



731304

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/17/2010	.	
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The Committee on Military Affairs and Domestic Security  
(Bennett) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 1003.452, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:

1003.452 The Florida National Guard Youth Challenge  
Program.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The Florida National Guard Youth Challenge  
Program is created as a community-based program for the purpose  
of leading, training, and mentoring at-risk youths to become  
productive citizens in the future.



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13           (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The program shall be jointly  
14 administered on a statewide basis by the Clay County School  
15 District, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of  
16 Children and Family Services, and the Florida National Guard.  
17 The program facilities shall be located at Camp Blanding  
18 Military Reservation.

19           (3) ELIGIBILITY.—High school dropouts who are between the  
20 ages of 16 years and 19 years, who have not been convicted of a  
21 felony, and who are drug free are eligible to participate in the  
22 program.

23           (4) PROGRAM DURATION.—

24           (a) The program shall consist of at least a 22-week  
25 residential component during which each student must raise his  
26 or her mathematics, science, and reading scores.

27           (b) After the residential component of the program, each  
28 student shall be assigned a case manager and a highly trained  
29 mentor for a period of at least 12 months.

30           (5) CORE ACADEMICS.—Each core academic course shall be  
31 taught in a traditional classroom setting by computer-assisted  
32 instructors or shall be taught virtually. The core academic  
33 courses must include, at a minimum:

34           (a) Mathematics;

35           (b) Communications;

36           (c) Science;

37           (d) Social studies; and

38           (e) Literature.

39           (6) OCCUPATIONAL OR TECHNICAL STUDIES.—The program must  
40 also include occupational or technical studies taught in  
41 cooperation with a technical training center or college that



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42 awards occupational or technical certificates.

43 (7) PHYSICAL TRAINING OR APPLIED HEALTH STUDIES.—The  
44 program must also include physical training or applied health  
45 studies.

46 (8) LEADERSHIP ROLES.—Students shall be prepared to assume  
47 leadership roles and demonstrate the principles of good  
48 followership and the value of collaborative effort.

49 (9) VOLUNTEERISM.—In addition to the program's academic  
50 requirements, each student shall be required to volunteer his or  
51 her service for the benefit of the student's community.

52 (10) INTERNSHIPS OR EMPLOYMENT.—Each student must also  
53 successfully work as an unpaid intern or paid worker during the  
54 12-month, postresidential component of the program in order to  
55 successfully complete the program.

56 (11) MENTORSHIP.—Each student must be paired with an  
57 individual who, through his or her accomplishments, rank, or  
58 social posture, serves as a positive role model and mentor who  
59 will help guide the student on a successful path to productivity  
60 and social assimilation.

61 (12) TESTING REQUIREMENTS.—Students must also pass all five  
62 sections of the General Education Development (GED) test and  
63 pass both parts of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test  
64 (FCAT).

65 (13) FUNDING.—The Department of Defense, through a  
66 cooperative agreement with the National Guard Bureau and the  
67 Florida National Guard, and in conjunction with the Department  
68 of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Family  
69 Services, shall provide for the costs associated with the  
70 program, including student housing, food, and clothing. The Clay



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71 County School District shall fund the instructional component of  
72 the program through funds provided in the Florida Education  
73 Finance Program.

74 Section 2. Section 1003.4282, Florida statutes, is created  
75 to read:

76 1003.4282 General education development exit option.-

77 (1) GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT EXIT OPTION.-The general  
78 education development (GED) exit option is a graduation strategy  
79 for students who are enrolled in the Florida National Guard  
80 Youth Challenge Program created in s. 1003.452 or programs  
81 offered by or under contract with the Department of Juvenile  
82 Justice and approved by the Department of Education.

83 (a) Eligibility.-To be eligible to participate in the GED  
84 exit option, a student must be enrolled in the Florida National  
85 Guard Youth Challenge Program or a selected program offered by  
86 or under contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice and  
87 approved by the Department of Education and must meet the  
88 following criteria:

89 1. Be enrolled in courses that meet high school graduation  
90 requirements.

