

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

BILL: CS/SB 1750

INTRODUCER: Education Committee and Senator Montford

SUBJECT: High School Graduation Requirements

DATE: February 17, 2020

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Bouck</u>	<u>Sikes</u>	<u>ED</u>	Fav/CS
2.	<u>Underhill</u>	<u>Elwell</u>	<u>AED</u>	Recommend: Favorable
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1750 modifies the requirement that a student complete one credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or an identified practical arts course as a part of the 24 credits required to earn a standard high school diploma. The bill replaces the option to complete one credit in practical arts with the option to complete one credit in career and technical education identified in the Course Code Directory.

The bill does not have an impact on state revenues or expenditures. However, the Department of Education may incur minimal costs associated with modifying their process to include additional career and technical education courses that may be used to meet the high school graduation requirement.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2020.

II. Present Situation:

High School Graduation Requirements

Florida students entering grade nine may choose from one of five options to earn a standard diploma:

- Twenty-four credit program.¹

¹ Section 1003.4282(1), F.S.

- Eighteen credit, Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option.²
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway.³
- International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.⁴
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum.⁵

Students who earn a standard high school diploma under the 24-credit and ACCEL options must earn one credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts. There are currently 343 secondary and postsecondary career and technical education courses that have been approved to meet the practical arts high school graduation requirement for the 2019-2020 school year.⁶

24-Credit Requirement to Earn a Standard High School Diploma

To graduate with a standard high school diploma under the 24-credit option, a student must complete:⁷

- Four credits in English Language Arts (ELA) I, II, III, and IV.
- Four credits in mathematics, including one each in Algebra I and Geometry. Industry certifications earned by students may substitute for up to two mathematics credits, except for Algebra I and Geometry.
- Three credits in science, including one credit in Biology I and two credits in equally rigorous courses.⁸ Industry certifications earned by students may substitute for one science credit, except for Biology I.
- Three credits in social studies, including one credit in United States History, one credit in World History, one-half credit in economics; and one-half credit in United States Government.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts. The practical arts course must incorporate artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination. Eligible practical arts courses are identified in the Course Code Directory (CCD).⁹
- One credit in physical education, which must include the integration of health.
- Eight credits in electives.

² Section 1002.3105, F.S.

³ Section 1003.4282(11), F.S.

⁴ Section 1003.4282(1), F.S.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Florida Department of Education, *Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses that Meet the Practical Arts High School Graduation Requirement, 2019-2020*, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7746/urlt/1920PACourses.pdf>.

⁷ Section 1003.4282(3), F.S. In addition, a student who earns credit upon completion of an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education may use such credit to satisfy the practical arts high school graduation credit requirement. The SBE must approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that may be used. Section 1003.4282(8)(a)3., F.S.

⁸ Two of the three required science credits must have a laboratory component. Section 1003.4282(3)(c), F.S.

⁹ Section 1003.4282(3)(e), F.S. The Course Code Directory (CCD) lists all public pre-K-12 and postsecondary career and technical education courses available for use by school districts. Programs and courses funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and courses or programs for which students may earn credit toward high school graduation must be listed in the CCD. The CCD maintains course listings for administration and service assignments, K-12 education, exceptional student education, career and technical education, and adult education. Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C.

18-Credit Requirement to Earn a Standard High School Diploma

Students may also earn a standard high school diploma after completing a specified 18 credits under the ACCEL option, which provides an academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible public school students in kindergarten through grade 12.¹⁰

Under the ACCEL option, students must meet most of the credit requirements under the 24-credit option, but are required to complete fewer elective credits (i.e., three credits in electives instead of the required eight credits under the 24-credit standard high school diploma pathway) and are not required to earn one credit in physical education.¹¹

Career and Technical Education

Career and technical education refers to organized educational activities that:¹²

- Offer a sequence of courses that provide:
 - Individuals with rigorous academic content and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions; and at the secondary level are aligned with state academic standards.
 - Technical skill proficiency or a recognized postsecondary credential, which may include an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or an associate degree.
- Include competency-based, work-based, or other applied learning that supports the development of academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, employability skills, technical skills, and occupation-specific skills, and knowledge of all aspects of an industry, including entrepreneurship.
- To the extent practicable, coordinates between secondary and postsecondary education programs through programs of study, articulation agreements, early college high school programs, or dual or concurrent enrollment program opportunities.
- May include career exploration at the high school level or as early as the middle grades.

