

By Senator Simmons

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to English language learners; amending  
3       s. 1003.4282, F.S.; requiring that a school district  
4       notify students and parents in writing of options for  
5       transferring high school credits and earning  
6       comparative, concordant, or passing scores on  
7       alternative assessments; providing transfer students  
8       with options for satisfying the English Language Arts  
9       (ELA) assessment requirement to earn a standard high  
10      school diploma; amending s. 1003.433, F.S.; providing  
11      alternatives and additional learning opportunities for  
12      transfer students who enter a Florida public school at  
13      grade 10 under certain circumstances; providing that a  
14      limited English proficient transfer student who has  
15      met certain requirements, but has not passed the grade  
16      10 ELA assessment by grade 12, may receive a standard  
17      high school diploma if the student earns a concordant  
18      or passing score on an alternative assessment;  
19      amending s. 1003.56, F.S.; requiring a school district  
20      to notify limited English proficient students and  
21      their parents of the requirements and options for  
22      earning a standard high school diploma; amending s.  
23      1008.22, F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of Education  
24      to identify concordant and passing scores on  
25      alternative assessments that are offered in languages  
26      other than English and demonstrate the college  
27      readiness of limited English proficient students;  
28      requiring that the State Board of Education adopt by  
29      rule alternative assessments and their respective

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30 concordant and passing scores; providing an effective  
31 date.

32  
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34  
35 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (8) of section 1003.4282,  
36 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

37 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

38 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The school district must  
39 notify students and parents, in writing, of the requirements for  
40 a standard high school diploma, available designations, options  
41 for transferring high school credits and for earning  
42 comparative, concordant, or passing scores on alternative  
43 assessments, and the eligibility requirements for state  
44 scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions. The  
45 Department of Education shall directly and through the school  
46 districts notify registered private schools of public high  
47 school course credit and assessment requirements. Each private  
48 school must make this information available to students and  
49 their parents so they are aware of public high school graduation  
50 requirements.

51 (8) UNIFORM TRANSFER OF HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS.—Beginning with  
52 the 2012-2013 school year, if a student transfers to a Florida  
53 public high school from out of country, out of state, a private  
54 school, or a home education program and the student's transcript  
55 shows a credit in Algebra I, the student must pass the  
56 statewide, standardized Algebra I EOC assessment in order to  
57 earn a standard high school diploma unless the student earned a  
58 comparative score, passed a statewide assessment in Algebra I

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59 administered by the transferring entity, or passed the statewide  
60 mathematics assessment the transferring entity uses to satisfy  
61 the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act,  
62 20 U.S.C. s. 6301. If a transfer student's transcript shows a  
63 credit in high school reading or English Language Arts (ELA) II,  
64 ~~or III,~~ or IV, in order to earn a standard high school diploma,  
65 the student must take and pass the statewide, standardized grade  
66 10 Reading assessment or, when implemented, the grade 10 ELA  
67 assessment, unless the student earned a concordant or passing  
68 score identified pursuant to s. 1008.22(7) and (9) or passed a  
69 statewide assessment in ELA II, III, or IV administered by the  
70 transferring entity to satisfy the requirements of the  
71 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 6301 ~~or~~  
72 ~~earn a concordant score.~~ If a transfer student's transcript  
73 shows a final course grade and course credit in Algebra I;;  
74 Geometry;; Biology I;; ~~or~~ United States History; or ELA II, III,  
75 or IV, the transferring course final grade and credit shall be  
76 honored without the student taking the requisite statewide,  
77 standardized EOC assessment and without the assessment results  
78 constituting 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

79 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1003.433, Florida  
80 Statutes, is amended to read:

81 1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-  
82 of-country transfer students and students needing additional  
83 instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.—

84 (1) Students who enter a Florida public school at the 10th,  
85 11th, or 12th grade from out of state or out of country shall  
86 not be required to spend additional time in a Florida public  
87 school in order to meet the high school course requirements if

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88 the student has met all requirements of the school district,  
89 state, or country from which he or she is transferring. A  
90 district school board must notify a transfer student who is  
91 limited English proficient and his or her parent, as required in  
92 s. 1003.56(3)(i), of the requirements for earning a standard  
93 high school diploma and the options available under s.  
94 1003.4282, if applicable, including the opportunity to earn a  
95 concordant or passing score on an alternative assessment  
96 identified pursuant to s. 1008.22(7) and (9). Such students who  
97 are not proficient in English should receive immediate and  
98 intensive instruction in English language acquisition, including  
99 the instruction required pursuant to s. 1003.56. However, to  
100 receive a standard high school diploma, any ~~a~~ transfer student  
101 must earn at least a 2.0 grade point average and meet the  
102 requirements under s. 1008.22. A limited English proficient  
103 student who has met the minimum grade point average and has met  
104 the assessment requirements under s. 1008.22, except for passage  
105 of the grade 10 ELA assessment by the end of grade 12, may  
106 receive a standard high school diploma if he or she has earned a  
107 concordant or passing score on an alternative assessment  
108 identified pursuant to s. 1008.22(7) and (9), or passed a  
109 statewide assessment in ELA II, III, or IV administered by the  
110 transferring entity to satisfy the requirements of the  
111 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 6301.

112 Section 3. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (3) of  
113 section 1003.56, Florida Statutes, and subsection (4) of that  
114 section is amended, to read:

115 1003.56 English language instruction for limited English  
116 proficient students.—

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117 (3) Each district school board shall implement the  
118 following procedures:

119 (i) Notify a transfer student and his or her parent of the  
120 requirements for earning a standard high school diploma; any  
121 applicable options available under s. 1003.4282(8); and  
122 concordant and passing scores on alternative assessments as  
123 identified pursuant to s. 1008.22(7) and (9), which satisfy the  
124 grade 10 English Language Arts assessment requirement.

125 (4) Each district school board's program for limited  
126 English proficient students shall be evaluated and monitored  
127 periodically, including compliance with the notification  
128 requirements in paragraph (3)(i).

129 Section 4. Present subsection (7) of section 1008.22,  
130 Florida Statutes, is amended, subsections (9), (10), and (11) of  
131 that section are redesignated as subsections (10), (11), and  
132 (12), respectively, and a new subsection (9) is added to that  
133 section, to read:

134 1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.—

135 (7) CONCORDANT SCORES.—The Commissioner of Education must  
136 identify scores on the SAT and ACT that if achieved satisfy the  
137 graduation requirement that a student pass the grade 10  
138 statewide, standardized Reading assessment or, upon  
139 implementation, the grade 10 ELA assessment. The commissioner  
140 must ~~may~~ identify concordant scores on assessments other than  
141 the SAT and ACT. If the content or scoring procedures change for  
142 the grade 10 Reading assessment or, upon implementation, the  
143 grade 10 ELA assessment, new concordant scores must be  
144 determined. If new concordant scores are not timely adopted, the  
145 last-adopted concordant scores remain in effect until such time

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146 as new scores are adopted. The state board shall adopt by rule  
147 concordant scores ~~in rule~~.

148 (9) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS; ALTERNATIVE  
149 ASSESSMENTS.—The Commissioner of Education must identify  
150 alternative assessments and their respective passing scores  
151 which are offered in languages other than English and are  
152 appropriate for demonstrating the college readiness of limited  
153 English proficient students as provided in ss. 1003.4282 and  
154 1003.433. The state board shall adopt by rule passing scores on  
155 alternative assessments identified pursuant to this subsection.

156 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.