91 2. Have been a drop-out student or currently be in the  
92 custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

93 3. Have earned acceptable scores on the official GED  
94 practice test administered under the student-testing conditions  
95 approved by the school district.

96 4. Have a student cumulative record that indicates that the  
97 GED exit option is the most appropriate educational program for  
98 the student.

99 (b) Exemption and requirements.-



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100       1. A student who participates in the GED exit option shall  
101 be exempt from the minimum graduation requirements prescribed  
102 for the standard high school diploma, including the grade point  
103 average and credit requirements. For exceptional education  
104 students, this exemption shall be included in the individual  
105 education plan.

106       2. Upon entering the GED exit option, a student who has not  
107 previously met the requirements for promotion to grade 10 shall  
108 be promoted to grade 10 to enable the student to take the grade  
109 10 FCAT.

110       3. A student who does not meet the requirements for high  
111 school graduation in grade 12 and who chooses to return for a  
112 13th year of school in order to participate in the GED exit  
113 option is not required to continue classes upon meeting the GED  
114 exit option requirements for graduation. After completing the  
115 requirements of the GED exit option, a student shall be  
116 considered a high school graduate. If the school district or  
117 school to which the student returns for a 13th year has  
118 implemented a program that requires a vocational component for  
119 graduation, the student may be required to complete this  
120 requirement in addition to the GED exit option requirements in  
121 order to be considered a high school graduate.

122       (c) Successful completion.-

123       1. To successfully complete the GED exit option and receive  
124 a standard high school diploma, a student must pass the GED test  
125 and all sections of the grade 10 FCAT. A student must also  
126 complete any vocational components included in an approved  
127 school program.

128       2. A student who participates in the GED exit option may



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129 not graduate before his or her cohort group.

130 (d) *Transcripts.*—The transcript shall identify only the  
131 actual credits earned, the successful completion of the FCAT  
132 requirements, and the date on which the diploma is awarded.

133 (2) HIGH SCHOOL GRADES.—A student who successfully  
134 completes the GED exit option and receives a high school  
135 equivalency diploma shall be included in the high school grade  
136 calculated by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1008.34  
137 as if the student had completed the requirements for high school  
138 graduation prescribed in s. 1003.43.

139 Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), (3), (4), and (6) of  
140 section 1003.435, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

141 1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.—

142 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that  
143 prescribe performance standards and provide for comprehensive  
144 examinations to be administered to candidates for high school  
145 equivalency diplomas. Such rules shall include, but are not  
146 limited to, eligibility requirements, provisions for fees,  
147 frequency of examinations, and procedures for retaking an  
148 examination upon unsatisfactory performance.

149 (2) The department may award, or may authorize a district  
150 school board to award, high school equivalency diplomas to  
151 candidates who meet the performance standards prescribed by the  
152 State Board of Education.

153 (3) (a) Each district school board shall offer and  
154 administer the high school equivalency diploma examinations and  
155 the subject area examinations to all candidates pursuant to  
156 rules of the State Board of Education.

157 (b) A district school board may participate in a program



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158 leading to the award of a high school equivalency diploma to  
159 students who are currently enrolled in K-12 public schools,  
160 pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

161 (4) A candidate for a high school equivalency diploma shall  
162 be at least 18 years of age on the date of the examination,  
163 except that in extraordinary circumstances, as provided for in  
164 rules of the district school board of the district in which the  
165 candidate resides or attends school, a candidate may take the  
166 examination after reaching the age of 16. The State Board of  
167 Education may adopt rules establishing conditions under which a  
168 student who is enrolled in a K-12 public school may take the  
169 examination before the student reaches 18 years of age if the  
170 student is participating in a program leading to the award of a  
171 high school equivalency diploma.

