 Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the comprehensive
1071 assessments of writing shall be composed of a combination of
1072 selected-response test items, short-response performance tasks,
1073 and extended-response performance tasks, which shall measure a
1074 student's content knowledge of writing, including, but not
1075 limited to, paragraph and sentence structure, sentence
1076 construction, grammar and usage, punctuation, capitalization,
1077 spelling, parts of speech, verb tense, irregular verbs, subject-
1078 verb agreement, and noun-pronoun agreement.

1079 4. A score shall be designated for each subject area
 1080 tested, below which score a student's performance is deemed
 1081 inadequate. The school districts shall provide appropriate
 1082 remedial instruction to students who score below these levels.

1083 5. Except as provided in s. 1003.4289 ~~1003.428(8)(b) or s.~~
 1084 ~~1003.43(11)(b)~~, students must earn a passing score on the grade
 1085 10 assessment test described in this paragraph or attain
 1086 concordant scores as described in subsection (10) in reading,
 1087 writing, and mathematics to qualify for a ~~standard~~ high school
 1088 diploma. The State Board of Education shall designate a passing
 1089 score for each part of the grade 10 assessment test. In
 1090 establishing passing scores, the state board shall consider any
 1091 possible negative impact of the test on minority students. The
 1092 State Board of Education shall adopt rules which specify the
 1093 passing scores for the grade 10 FCAT. Such passing scores must,
 1094 at a minimum, meet grade-level proficiency. Any such rules,
 1095 which have the effect of raising the required passing scores,
 1096 shall apply only to students taking the grade 10 FCAT for the
 1097 first time after such rules are adopted by the State Board of
 1098 Education.

1099 6. Participation in the testing program is mandatory for
 1100 all students attending public school, including students served
 1101 in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, except as otherwise
 1102 prescribed by the commissioner. If a student does not
 1103 participate in the statewide assessment, the district must
 1104 notify the student's parent and provide the parent with
 1105 information regarding the implications of such nonparticipation.
 1106 A parent must provide signed consent for a student to receive

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1107 | classroom instructional accommodations that would not be
1108 | available or permitted on the statewide assessments and must
1109 | acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the
1110 | implications of such instructional accommodations. The State
1111 | Board of Education shall adopt rules, based upon recommendations
1112 | of the commissioner, for the provision of test accommodations
1113 | for students in exceptional education programs and for students
1114 | who have limited English proficiency. Accommodations that negate
1115 | the validity of a statewide assessment are not allowable in the
1116 | administration of the FCAT. However, instructional
1117 | accommodations are allowable in the classroom if included in a
1118 | student's individual education plan. Students using
1119 | instructional accommodations in the classroom that are not
1120 | allowable as accommodations on the FCAT may have the FCAT
1121 | requirement waived pursuant to the requirements of s. 1003.4289
1122 | ~~s. 1003.428(8)(b) or s. 1003.43(11)(b)~~.

1123 | 7. A student seeking an adult high school diploma must
1124 | meet the same testing requirements that a regular high school
1125 | student must meet.

1126 | 8. District school boards must provide instruction to
1127 | prepare students to demonstrate proficiency in the core
1128 | curricular content established in the Next Generation Sunshine
1129 | State Standards adopted under s. 1003.41, including the core
1130 | content knowledge and skills necessary for successful grade-to-
1131 | grade progression and high school graduation. If a student is
1132 | provided with instructional accommodations in the classroom that
1133 | are not allowable as accommodations in the statewide assessment
1134 | program, as described in the test manuals, the district must

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1135 | inform the parent in writing and must provide the parent with
1136 | information regarding the impact on the student's ability to
1137 | meet expected proficiency levels in reading, writing, and
1138 | mathematics. The commissioner shall conduct studies as necessary
1139 | to verify that the required core curricular content is part of
1140 | the district instructional programs.

1141 | 9. District school boards must provide opportunities for
1142 | students to demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an
1143 | alternative standardized assessment approved by the State Board
1144 | of Education following enrollment in summer academies.

1145 | 10. The Department of Education must develop, or select,
1146 | and implement a common battery of assessment tools that will be
1147 | used in all juvenile justice programs in the state. These tools
1148 | must accurately measure the core curricular content established
1149 | in the Sunshine State Standards.

1150 | 11. For students seeking a special diploma pursuant to s.
1151 | 1003.438, the Department of Education must develop or select and
1152 | implement an alternate assessment tool that accurately measures
1153 | the core curricular content established in the Sunshine State
1154 | Standards for students with disabilities under s. 1003.438.

