

A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to exceptional student education;
 creating s. 1003.5717, F.S.; requiring the Department
 of Education to develop and implement, by a specified
 date, a workforce credential program for students with
 an autism spectrum disorder; providing the purpose of
 the program; providing requirements for the program;
 requiring the department to produce an annual report
 during a specified timeframe; providing requirements
 for the report; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.5717, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.5717 Workforce credential program for students with autism spectrum disorder.—The Department of Education shall develop and implement by January 31, 2026, a workforce credential program for students with an autism spectrum disorder. The purpose of the program is to assist such students in securing employment upon graduation. The program must allow for such students to earn workforce certificates that designate that the students have acquired specific skills that meet employer needs.

(1) Each workforce certificate must require the student to

26 | demonstrate five discrete skills or behaviors, including, but
27 | not limited to, workplace safety.

28 | (2) The workforce certificate must be validated by two
29 | members of instructional staff who specialize in exceptional
30 | student education.

31 | (3) Beginning with the 2026 calendar year through the 2030
32 | calendar year, the department shall prepare an annual report by
33 | January 31 of the following year detailing the operations of the
34 | program. At a minimum, the report must include the workforce
35 | certificates offered by the program, data on postgraduation
36 | student employment, data on student participation rates in the
37 | program, and any other outcome data deemed necessary by the
38 | department to be included.

39 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.