

**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 Committee on Education

**BILL:** CS/SB 1406

**INTRODUCER:** Criminal Justice Committee and Senator Bean

**SUBJECT:** Juvenile Justice Education Programs

**DATE:** April 19, 2013      **REVISED:** \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Dugger	Cannon	CJ	Fav/CS
2.	McLaughlin	Klebacha	ED	Pre-meeting
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:**

A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE.....  Statement of Substantial Changes

B. AMENDMENTS.....  Technical amendments were recommended

Amendments were recommended

Significant amendments were recommended

**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1406 makes changes to the provisions of law governing the accountability, deliverance, and review of juvenile justice education programs that provide educational services to students within the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

The bill revises the accountability of juvenile justice education programs by:

- Requiring the Department of Education (DOE), in partnership with the DJJ, to develop a comprehensive accountability and school improvement process;
- Requiring the DOE, in consultation with the DJJ, district school boards, and providers, to adopt rules for objective and measurable student performance measures and program performance ratings for the delivery of educational services by prevention, day treatment, and residential programs;
- Requiring the DJJ, in consultation with DOE, to publish by March 1 of each year a report on program costs and effectiveness, educational performance of students, and recommendations for modification or elimination of programs or program activities; and
- Requiring the DOE, in partnership with the DJJ, district school boards, and providers, to develop and implement requirements for contracts and cooperative agreements regarding the delivery of appropriate education services to students in DJJ programs.

The bill revises provisions related to juvenile justice programs by:

- Requiring school districts and juvenile justice education providers, in collaboration with others, to develop a transition plan during a student's stay in a program;
- Requiring the DOE and the DJJ to provide oversight and guidance on how to implement effective educational transition planning and services;
- Requiring prevention and day treatment programs to provide career readiness and exploration opportunities, as well as truancy and dropout prevention intervention services;
- Requiring residential juvenile justice education programs with a contracted minimum length of stay of nine months to provide career education courses that lead to preapprentice certifications, industry certifications, occupational completion points, or work-related certifications;
- Allowing residential juvenile justice programs with a contract length of stay of less than nine months, to provide career education courses that lead to preapprentice certifications, industry certifications, occupational completion points, or work-related certifications; and
- Requiring the multiagency plan for career education to eliminate barriers to education and address virtual education.

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 985.622, 985.632, 1001.31, 1001.42, 1003.51, and 1003.52.

## II. Present Situation:

### Multiagency Plan for Career Education

Current law requires the DJJ and the DOE, in consultation with the statewide Workforce Development Youth Council, school districts, providers, and others, to develop a multiagency plan (plan) for vocational education in commitment facilities.<sup>1</sup>

The plan must include:

- Provisions for maximizing appropriate state and federal funding sources, responsibilities of both departments and all other appropriate entities and detailed implementation schedules;<sup>2</sup>
- A definition of vocational programming that is appropriate based upon the age and assessed educational abilities and goals of the youth to be served and the typical length of stay, and custody characteristics at the commitment program to which each youth is assigned;<sup>3</sup> and
- A definition of vocational programming that includes the classifications of commitment facilities that will offer vocational programming by one of the following types:
  - Type A - Programs that teach personal accountability skills and behavior that is appropriate for youth in all age groups and ability levels and that lead to work habits that help maintain employment and living standards;
  - Type B - Programs that include Type A program content and an orientation to the broad scope of career choices, based upon personal abilities, aptitudes, and interest; and

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<sup>1</sup> Section 985.622(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 985.622(1)(a) and (c), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 985.622(2), F.S.

- Type C - Programs that include Type A program content and the vocational competencies or the prerequisites needed for entry into a specific occupation.<sup>4</sup>

In October 2010, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) issued a report stating that the plan had several shortcomings. According to OPPAGA, the plan lacked goals and implementation strategies for increasing the percentage of youth receiving occupation-specific job training. Also, the plan did not address the barriers that juvenile justice students face in attaining a general educational development (GED) diploma.<sup>5</sup> The OPPAGA found that many juvenile justice programs emphasized academic instruction rather than GED preparation and job training. The OPPAGA recommended that the Legislature amend s. 985.622, F.S., to address the shortcomings found in the plan.

