

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student achievement; amending s.
3 1003.02, F.S.; requiring a certified school counselor
4 to provide academic counseling relating to graduation
5 requirements to certain freshmen students within a
6 specified timeframe; providing requirements for such
7 counseling; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; prohibiting
8 certain students from participating in their school's
9 graduation ceremony; amending s. 1003.433, F.S.;
10 authorizing certain students enrolled in an ESOL
11 program to meet specified graduation requirements by
12 demonstrating certain expectations; amending s.
13 1008.22, F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of Education
14 to identify additional scores on certain exams and
15 grades in certain courses that may be used to satisfy
16 specified graduation requirements; creating the Music-
17 based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner
18 Engagement and Success Pilot Program within the
19 department for a specified purpose; providing for
20 participation in the pilot program; providing school
21 district duties; requiring the Commissioner of
22 Education to select school districts for participation
23 in the pilot program, subject to legislative
24 appropriation; requiring the University of Florida's
25 College of Education to evaluate the effectiveness of

26 | the pilot program; providing requirements for such
27 | evaluation; requiring such college to provide progress
28 | monitoring updates to the department and Legislature
29 | and a comprehensive report to the Governor, the
30 | Legislature, and a certain center by a specified date;
31 | providing for expiration of the pilot program;
32 | providing an appropriation; providing an effective
33 | date.

34 |
35 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

36 |
37 | Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section
38 | 1003.02, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (l), and
39 | a new paragraph (k) is added to that subsection to read:

40 | 1003.02 District school board operation and control of
41 | public K-12 education within the school district.—As provided in
42 | part II of chapter 1001, district school boards are
43 | constitutionally and statutorily charged with the operation and
44 | control of public K-12 education within their school districts.
45 | The district school boards must establish, organize, and operate
46 | their public K-12 schools and educational programs, employees,
47 | and facilities. Their responsibilities include staff
48 | development, public K-12 school student education including
49 | education for exceptional students and students in juvenile
50 | justice programs, special programs, adult education programs,

HB 537

2024

51 and career education programs. Additionally, district school
52 boards must:

53 (1) Provide for the proper accounting for all students of
54 school age, for the attendance and control of students at
55 school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other
56 matters relating to the welfare of students in the following
57 areas:

58 (k) Academic counseling for certain freshmen students.—
59 Within the first 30 days of the second semester of the school
60 year, a certified school counselor must meet with each freshman
61 student who has a cumulative grade point average (GPA) lower
62 than 2.0. The student's parent must be notified of such meeting
63 and encouraged to attend. During the meeting, the certified
64 school counselor shall:

65 1. Explain the graduation requirements under s. 1003.4282,
66 the difference between a standard high school diploma and a
67 certificate of completion, and the pathways to achieve a
68 standard high school diploma.

69 2. Explain to the student his or her current academic
70 standing, how he or she is failing to meet such graduation
71 requirements, and what options are available to help the student
72 meet such requirements.

73 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section
74 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

75 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school

76 | diploma.—

77 | (5) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

78 | (c) A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the
 79 | required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the
 80 | assessments required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA
 81 | shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form
 82 | prescribed by the State Board of Education. However, a student
 83 | who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may
 84 | elect to remain in high school either as a full-time student or
 85 | a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive
 86 | special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
 87 | deficiencies. A student who is awarded a certificate of
 88 | completion shall not participate in his or her school's
 89 | graduation ceremony.

90 | Section 3. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of
 91 | section 1003.433, Florida Statutes, to read:

92 | 1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-
 93 | of-country transfer students and students needing additional
 94 | instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.—

95 | (3) Students who have been enrolled in an ESOL program for
 96 | less than 2 school years and have met all requirements for the
 97 | standard high school diploma except for passage of any must-pass
 98 | assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or alternate
 99 | assessment may:

100 | (c) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, meet the

101 requirement to earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 end-of-
 102 course assessment by satisfactorily demonstrating subject-level
 103 expectations on formative assessments in accordance with state
 104 board rule.

