

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to exceptional student education;
3 creating s. 1003.5717, F.S.; requiring the Department
4 of Education to develop and implement, by a specified
5 date, a workforce credential program for students with
6 an autism spectrum disorder or students on a modified
7 curriculum; providing the purpose of the program;
8 providing requirements for the program; requiring the
9 department to produce an annual report during a
10 specified timeframe; providing requirements for the
11 report; providing an effective date.

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

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

17 1003.5717 Workforce credential program for students with
18 an autism spectrum disorder or students on a modified
19 curriculum.—The Department of Education shall develop and
20 implement by January 31, 2026, a workforce credential program
21 for students with an autism spectrum disorder or students on a
22 modified curriculum. The department shall work with the Florida
23 Center for Students with Unique Abilities established under s.
24 1004.6495 for the development and implementation of the program.
25 The purpose of the program is to assist such students in

26 securing employment upon graduation. The program must allow for
27 such students to earn badges that designate that the students
28 have acquired specific skills that meet employer needs.

29 (1) (a) Each badge must require the student to demonstrate
30 five discrete skills or behaviors, including, but not limited
31 to, workplace safety.

32 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Occupational
33 Safety and Health Administration to develop a workplace safety
34 badge.

35 (2) The badge must be validated by two members of
36 instructional staff who specialize in exceptional student
37 education.

38 (3) Beginning with the 2026 calendar year through the 2030
39 calendar year, the department shall prepare an annual report by
40 January 31 of the following year detailing the operations of the
41 program. At a minimum, the report must include the badges
42 offered by the program, data on postgraduation student
43 employment, data on student participation rates in the program,
44 and any other outcome data deemed necessary by the department to
45 be included.

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