

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to certificates of completion;
 3 amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; prohibiting the award of
 4 certificates of completion after a specified date;
 5 amending ss. 1002.394, 1003.433, and 1007.263, F.S.;
 6 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 7 providing an effective date.

8
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) and paragraphs
 12 (a) and (d) of subsection (9) of section 1003.4282, Florida
 13 Statutes, are amended to read:

14 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school
 15 diploma.—

16 (6) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

17 (c) 1. A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the
 18 required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the
 19 assessments required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA
 20 before July 1, 2023, shall be awarded a certificate of
 21 completion in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.
 22 However, a student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of
 23 completion may elect to remain in high school either as a full-
 24 time student or a part-time student for up to 1 additional year
 25 and receive special instruction designed to remedy his or her

26 identified deficiencies. This subparagraph expires on July 1,
27 2023.

28 2. Beginning July 1, 2023, a student who earns the
29 required 24 credits, or the required 18 credits under s.
30 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the statewide assessments
31 required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA may elect to
32 remain in high school either as a full-time student or a part-
33 time student for up to 1 additional year and receive special
34 instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
35 deficiencies.

36 (9) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Beginning with students
37 entering grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year, this subsection
38 applies to a student with a disability.

39 (a) A parent of the student with a disability shall, in
40 collaboration with the individual education plan (IEP) team
41 during the transition planning process pursuant to s. 1003.5716,
42 declare an intent for the student to graduate from high school
43 with ~~either a standard high school diploma or a certificate of~~
44 ~~completion. A student with a disability who does not satisfy the~~
45 ~~standard high school diploma requirements pursuant to this~~
46 ~~section shall be awarded a certificate of completion.~~

47 (d) A student with a disability who received ~~receives~~ a
48 certificate of completion before July 1, 2023, and has an
49 individual education plan that prescribes special education,
50 transition planning, transition services, or related services

51 through 21 years of age may continue to receive the specified
52 instruction and services.

53

54 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss.
55 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection, including
56 rules that establish the minimum requirements for students
57 described in this subsection to earn a standard high school
58 diploma. The State Board of Education shall adopt emergency
59 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54.

60 Section 2. Subsection (16) of section 1002.394, Florida
61 Statutes, is amended to read:

62 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

63 (16) TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM.—A student with a
64 disability who is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph
65 (3)(b) who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years of
66 age and who has not received a high school diploma ~~or~~
67 ~~certificate of completion~~ is eligible for enrollment in his or
68 her private school's transition-to-work program. A transition-
69 to-work program shall consist of academic instruction, work
70 skills training, and a volunteer or paid work experience.

71 (a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating
72 private school must:

73 1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must
74 include a written description of the academic instruction and
75 work skills training students will receive and the goals for

76 | students in the program.

77 | 2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the
78 | Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.

79 | 3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan
80 | for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent,
81 | the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized
82 | plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of
83 | Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the
84 | office.

85 | 4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed
86 | by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of
87 | the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

88 | 5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the
89 | student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and,
90 | if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

91 | 6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report
92 | that documents and explains the student's progress and
93 | performance in the program.

94 | 7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records
95 | for the student.

96 | (b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program
97 | must, at a minimum:

98 | 1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the private school's
99 | physical facility, which must include academic instruction and
100 | work skills training.

101 2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's
102 volunteer or paid work experience.

103 (c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a
104 business must:

105 1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's
106 performance and hours worked and provide the information to the
107 private school.

108 2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.

109 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
110 1003.433, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

111 1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-
112 of-country transfer students and students needing additional
113 instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.-

114 (2) Students who earn the required 24 credits for the
115 standard high school diploma except for passage of any must-pass
116 assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate
117 assessment by the end of grade 12 must be provided the following
118 learning opportunities:

119 (b) For students who earned ~~Upon receipt of~~ a certificate
120 of completion before July 1, 2023, be allowed to take the
121 College Placement Test and be admitted to developmental
122 education or credit courses at a Florida College System
123 institution, as appropriate.

124 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1007.263, Florida
125 Statutes, is amended to read:

HB 445

2023

126 1007.263 Florida College System institutions; admissions
127 of students.—Each Florida College System institution board of
128 trustees is authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of
129 students subject to this section and rules of the State Board of
130 Education. These rules shall include the following:

131 (4) A student who has been awarded a certificate of
132 completion under s. 1003.4282 before July 1, 2023, is eligible
133 to enroll in certificate career education programs.

134
135 Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify
136 students about developmental education options for improving
137 their communication or computation skills that are essential to
138 performing college-level work, including tutoring, extended time
139 in gateway courses, free online courses, adult basic education,
140 adult secondary education, or private provider instruction.

141 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.