

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 1111](#)

TITLE: Certificates of Completion

SPONSOR(S): Valdés

COMPANION BILL: [SB 1698](#) (Fine)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Student Academic Success](#)

17 Y, 0 N

[PreK-12 Budget](#)

[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill deletes all provisions of the education code related to the certificate of completion, thereby removing it as an option for students who meet graduation credit requirements but fail to pass standardized assessments or maintain the GPA required to graduate.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill deletes all the provisions of the education code related to the [certificate of completion](#), thereby removing the certificate as an option for students that have sufficient high school credits but fail to meet the standardized assessment or GPA [requirements for graduation](#) with a standard high school diploma. However, the bill maintains the provision that permits a student that fails to pass the required assessments or achieve a 2.0 GPA to remain in high school either as a full-time or part-time student for up to one additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified deficiencies. (Sections [1-3](#))

Additionally, while the bill removes the certificate of completion as a [pathway to admission into a career certificate program](#) at a Florida College System institution, it adds that students who have earned the credits required to graduate but fail to meet standardized assessment requirements are eligible for admission to such programs. (Sections [4](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025 (Section [5](#)).

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Requirements for Standard High School Diploma

Florida law establishes academic requirements for earning a standard high school diploma to include five options:

- 24-credit program;¹
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option;²
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway option;³

¹ Section [1003.4282\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

² Section [1002.3105\(5\), F.S.](#)

³ Section [1003.4282\(10\), F.S.](#)

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- an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum;⁴ or
- an Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum.⁵

The 24 credits required for a standard high school diploma include:⁶

- four credits in English Language Arts (ELA);
- four credits in mathematics;
- three credits in science;
- three credits in social studies;
- one credit in fine or performing arts, speech, and debate, or practical arts;
- one credit in physical education;
- one-half credit in personal financial literacy; and
- seven and one-half credits in electives.

In addition to successful completion of the required courses, a student must earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale⁷ and must pass the following required statewide standardized assessments:

- grade 10 ELA assessment or earn a concordant score on the SAT, ACT, or Classic Learning Test (CLT);⁸ and
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) assessment or, earn a comparative score on the Math section of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the SAT, the ACT, the CLT, or the Geometry EOC assessment.⁹

The 18-credit ACCEL option requirements are similar to those of the 24-credit option, with the following exceptions:

- three elective credits instead of eight;
- a physical education credit is not required; and
- a one-half credit in personal finance is not required.¹⁰

Certificate of Completion

A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the required 18 credits through the ACCEL options graduation pathway, but fails to pass the required statewide assessments or achieve a 2.0 GPA must be awarded a certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education (SBE). However, a student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in high school either as a full-time or part-time student for up to one additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified deficiencies.¹¹

During the transition planning process,¹² a parent of a student with a disability must declare an intention for the student to graduate from high school with either a standard high school diploma or a certificate of completion. A certificate of completion must be awarded to a student with a disability who does not satisfy the standard high school diploma requirements.¹³ A student with a disability who receives a certificate of completion may continue to

⁴ Section [1003.4282\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Section [1003.4282\(3\)\(a\)-\(h\), F.S.](#)

⁷ Section [1003.4282\(5\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁸ Section [1003.4282\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#); Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(a)2., F.A.C. Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year, students and adults who have not earned the required passing score on the Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment, may meet the testing requirement to earn a high school diploma by earning a specified concordant score.

⁹ Section [1003.4282\(3\)\(b\), F.S.](#); Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(b)2., F.A.C. Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year, students and adults who have not earned the required passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC assessment, may meet the testing requirements to earn a high school diploma by earning a specified comparative score.

¹⁰ Section [1002.3105, F.S.](#)

¹¹ Section [1003.4282\(6\)\(c\), F.S.](#)

¹² Section [1003.5716\(1\), F.S.](#) An individualized education plan (IEP) team must identify the need for transition services before a student with a disability enters high school to ensure quality planning for postsecondary education and career opportunities. The plan must be ready for implementation by the first day of the student's first year in high school. *Id.*

¹³ Section [1003.4282\(9\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

receive Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) until their 22nd birthday, or, until the end of the school semester or year in which the student turns 22.¹⁴

Certificate of Completion- Admission to Postsecondary Education

Current law requires a student who has been awarded a certificate of completion to be eligible to enroll in certificate career education programs at a Florida College System institution.¹⁵ A certificate career education program is defined as a course of study that leads to at least one occupational completion point. The program may also confer credit that may articulate with a diploma or career degree education program, if authorized by rules of the SBE.¹⁶ However, students who earned a certificate of completion are generally not eligible for admission into a state university as they are not considered to have earned a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.¹⁷

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2024	CS/CS/HB 537	Valdés		The bill passed the House unanimously on February 29, 2024, and was later amended by the Senate to remove provisions related to certificates of completion.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Student Academic Success Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N	3/11/2025	Sanchez	Blank
PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee				
Education & Employment Committee				

¹⁴ Paul O. Burns, EdD., *High School Graduation and Completion Options*, presentation before the Education Quality Subcommittee (Feb. 8, 2023).

¹⁵ Section [1007.263\(4\), F.S.](#)

¹⁶ Section [1004.02\(20\), F.S.](#); *see also* Section [1004.02\(21\), F.S.](#) An occupational completion point means the occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an occupation that is linked to a career and technical program.

¹⁷ *See* Section 1007.263(2)(a); *see also* Florida Department of Education, *Standard Diploma Requirements* (2020), at 2, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/StandardDiplomaRequirements.pdf>. Students who have received a certificate of completion also cannot join the military, as they have not received either a GED or standard high school diploma. *See* U.S. General Services Administration, *Requirements to Join the U.S. Military*, <https://www.usa.gov/military-requirements> (last visited Mar. 11, 2025).