

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 include fair and equitable access for
24 students who graduate with a standard high school
25 diploma and have earned high school credit through

26 mastery-based education; providing an effective date.

27

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

29

30 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
31 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

32 1003.436 Definition of "credit."—

33 (1) (a) For the purposes of requirements for high school
34 graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135 hours of bona
35 fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains
36 student performance standards, except as otherwise provided
37 through the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) under s.

38 1003.4295(3). One full credit means a minimum of 120 hours of
39 bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that
40 contains student performance standards for purposes of meeting
41 high school graduation requirements in a district school that
42 has been authorized to implement block scheduling by the
43 district school board. However, district school boards
44 participating in the Mastery-Based Education Pilot Program under
45 s. 1003.4996 may determine and award credit based on a student's
46 mastery of the core content and skills, consistent with s.
47 1003.41, as approved by the district school board. The State
48 Board of Education shall determine the number of postsecondary
49 credit hours earned through dual enrollment pursuant to s.
50 1007.271 that satisfy the requirements of a dual enrollment

51 articulation agreement according to s. 1007.271(21) and that
52 equal one full credit of the equivalent high school course
53 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(9).

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

56 1003.437 Middle and high school grading system.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

75 (f) ~~(6)~~ Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point

76 average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

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

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

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

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

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

101 the department to participate in the pilot program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

125 (f) A plan for using technology and digital and blended

126 learning to enhance student achievement and facilitate the
127 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education system.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

161 (6)-(5) DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—The department shall:

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

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

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

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

174 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
175 1007.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

176 | 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

177 | (1) The State Board of Education and the Board of
178 | Governors shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement
179 | which the State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. The
180 | agreement must preserve Florida's "2+2" system of articulation,
181 | facilitate the seamless articulation of student credit across
182 | and among Florida's educational entities, and reinforce the
183 | provisions of this chapter by governing:

184 | (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary
185 | education, including fair and equitable access for students who
186 | graduate with a standard high school diploma and have earned
187 | high school credit through a mastery-based education program
188 | pursuant to s. 1003.4996;

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