The CTE section of the CCD lists secondary and postsecondary courses in the 17 career clusters¹³ as well as courses that provide internship, on-the-job training, employability skills, and

¹⁰ Section 1002.3105(5), F.S.

¹¹ Section 1002.3105(5), F.S. An adult student enrolled in an adult general education program specified in s. 1004.93, F.S., must be awarded a standard high school diploma if the student meets the specified requirements for the 24-credit pathway or the ACCEL option, except that: (1) one elective credit may be substituted for the one credit requirement in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts; (2) the requirement that two of the science credits include a laboratory component may be waived by the district school board; and (3) the one credit in physical education may be substituted with an elective credit. Section 1003.4282(6)(b), F.S.

¹² 20 U.S.C. 2302(3), Public Law 115-224, *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, as amended through Public Law 116-6 (Feb. 15, 2019).

¹³ CTE programs are aligned to a career cluster and detailed in curriculum frameworks. The 17 career clusters are: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology & Communication; Business, Management & Administration; Education & Training; Energy; Engineering & Technology Education; Finance; Government & Public Administration; Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety & Security; Manufacturing; Marketing, Sales & Service; and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. Florida Department of Education, *2019-20 CTE Curriculum Frameworks*, <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/curriculum-frameworks/2019-20-frameworks> (last visited Jan. 4, 2020).

preapprenticeship opportunities.¹⁴ Participation in career education courses engages students in their high school education, increases academic achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary success.¹⁵

Florida law¹⁶ requires the Department of Education to develop, for approval by the State Board of Education (SBE), career education courses or a series of courses that satisfy general high school credit requirements. Students taking these courses can earn credit in both the career education course and the course required for a standard high school diploma.¹⁷ The SBE has approved career education courses that satisfy credit requirements for practical arts, economics, and science.¹⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill modifies s. 1003.4282, F.S., which currently requires that a student complete one credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or an identified practical arts course as a part of the 24 credits required to earn a standard high school diploma. The bill replaces the option to complete one credit in practical arts with the option to complete one credit in career and technical education (CTE). The bill specifies that eligible CTE courses are identified in the Course Code Directory (CCD). This modification will also apply to students who earn a standard high school diploma under the Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option.

The bill may remove the requirement that the Department of Education identify practical arts courses that meet specified requirements. In addition, because there are currently more than 2,600 secondary and postsecondary CTE courses in the CCD,¹⁹ students may have additional CTE opportunities to complete the specified high school graduation requirement.

The bill modifies high school graduation requirements under the 24-credit and ACCEL options that will apply to all students; not limited to students entering high school in grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year. However, all currently-identified practical arts courses are also listed in the CCD as CTE courses, so students who have completed a practical arts course should have also completed the new CTE option.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2020.

¹⁴ Florida Department of Education, *2019-2020 Course Code Directory – Section 5: Career and Technical Education (CTE)* (SBE approved Mar. 19, 2019), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7746/urlt/1920-CCD-CTE.pdf>.

¹⁵ Section 1003.4282(8)(a), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 1003.4282(8), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 1003.4282(8)(a), F.S.

¹⁸ Florida Department of Education, *CTE Courses that Fulfill the Graduation Designation for Economics, Equally Rigorous Science and Practical Arts 2019-20*, available at <http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5652/urlt/1920coursesPAEQEC.xlsx>.

¹⁹ Senate Staff Analysis of Florida Department of Education, *2019-2020 Course Directory, Section 5 - Career and Technical Education Programs and Courses*, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd/2019-2020-course-directory.stml>.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill does not have an impact on state revenues or expenditures. However, the Department of Education may incur minimal costs associated with modifying their process to include the additional career and technical education courses that may be used to meet the high school graduation requirement.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

Section 1003.4282(6)(b), F.S., authorizes specified exceptions to the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements for an adult student in an adult general education program. Such exceptions include the option for one elective credit to be substituted for the one-credit requirement in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts. This requirement should be modified to conform the language to the requirement in the bill.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1003.4282 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education on February 10, 2020:

The committee substitute corrects a formatting error, and indicates that career and technical education (CTE) courses eligible to satisfy the specified one-credit graduation requirement are identified in the Course Code Directory.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.