### **Educational Services in DJJ Programs**

Current law sets forth how educational services must be provided in DJJ programs and establishes the educational expectations for DJJ youth in such programs.<sup>6</sup>

The DOE is the lead agency for juvenile justice education programs, curriculum, support services, and resources; however, district school boards are responsible for actually providing educational services to youth in juvenile justice programs.<sup>7</sup> Educational services consist of basic academic, career, or exceptional curricula that support treatment goals and reentry, and that may lead to the completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent.<sup>8</sup>

These services can be provided by the district school board itself or by a private provider through a contract with the district school board.<sup>9</sup> However, school districts remain responsible for the quality of education provided in residential and day treatment juvenile justice facilities regardless of whether the school district provides those services directly or through a contractor.<sup>10</sup>

Annually, the DJJ and the DOE must develop a cooperative agreement and plan for juvenile justice education service enhancement, which must be submitted to the Secretary of the DJJ and the Commissioner of Education.<sup>11</sup>

Each district school board must negotiate a cooperative agreement with the DJJ regarding the delivery of educational programming to DJJ youth. These agreements must include provisions that address certain issues, such as:

- Curriculum and delivery of instruction;

<sup>4</sup> Section 985.622(3), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *Juvenile Justice Students Face Barriers to High School Graduation and Job Training*, Report No. 10-55, at 9 (2010) available at <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1055rpt.pdf>. (last visited April 17, 2013.)

<sup>6</sup> Section 1003.52, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Sections 1003.52(1), (3), and (4), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 1003.52(5), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1003.52(11), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *Youth Entering the State's Juvenile Justice Programs Have Substantial Educational Deficits; Available Data Is Insufficient to Assess Learning Gains of Students*, Report No. 10-07 (2010), available at <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/Summary.aspx?reportNum=10-07>. (last visited April 17, 2013.)

<sup>11</sup> Section 1003.52 (1), F.S.

- Classroom management procedures and attendance policies;
- Procedures for provision of qualified instructional personnel;
- Improving skills in teaching and working with juvenile delinquents;
- Transition plans for students moving into and out of juvenile facilities; and
- Strategies for correcting any deficiencies found through the quality assurance process.<sup>12</sup>

The DOE and the DJJ must each designate a coordinator to resolve issues not addressed by the district school boards and to provide each department's participation in:

- Training, collaborating, and coordinating with the DJJ, district school boards, educational contract providers, and juvenile justice providers, whether state-operated or contracted;
- Collecting and reporting information on the academic performance of students in juvenile justice programs;
- Developing academic and career protocols that provide guidance to district school boards and providers in educational programming; and
- Prescribing the roles of program personnel and school district or provider collaboration strategies.<sup>13</sup>

### **Accountability and Reporting**

The DOE and the DJJ, after consulting with the district school boards and local providers, must report annually to the Legislature on the progress toward developing effective educational programs for youth in the juvenile justice system. This report must include the results of the quality assessment reviews, including recommendations for system improvement.<sup>14</sup> In its annual report to the Legislature, the DOE made several recommendations to address educational accountability and improvement such as:

- Continue to develop a juvenile justice education accountability system for programs and explore a process in which high-performing programs are recognized and low-performing programs receive assistance;
- Develop a customized school improvement plan template for programs;
- Continue to support improvement in transition services for youth in juvenile justice education through the maintenance of an accurate statewide transition contact list;
- Provide additional training and support to programs to improve their efforts with the Basic Achievement Skills Inventory administration, data reporting, and data interpretation;
- Continue to identify effective program practices and resources for students in need of academic remediation and credit recovery;
- Continue to identify academic curriculum, resources, and instructional practices related to high academic achievement for all students while incarcerated; and
- Continue to collaborate efforts among the DOE, the DJJ, school districts, and private providers to ensure appropriate and effective education for youth in juvenile justice programs.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Section 1003.52(13), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 1003.52(1), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 1003.52(19), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Developing Effective Education in Department of Juvenile Justice and other Dropout Prevention Programs*, Annual Report 2009-2010, at 13 (2011), available at [http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/ji\\_annual.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/ji_annual.pdf). (last visited April 17, 2013.)

