

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Brandes

581-03237-19

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to civic education; providing a short  
3       title; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the  
4       requirements for a standard high school diploma to  
5       include a specified course; providing requirements for  
6       such course; creating s. 1003.4321, F.S.; establishing  
7       the Florida Seal of Civic Engagement Program;  
8       providing the purpose of the program; requiring the  
9       State Board of Education to establish criteria for  
10      awarding the seal; providing requirements for such  
11      criteria; providing duties of the Commissioner of  
12      Education and school districts; prohibiting a school  
13      district or the Department of Education from charging  
14      a fee for the seal; requiring the state board to adopt  
15      rules; amending s. 1003.497, F.S.; providing that a  
16      nonpartisan civic literacy project may be included in  
17      service-learning programs, activities, or policies;  
18      creating s. 1003.4971, F.S.; authorizing certain  
19      students to complete a nonpartisan civic literacy  
20      project; requiring the state board to develop the  
21      minimum criteria for such project and a process to  
22      confirm completion; providing requirements for such  
23      criteria and for nonpartisan civic literacy projects;  
24      prohibiting a student from receiving remuneration for  
25      specified purposes; authorizing the hours devoted to  
26      such project to be used for specified purposes;  
27      authorizing a school to integrate a nonpartisan civic  
28      literacy project into a service-learning program or  
29      activity; requiring the state board to adopt rules;

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30 amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; providing that earning the  
31 Seal of Civic Engagement demonstrates competency in  
32 civic literacy for specified purposes; providing  
33 membership requirements for a specified faculty  
34 committee; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; revising school  
35 grade components to include students who complete a  
36 specified course with a grade of "B" or higher;  
37 providing an effective date.  
38

39 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
40

41 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section  
42 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

43 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.-

44 (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT  
45 REQUIREMENTS.-

46 (d) *Three credits in social studies.*-A student must earn  
47 one credit in United States History; one credit in World  
48 History; one-half credit in economics, which must include  
49 financial literacy; and one-half credit in United States  
50 Government or, beginning with students entering grade 9 in the  
51 2020-2021 school year, one-half credit in United States  
52 Government and Civic Engagement. The United States History EOC  
53 assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course  
54 grade. The one-half credit in United States Government and Civic  
55 Engagement must include an individual or group nonpartisan civic  
56 literacy project pursuant to s. 1003.4971 as a laboratory  
57 component. The state board shall approve and identify in the  
58 Course Code Directory the United States Government and Civic

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59 Engagement course. Such course may be offered as a semester  
60 course or a year-long course.

61 Section 2. Section 1003.4321, Florida Statutes, is created  
62 to read:

63 1003.4321 Florida Seal of Civic Engagement Program.—

64 (1) The Florida Seal of Civic Engagement Program is  
65 established to recognize each high school graduate who has  
66 attained a high level of community involvement and academic  
67 achievement in civics.

68 (2) The purpose of the Florida Seal of Civic Engagement  
69 Program is to encourage students to understand the basic  
70 principles of American democracy and to foster a sense of  
71 citizenship and community involvement.

72 (3) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the Seal of  
73 Civic Engagement shall be awarded to a high school student who  
74 earns a standard high school diploma and who meets the  
75 requirements established by the State Board of Education. In  
76 establishing the criteria for awarding the Seal of Civic  
77 Engagement, the state board shall include all of the following:

78 (a) Completion of the United States Government and Civic  
79 Engagement course with a grade of "B" or higher.

80 (b) Community service or extracurricular activities that  
81 are related to civic engagement.

82 (c) Additional academic achievement in courses that include  
83 the study of civics and the United States Government.

84 (4) The Commissioner of Education shall:

85 (a) Prepare and provide to each school district an  
86 appropriate insignia to affix to a student's diploma indicating  
87 that the student has been awarded the Seal of Civic Engagement.

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88 (b) Provide information necessary for school districts to  
89 successfully implement the program.

90 (5) Each school district shall:

91 (a) Maintain appropriate records to identify students who  
92 have met the requirements to receive the Seal of Civic  
93 Engagement.

94 (b) Provide the commissioner with the number of students  
95 who have met the requirements to receive the Seal of Civic  
96 Engagement.

97 (c) Affix the appropriate insignia to the student's diploma  
98 and indicate on the student's transcript that the student has  
99 earned the Seal of Civic Engagement.

100 (6) A school district or the Department of Education may  
101 not charge a fee for the Seal of Civic Engagement.

102 (7) The state board shall adopt rules to implement this  
103 section. Such rules must, at a minimum, include all of the  
104 following:

105 (a) The requirements a student must meet to be awarded the  
106 Seal of Civic Engagement.

107 (b) A process to confirm a student's successful completion  
108 of the requirements to receive the Seal of Civic Engagement.

109 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1003.497, Florida  
110 Statutes, is amended to read:

111 1003.497 Service learning.—

112 (1) The Department of Education shall encourage school  
113 districts to initiate, adopt, expand, and institutionalize  
114 service-learning programs, activities, and policies in  
115 kindergarten through grade 12, including nonpartisan civic  
116 literacy projects under s. 1003.4971. Service learning refers to

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117 a student-centered, research-based teaching and learning  
118 strategy that engages students in meaningful service activities  
119 in their schools or communities. Service-learning activities are  
120 directly tied to academic curricula, standards, and course,  
121 district, or state assessments. Service-learning activities  
122 foster academic achievement, character development, civic  
123 engagement, and career exploration and enable students to apply  
124 curriculum content, skills, and behaviors taught in the  
125 classroom.

