

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to school attendance; amending s. 1003.21,
 3 F.S.; requiring that a student who is withdrawing from
 4 school be assigned a counselor or other school personnel
 5 to provide educational information until the student is 18
 6 years old; amending s. 1003.428, F.S.; requiring 9th
 7 graders and students who are withdrawing from school to
 8 receive instruction about the effects of withdrawing from
 9 high school and certain available options; providing an
 10 effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
 15 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1003.21 School attendance.--
 17 (1)

18 (c) A student who has not graduated and who attains the
 19 age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to
 20 compulsory school attendance after ~~beyond~~ the date upon which he
 21 or she attains that age if the student files a formal
 22 declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the
 23 district school board. Such ~~Public school~~ students ~~who have~~
 24 ~~attained the age of 16 years and who have not graduated~~ are
 25 subject to compulsory school attendance until the formal
 26 declaration of intent is filed with the district school board.
 27 The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school
 28 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential

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29 and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The
30 school district must notify the student's parent of receipt of
31 the student's declaration of intent to terminate school
32 enrollment. The student's guidance counselor or other school
33 personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student to
34 determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate
35 school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the
36 student in school. The student must be informed of opportunities
37 to continue his or her education in a different environment,
38 including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test
39 preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in
40 a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide
41 data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions
42 taken by schools to keep students enrolled. The school must also
43 assign a counselor or other school personnel to the student who
44 shall serve as a resource for educational information until the
45 student attains the age of 18.

46 Section 2. Present subsections (9) through (11) of section
47 1003.428, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (10)
48 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (9) is added to
49 that section to read:

50 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
51 revised.--

52 (9) Each student who is in the second semester of the 9th
53 grade and any student who is withdrawing from school without
54 graduating or transferring to another school must be given
55 instruction that includes a detailed discussion of:

56 (a) The value of a high school education, both financially

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57 and culturally;

58 (b) The alternative assessments, such as the SAT and the
59 ACT, the scores of which could help the student obtain a high
60 school diploma; and

61 (c) The options for secondary and postsecondary education
62 which are available, including secondary career and professional
63 academy opportunities, workforce training, and enrolling in a
64 community college or university, and the prerequisites to each,
65 with or without a diploma.

66 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.