1155 | 12. The Commissioner of Education shall establish
1156 | schedules for the administration of statewide assessments and
1157 | the reporting of student test results. The commissioner shall,
1158 | by August 1 of each year, notify each school district in writing
1159 | and publish on the department's Internet website the testing and
1160 | reporting schedules for, at a minimum, the school year following
1161 | the upcoming school year. The testing and reporting schedules
1162 | shall require that:

1163 a. There is the latest possible administration of
 1164 statewide assessments and the earliest possible reporting to the
 1165 school districts of student test results which is feasible
 1166 within available technology and specific appropriations;
 1167 however, test results must be made available no later than the
 1168 final day of the regular school year for students.

1169 b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
 1170 comprehensive statewide assessment of writing is not
 1171 administered earlier than the week of March 1 and a
 1172 comprehensive statewide assessment of any other subject is not
 1173 administered earlier than the week of April 15.

1174 c. A statewide standardized end-of-course assessment is
 1175 administered within the last 2 weeks of the course.

1176
 1177 The commissioner may, based on collaboration and input from
 1178 school districts, design and implement student testing programs,
 1179 for any grade level and subject area, necessary to effectively
 1180 monitor educational achievement in the state, including the
 1181 measurement of educational achievement of the Sunshine State
 1182 Standards for students with disabilities. Development and
 1183 refinement of assessments shall include universal design
 1184 principles and accessibility standards that will prevent any
 1185 unintended obstacles for students with disabilities while
 1186 ensuring the validity and reliability of the test. These
 1187 principles should be applicable to all technology platforms and
 1188 assistive devices available for the assessments. The field
 1189 testing process and psychometric analyses for the statewide
 1190 assessment program must include an appropriate percentage of

1191 students with disabilities and an evaluation or determination of
 1192 the effect of test items on such students.

1193 (9) APPLICABILITY OF TESTING STANDARDS.--

1194 (a) If the Commissioner of Education revises a statewide
 1195 assessment and the revisions require the State Board of
 1196 Education to modify the assessment's proficiency levels or
 1197 modify the passing scores required for a ~~standard~~ high school
 1198 diploma, until the state board adopts the modifications by rule,
 1199 the commissioner shall use calculations for scoring the
 1200 assessment which adjust student scores on the revised assessment
 1201 for statistical equivalence to student scores on the former
 1202 assessment.

1203 (b) A student must attain the passing scores on the
 1204 statewide assessment required for a ~~standard~~ high school diploma
 1205 which are in effect at the time the student enters grade 9 if
 1206 the student's enrollment is continuous.

1207 (c) If the commissioner revises a statewide assessment and
 1208 the revisions require the State Board of Education to modify the
 1209 passing scores required for a ~~standard~~ high school diploma, the
 1210 commissioner may, with approval of the state board, discontinue
 1211 administration of the former assessment upon the graduation,
 1212 based on normal student progression, of students participating
 1213 in the final regular administration of the former assessment.
 1214 The state board shall adopt by rule passing scores for the
 1215 revised assessment which are statistically equivalent to passing
 1216 scores on the discontinued assessment for a student required
 1217 under paragraph (b) to attain passing scores on the discontinued
 1218 assessment.

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1219 (10) CONCORDANT SCORES FOR THE FCAT.--
 1220 (b) In order to use a concordant subject area score
 1221 pursuant to this subsection to satisfy the assessment
 1222 requirement for a ~~standard~~ high school diploma as provided in s.
 1223 1003.428(4)(b), s. 1003.4281(4)(b), s. 1003.4282(4)(b), s.
 1224 1003.4283(4)(b), s. 1003.4284(2)(b), s. 1003.429(6)(a), or s.
 1225 1003.43(5)(a), ~~or s. 1003.428,~~ a student must take each subject
 1226 area of the grade 10 FCAT a total of three times without earning
 1227 a passing score. The requirements of this paragraph shall not
 1228 apply to a new student who enters the Florida public school
 1229 system in grade 12, who may either achieve a passing score on
 1230 the FCAT or use an approved subject area concordant score to
 1231 fulfill the graduation requirement.

1232 Section 16. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1233 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1234 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
 1235 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.--

1236 (1) Effective January 1, 2008, in order to be eligible for
 1237 an initial award from any of the three types of scholarships
 1238 under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a student
 1239 must:

1240 (b) Earn a ~~standard~~ Florida high school diploma or its
 1241 equivalent as described in s. 1003.428, s. 1003.4281, s.
 1242 1003.4282, s. 1003.4283, s. 1003.429, s. 1003.43, or s. 1003.435
 1243 unless:

1244 1. The student completes a home education program
 1245 according to s. 1002.41; or

1246 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-
 1247 Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on
 1248 military or public service assignment away from Florida.