172 (6) (a) Except as otherwise provided in s. 1008.34, all high  
173 school equivalency diplomas issued under the provisions of this  
174 section shall have equal status with other high school diplomas  
175 for all state purposes, including admission to any state  
176 university or community college.

177 (b) The State Board of Education may ~~shall~~ adopt rules  
178 providing for the award of a standard high school diploma to  
179 holders of high school equivalency diplomas who are assessed as  
180 meeting designated criteria, and the commissioner shall  
181 establish procedures for administering the assessment.

182 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
183 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

184 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;  
185 district grade.—

186 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—



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187 (c) Student assessment data used in determining school  
188 grades shall include:

189 1. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled  
190 in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT.

191 2. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled  
192 in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT and who have  
193 scored at or in the lowest 25th percentile of students in the  
194 school in reading, mathematics, or writing, unless these  
195 students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

196 3. Effective with the 2005-2006 school year, the  
197 achievement scores and learning gains of eligible students  
198 attending alternative schools that provide dropout prevention  
199 and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53. The  
200 term "eligible students" in this subparagraph does not include  
201 students attending an alternative school who are subject to  
202 district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or  
203 serious offenses, who are in dropout retrieval programs serving  
204 students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who  
205 are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of  
206 Juvenile Justice. The student performance data for eligible  
207 students identified in this subparagraph shall be included in  
208 the calculation of the home school's grade. As used in this  
209 section and s. 1008.341, the term "home school" means the school  
210 to which the student would be assigned if the student were not  
211 assigned to an alternative school. If an alternative school  
212 chooses to be graded under this section, student performance  
213 data for eligible students identified in this subparagraph shall  
214 not be included in the home school's grade but shall be included  
215 only in the calculation of the alternative school's grade. A





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216 school district that fails to assign the FCAT scores of each of  
217 its students to his or her home school or to the alternative  
218 school that receives a grade shall forfeit Florida School  
219 Recognition Program funds for 1 fiscal year. School districts  
220 must require collaboration between the home school and the  
221 alternative school in order to promote student success. This  
222 collaboration must include an annual discussion between the  
223 principal of the alternative school and the principal of each  
224 student's home school concerning the most appropriate school  
225 assignment of the student.

226 4. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year for schools  
227 comprised of high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10,  
228 11, and 12, the data listed in subparagraphs 1.-3. and the  
229 following data as the Department of Education determines such  
230 data are valid and available:

231 a. The high school graduation rate of the school as  
232 calculated by the Department of Education;

233 b. The participation rate of all eligible students enrolled  
234 in the school and enrolled in College Board Advanced Placement  
235 courses; International Baccalaureate courses; dual enrollment  
236 courses; Advanced International Certificate of Education  
237 courses; and courses or sequence of courses leading to industry  
238 certification, as determined by the Agency for Workforce  
239 Innovation under s. 1003.492(2) in a career and professional  
240 academy, as described in s. 1003.493;

241 c. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled  
242 in the school in College Board Advanced Placement courses,  
243 International Baccalaureate courses, and Advanced International  
244 Certificate of Education courses;



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245 d. Earning of college credit by all eligible students  
246 enrolled in the school in dual enrollment programs under s.  
247 1007.271;

248 e. Earning of an industry certification, as determined by  
249 the Agency for Workforce Innovation under s. 1003.492(2) in a  
250 career and professional academy, as described in s. 1003.493;

251 f. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled  
252 in the school in reading, mathematics, and other subjects as  
253 measured by the SAT, the ACT, and the common placement test for  
254 postsecondary readiness;

255 g. The high school graduation rate of all eligible at-risk  
256 students enrolled in the school who scored at Level 2 or lower  
257 on the grade 8 FCAT Reading and Mathematics examinations;

258 h. The performance of the school's students on statewide  
259 standardized end-of-course assessments administered under s.  
260 1008.22; and

261 i. The growth or decline in the data components listed in  
262 sub-subparagraphs a.-h. from year to year.