The OPPAGA issued another report in 2010 examining educational services provided to youth in DJJ residential and day treatment programs. The OPPAGA found that most students entering juvenile justice programs were older, academically behind their peers, and were likely to have had attendance problems at school. The OPPAGA found that DOE had not collected sufficient information to assess the learning gains (or lack thereof) of students in juvenile justice programs. Only 48 of the 141 programs (34 percent) reported complete information for at least half of their students. For those programs that did report data, the nature of the assessment instrument made it difficult to determine whether students were making appropriate educational progress. The OPPAGA recommended that the Legislature amend s. 1003.52(3)(b), F.S., to require that the DOE make annual status reports to the Legislature on the learning gains of students in juvenile justice facilities and the steps it has taken to ensure the completeness and reliability of juvenile justice student performance data.<sup>16</sup>

The DJJ is required to annually collect and report cost data for every program that is state-operated or contracted by the department. The DJJ is responsible for accurate cost accounting for state operated services including market-equivalent rent and other shared cost. The cost of the educational program provided to a residential facility must be reported and included in the cost of the DJJ program. The cost-benefit analysis for each educational program will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the DOE, local providers, and local school districts. Cost data for the report must include data collected by the DOE for the purpose of preparing the annual report required pursuant to s. 1003.52(19), F.S., relating to developing effective educational progress for juvenile delinquents.<sup>17</sup>

The DOE, in consultation with the DJJ, district school boards, and providers must establish objective and measurable quality assurance standards for the educational components of residential and nonresidential juvenile justice facilities.<sup>18</sup> The quality assurance standards and indicators are revised annually for juvenile justice education programs, based on new statutory and regulatory requirements, best practices research, and input from school districts and educational providers.<sup>19</sup> These standards must rate the district school boards' performance both as a provider and contractor.<sup>20</sup>

### **Transition Plan and Reentry Plan**

Currently, an individual transition plan is developed for each student entering a DJJ commitment, day treatment, early delinquency intervention, or detention program.<sup>21</sup> The transition plan is based on the student's post-placement goals that are developed cooperatively

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<sup>16</sup> Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *Youth Entering the State's Juvenile Justice Program Have Substantial Educational Deficits; Available Data is Insufficient to Assess Learning Gains of Students*, Report No. 10-07, at 8 (Jan. 2010), available at [www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1007rpt.pdf](http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1007rpt.pdf). (last visited April 17, 2013.)

<sup>17</sup> Section 985.632, F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section 1003.52(15)(a), F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Developing Effective Education in Department of Juvenile Justice and other Dropout Prevention Programs*, Annual Report 2009-2010 (2011), available at [www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/ij\\_annual.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/ij_annual.pdf). (last visited April 17, 2013.)

<sup>20</sup> Section 1003.52(15)(a), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Section 1003.52(13)(i); Rule 6A-6.05281, F.A.C.

with the student, his or her parents, school district and or contracted provider personnel, and the DJJ program staff. Re-entry counselors, probation officers, and personnel from the student's "home" school district are involved in the transition planning to the extent practicable.<sup>22</sup> The transition plan also includes a student's academic record, including each course completed by the student according to procedures in the State Course Code Directory, career re-entry goals maintained by the school district, and recommended educational placement. An exit plan is also conducted for each student. A copy of the academic records, student assessment, individual academic plan, work and project samples, and the transition plan is included in the discharge packet when the student exits a DJJ facility.<sup>23</sup>

### **Teachers in Juvenile Justice Programs**

District school boards must recruit and train teachers who are interested, qualified, or experienced in educating students in juvenile justice programs. Students in juvenile justice programs must be provided a wide range of educational programs and opportunities including textbooks, technology, instructional support, and other resources available to students in public schools. Teachers assigned to educational programs in juvenile justice settings in which the district school board operates the educational program must be selected by the district school board in consultation with the director of the juvenile justice facility. Educational programs in juvenile justice facilities must have access to the substitute teacher pool utilized by the district school board.<sup>24</sup>

## **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

### **Multiagency Plan for Career Education**

The bill expands the requirement of the plan to address all educational programs, not just education programs in commitment facilities. The plan must:

- Include provisions for eliminating barriers to increasing occupation-specific job training and high school equivalency examination preparation opportunities; and
- Evaluate the effect that students' mobility between juvenile justice education programs and school districts has on the students' educational outcomes, and whether the continuity of the students' education can be better addressed through virtual education.

The bill also revises implementation dates for the DOE and the DJJ to align respective agency reporting documents to the revised plan for career education.

