

HB 199

2014

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to college and career readiness;  
3 creating s. 1003.4991, 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:

13  
14 Section 1. Section 1003.4991, Florida Statutes, is created  
15 to read:

16 1003.4991 College and career readiness.—

17 (1) Each school district shall offer students a for-credit  
18 high school college and career readiness course that focuses on  
19 the transition between high school and college, a trade  
20 industry, or military service. The Department of Education shall  
21 develop course frameworks and professional development materials  
22 for the course. Teachers or school counselors who are trained in  
23 college and career planning shall teach the course, and students  
24 in the 11th or 12th grade shall take the course to better  
25 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 include the development of a personalized postsecondary  
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 shall 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 core requirements  
41 for high school graduation. The student, school counselor, and  
42 parent shall consent to the student's curriculum plan, developed  
43 with the parent's input, before implementation.

44 (4) The college and career readiness course curriculum and  
45 activities must 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

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 for gaining 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, 2014.