105 Section 4. Subsections (9) and (10) of section 1008.22,
 106 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

107 1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.—

108 (9) CONCORDANT SCORES.—The Commissioner of Education must
 109 identify scores on assessments or exams and grades in courses ~~on~~
 110 ~~the SAT and ACT~~ that if achieved satisfy the graduation
 111 requirement that a student pass the grade 10 ELA assessment,
 112 including, but not limited to, scores on the SAT, ACT, and
 113 Classic Learning Test; a score on the General Educational
 114 Development test; and a grade of "C" or higher in specified dual
 115 enrollment courses. The commissioner may identify concordant
 116 scores on assessments other than those listed in this subsection
 117 ~~the SAT and ACT~~. If the content or scoring procedures change for
 118 the grade 10 ELA assessment, new concordant scores must be
 119 determined. If new concordant scores are not timely adopted, the
 120 last-adopted concordant scores remain in effect until such time
 121 as new scores are adopted. The state board shall adopt
 122 concordant scores in rule.

123 (10) COMPARATIVE SCORES FOR END-OF-COURSE (EOC)
 124 ASSESSMENT.—The Commissioner of Education must identify ~~one or~~
 125 ~~more comparative~~ scores on assessments or exams and grades in

126 courses that if achieved satisfy the graduation requirement that
127 a student pass for the Algebra I EOC assessment, including, but
128 not limited to, a score on the Mathematics Postsecondary
129 Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.), a score on the Mathematical
130 Reasoning portion of the General Educational Development test,
131 and a grade of "C" or higher in specified dual enrollment
132 courses. If the content or scoring procedures change for the EOC
133 assessment, new comparative scores must be determined. If new
134 comparative scores are not timely adopted, the last-adopted
135 comparative scores remain in effect until such time as new
136 scores are adopted. The state board shall adopt comparative
137 scores in rule.

138 Section 5. (1) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year,
139 the Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner
140 Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program is created within
141 the Department of Education for a period of 2 school years. The
142 purpose of the pilot program is to assist school districts that
143 participated in the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive
144 Program in using music-based supplemental materials through the
145 Muzology digital learning system to support the curriculum for
146 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educational
147 courses for middle school students.

148 (2) The pilot program shall be open to the Alachua,
149 Marion, and Miami-Dade school districts. In order for a school
150 district to participate in the pilot program, the district

151 school superintendent must annually certify to the department,
 152 in a format prescribed by the department, that each
 153 participating middle school class:

154 (a) Includes students who participated in the Early
 155 Childhood Music Education Incentive Program.

156 (b) Uses music-based supplemental materials through the
 157 Muzology digital learning system at least twice a week in STEM
 158 educational courses.

159 (c) Is taught by certified mathematics teachers.

160 (d) Complies with class size requirements under s.
 161 1003.03.

162 (3)(a) The Commissioner of Education shall select school
 163 districts for participation in the pilot program, subject to
 164 legislative appropriation. Selected school districts shall
 165 annually receive \$6 per full-time equivalent student
 166 participating in the pilot program.

167 (b) To maintain eligibility for participation in the pilot
 168 program, a selected school district must annually certify to the
 169 department, in a format prescribed by the department, that each
 170 participating middle school class meets the requirements of
 171 subsection (2). If a selected school district fails to provide
 172 the annual certification for a fiscal year, the school district
 173 must return all funds received through the pilot program for
 174 that fiscal year.

175 (4)(a) The University of Florida's College of Education

176 shall evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program by
177 measuring the academic performance of participating students and
178 the success of the pilot program. The evaluation must include,
179 but is not limited to, a quantitative analysis of the
180 achievement of participating students and a qualitative
181 evaluation of participating students.

182 (b) The University of Florida's College of Education shall
183 provide:

184 1. Progress monitoring updates to the department and the
185 Legislature.

186 2. A comprehensive report on the results and efficacy of
187 the pilot program to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
188 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the University
189 of South Florida's Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-
190 Integrated Teaching (PAInT) by June 30, 2026.

191 (5) This section expires June 30, 2026.

192 Section 6. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of
193 \$680,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
194 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to administer the
195 Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner
196 Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program.

197 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.