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Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to mastery-based education; amending s. 1003.436, F.S.; authorizing a district school board or developmental research school participating in the Mastery-Based Education Program to award credit based on student mastery of certain content and skills; amending s. 1003.437, F.S.; authorizing a district school board or developmental research school participating in the Mastery-Based Education Program to use an alternative interpretation of letter grades for certain students; requiring participating district school boards and developmental research schools to use the current 4-point scale in determining student grade point averages; amending s. 1003.4996, F.S.; renaming the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program as the Mastery-Based Education Program; authorizing public school districts and developmental research schools to submit applications for the program; authorizing participating school districts and developmental research schools to amend their applications to include alternatives for the award of credits and interpretation of letter grades; providing requirements for such alternatives; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring the statewide articulation agreement to ensure fair and equitable access for students who have earned high school credit through mastery-based education and graduate with a standard



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28 high school diploma; providing an effective date.

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

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32 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
33 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

34 1003.436 Definition of "credit."—

35 (1) (a) For the purposes of requirements for high school  
36 graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135 hours of bona  
37 fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains  
38 student performance standards, except as otherwise provided  
39 through the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) under s.  
40 1003.4295(3). One full credit means a minimum of 120 hours of  
41 bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that  
42 contains student performance standards for purposes of meeting  
43 high school graduation requirements in a district school that  
44 has been authorized to implement block scheduling by the  
45 district school board. However, district school boards and  
46 developmental research schools participating in the Mastery-  
47 Based Education Program under s. 1003.4996 may determine and  
48 award credit based on a student's mastery of the core content  
49 and skills, consistent with s. 1003.41, as approved by the  
50 district school board or developmental research school governing  
51 authority, as applicable. The State Board of Education shall  
52 determine the number of postsecondary credit hours earned  
53 through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 1007.271 that satisfy the  
54 requirements of a dual enrollment articulation agreement  
55 according to s. 1007.271(21) and that equal one full credit of  
56 the equivalent high school course identified pursuant to s.



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57 1007.271(9).

58 Section 2. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is amended  
59 to read:

60 1003.437 Middle and high school grading system.-

61 (1) The grading system and interpretation of letter grades  
62 used to measure student success in grade 6 through grade 12  
63 courses for students in public schools is shall be as follows:

64 (a) ~~(1)~~ Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent, has  
65 a grade point average value of 4, and is defined as "outstanding  
66 progress."

67 (b) ~~(2)~~ Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent, has  
68 a grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above  
69 average progress."

70 (c) ~~(3)~~ Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent, has  
71 a grade point average value of 2, and is defined as "average  
72 progress."

73 (d) ~~(4)~~ Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent, has  
74 a grade point average value of 1, and is defined as "lowest  
75 acceptable progress."

76 (e) ~~(5)~~ Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent,  
77 has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as  
78 "failure."

79 (f) ~~(6)~~ Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point  
80 average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

81 (2) A district school board and a developmental research  
82 school participating in the Mastery-Based Education Program  
83 under s. 1003.4996 may use an alternative interpretation of  
84 letter grades to measure student success in grade 6 through  
85 grade 12; however, the school board and developmental research



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86 school must continue to use the 4-point scale established in  
87 subsection (1) for calculating a student's grade point average.

88  
89 For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may  
90 exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to s. 1007.271.

91 Section 3. Section 1003.4996, Florida Statutes, is amended  
92 to read:

93 1003.4996 Mastery-Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education ~~Pilot~~  
94 Program.—Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the Mastery-  
95 Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education ~~Pilot~~ Program is created within  
96 the Department of Education to be administered for a period of 5  
97 years. The purpose of the ~~pilot~~ program is to provide an  
98 educational environment that allows students to advance to  
99 higher levels of learning upon the mastery of concepts and  
100 skills through statutory exemptions relating to student  
101 progression and the awarding of credits.

102 (1) PARTICIPATION.—Developmental research schools  
103 established under s. 1002.32, including the P.K. Yonge  
104 Developmental Research School, and public school districts,  
105 including, but not limited to, the Lake, Palm Beach, Pinellas,  
106 and Seminole County School Districts, may submit an application  
107 in a format prescribed by the department to participate in the  
108 ~~pilot~~ program.

109 (2) APPLICATION.—The application to participate in the  
110 ~~pilot~~ program must, at a minimum, include:

111 (a) The vision and timelines for the implementation of  
112 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education within the school  
113 district, including a list of the schools that will participate  
114 in the ~~pilot~~ program during the first school year and the list



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115 of schools that will be integrated into the program in  
116 subsequent school years.