126 Section 4. Section 1003.4971, Florida Statutes, is created  
127 to read:

128 1003.4971 Nonpartisan Civic Literacy Projects.—

129 (1) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2020-  
130 2021 school year, students shall complete a nonpartisan civic  
131 literacy project as the laboratory component of the United  
132 States Government and Civic Engagement course offered under s.  
133 1003.4282. The State Board of Education shall develop the  
134 minimum criteria for a nonpartisan civic literacy project and a  
135 process for a district school board to confirm a student's  
136 completion of the project. The criteria for nonpartisan civic  
137 literacy projects must, at a minimum, require a student to:

138 (a) Identify a civic issue that impacts his or her  
139 community.

140 (b) Rigorously research the issue from multiple  
141 perspectives and develop a plan for his or her personal  
142 involvement in addressing the issue.

143 (c) Create a portfolio to evaluate and reflect upon his or  
144 her experience and the outcomes of his or her involvement.

145 (2) (a) A nonpartisan civic literacy project must be

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146 nonpartisan in nature and focus on addressing at least one  
147 community issue.

148 (b) A nonpartisan civic literacy project must promote a  
149 student's ability to consider differing points of view and  
150 engage in civil discourse with individuals who hold an opposing  
151 opinion.

152 (c) A student may not receive remuneration for his or her  
153 work relating to the nonpartisan civic literacy project.

154 (d) The hours that a high school student devotes to a  
155 nonpartisan civic literacy project may be counted toward meeting  
156 community service requirements for high school graduation and  
157 community service requirements for participation in the Florida  
158 Bright Futures Scholarship Program. School districts are  
159 encouraged to include and accept nonpartisan civic literacy  
160 project activities and hours in requirements for academic  
161 awards, especially those awards that currently include community  
162 service as a criterion or selection factor.

163 (3) The state board shall adopt rules to administer this  
164 section.

165 Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 1007.25, Florida  
166 Statutes, is amended to read:

167 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
168 other degree requirements.—

169 (4) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida  
170 College System institution or state university in the 2018-2019  
171 school year and thereafter, each student must demonstrate  
172 competency in civic literacy. Students must have the option to  
173 demonstrate competency through successful completion of a civic  
174 literacy course, ~~or~~ by achieving a passing score on an

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175 assessment, or, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, by  
176 earning the Seal of Civic Engagement pursuant to s. 1003.4321.  
177 The State Board of Education must adopt in rule and the Board of  
178 Governors must adopt in regulation at least one existing  
179 assessment that measures competencies consistent with the  
180 required course competencies outlined in paragraph (b). The  
181 chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board  
182 of Governors, or their respective designees, shall jointly  
183 appoint a faculty committee, representing faculty from public  
184 postsecondary educational institutions located in counties of  
185 varying size and demographic makeup, to:

186 (a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an  
187 existing general education core course in American History or  
188 American Government to include civic literacy.

189 (b) Establish course competencies and identify outcomes  
190 that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic  
191 principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our  
192 republican form of government, an understanding of the United  
193 States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how  
194 they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of  
195 self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court  
196 cases and their impact on law and society.

197 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
198 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

199 1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;  
200 district grade.—

201 (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

202 (b)1. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a school's  
203 grade shall be based on the following components, each worth 100

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204 points:

205 a. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
206 standardized assessments in English Language Arts under s.  
207 1008.22(3).

208 b. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
209 standardized assessments in mathematics under s. 1008.22(3).

210 c. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
211 standardized assessments in science under s. 1008.22(3).

212 d. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
213 standardized assessments in social studies under s. 1008.22(3).

214 e. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning  
215 Gains in English Language Arts as measured by statewide,  
216 standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

217 f. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning  
218 Gains in mathematics as measured by statewide, standardized  
219 assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

220 g. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25  
221 percent in English Language Arts, as identified by prior year  
222 performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make  
223 Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized English  
224 Language Arts assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

225 h. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25  
226 percent in mathematics, as identified by prior year performance  
227 on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains  
228 as measured by statewide, standardized Mathematics assessments  
229 administered under s. 1008.22(3).

230 i. For schools comprised of middle grades 6 through 8 or  
231 grades 7 and 8, the percentage of eligible students passing high  
232 school level statewide, standardized end-of-course assessments



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233 or attaining national industry certifications identified in the  
234 CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules  
235 adopted by the State Board of Education.  
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237 In calculating Learning Gains for the components listed in sub-  
238 subparagraphs e.-h., the State Board of Education shall require  
239 that learning growth toward achievement levels 3, 4, and 5 is  
240 demonstrated by students who scored below each of those levels  
241 in the prior year. In calculating the components in sub-  
242 subparagraphs a.-d., the state board shall include the  
243 performance of English language learners only if they have been  
244 enrolled in a school in the United States for more than 2 years.

245 2. For a school comprised of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or  
246 grades 10, 11, and 12, the school's grade shall also be based on  
247 the following components, each worth 100 points:

248 a. The 4-year high school graduation rate of the school as  
249 defined by state board rule.

250 b. The percentage of students who were eligible to earn  
251 college and career credit through College Board Advanced  
252 Placement examinations, International Baccalaureate  
253 examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International  
254 Certificate of Education examinations; ~~or~~ who, at any time  
255 during high school, earned national industry certification  
256 identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List,  
257 pursuant to rules adopted by the state board; or, beginning with  
258 the 2020-2021 school year, who complete the United States  
259 Government and Civic Engagement course with a grade of "B" or  
260 higher.

261 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.