### **Educational Services in DJJ Programs**

The bill revises the responsibilities of the DOE and the DJJ designated coordinators to include:

- Training, collaboration, and coordinating with local workforce boards and youth councils;
- Collecting information on the career education and transition performance of students in juvenile justice programs, and reporting the results; and

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<sup>22</sup> Email, Florida Department of Education, Governmental Relation Office (Feb. 8, 2012).

<sup>23</sup> Section 1003.52(10), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> Section 1003.52(10), F.S.

- Implementing a joint accountability, program performance, and school improvement system.

The bill also:

- Requires prevention and day treatment juvenile justice education programs, at a minimum, to provide career readiness and exploration opportunities as well as truancy and dropout prevention intervention services;
- Requires residential juvenile justice education programs with a contracted minimum length of stay of nine months to provide career education courses that lead to preapprentice certifications, industry certifications, occupational completion points, or work-related certifications; and
- Allows residential programs with contract lengths of stay of less than nine months to provide career education courses that lead to preapprentice certifications, industry certifications, occupational completion points, or work-related certifications.

The bill defines the educational component of programs with a duration of less than 40 days to include:

- Tutorial remediation activities;
- Career employability skills;
- Education counseling; and
- Transition services that prepare students for a return to school, the community, and their home setting based on the students' needs.

The bill requires educational programs to provide instruction based on each student's transition plan, assessed educational needs, and the educational programs available in the school district in which the student will return. Depending on the student's needs, educational programming may consist of remedial courses, academic courses required for grade advancement, career education courses, and high school equivalency examination preparation. Students may also be eligible for exceptional student education curricula and related services which support the transition goals and reentry, and which may lead to completion of the requirements for receipt of a high school diploma or its equivalent.

The bill requires that the DJJ and the DOE annual cooperative agreement and plan for juvenile justice education service enhancement include each agency's role regarding educational program accountability, technical assistance, training, and coordination of service.

### **Accountability and Reporting**

The bill requires the DOE to establish and operate, either directly or indirectly through a contract, a mechanism to provide accountability measures that annually assess and evaluate all juvenile justice education programs using student performance data and program performance ratings by type of program.

The DOE, in partnership with the DJJ, must develop a comprehensive accountability and program improvement process. The accountability and program improvement process must be based on student performance measures by type of program and must rate education program performance. The accountability system must identify and recognize high-performing education

programs.

The DOE, in partnership with the DJJ, must identify low-performing education programs. Low-performing education programs must receive an onsite program evaluation from the DJJ. Identification of education programs needing school improvement, technical assistance, or reassignment of the program must be based, in part on the results of the program evaluation. Through a corrective action process, low-performing education programs must demonstrate improvement or the program must be reassigned to the district or another provider.

The DJJ must:

- Provide cost and effectiveness information on programs and program activities in order to compare, improve, or eliminate a program or program activity if necessary;
- Provide program and program activity cost and effectiveness data to the Legislature in order for resources to be allocated for achieving desired performance outcomes;
- Provide information to the public concerning program and program activity cost and effectiveness;
- Implement a system of accountability in order to provide the best and most appropriate program and activities to meet client needs; and
- Continue to improve service delivery.

The DJJ, in consultation with the DOE, must publish by March 1 of each year a report on program costs and effectiveness. The report must include uniform cost data for each program operated by the DJJ and by providers under contract with the DJJ. The DOE is required to provide cost data on each education program operated by a school district or a provider under contract with a school district. The report must also include data on student learning gains, as provided by the DOE, for all juvenile justice education programs, educational performance information, developing effective education programs, cost-effectiveness, and recommendations for modification or elimination of programs or program activities.

The DOE, in consultation with the DJJ, district school boards, and providers must establish by rule:

- Objective and measurable student performance measures to evaluate a student's educational progress while participating in a prevention, day treatment, or residential program. The student performance measures must be based on appropriate outcomes for all students in juvenile justice programs, taking into consideration the student's length of stay in the program. Performance measures must include outcomes that relate to student achievement of career education goals, acquisition of employability skills, receipt of a high school diploma, grade advancement, and learning gains;
- A performance rating system to be used by the DOE to evaluate the delivery of educational services within each of the juvenile justice education programs. The performance rating system must be primarily based upon data regarding student performance as described above; and
- The timeframes, procedures, and resources to be used to improve a low-rated educational program or to terminate or reassign the program.



