

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** CS/HB 333 Transfer of K-12 Grades and Credits  
**SPONSOR(S):** Education Quality Subcommittee, Amesty and others  
**TIED BILLS:** None. **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1120

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Education Quality Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N, As CS	Suppiah	Sanchez
2) Education & Employment Committee	20 Y, 0 N	Suppiah	Hassell

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida law and State Board of Education (SBE) rules govern the transfer of K-12 educational records. Educational records contain the grades and credits received by students and travel with the students when they transfer to a different school. Current SBE rules require schools to accept grades on an official transcript at face value and outline alternative validation procedures in the event that the receiving school is a part of an accreditation program, the student does not have an official transcript, or the student is transferring from home education.

The bill codifies SBE rules to require Florida public schools to accept at face value the credits and grades of a transfer student, so long as the credits and grades are not subject to required validation by a receiving school's accrediting agency. If a student's grades or credits are denied, the bill requires school districts to notify the student and the student's parents within 10 days of the denial and provide information on available alternative validation procedures.

The bill also requires district school boards to establish a policy that explains the process and standards for grade and credit transfer as established by SBE rules. The policy must clearly state the requirements and limitations for the acceptance or denial of a student's grades or credits. The bill requires the SBE to collect and annually publish on its website, each district school board's policy.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2023.

# FULL ANALYSIS

## I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

#### **Transfer of Student Grades and Credits**

##### Present Situation

Principals at public K-12 schools are required to maintain a permanent cumulative record for each student enrolled at their school.<sup>1</sup> Florida law requires the transfer of school records to occur within three days of a student transferring to a different school.<sup>2</sup> The transferred records must include verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns, including threat assessment evaluation and intervention services, and psychological evaluations, including therapeutic treatment plans and therapy or progress notes created or maintained by school district or charter school staff.<sup>3</sup> The SBE prescribes all other procedures relating to the acceptance of transfer work and credit for students.<sup>4</sup>

##### *Students Transferring in Middle Grades<sup>5</sup>*

Receiving schools must accept grades on official transcripts at face value subject to validation if required by the receiving school's accreditation.<sup>6</sup> If the receiving school is accredited by an outside agency, acceptance of transferred grades and credits are subject to the agency's required validation procedures.<sup>7</sup> If validation of the official transcript is deemed necessary or if the student does not possess an official transcript or is a home education student, successful completion of courses shall be validated through student performance during the first grading period at the receiving school.<sup>8</sup> A student transferring into a school must be placed at the appropriate sequential course level and should be passing each required course at the end of the first grading period.<sup>9</sup>

If validation based on performance is not satisfactory, then any one of the following alternatives identified in the district student progression plan shall be used for validation purposes as determined by the teacher, principal and parent:

- Portfolio evaluation by the superintendent or designee,
- Demonstrated performance in courses taken at other public or private accredited schools,
- Demonstrated proficiencies on nationally normed standardized subject area assessments,
- Demonstrated proficiencies on a statewide, standardized assessment, or
- Written review of the criteria utilized for a given subject provided by the former school.<sup>10</sup>

##### *Students Transferring in High School*

Receiving schools must accept grades on official transcripts at face value subject to validation if required by the receiving school's accreditation.<sup>11</sup> If the receiving school is accredited by an outside agency, acceptance of transferred grades and credits are subject to the agency's required validation procedures.<sup>12</sup> If validation of the official transcript is deemed necessary or if the student does not

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1003.25(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 1003.25(2), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* See also Rule 6A-1.0955(10)(c), F.A.C.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1003.25(3), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Middle grades include grades 6, 7, and 8. See Rule 6A-1.09941(1), F.A.C.

<sup>6</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(1)(a), F.A.C.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(1)(a) and (b), F.A.C.

<sup>9</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(1)(b), F.A.C.

<sup>10</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(1)(c), F.A.C. Students must be provided at least 90 days from the date of transfer to prepare for required assessments.

<sup>11</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(2)(a), F.A.C.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

possess an official transcript or is a home education student, successful completion of courses shall be validated through student performance during the first grading period at the receiving school.<sup>13</sup>

If a student transfers to a Florida public high school from out of country, out of state, a private school, or a home education program and the student's transcript shows credits in Algebra I, English Language Arts II, English Language Arts III, or high school reading, the student must pass a corresponding statewide assessment for the course in order to earn a standard high school diploma.<sup>14</sup> If a transfer student's transcript shows a final course grade and course credit in Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I, or United States History, the transferring course final grade and credit shall be honored without the student taking the requisite statewide, standardized assessment and without the assessment results constituting thirty percent of the student's final course grade.<sup>15</sup>

A student transferring into a school must be placed at the appropriate sequential course level and should have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 at the end of the first grading period.<sup>16</sup> If validation based on performance is not satisfactory, then any one of the following alternatives identified in the district student progression plan shall be used for validation purposes as determined by the teacher, principal and parent:

- Portfolio evaluation by the superintendent or designee,
- Written recommendation by a Florida certified teacher selected by the parent and approved by the principal,
- Satisfactory performance in courses taken through dual enrollment or at other public or private accredited schools,
- Satisfactory performance on nationally normed standardized subject area assessments,
- Satisfactory performance on a statewide, standardized assessment, or
- Written review of the criteria utilized for a given subject provided by the former school.<sup>17</sup>

### Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires public schools to accept at face value the credits and grades for a student who transfers to the school. If the receiving school is accredited, the credits and grades are subject to the accrediting agency's validation procedures. If the transfer of a student's grades or credits are denied, the bill requires school districts to notify the student and the student's parents within 10 days of the denial and provide information on available alternative validation procedures.

The bill also requires district school boards to establish a policy, at a regular school board meeting, that explains the process and standards established by the SBE for grade and credit transfer and acceptance or denial. The policy must clearly state the requirements and limitations for the acceptance or denial of a student's grades or credits. The bill requires the SBE to collect and annually publish on its website, each district school board's policy.

#### B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1:** Amends s. 1003.25, F.S.; provides requirements for the transfer and acceptance of grades and credits of students transferring to a public school; provides school district requirements upon the denial of such transfer; requires each district school board to establish a policy for the transfer and acceptance or denial of grades and credits; requires the State Board of Education to annually publish such policies on its website.

**Section 2:** Provides an effective date.

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<sup>13</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(2)(a) and (b), F.A.C.

<sup>14</sup> Section 1003.4282(7), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(2)(b), F.A.C.

<sup>17</sup> Rule 6A-1.09941(2)(c), F.A.C. Students must be provided at least 90 days from the date of transfer to prepare for required assessments.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

### D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

## III. COMMENTS

### A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

### B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill requires the State Board of Education to update rules prescribing procedures relating to the acceptance of transfer work and credit for students to also include procedures for the transfer of grades.

### C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

## IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 29, 2023, the Education Quality Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment codifies State Board of Education (SBE) rules to

require the acceptance of transferring students' credits and grades, subject to any required validation procedures the receiving school's accreditor. The amendment also requires school districts to notify students and their parents within 10 days of denying a transfer of credits and grades and to provide information on available alternative validation procedures.

This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as passed by the Education Quality Subcommittee.