

By Senator Altman

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

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30 creating s. 1003.4286, F.S.; providing for  
31 applicability of major and minor areas of interest or  
32 electives as credit requirements for graduation;  
33 requiring remediation in certain instances; creating  
34 s. 1003.4287, F.S.; providing for applicability of  
35 physical education and performing arts credit options  
36 for graduation; creating s. 1003.4288, F.S.; providing  
37 for applicability of district school board policies to  
38 assist students in meeting grade point average  
39 requirements for graduation; creating s. 1003.4289,  
40 F.S.; providing for applicability of accommodations  
41 and modifications of procedures for students with  
42 disabilities for purposes of graduation; creating s.  
43 1003.4295, F.S.; requiring each public high school to  
44 offer specified acceleration courses; amending s.  
45 1003.43, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to general  
46 requirements for high school graduation to conform to  
47 changes made by the act; creating s. 1003.4305, F.S.;;  
48 authorizing the award of a standard high school  
49 diploma to certain honorably discharged veterans;  
50 amending s. 1007.263, F.S.; conforming a cross-  
51 reference; amending s. 1008.22, F.S.; requiring  
52 passing scores on the grade 10 FCAT to meet grade-  
53 level proficiency; conforming provisions and cross-  
54 references; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; conforming  
55 provisions; amending ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and  
56 1009.536, F.S.; providing additional academic  
57 requirements for receipt of Florida Bright Futures  
58 Scholarship Program awards; amending s. 1009.537,

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59 F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an  
60 effective date.

61  
62 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

63  
64 Section 1. Section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is amended  
65 to read:

66 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;  
67 revised.—

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

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

79 (a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

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

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

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

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88 laboratory component.

89 4. Three credits in social studies as follows: one credit  
90 in American history; one credit in world history; one-half  
91 credit in economics; and one-half credit in American government.

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

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

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117 ~~in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the~~  
118 ~~personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive~~  
119 ~~physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or~~  
120 ~~504 plan.~~

121 (b) Eight credits in majors, minors, or electives in a  
122 combination as provided in s. 1003.4286.÷

123 1. ~~Four credits in a major area of interest, such as~~  
124 ~~sequential courses in a career and technical program, fine and~~  
125 ~~performing arts, or academic content area, selected by the~~  
126 ~~student as part of the education plan required by s. 1003.4156.~~  
127 ~~Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of~~  
128 ~~annual course registration processes and should update their~~  
129 ~~education plan to reflect such revisions. Annually by October 1,~~  
130 ~~the district school board shall approve major areas of interest~~  
131 ~~and submit the list of majors to the Commissioner of Education~~  
132 ~~for approval. Each major area of interest shall be deemed~~  
133 ~~approved unless specifically rejected by the commissioner within~~  
134 ~~60 days. Upon approval, each district's major areas of interest~~  
135 ~~shall be available for use by all school districts and shall be~~  
136 ~~posted on the department's website.~~

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

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

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146 ~~b. Elective courses are selected by the student in order to~~  
147 ~~pursue a complete education program as described in s.~~  
148 ~~1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for~~  
149 ~~scholarships.~~

150 ~~e. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on~~  
151 ~~FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an~~  
152 ~~intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level~~  
153 ~~2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content~~  
154 ~~area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be~~  
155 ~~determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall~~  
156 ~~provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and~~  
157 ~~meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading~~  
158 ~~below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered~~  
159 ~~pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.~~  
160 ~~1011.62(9).~~

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

167 (3) (a) A district school board may require specific courses  
168 and programs of study within the minimum credit requirements for  
169 high school graduation and shall modify basic courses, as  
170 necessary, to assure exceptional students the opportunity to  
171 meet the graduation requirements for a standard diploma, using  
172 one of the following strategies:

173 1. Assignment of the exceptional student to an exceptional  
174 education class for instruction in a basic course with the same

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175 student performance standards as those required of  
176 nonexceptional students in the district school board student  
177 progression plan; or

178 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic  
179 education class for instruction that is modified to accommodate  
180 the student's exceptionality.

