

By Senator Detert

23-00941A-11

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to high school accountability;
3 amending ss. 1003.435 and 1008.34 F.S.; revising
4 provisions relating to the high school equivalency
5 diploma program and the school rating system to
6 include students who receive a high school equivalency
7 diploma in the high school graduation rates for
8 purposes of determining a school's grade; providing an
9 effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 1003.435, Florida
14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.—

16 (6) (a) All high school equivalency diplomas issued under
17 the provisions of this section shall have equal status with
18 other high school diplomas for all state purposes, including
19 admission to any state university or community college.

20 (b) Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, students who
21 earn a high school equivalency diploma shall be included in the
22 high school graduation rate for purposes of determining a
23 school's grade pursuant to s. 1008.34(3)(b).

24 (c) ~~(b)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
25 providing for the award of a standard high school diploma to
26 holders of high school equivalency diplomas who are assessed as
27 meeting designated criteria, and the commissioner shall
28 establish procedures for administering the assessment.

29 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section

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30 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

31 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;
32 district grade.—

33 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

34 (b)1. A school's grade shall be based on a combination of:

35 a. Student achievement scores, including achievement on all
36 FCAT assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3)(c)1., end-of-
37 course assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a., and
38 achievement scores for students seeking a special diploma.

39 b. Student learning gains in reading and mathematics as
40 measured by FCAT and end-of-course assessments, as described in
41 s. 1008.22(3)(c)1. and 2.a. Learning gains for students seeking
42 a special diploma, as measured by an alternate assessment tool,
43 shall be included not later than the 2009-2010 school year.

44 c. Improvement of the lowest 25th percentile of students in
45 the school in reading and mathematics on the FCAT or end-of-
46 course assessments described in s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a., unless
47 these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

48 2. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year for schools
49 comprised of high school grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10,
50 11, and 12, 50 percent of the school grade shall be based on a
51 combination of the factors listed in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-c.
52 and the remaining 50 percent on the following factors:

53 a. The high school graduation rate of the school. Beginning
54 with the 2011-2012 school year, at least 75 percent of the
55 students who earn a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to
56 s. 1003.435 shall be included in the calculation of the high
57 school graduation rate;

58 b. As valid data becomes available, the performance and

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59 participation of the school's students in College Board Advanced
60 Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, dual
61 enrollment courses, and Advanced International Certificate of
62 Education courses; and the students' achievement of national
63 industry certification identified in the Industry Certification
64 Funding List, pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of
65 Education;

66 c. Postsecondary readiness of the school's students as
67 measured by the SAT, ACT, or the common placement test;

68 d. The high school graduation rate of at-risk students who
69 scored at Level 2 or lower on the grade 8 FCAT Reading and
70 Mathematics examinations;

71 e. As valid data becomes available, the performance of the
72 school's students on statewide standardized end-of-course
73 assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.b. and c.; and

74 f. The growth or decline in the components listed in sub-
75 subparagraphs a.-e. from year to year.

76 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.