

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to high school equivalency diplomas;
3 amending s. 1003.435, F.S.; providing for the award of
4 a high school equivalency diploma to students who meet
5 specified criteria relating to high school graduation
6 requirements; conforming provisions to changes made by
7 the act; providing an effective date.
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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11 Section 1. Section 1003.435, Florida Statutes, is amended
12 to read:

13 1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.—

14 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that
15 prescribe performance standards and provide for comprehensive
16 examinations to be administered to candidates for high school
17 equivalency diplomas. Such rules shall include, but are not
18 limited to, provisions for fees, frequency of examinations, and
19 procedures for retaking an examination upon unsatisfactory
20 performance.

21 (2) The department may award high school equivalency
22 diplomas to candidates who meet the performance standards
23 prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to
24 subsection (1) or, for those candidates who failed to pass the
25 assessments required under s. 1008.22(3), through earning the 24

26 | credits required under s. 1003.4282, or the required 18 credits
27 | under s. 1002.3105(5), achieving a 2.5 GPA in the academic core
28 | courses, and earning an industry certification while enrolled in
29 | high school.

30 | (3) Each district school board shall offer and administer
31 | the high school equivalency diploma examinations and the subject
32 | area examinations to all candidates pursuant to rules of the
33 | State Board of Education.

34 | (4) A candidate for a high school equivalency diploma
35 | shall be at least 18 years of age on the date of the examination
36 | or, for those candidates who failed to pass the assessments
37 | under s. 1008.22(3) but met the course credit, GPA, and industry
38 | certification requirements under subsection (2), 17 years of
39 | age, except that in extraordinary circumstances, as provided for
40 | in rules of the district school board of the district in which
41 | the candidate resides or attends school, a candidate may take
42 | the examination after reaching the age of 16.

43 | (5) Each district school board shall develop, in
44 | cooperation with the area Florida College System institution
45 | board of trustees, a plan for the provision of advanced
46 | instruction for those students who meet the requirements of
47 | subsection (2) ~~attain satisfactory performance on the high~~
48 | ~~school equivalency examination or the subject area examinations~~
49 | or who demonstrate through other means a readiness to engage in
50 | postsecondary-level academic work. The plan shall include

51 | provisions for the equitable distribution of generated funds to
52 | cover personnel, maintenance, and other costs of offering the
53 | advanced instruction. Priority shall be given to programs of
54 | advanced instruction offered in high school facilities.

55 | (6) All high school equivalency diplomas issued under the
56 | provisions of this section shall have equal status with other
57 | high school diplomas for all state purposes, including admission
58 | to any state university or Florida College System institution.

59 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.