1249 Section 17. Subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida
 1250 Statutes, is amended to read:

1251 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.--

1252 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars
 1253 award if the student meets the general eligibility requirements
 1254 for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the
 1255 student:

1256 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as
 1257 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high
 1258 school courses that are designated by the State Board of
 1259 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; ~~and~~ has
 1260 attained at least the score identified by rules of the State
 1261 Board of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative parts
 1262 of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test,
 1263 or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
 1264 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
 1265 Assessment Program; and, beginning with students entering grade
 1266 9 in the 2010-2011 school year, has earned a college preparatory
 1267 diploma as provided in s. 1003.4282; or

1268 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.
 1269 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the
 1270 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
 1271 International Baccalaureate Diploma or has completed the
 1272 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but
 1273 failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of

1274 Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score
 1275 identified by rules of the State Board of Education on the
 1276 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
 1277 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered
 1278 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
 1279 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program; or

1280 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate
 1281 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an
 1282 Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the
 1283 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office; or

1284 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
 1285 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
 1286 scholar or finalist; or

1287 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
 1288 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

1289
 1290 A student must complete a program of community service work, as
 1291 approved by the district school board or the administrators of a
 1292 nonpublic school, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of
 1293 service work and require the student to identify a social
 1294 problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her
 1295 personal involvement in addressing the problem, and, through
 1296 papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or
 1297 her experience.

1298 Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida
 1299 Statutes, is amended to read:

1300 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.--

1301 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars
 1302 award if the student meets the general eligibility requirements
 1303 for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the
 1304 student:

1305 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as
 1306 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high
 1307 school courses that are designated by the State Board of
 1308 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; ~~and~~ has
 1309 attained at least the score identified by rules of the State
 1310 Board of Education on the combined verbal and quantitative parts
 1311 of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test,
 1312 or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
 1313 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
 1314 Assessment Program; and, beginning with students entering grade
 1315 9 in the 2010-2011 school year, has earned a college preparatory
 1316 diploma as provided in s. 1003.4282; or

1317 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.
 1318 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 or has completed the
 1319 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
 1320 International Baccalaureate Diploma or has completed the
 1321 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but
 1322 failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of
 1323 Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score
 1324 identified by rules of the State Board of Education on the
 1325 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
 1326 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered
 1327 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
 1328 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program; or

1329 (c) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
 1330 program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
 1331 scholar or finalist but has not completed a program of community
 1332 service as provided in s. 1009.534; or

1333 (d) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
 1334 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed a
 1335 program of community service as provided in s. 1009.534.

1336 Section 19. Subsection (1) of section 1009.536, Florida
 1337 Statutes, is amended to read:

1338 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.--The
 1339 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award is created within
 1340 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and
 1341 reward academic achievement and career preparation by high
 1342 school students who wish to continue their education.

1343 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
 1344 Vocational Scholars award if the student meets the general
 1345 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
 1346 Scholarship Program and the student:

1347 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential
 1348 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school
 1349 career credits taken over at least 2 academic years, and is
 1350 continued in a planned, related postsecondary education program.
 1351 If the student's school does not offer such a two-plus-two or
 1352 tech-prep program, the student must complete a job-preparatory
 1353 career education program selected by Workforce Florida, Inc.,
 1354 for its ability to provide high-wage employment in an occupation
 1355 with high potential for employment opportunities. On-the-job

1356 training may not be substituted for any of the three required
 1357 career credits.

1358 (b) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2010-
 1359 2011 school year, has earned a career preparatory diploma as
 1360 provided in s. 1003.4283.

1361 (c) ~~(b)~~ Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education
 1362 by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
 1363 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department
 1364 of Education.

1365 (d) ~~(e)~~ Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
 1366 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
 1367 subjects required for a ~~standard~~ high school diploma, excluding
 1368 elective courses.

1369 (e) ~~(d)~~ Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of
 1370 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses comprising the
 1371 career program.

1372 Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 1009.537, Florida
 1373 Statutes, is amended to read:

1374 1009.537 Eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures
 1375 Scholarship Program; transition.--

1376 (2) A student who graduates from high school in 1997 or
 1377 earlier and who is eligible for the Florida Vocational Gold Seal
 1378 Endorsement Scholarship award pursuant to former s. 240.4021 is
 1379 eligible for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award as
 1380 provided in this act. A student who graduates from high school
 1381 in 1998 or 1999 is eligible for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational
 1382 Scholars award if the student meets the criteria in s. 1009.536.
 1383 However, in lieu of satisfying the grade point average

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1384 requirement set forth in s. 1009.536(1) (d) ~~(e)~~, a student may
1385 earn a minimum cumulative unweighted grade point average of 3.0
1386 on a 4.0 scale on all subjects required for a standard high
1387 school diploma. Students who graduate from high school after
1388 1999 must meet the eligibility criteria pursuant to s. 1009.536.
1389 Section 21. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.