263 j. Beginning in 2010-2011, schools may earn additional  
264 points towards their school grade if a significant percentage of  
265 students not earning a standard diploma pursuant to s. 1003.43  
266 earn a High School Equivalency Diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435.  
267 The state Board of Education may elect to afford greater weight  
268 to diplomas awarded pursuant to s. 1003.435(3)(b) than is  
269 granted to other equivalency diplomas.

270  
271 The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate criteria  
272 for each school grade. The criteria must also give added weight  
273 to student achievement in reading. Schools designated with a



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274 grade of "C," making satisfactory progress, shall be required to  
275 demonstrate that adequate progress has been made by students in  
276 the school who are in the lowest 25th percentile in reading,  
277 mathematics, or writing on the FCAT, unless these students are  
278 exhibiting satisfactory performance. Beginning with the 2009-  
279 2010 school year for schools comprised of high school grades 9,  
280 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12, the criteria for  
281 school grades must also give added weight to the graduation rate  
282 of all eligible at-risk students, as defined in this paragraph.  
283 Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, in order for a high  
284 school to be designated as having a grade of "A," making  
285 excellent progress, the school must demonstrate that at-risk  
286 students, as defined in this paragraph, in the school are making  
287 adequate progress.

288 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 2, 2010.

289  
290 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

291 And the title is amended as follows:

292 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
293 and insert:

294 A bill to be entitled  
295 An act relating to high school graduation; creating s.  
296 1003.452, F.S.; establishing the Florida National  
297 Guard Youth Challenge Program for the purpose of  
298 training and mentoring certain high school dropouts;  
299 requiring that the Clay County School District, the  
300 Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of  
301 Children and Family Services, and the Florida National  
302 Guard jointly administer the program; providing for



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303 the program to be located at Camp Blanding Military  
304 Reservation; requiring that certain core academic  
305 courses be taught; requiring that the program include  
306 occupational or technical studies and physical  
307 training or applied health studies; requiring that  
308 students be prepared to assume leadership roles and  
309 demonstrate the principles of followership; requiring  
310 that each student volunteer to benefit his or her  
311 community and work as an unpaid intern or paid  
312 employee in order to successfully complete the  
313 program; providing for a residential and  
314 postresidential component of the program; providing  
315 for mentorship; requiring that students pass all  
316 sections of the General Education Development test and  
317 both parts of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment  
318 Test; providing for funding the program; creating s.  
319 1003.4282, F.S.; establishing the general education  
320 development exit option for the purpose of providing  
321 an alternative route to receiving a standard high  
322 school diploma for students who are enrolled in the  
323 Florida National Guard Youth Challenge Program or  
324 programs offered by or under contract with the  
325 Department of Juvenile Justice and approved by the  
326 Department of Education; specifying eligibility  
327 requirements for student participation; providing  
328 certain exemptions and requirements for successful  
329 completion of the GED exit option; requiring that a  
330 student's transcript identify certain information  
331 regarding the program; requiring that the Department



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332 of Education include the program in its calculation of  
333 the high school graduation rate; amending s. 1003.435,  
334 F.S.; revising provisions relating to the high school  
335 equivalency diploma program; providing for the  
336 Department of Education to authorize a district school  
337 board to award high school equivalency diplomas;  
338 authorizing a district school board to participate in  
339 a program for students who are currently enrolled in  
340 K-12 public schools to be awarded high school  
341 equivalency diplomas; authorizing the State Board of  
342 Education to adopt rules establishing conditions for  
343 taking an examination to receive a high school  
344 equivalency diploma; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.;;  
345 revising provisions relating to the student assessment  
346 data used in determining school grades; providing that  
347 a school may earn additional points toward its grade  
348 if a significant percentage of the school's students  
349 are earning high school equivalency diplomas in lieu  
350 of standard diplomas; providing an effective date.