

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

BILL: SB 1996

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K -12 Committee

SUBJECT: Student Assessment

DATE: March 14, 2011 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carrouth	Matthews	ED	Favorable
2.			BC	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

The bill repeals the requirement for students who took Algebra I in the middle grades from 2007-2008 through 2009-2010 to take the Algebra I end-of-course assessment in the 2010-2011 school year. Approximately 39,600 students would not have to take the Algebra I assessment, in some cases several years after taking the Algebra I course.

This bill amends section 1008.22(3) of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The 2010 Legislature enacted legislation to require students to take the statewide end-course-assessment (EOC) for Algebra I, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year.¹ Although students have been required to take and pass the Algebra I course for high school graduation, students were not previously required to take an EOC associated with the course. The Algebra I EOC, for the 2010-2011 school year, will count toward 30 percent of the student's grade, and beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, a student must pass the EOC in order to earn the required credit for the course.²

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, the Algebra I EOC will replace the mathematics portion of the 10th grade FCAT.³ Federal law requires that all public school students be tested in reading

¹ ch. 2010-22, L.O.F.

² s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a.(I), F.S.

³ s. 1008.22(3)(c)1., F.S.

and mathematics at least once at the elementary, middle, and high school level.⁴ To comply with federal law, the law requires that students who earned high school credit for Algebra I while in middle school in the 2007-08 through 2009-10 school years and who have not taken the 10th grade mathematics FCAT to take the Algebra I EOC.⁵ This provision was enacted to satisfy the federal testing requirements. The Department of Education estimates that approximately 39,600 students completed Algebra I in the middle grades, did not take the 10th grade FCAT in mathematics, and would be required to take the Algebra I EOC in May, 2010.⁶

Although students who take high school level courses in the middle grades will, most likely, enroll in sequentially more rigorous courses, some school districts raised concerns that the lapse in time between taking the course in middle school and sitting for the EOC in high school would be unfair. As a result, the Department of Education (Department) submitted a request to the USDOE for a waiver from the federal law for the specific cohort of students who would have been affected. The waiver was granted on January 19, 2001.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill would repeal the requirement for approximately 39,600 students, who previously took the Algebra I course in the middle grades, but must take the Algebra I assessment in 2010-2011. The bill would enact the waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Education for these students.

If the bill is not enacted before the spring administration of the Algebra I assessment, currently scheduled for early May, the bill will be moot.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

⁴ See Section 1111(b)(3)(C)(v)(I)(cc) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html>.

⁵ s. 8, ch. 2010-22, L.O.F., codified in s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a.(I), F.S.

⁶ Email correspondence from the Department of Education, on file with the committee.

⁷ Letter to Commissioner of Education Eric Smith from the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, on file with the committee.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the Department of Education (DOE), there is no expected fiscal impact at this time. The DOE's contract for the end-of-course assessments allows for the number of students taking the Algebra I end-of-course assessment to be 241,579 students. If the number of students taking the assessment is more than five percent above the contract number, there could be an increase in cost. However, the contract does not provide for a reduction in price if fewer students take the Algebra I EOC.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.