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

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

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

189 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.  
190 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are  
191 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s.  
192 1008.22(10).

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

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

198  
199 ~~Each district school board shall adopt policies designed to~~  
200 ~~assist students in meeting the requirements of this subsection.~~  
201 ~~These policies may include, but are not limited to: forgiveness~~  
202 ~~policies, summer school or before or after school attendance,~~  
203 ~~special counseling, volunteers or peer tutors, school sponsored~~

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204 ~~help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills classes.~~  
205 ~~Forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to~~  
206 ~~replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of~~  
207 ~~"D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of~~  
208 ~~a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in the same or~~  
209 ~~comparable course. Forgiveness policies for elective courses~~  
210 ~~shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the~~  
211 ~~equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or~~  
212 ~~higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned~~  
213 ~~subsequently in another course. The only exception to these~~  
214 ~~forgiveness policies shall be made for a student in the middle~~  
215 ~~grades who takes any high school course for high school credit~~  
216 ~~and earns a grade of "C," "D," or "F" or the equivalent of a~~  
217 ~~grade of "C," "D," or "F." In such case, the district~~  
218 ~~forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the grade with~~  
219 ~~a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or~~  
220 ~~higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. In~~  
221 ~~all cases of grade forgiveness, only the new grade shall be used~~  
222 ~~in the calculation of the student's grade point average. Any~~  
223 ~~course grade not replaced according to a district school board~~  
224 ~~forgiveness policy shall be included in the calculation of the~~  
225 ~~cumulative grade point average required for graduation.~~

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



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

238       (5)~~(7)~~(a) A student who meets all requirements prescribed  
239 in subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) shall be awarded a  
240 standard diploma in a form prescribed by the State Board of  
241 Education.

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

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

258       ~~(b) A student with a disability, as defined in s.~~  
259 ~~1007.02(2), for whom the individual education plan (IEP)~~  
260 ~~committee determines that the FCAT cannot accurately measure the~~  
261 ~~student's abilities taking into consideration all allowable~~

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262 accommodations, shall have the FCAT requirement of paragraph  
263 ~~(4)(b) waived for the purpose of receiving a standard high~~  
264 ~~school diploma, if the student:~~

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

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

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

278 ~~(10) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard~~  
279 ~~high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started~~  
280 ~~high school between 1946 and 1950 and were scheduled to graduate~~  
281 ~~between 1950 and 1954, but were inducted into the United States~~  
282 ~~Armed Forces between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, and~~  
283 ~~served during the Korean Conflict prior to completing the~~  
284 ~~necessary high school graduation requirements. Upon the~~  
285 ~~recommendation of the commissioner, the State Board of Education~~  
286 ~~may develop criteria and guidelines for awarding such diplomas.~~

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

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291 Section 2. Section 1003.4281, Florida Statutes, is created  
292 to read:

293 1003.4281 Core diploma graduation requirements.-

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

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

304 (a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

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

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

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

319 4. Three credits in social studies, which must include one

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320 credit in American history, one credit in world history, one-  
321 half credit in economics, and one-half credit in American  
322 government.

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

328 6. One credit in physical education to include integration  
329 of health.

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

332 (3) (a) A district school board may require specific courses  
333 and programs of study within the minimum credit requirements for  
334 high school graduation and shall modify basic courses, as  
335 necessary, to ensure that exceptional students have the  
336 opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a core  
337 diploma, using one of the following strategies:

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

343 2. Assignment of the exceptional student to a basic  
344 education class for instruction that is modified to accommodate  
345 the student's exceptionality.

346 (b) The district school board shall determine which of  
347 these strategies to employ based upon an assessment of the  
348 student's needs and shall reflect this decision in the student's

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349 individual education plan.

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

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

354 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.  
355 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are  
356 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.  
357 1008.22(10).

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

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

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

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

377 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant

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378 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this  
379 section and may enforce the provisions of this section pursuant  
380 to s. 1008.32.

