

By Senator Sobel

31-00475-10

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

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

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

16       1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;  
17 revised.—

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

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

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

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

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

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30 laboratory component.

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

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

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

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59 in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the  
60 personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive  
61 physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or  
62 504 plan.

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

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

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

85 2. Three and one-half ~~Four~~ credits in elective courses  
86 selected by the student as part of the education plan required  
87 by s. 1003.4156. These credits may be combined to allow for a

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88 second major area of interest pursuant to subparagraph 1., a  
89 minor area of interest, elective courses, or intensive reading  
90 or mathematics intervention courses as described in this  
91 subparagraph.

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

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

99 c. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on  
100 FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an  
101 intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level  
102 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content  
103 area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be  
104 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall  
105 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and  
106 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading  
107 below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered  
108 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.  
109 1011.62(9).

110 d. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or  
111 Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive  
112 remediation the following year. These courses may be taught  
113 through applied, integrated, or combined courses and are subject  
114 to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code  
115 Directory.

116 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.