

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to health education; amending s. 1003.428,
 3 F.S.; providing for a mandatory one-half credit in health
 4 education, independent of physical education credit
 5 requirements, for high school students; providing a waiver
 6 for students who request to take and successfully complete
 7 a health education assessment developed by the Department
 8 of Education; reducing the number of credits in elective
 9 courses; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 1003.428, Florida
 14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
 16 revised.--

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

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

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

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

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

29 laboratory component.

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

33 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and
34 debate, or a practical arts course that incorporates artistic
35 content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and
36 imagination. Eligible practical arts courses shall be identified
37 through the Course Code Directory.

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

57 requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement
 58 in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the
 59 personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive
 60 physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or
 61 504 plan.

62 7. One-half credit in health education. The health
 63 education requirement may be waived if the student requests to
 64 take the health education assessment and scores a "C" or better.
 65 The Department of Education shall develop the health education
 66 assessment.

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

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

84 2. Three and one-half ~~Four~~ credits in elective courses

85 | selected by the student as part of the education plan required
86 | by s. 1003.4156. These credits may be combined to allow for a
87 | second major area of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a
88 | minor area of interest, elective courses, or intensive reading
89 | or mathematics intervention courses as described in this
90 | subparagraph.

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

94 | b. Elective courses are selected by the student in order
95 | to pursue a complete education program as described in s.
96 | 1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for
97 | scholarships.

98 | c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on
99 | FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an
100 | intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level
101 | 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content
102 | area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be
103 | determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
104 | provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
105 | meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading
106 | below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
107 | pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
108 | 1011.62(9).

109 | d. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or
110 | Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive
111 | remediation the following year. These courses may be taught
112 | through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject

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113 | to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code
114 | Directory.

115 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.