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An act relating to students enrolled in dropout retrieval programs; amending s. 1002.45, F.S.; revising assessment and accountability requirements for a virtual instruction program provider; providing that a virtual instruction program provider operating exclusively as a dropout retrieval program is exempt from specified requirements; amending s. 1003.53, F.S.; providing that dropout retrieval programs serve a specified group of students; requiring a dropout retrieval program to choose to receive a school grade or school improvement rating; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 1002.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.45 Virtual instruction programs.—

(7) ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(a) Each approved virtual instruction program provider contracted pursuant to this section must:

1. Participate in the statewide assessment program under s. 1008.22 and in the state's education performance accountability system under s. 1008.31.

2. Receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341, as applicable, for each district with which it contracts, based on the assessment scores of all students served within the school district. ~~The school~~

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~~improvement rating received by each approved virtual instruction~~  
~~program provider shall be based upon the aggregated assessment~~  
~~scores of all students served by the provider statewide.~~ Each  
approved virtual instruction program provider shall receive a  
district grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 based upon the aggregated  
assessment scores of all students served by the provider  
statewide and a separate school grade or school improvement  
rating for each school district with which it contracts based  
upon the assessment scores of all students served within the  
school district. A virtual instruction program provider  
operating exclusively as a dropout retrieval program as  
described in s. 1003.53(7) is exempt from the district grade  
requirement of this paragraph. The department shall publish the  
school grade or school improvement rating received by each  
approved virtual instruction program provider on its Internet  
website. The department shall develop an evaluation method for  
providers of part-time programs which includes the percentage of  
students making learning gains, the percentage of students  
successfully passing any required end-of-course assessment, the  
percentage of students taking Advanced Placement examinations,  
and the percentage of students scoring 3 or higher on an  
Advanced Placement examination.

Section 2. Present subsection (7) of section 1003.53,  
Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (8), and a new  
subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

1003.53 Dropout prevention and academic intervention.—

(7) Dropout retrieval programs serve students who have  
officially withdrawn from high school before graduation and who  
are not engaged in the education system at the time of

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enrollment in the program. Each dropout retrieval program shall  
choose to receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school  
improvement rating under s. 1008.341.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.