

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to mastery-based education; amending
3 s. 1003.436, F.S.; authorizing a district school board
4 participating in the Mastery-Based Education Pilot
5 Program to award credit based on student mastery of
6 certain content and skills; amending s. 1003.437,
7 F.S.; authorizing a district school board
8 participating in the Mastery-Based Education Pilot
9 Program to use an alternative interpretation of letter
10 grades for certain students; requiring such district
11 school board to use a specified scale for certain
12 calculations; amending s. 1003.4996, F.S.; renaming
13 the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program as the
14 Mastery-Based Education Pilot Program; authorizing
15 public school districts to submit applications for the
16 program; authorizing participating school districts to
17 amend their applications to include alternatives for
18 the award credits and interpretation of letter grades;
19 providing requirements for such alternatives;
20 requiring participating school districts to amend its
21 progression plan for specified purposes; amending s.
22 1007.23, F.S.; requiring the statewide articulation
23 agreement to ensure fair and equitable access for
24 students with mastery-based, nontraditional diplomas
25 and transcripts; providing an effective date.

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

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

1003.436 Definition of "credit."—

(1)(a) For the purposes of requirements for high school graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains student performance standards, except as otherwise provided through the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) under s. 1003.4295(3). One full credit means a minimum of 120 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains student performance standards for purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements in a district school that has been authorized to implement block scheduling by the district school board. However, district school boards participating in the Mastery-Based Education Pilot Program under s. 1003.4996 may determine and award credit based on a student's mastery of the core content and skills, consistent with s. 1003.41, as approved by the district school board. The State Board of Education shall determine the number of postsecondary credit hours earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 1007.271 that satisfy the requirements of a dual enrollment articulation agreement according to s. 1007.271(21) and that

51 equal one full credit of the equivalent high school course
52 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(9).

53 Section 2. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is amended
54 to read:

55 1003.437 Middle and high school grading system.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76 (2) District school boards participating in the Mastery-
 77 Based Education Pilot Program under s. 1003.4996 may use an
 78 alternative interpretation of letter grades to measure student
 79 success in grade 6 through grade 12. However, the four-point
 80 scale established in subsection (1) for calculating a student's
 81 grade point average must continue to be used.

82
 83 For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may
 84 exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to s. 1007.271.

85 Section 3. Section 1003.4996, Florida Statutes, is amended
 86 to read:

87 1003.4996 Mastery-Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education Pilot
 88 Program.—Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, The Mastery-
 89 Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education Pilot Program is created within
 90 the Department of Education to be administered for a period of 5
 91 years. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide an
 92 educational environment that allows students to advance to
 93 higher levels of learning upon the mastery of concepts and
 94 skills through statutory exemptions relating to student
 95 progression and the awarding of credits.

96 (1) PARTICIPATION.—The P.K. Yonge Developmental Research
 97 School and public school districts, including, but not limited
 98 to, the Lake, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Seminole County School
 99 Districts, may submit an application in a format prescribed by
 100 the department to participate in the pilot program.

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

103 (a) The vision and timelines for the implementation of
104 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education within the school
105 district, including a list of the schools that will participate
106 in the pilot program during the first school year and the list
107 of schools that will be integrated into the program in
108 subsequent school years.

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

- 111 1. Student performance as defined in s. 1008.34.
- 112 2. Promotion and retention rates.
- 113 3. Graduation rates.
- 114 4. Indicators of college and career readiness.

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

117 (d) The scope of and timelines for professional
118 development for school instructional and administrative
119 personnel.

120 (e) A plan for student progression based on the mastery of
121 content, including mechanisms that determine and ensure that a
122 student has satisfied the requirements for grade-level promotion
123 and content mastery.

124 (f) A plan for using technology and digital and blended
125 learning to enhance student achievement and facilitate the

126 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education system.

127 (g) The proposed allocation of resources for the pilot
128 program at the school and district levels.

129 (h) The recruitment and selection of participating
130 schools.

131 (i) The rules to be waived for participating schools
132 pursuant to subsection (3) to implement the pilot program.

133 (3) EXEMPTION FROM RULES.—In addition to the waivers
134 authorized in s. 1001.10(3), the State Board of Education may
135 authorize the commissioner to grant an additional waiver of
136 rules relating to student progression and the awarding of
137 credits.

138 (4) ALTERNATE CREDIT AND LETTER GRADE SYSTEMS.—

139 (a) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year,
140 participating school districts may amend their applications to
141 include alternatives for awarding credit, as authorized under s.
142 1003.436, and for the interpretation of middle school and high
143 school letter grades, as authorized under s. 1003.437.

144 1. Alternatives to awarding credit must include
145 verification of the student's mastery of the applicable course
146 content using rigorous scoring rubrics to evaluate the student's
147 work. A participating school district must amend its student
148 progression plan required by s. 1008.25 to conform to the
149 alternative awarding of credits pursuant to this section.

150 2. Alternatives to the interpretation of middle school and

151 high school letter grades may substitute the applicable language
152 from the school district's rigorous scoring rubric. However, the
153 four-point scale established in s.1003.437(1) for calculating a
154 student's grade point average must continue to be used.

155 (b) An application that is amended pursuant to this
156 subsection must be approved by the district school board.

157 (5)~~(4)~~ STUDENT FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a
158 participating school shall be reported for and generate funding
159 pursuant to s. 1011.62.

160 (6)~~(5)~~ DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—The department shall:

161 (a) Compile the student and staff schedules of
162 participating schools before and after implementation of the
163 pilot program.

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

166 (c) Annually, by June 1, provide to the Governor, the
167 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
168 Representatives a report summarizing the activities and
169 accomplishments of the pilot program and any recommendations for
170 statutory revisions.

171 (7)~~(6)~~ RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
172 rules to administer this section.

173 Section 4. Subsection (7) is added to section 1007.23,
174 Florida Statutes, to read:

175 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

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176 (7) The articulation agreement must ensure fair and
177 equitable access for high school graduates with mastery-based,
178 nontraditional diplomas and transcripts.

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