

HB 213

2013

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to college and career readiness;  
 3           creating s. 1003.499, F.S.; requiring each school  
 4           district to offer high school students a college and  
 5           career readiness course; providing course  
 6           requirements; requiring students to take an interest  
 7           assessment and develop a curriculum plan before taking  
 8           the course; specifying components of the course  
 9           curriculum and activities; providing an effective  
 10          date.

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

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 14           Section 1. Section 1003.499, Florida Statutes, is created  
 15 to read:

16           1003.499 College and career readiness.-

17           (1) Each school district shall offer students a for-credit  
 18 high school course that focuses on the transition between high  
 19 school and college, a trade industry, or military service. The  
 20 Department of Education shall develop course frameworks and  
 21 professional development materials for the college and career  
 22 readiness course. The course shall be taught by teachers or  
 23 school counselors who are trained in college and career planning  
 24 and shall be taken by students in the 11th or 12th grade to  
 25 better prepare them for their chosen paths after graduation.

26           (2) The course curriculum shall be designed to assist  
 27 students in postsecondary education and career planning and  
 28 shall include the development of a personalized postsecondary

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29 education and career readiness plan. Each school district shall  
30 inform parents about the course curriculum and activities.

31 (3) Before enrolling in the course and as early as the 9th  
32 grade, a student shall be given an interest assessment to  
33 measure the student's college and career interests and to aid in  
34 determining the student's focus of study. Each school must hold  
35 parent meetings with evening and weekend hours to review a  
36 student's interest assessment results and recommend a curriculum  
37 plan. The interest assessment and curriculum plan are intended  
38 to assist a student with course selections that culminate in  
39 readiness to attend college or enter the workforce in a desired  
40 field and may not preclude the completion of any core  
41 requirement for high school graduation. The student, school  
42 counselor, and parent shall consent to the student's curriculum  
43 plan, developed with the parent's input, before implementation.

44 (4) The college and career readiness course curriculum and  
45 activities shall provide the student with the opportunity to:

46 (a) Identify interests and strengths by reviewing the  
47 results of the student's interest assessment and curriculum  
48 plan.

49 (b) Set goals and progress outcomes to be incorporated in  
50 the student's final postsecondary education and career plan.

51 (c) Research the admission and application requirements  
52 for postsecondary educational institutions and complete  
53 applications, as appropriate.

54 (d) Research college entrance test requirements.

55 (e) Write personal statements or college entrance letters.

56 (f) Review costs associated with postsecondary education

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57 while researching state and federal financial aid options,  
58 scholarships, and school-based aid to create a financial aid  
59 action plan.

60 (g) Complete a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
61 award application and the Free Application for Federal Student  
62 Aid and apply for federal work-study options to offset  
63 educational costs, as appropriate.

64 (h) Learn about personal finance, including credit and  
65 credit card debt, savings and investment, and banking and  
66 financial services.

67 (i) Identify entry-level positions, internships,  
68 apprenticeships, and volunteer opportunities to gain work  
69 experience.

70 (j) Write resumes and participate in mock interviews.

71 (k) Tour the campuses of local postsecondary educational  
72 institutions.

73 (l) Finalize a postsecondary education and career  
74 readiness plan with a copy given to the parent.

75 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.