117 (b) The annual goals and performance outcomes for  
118 participating schools, including, but not limited to:

- 119 1. Student performance as defined in s. 1008.34.  
120 2. Promotion and retention rates.  
121 3. Graduation rates.  
122 4. Indicators of college and career readiness.

123 (c) A communication plan for parents and other  
124 stakeholders, including local businesses and community members.

125 (d) The scope of and timelines for professional development  
126 for school instructional and administrative personnel.

127 (e) A plan for student progression based on the mastery of  
128 content, including mechanisms that determine and ensure that a  
129 student has satisfied the requirements for grade-level promotion  
130 and content mastery.

131 (f) A plan for using technology and digital and blended  
132 learning to enhance student achievement and facilitate the  
133 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education system.

134 (g) The proposed allocation of resources for the ~~pilot~~  
135 program at the school and district levels.

136 (h) The recruitment and selection of participating schools.

137 (i) The rules to be waived for participating schools  
138 pursuant to subsection (3) to implement the ~~pilot~~ program.

139 (3) EXEMPTION FROM RULES.—In addition to the waivers  
140 authorized in s. 1001.10(3), the State Board of Education may  
141 authorize the commissioner to grant an additional waiver of  
142 rules relating to student progression and the awarding of  
143 credits.



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144 (4) ALTERNATIVE CREDIT AND LETTER GRADE SYSTEMS.—

145 (a) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, participating  
146 school districts and developmental research schools may amend  
147 their applications to include alternatives for awarding credit,  
148 as authorized under s. 1003.436, and for the interpretation of  
149 middle school and high school letter grades, as authorized under  
150 s. 1003.437.

151 1. Alternatives to awarding credit must include  
152 verification of the student's mastery of the applicable course  
153 content using rigorous scoring rubrics to evaluate the student's  
154 work. A participating school district and developmental research  
155 school must amend its student progression plan required by s.  
156 1008.25 to conform to the alternative awarding of credits  
157 pursuant to this section.

158 2. Alternatives to the interpretation of middle school and  
159 high school letter grades may substitute the applicable language  
160 from the school district's rigorous scoring rubric; however,  
161 participating school districts and developmental research  
162 schools must continue to use the 4-point scale established in s.  
163 1003.437(1) for calculating a student's grade point average.

164 (b) An application that is amended pursuant to this  
165 subsection must be approved by the district school board or  
166 developmental research school governing authority, as  
167 applicable.

168 (5)~~(4)~~ STUDENT FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a  
169 participating school shall be reported for and generate funding  
170 pursuant to s. 1011.62.

171 (6)~~(5)~~ DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—The department shall:

172 (a) Compile the student and staff schedules of



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173 participating schools before and after implementation of the  
174 ~~pilot~~ program.

175 (b) Provide participating schools with access to statewide,  
176 standardized assessments required under s. 1008.22.

177 (c) Annually, by June 1, provide to the Governor, the  
178 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
179 Representatives a report summarizing the activities and  
180 accomplishments of the ~~pilot~~ program and any recommendations for  
181 statutory revisions.

182 (7)~~(6)~~ RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt  
183 rules to administer this section.

184 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1007.23, Florida  
185 Statutes, is amended to read:

186 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

187 (1) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors  
188 shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement which the  
189 State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. The agreement must  
190 preserve Florida's "2+2" system of articulation, facilitate the  
191 seamless articulation of student credit across and among  
192 Florida's educational entities, and reinforce the provisions of  
193 this chapter by governing:

194 (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary  
195 education, including fair and equitable access for students who  
196 have earned high school credit through a mastery-based education  
197 program pursuant to s. 1003.4996 and graduate with a standard  
198 high school diploma;

199 (b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates from  
200 Florida College System institutions and state universities;

201 (c) Admission of applied technology diploma program



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202 graduates from Florida College System institutions or career  
203 centers;

204 (d) Admission of associate in science degree and associate  
205 in applied science degree graduates from Florida College System  
206 institutions;

207 (e) The use of acceleration mechanisms, including  
208 nationally standardized examinations through which students may  
209 earn credit;

210 (f) General education requirements and statewide course  
211 numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; and

212 (g) Articulation among programs in nursing.

213 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.