

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student achievement; amending s.
3 1002.394, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
4 by the act; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; deleting
5 provisions providing for the award of a certificate of
6 completion to certain students; conforming provisions
7 to changes made by the act; amending ss. 1003.433 and
8 1007.263, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
9 by the act; creating s. 1003.482, F.S.; creating the
10 Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner
11 Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program within
12 the Department of Education; providing the purpose of
13 the pilot program; providing requirements for the
14 pilot program; providing eligibility; authorizing
15 district school superintendents to contact the
16 department for their district to participate in the
17 pilot program; providing funding requirements, subject
18 to legislative appropriation; requiring participating
19 school districts to maintain eligibility; requiring
20 the College of Education at the University of Florida
21 to evaluate the pilot program's effectiveness and
22 annually share its findings with the department and
23 the Legislature; requiring the college to submit a
24 final report to specified entities by a specified
25 date; providing for expiration of the pilot program;

26 providing an effective date.

27

28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

29

30 Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 1002.394, Florida
 31 Statutes, is amended to read:

32 1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

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

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

43 1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must
 44 include a written description of the academic instruction and
 45 work skills training students will receive and the goals for
 46 students in the program.

47 2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the
 48 Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.

49 3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan
 50 for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent,

51 | the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized
52 | plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of
53 | Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the
54 | office.

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

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

61 | 6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report
62 | that documents and explains the student's progress and
63 | performance in the program.

64 | 7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records
65 | for the student.

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

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

71 | 2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's
72 | volunteer or paid work experience.

73 | (c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a
74 | business must:

75 1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's
 76 performance and hours worked and provide the information to the
 77 private school.

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

79 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and paragraphs
 80 (a) and (d) of subsection (8) of section 1003.4282, Florida
 81 Statutes, are amended to read:

82 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school
 83 diploma.—

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

85 (c) A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the
 86 required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the
 87 assessments required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA
 88 ~~shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form~~
 89 ~~prescribed by the State Board of Education. However, a student~~
 90 ~~who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion~~ may
 91 elect to remain in high school either as a full-time student or
 92 a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive
 93 special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified
 94 deficiencies.

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

98 (a) A parent of the student with a disability shall, in
 99 collaboration with the individual education plan (IEP) team

100 during the transition planning process pursuant to s. 1003.5716,
 101 declare an intent for the student to graduate from high school
 102 with ~~either a standard high school diploma or a certificate of~~
 103 ~~completion. A student with a disability who does not satisfy the~~
 104 ~~standard high school diploma requirements pursuant to this~~
 105 ~~section shall be awarded a certificate of completion.~~

106 (d) A student with a disability who ~~receives a certificate~~
 107 ~~of completion and~~ has an individual education plan that
 108 prescribes special education, transition planning, transition
 109 services, or related services through 21 years of age may
 110 continue to receive the specified instruction and services.

111
 112 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss.
 113 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection, including
 114 rules that establish the minimum requirements for students
 115 described in this subsection to earn a standard high school
 116 diploma. The State Board of Education shall adopt emergency
 117 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54.

118 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 119 1003.433, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120 1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-
 121 of-country transfer students and students needing additional
 122 instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.-

123 (2) Students who earn the required 24 credits for the
 124 standard high school diploma except for passage of any must-pass

125 assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate
 126 assessment by the end of grade 12 must be provided the following
 127 learning opportunities:

128 (b) ~~Upon receipt of a certificate of completion,~~ Be
 129 allowed to take the College Placement Test and be admitted to
 130 developmental education or credit courses at a Florida College
 131 System institution, as appropriate.

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

134 1007.263 Florida College System institutions; admissions
 135 of students.—Each Florida College System institution board of
 136 trustees is authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of
 137 students subject to this section and rules of the State Board of
 138 Education. These rules shall include the following:

139 (4) A student who has earned the required 24 credits under
 140 s. 1003.4282, or the required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5),
 141 for the standard high school diploma except for passage of any
 142 must-pass assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an
 143 alternate assessment by the end of grade 12 ~~been awarded a~~
 144 ~~certificate of completion under s. 1003.4282~~ is eligible to
 145 enroll in certificate career education programs.

146
 147 Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify
 148 students about developmental education options for improving
 149 their communication or computation skills that are essential to

150 performing college-level work, including tutoring, extended time
151 in gateway courses, free online courses, adult basic education,
152 adult secondary education, or private provider instruction.

153 Section 5. Section 1003.482, Florida Statutes, is created
154 to read:

155 1003.482 mSCALES Pilot Program.-

156 (1)(a) The Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate
157 Learner Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program is
158 created within the Department of Education. The purpose of the
159 pilot program is to assist districts in adopting music-based
160 supplemental materials that support STEM courses for middle
161 school students.

162 (b) The music-based supplemental materials must be used by
163 teachers who are certified to teach mathematics pursuant to s.
164 1012.55(1)(c). The supplemental materials must be used at a
165 minimum twice per week to supplement mathematics instruction.

166 (c) Classes that use the supplemental materials are
167 subject to the class size requirements of s. 1003.03.

168 (d) The school districts in Alachua, Marion, and Miami-
169 Dade Counties are eligible to participate in the pilot program.
170 District school superintendents may contact the Department of
171 Education, in a format prescribed by the department, for their
172 district to participate in the pilot program. Subject to
173 legislative appropriation, the department may approve a school
174 district to participate in the pilot program if sufficient

175 funding is available.

176 (e) Participating school districts shall receive \$6 per
177 student. Eligible middle schools must be in the same attendance
178 zone as an elementary school that participated in the Early
179 Childhood Music Education Incentive Program.

180 (f) To maintain eligibility for the pilot program, a
181 participating school district must annually certify to the
182 department, in a format prescribed by the department, that each
183 participating middle school within the district meets the
184 requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c).

185 (2) (a) The College of Education at the University of
186 Florida shall continuously evaluate the program's effectiveness.
187 The College of Education must annually share the findings of its
188 evaluations with the department and the Legislature.

189 (b) The College of Education at the University of Florida
190 shall prepare a comprehensive final report of the program's
191 overall effectiveness. The report must be presented, no later
192 than October 1, 2026, to the department, the Legislature, and
193 the Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-Integrated Teaching.

194 (3) This section expires June 30, 2026.

195 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.