

By Senator Stargel

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to civics education; amending s.
3 1003.4156, F.S.; requiring that instructional
4 materials for certain civics education courses include
5 only materials reviewed by the Florida Joint Center
6 for Citizenship and approved by the Commissioner of
7 Education; requiring the commissioner to identify
8 errors and inaccuracies in state-adopted materials;
9 requiring such errors and inaccuracies to be
10 corrected; deleting obsolete language; providing an
11 effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
16 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades
18 promotion.—

19 (1) In order for a student to be promoted to high school
20 from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the
21 student must successfully complete the following courses:

22 (c) Three middle grades or higher courses in social
23 studies. ~~Beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2012-~~
24 ~~2013 school year,~~ One of these courses must be at least a one-
25 semester civics education course that includes the roles and
26 responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the
27 structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and
28 judicial branches of government; and the meaning and
29 significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of

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30 Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the
31 Constitution of the United States. The instructional materials
32 for the civics education course shall include only instructional
33 materials reviewed by the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
34 and approved by the Commissioner of Education. Any errors and
35 inaccuracies in state-adopted materials identified by the
36 commissioner must be corrected pursuant to s. 1006.35. Beginning
37 ~~with the 2013-2014 school year,~~ Each student's performance on
38 the statewide, standardized EOC assessment in civics education
39 required under s. 1008.22 constitutes 30 percent of the
40 student's final course grade. A middle grades student who
41 transfers into the state's public school system from out of
42 country, out of state, a private school, or a home education
43 program after the beginning of the second term of grade 8 is not
44 required to meet the civics education requirement for promotion
45 from the middle grades if the student's transcript documents
46 passage of three courses in social studies or two year-long
47 courses in social studies that include coverage of civics
48 education.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.