381 Section 3. Section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is created  
382 to read:

383 1003.4282 College preparatory diploma graduation  
384 requirements.-

385 (1) Beginning with students entering their first year of  
386 high school in the 2010-2011 school year, graduation with a  
387 college preparatory diploma requires the successful completion  
388 of a minimum of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate  
389 curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of  
390 Education curriculum. Students must be advised of eligibility  
391 requirements for state scholarship programs and postsecondary  
392 admissions.

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

397 (a) Twenty core curriculum credits:

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

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

404 3. Four credits in science, which must include one credit  
405 in Biology I or in a series of courses that have been approved  
406 by the State Board of Education as equivalent to Biology I, one

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407 credit in physical science, and one credit in earth science,  
408 space science, or environmental science, or in a series of  
409 courses equivalent to life science, physical science, and earth  
410 science, space science, or environmental science. At least two  
411 of the science courses must have a laboratory component.

412 4. Four credits in social studies, which must include one  
413 credit in American history, one credit in world history, one-  
414 half credit in economics, and one-half credit in American  
415 government.

416 5. One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and  
417 debate, or practical arts that incorporates artistic content and  
418 techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination.  
419 Eligible practical arts courses shall be identified through the  
420 Course Code Directory.

421 6. One credit in physical education to include integration  
422 of health.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

452 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.  
453 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are  
454 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.  
455 1008.22(10).

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

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

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

464 (b) A student who completes the minimum number of credits



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465 and other requirements prescribed in subsections (1)-(3), but  
466 who is unable to meet the standards of paragraph (4) (b),  
467 paragraph (4) (c), or paragraph (4) (d), shall be awarded a  
468 certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State  
469 Board of Education. However, any student who is otherwise  
470 entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in  
471 the secondary school either as a full-time student or a part-  
472 time student for up to 1 additional year and receive special  
473 instruction designed to remedy his or her identified  
474 deficiencies.

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

479 Section 4. Section 1003.4283, Florida Statutes, is created  
480 to read:

481 1003.4283 Career preparatory diploma graduation  
482 requirements.-

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

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

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494 as follows:

495 (a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

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

498 2. Four credits in mathematics, which must include one  
499 credit in Algebra I or in a series of courses equivalent to  
500 Algebra I, one credit in geometry or in a series of courses  
501 equivalent to geometry, and one credit in a higher-level  
502 mathematics course.

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

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

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

520 6. One credit in physical education to include integration  
521 of health.

522 (b) Eight credits in majors, minors, or electives in a

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523 combination as provided in s. 1003.4286.

524 (3) (a) A district school board may require specific courses  
525 and programs of study within the minimum credit requirements for  
526 high school graduation and shall modify basic courses, as  
527 necessary, to ensure that exceptional students have the  
528 opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a career  
529 preparatory diploma, using one of the following strategies:

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

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

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

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

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

546 (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.  
547 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are  
548 concordant with passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s.  
549 1008.22(10).

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

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

555 (e) Earning a minimum score of 5 on all three Florida Ready  
556 to Work Certification Program assessments, as described in s.  
557 1004.99.

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

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

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

576 Section 5. Section 1003.4284, Florida Statutes, is created  
577 to read:

578 1003.4284 Graduation Exit Option Program; alternative  
579 diploma.—

580 (1) The Department of Education may implement a Graduation

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581 Exit Option Program under which a high school student shall be  
582 awarded an alternative diploma. To be eligible to participate in  
583 the program, a high school student must:

584 (a) Be at least 16 years old.

585 (b) Be enrolled in high school courses that meet high  
586 school graduation requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

609 (5) The department shall design the alternative diploma to

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610 distinguish the diploma from a standard diploma and a core  
611 diploma.

