

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 or developmental research school participating in the
5 Mastery-Based Education Program to award credit based
6 on student mastery of certain content and skills;
7 amending s. 1003.437, F.S.; authorizing a district
8 school board or developmental research school
9 participating in the Mastery-Based Education Program
10 to use an alternative interpretation of letter grades
11 for certain students; requiring participating district
12 school boards and developmental research schools to use
13 the current 4-point scale in determining student grade
14 point averages; amending s. 1003.4996, F.S.; renaming
15 the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program as the
16 Mastery-Based Education Program; authorizing public
17 school districts and developmental research schools to
18 submit applications for the program; authorizing
19 participating school districts and developmental
20 research schools to amend their applications to
21 include alternatives for the award credits and
22 interpretation of letter grades; providing
23 requirements for such alternatives; requiring
24 participating school districts and developmental
25 research schools to amend their progression plan for

26 | specified purposes; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.;

27 | requiring the statewide articulation agreement to

28 | include fair and equitable access for students who

29 | graduate with a standard high school diploma and have

30 | earned high school credit through mastery-based

31 | education; providing an effective date.

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

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35 | Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section

36 | 1003.436, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

37 | 1003.436 Definition of "credit."—

38 | (1) (a) For the purposes of requirements for high school

39 | graduation, one full credit means a minimum of 135 hours of bona

40 | fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains

41 | student performance standards, except as otherwise provided

42 | through the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) under s.

43 | 1003.4295(3). One full credit means a minimum of 120 hours of

44 | bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that

45 | contains student performance standards for purposes of meeting

46 | high school graduation requirements in a district school that

47 | has been authorized to implement block scheduling by the

48 | district school board. However, district school boards and

49 | developmental research schools participating in the Mastery-

50 | Based Education Program under s. 1003.4996 may determine and

51 award credit based on a student's mastery of the core content
52 and skills, consistent with s. 1003.41, as approved by the
53 district school board or developmental research school governing
54 authority, as applicable. The State Board of Education shall
55 determine the number of postsecondary credit hours earned
56 through dual enrollment pursuant to s. 1007.271 that satisfy the
57 requirements of a dual enrollment articulation agreement
58 according to s. 1007.271(21) and that equal one full credit of
59 the equivalent high school course identified pursuant to s.
60 1007.271(9).

61 Section 2. Section 1003.437, Florida Statutes, is amended
62 to read:

63 1003.437 Middle and high school grading system.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

84 (2) A district school board and a developmental research
 85 school participating in the Mastery-Based Education Program
 86 under s. 1003.4996 may use an alternative interpretation of
 87 letter grades to measure student success in grade 6 through
 88 grade 12; however, the school board and developmental research
 89 school must continue to use the 4-point scale established in
 90 subsection (1) for calculating a student's grade point average.

91
 92 For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may
 93 exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to s. 1007.271.

94 Section 3. Section 1003.4996, Florida Statutes, is amended
 95 to read:

96 1003.4996 Mastery-Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education ~~Pilot~~
 97 Program.—Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, The Mastery-
 98 Based ~~Competency-Based~~ Education ~~Pilot~~ Program is created within
 99 the Department of Education to be administered for a period of 5
 100 years. The purpose of the ~~pilot~~ program is to provide an

101 educational environment that allows students to advance to
102 higher levels of learning upon the mastery of concepts and
103 skills through statutory exemptions relating to student
104 progression and the awarding of credits.

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

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

114 (a) The vision and timelines for the implementation of
115 mastery-based ~~competency-based~~ education within the school
116 district, including a list of the schools that will participate
117 in the ~~pilot~~ program during the first school year and the list
118 of schools that will be integrated into the program in
119 subsequent school years.

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

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

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

128 (d) The scope of and timelines for professional
 129 development for school instructional and administrative
 130 personnel.

131 (e) A plan for student progression based on the mastery of
 132 content, including mechanisms that determine and ensure that a
 133 student has satisfied the requirements for grade-level promotion
 134 and content mastery.

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

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

140 (h) The recruitment and selection of participating
 141 schools.

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

144 (3) EXEMPTION FROM RULES.—In addition to the waivers
 145 authorized in s. 1001.10(3), the State Board of Education may
 146 authorize the commissioner to grant an additional waiver of
 147 rules relating to student progression and the awarding of
 148 credits.

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

150 (a) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year,

151 participating school districts and developmental research
152 schools may amend their applications to include alternatives for
153 awarding credit, as authorized under s. 1003.436, and for the
154 interpretation of middle school and high school letter grades,
155 as authorized under s. 1003.437.

156 1. Alternatives to awarding credit must include
157 verification of the student's mastery of the applicable course
158 content using rigorous scoring rubrics to evaluate the student's
159 work. A participating school district and developmental research
160 school must amend its student progression plan required by s.
161 1008.25 to conform to the alternative awarding of credits
162 pursuant to this section.

163 2. Alternatives to the interpretation of middle school and
164 high school letter grades may substitute the applicable language
165 from the school district's rigorous scoring rubric; however,
166 participating school districts and developmental research
167 schools must continue to use the 4-point scale established in s.
168 1003.437(1) for calculating a student's grade point average.

169 (b) An application that is amended pursuant to this
170 subsection must be approved by the district school board or
171 developmental research school governing authority, as
172 applicable.

173 (5)-(4) STUDENT FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a
174 participating school shall be reported for and generate funding
175 pursuant to s. 1011.62.

176 (6)~~(5)~~ DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—The department shall:

177 (a) Compile the student and staff schedules of
 178 participating schools before and after implementation of the
 179 ~~pilot~~ program.

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

182 (c) Annually, by June 1, provide to the Governor, the
 183 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
 184 Representatives a report summarizing the activities and
 185 accomplishments of the ~~pilot~~ program and any recommendations for
 186 statutory revisions.

187 (7)~~(6)~~ RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt
 188 rules to administer this section.

189 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 190 1007.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

191 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

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

199 (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary
 200 education, including fair and equitable access for students who

201 | graduate with a standard high school diploma and have earned
202 | high school credit through a mastery-based education program
203 | pursuant to s. 1003.4996;

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