The bill requires that education program performance results, including the identification of high and low-performing programs and aggregated student performance results, be included in the DOE and the DJJ annual report on the progress toward developing effective educational programs.

The DOE, in collaboration with the DJJ, must monitor and report on the educational performance of students in commitment, day treatment, prevention, and detention programs. The report must include, at a minimum, the number and percentage of students:

- Returning to an alternative school, middle school, or high school upon release and the attendance rate of such students before and after participation in juvenile justice education programs;
- Receiving a standard high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma;
- Receiving industry certification;
- Receiving occupational completion points;
- Enrolling in a postsecondary educational institution;
- Completing a juvenile justice education program without reoffending;
- Reoffending within one year after completing a day treatment or residential commitment program; and
- Remaining employed one year after completion of a day treatment or residential commitment program.

The results of the educational performance report must be included in the program costs and effectiveness report.

### **Transition Plan and Reentry Plan**

The bill requires a transition plan to include, at a minimum:

- Services and interventions that address the student's assessed educational needs and postrelease education plans;
- Services to be provided during the program stay and services to be implemented upon release, including but not limited to, continuing education in secondary, career and technical programs, postsecondary education, or employment, based on the student's needs; and
- Specific monitoring responsibilities to determine whether the individualized transition plan is being implemented and the student is provided access to support services that will sustain the student's success, coordinated by individuals who are responsible for reintegration.

The DOE and the DJJ must provide oversight and guidance to school districts, education providers, and reentry personnel on how to implement effective educational transition planning and services. The bill also requires upon a student's return from a program, school districts to consider the individual needs and circumstances of the student and the transition plan recommendations when reenrolling a student in a public school. A local school district may not maintain a standardized policy for all students returning from a juvenile justice program, but place students based on their needs and their performance in the program.

The bill requires that representatives from the workforce and the one stop center where the student will return participate as members of the local DJJ reentry team.

### **Teachers in Juvenile Justice Programs**

Under the bill, State Board of Education (SBE) rules for qualification of instructional staff must include career education instructors, standardized across the state, and be based on state certification, local school district approval, and industry recognized credentials or industry training. The bill also requires the establishment of procedures for the use of noncertified instructional personnel who possess expert knowledge or experience in their fields of instruction.

The bill also allows the Secretary of the DJJ or the director of a juvenile justice program to request that the performance of a teacher assigned by the district to a juvenile justice education program be reviewed by the district and that the teacher be reassigned based upon an evaluation conducted pursuant to s. 1012.34, F.S., for inappropriate behavior.

### **Public Educational Services – District School Boards**

The bill clarifies the responsibilities of district school boards to include:

- Notifying students in juvenile justice education programs who reach the age of 16 years of the law regarding compulsory school attendance and make available the option of enrolling in a program to attain a high school diploma by taking the GED exam before release from the program;
- Responding to requests for student education records received from another district school board or a juvenile justice education program within 5 working days after receiving the request;
- Providing access to courses offered through Florida Virtual School, virtual instruction programs, and school district virtual courses. School districts and providers may enter into cooperative agreements for the provision of curriculum associated with school district virtual courses to enable providers to offer such courses;
- Prohibiting juvenile justice education programs from being charged FTE for virtual courses accessed through the school district which are for credit recovery or are offered to youth beyond the 300 minute daily requirement of instruction;
- Completing the assessment process; and
- Monitoring compliance with contracts for education programs for students in juvenile justice prevention, day treatment, residential, and detention programs.

The bill requires the DOE in partnership with the DJJ, district school boards, and providers to:

- Develop and implement requirements for contracts and cooperative agreements regarding the delivery of appropriate education services to students in DJJ programs; and
- Maintain standardized procedures for securing the student's records. The records must include, but not be limited to the student's progress monitoring plan and transition plan.

The bill also requires the DOE to assist juvenile justice programs with becoming high school equivalency examination centers.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**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.)

**CS by Criminal Justice on March 18, 2013:**

- Deletes the funding provisions in the bill; and
- Requires the DJJ, in consultation with DOE, to publish by March 1 of each year a report on program costs and effectiveness, educational performance of students, and recommendations for modification or elimination of programs or program activities.

## B. Amendments:

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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