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

614 Section 6. Section 1003.4285, Florida Statutes, is amended  
615 to read:

616 1003.4285 ~~Standard~~ High school diploma designations.—By the  
617 2008-2009 school year, each ~~standard~~ high school diploma shall  
618 include, as applicable:

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

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

631 (3) A designation reflecting career education certification  
632 in accordance with s. 1003.431.

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

635 Section 7. Section 1003.4286, Florida Statutes, is created  
636 to read:

637 1003.4286 Major and minor areas of interest, electives,  
638 remediation; graduation requirements.—For purposes of credit

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639 requirements for high school graduation, students shall earn  
640 major or minor areas of interest or electives as follows:

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

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

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

665 (b) Elective courses are selected by a student in order to  
666 pursue a complete education program as described in s.  
667 1001.41(3) and to meet eligibility requirements for

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668 scholarships.

669 (c) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on  
670 FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an  
671 intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level  
672 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content  
673 area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be  
674 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall  
675 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and  
676 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading  
677 below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered  
678 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.  
679 1011.62(9).

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

686 Section 8. Section 1003.4287, Florida Statutes, is created  
687 to read:

688 1003.4287 Physical education and performing arts credit  
689 options; graduation requirements.—For purposes of credit  
690 requirements in physical education for high school graduation,  
691 participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity  
692 or varsity level for two full seasons shall satisfy the one-  
693 credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a  
694 competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or  
695 better. The competency test on personal fitness must be  
696 developed by the Department of Education. A district school



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697 board may not require that the one credit in physical education  
698 be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester  
699 with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a  
700 physical activity class that requires participation in marching  
701 band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance  
702 class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or  
703 one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used  
704 to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement  
705 for adaptive physical education under an individual education  
706 plan or 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a Reserve Officer  
707 Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of  
708 which is drills, shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in  
709 physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing  
710 arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal  
711 fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical  
712 education under an individual education plan or 504 plan.

713 Section 9. Section 1003.4288, Florida Statutes, is created  
714 to read:

715 1003.4288 Assistance in meeting grade point average  
716 requirements.—

717 (1) Each district school board shall adopt policies  
718 designed to assist students in meeting the grade point average  
719 requirements for high school graduation. These policies may  
720 include, but are not limited to, grade forgiveness, summer  
721 school attendance, before-school or after-school attendance,  
722 special counseling, volunteer or peer tutoring, school-sponsored  
723 help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills classes.

724 (2) A forgiveness policy for required courses shall be  
725 limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of

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

743 Section 10. Section 1003.4289, Florida Statutes, is created  
744 to read:

745 1003.4289 Accommodations and modifications of procedures  
746 for students with disabilities; graduation requirements.—For  
747 purposes of high school graduation:

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

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755 process skills.

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

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

766 (b) A student with a disability, as defined in s.  
767 1007.02(2), for whom the individual education plan committee  
768 determines that the FCAT cannot accurately measure the student's  
769 abilities taking into consideration all allowable  
770 accommodations, shall have the FCAT requirement of s.  
771 1003.428(4)(b), s. 1003.4281(4)(b), s. 1003.4282(4)(b), s.  
772 1003.4283(4)(b), or s. 1003.43(5)(a) waived for the purpose of  
773 receiving a high school diploma, if the student:

774 1. Completes the minimum number of credits and other  
775 requirements prescribed in s. 1003.428(1)-(3), s. 1003.4281(1)-  
776 (3), s. 1003.4282(1)-(3), s. 1003.4283(1)-(3), or s. 1003.43(1)  
777 and (4).

778 2. Does not meet the FCAT requirements of s.  
779 1003.428(4)(b), s. 1003.4281(4)(b), s. 1003.4282(4)(b), s.  
780 1003.4283(4)(b), or s. 1003.43(5)(a) after one opportunity in  
781 grade 10 and one opportunity in grade 11.

782 Section 11. Section 1003.4295, Florida Statutes, is created  
783 to read:

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1003.4295 Acceleration courses.-

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

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

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

1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.-

(1) Graduation requires successful completion of either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits shall be distributed as follows:

(j) One credit in physical education to include assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness. ~~Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level, for two full seasons, shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or better. The competency test on personal fitness must be developed by the Department of Education. A district school~~

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813 ~~board may not require that the one credit in physical education~~  
814 ~~be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester~~  
815 ~~with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a~~  
816 ~~physical activity class that requires participation in marching~~  
817 ~~band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a Reserve~~  
818 ~~Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class a significant component~~  
819 ~~of which is drills shall satisfy a one-half credit requirement~~  
820 ~~in physical education. This one-half credit may not be used to~~  
821 ~~satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for~~  
822 ~~adaptive physical education under an individual educational plan~~  
823 ~~(IEP) or 504 plan.~~

824  
825 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in  
826 social studies and one-half elective credit for student  
827 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service  
828 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of  
829 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in  
830 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for  
831 service provided as a result of court action. District school  
832 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer  
833 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the  
834 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving  
835 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course  
836 Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below  
837 the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation  
838 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as  
839 specified in a district school board's student progression plan.  
840 A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the  
841 requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as

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842 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual  
843 enrollment.

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

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

848 ~~1. Each district school board shall adopt policies designed~~  
849 ~~to assist students in meeting these requirements. These policies~~  
850 ~~may include, but are not limited to: forgiveness policies,~~  
851 ~~summer school or before or after school attendance, special~~  
852 ~~counseling, volunteer and/or peer tutors, school-sponsored help~~  
853 ~~sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills classes. Beginning~~  
854 ~~in the 2000-2001 school year and each year thereafter,~~  
855 ~~forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to~~  
856 ~~replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of~~  
857 ~~"D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of~~  
858 ~~a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in the same or~~  
859 ~~comparable course. Forgiveness policies for elective courses~~  
860 ~~shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the~~  
861 ~~equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or~~  
862 ~~higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned~~  
863 ~~subsequently in another course. Any course grade not replaced~~  
864 ~~according to a district school board forgiveness policy shall be~~  
865 ~~included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point~~  
866 ~~average required for graduation.~~

867 1.2. At the end of each semester, the parent of each  
868 student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade  
869 point average of less than 0.5 above the cumulative grade point  
870 average required for graduation shall be notified that the

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871 student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for  
872 graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the  
873 policies the district school board has in place to assist the  
874 student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

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

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

883 ~~(8) The State Board of Education, after a public hearing~~  
884 ~~and consideration, shall adopt rules based upon the~~  
885 ~~recommendations of the commissioner for the provision of test~~  
886 ~~accommodations and modifications of procedures as necessary for~~  
887 ~~students with disabilities which will demonstrate the student's~~  
888 ~~abilities rather than reflect the student's impaired sensory,~~  
889 ~~manual, speaking, or psychological process skills.~~

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

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

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900 diploma, award differentiated diplomas to those exceeding the  
901 prescribed minimums.

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

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

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

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

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



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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~~  
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 created  
948 to read:

949       1003.4305 Recognition of veterans; high school diploma.—

950       (1) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard high  
951 school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started high  
952 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

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958 awarding such diplomas.

959 (2) The Commissioner of Education may award a standard high  
960 school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started high  
961 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)~~(8) 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

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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 assessment  
994 program are to provide information needed to improve the public  
995 schools by enhancing the learning gains of all students and to  
996 inform parents of the educational progress of their public  
997 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

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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  
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

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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

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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

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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  
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 meet  
1124 the same testing requirements that a regular high school student  
1125 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

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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  
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 schedules  
1156 for the administration of statewide assessments and the  
1157 reporting of student test results. The commissioner shall, by  
1158 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



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1161 the upcoming school year. The testing and reporting schedules  
1162 shall require that:

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

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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 according  
 1245 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

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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

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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 Diploma  
1281 from the International Baccalaureate Office or an Advanced  
1282 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

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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 program  
1330 of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or  
1331 finalist but has not completed a program of community service as  
1332 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

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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

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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  
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.