FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: CS/HB 1503	**COMPANION BILL:** SB 1694 (Avila)
TITLE: Technology Education	**LINKED BILLS:** None
SPONSOR(S): Giallombardo	**RELATED BILLS:** None

Committee References

Careers & Workforce
16 Y, 0 N, As CS

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:
The bill provides requirements for general education core courses that integrate technology, including requiring instruction on the application of artificial intelligence to the subject matter of the course. Additionally, the bill requires that instruction on artificial intelligence be included in the computer science courses school districts are required to offer in high schools.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:
None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires any general education core course that integrates the use of technology to provide students with the following:

- opportunities to improve digital literacy and competency;
- instruction on the application of artificial intelligence tools to the course; and
- related instruction on software engineering, computer networks, database systems, and cyber security, as applicable to the course. (Section 1)

Additionally, the bill requires that high school computer science courses offered by school districts include instruction on artificial intelligence. The proposed changes serve to highlight the importance of emerging technologies around artificial intelligence and provide Florida students in public high schools and public postsecondary institutions opportunities to learn about and engage with artificial intelligence. (Sections 2).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section 3).

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

General Education Core Courses
Current law requires that general education core course options shall consist of a maximum of five courses within each of the subject areas of communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.[1] Each general education core course option must contain high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common

[1] Section 1007.25(3)(a), F.S. The core courses may be revised, or the five-course maximum within each subject area may be exceeded, if approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors, as recommended by the subject area faculty committee and approved by the Articulation Coordinating Committee as necessary for a subject area.

competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully complete the course.[2] Additionally, general education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates the Florida Educational Equity Act, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.[3]

General education core courses must meet the following standards:

- Communication courses must afford students the ability to communicate effectively, including the ability to write clearly and engage in public speaking.
- Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon.
- Social science courses must afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues.
- Natural science courses must afford students the ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.
- Mathematics courses must afford students a mastery of foundational mathematical and computation models and methods by applying such models and methods in problem solving.[4]

Computer Science Courses

Florida law defines computer science as "the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and software designs, applications, and their impact on society."[5] Computer science also includes computer coding and computer programming.

Public schools are required to provide students in grades K-12 opportunities for learning computer science including, but not limited to, computer coding and computer programming.[6] Such opportunities may include:[7]

- instruction regarding computer coding in elementary and middle school;
- instruction to develop computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle school; and
- courses in computer science, computer coding, and computer programming in high school, including opportunities to earn industry certifications related to the courses.

Computer science courses must be offered to students in high school and middle school.[8] High school students must be provided opportunities to take computer science courses and earn technology-related industry certifications to satisfy high school graduation requirements. Computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications that are identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high school graduation must be included in the Course Code Directory.[9]

[2] Section 1007.25(3)(b), F.S.
[3] Section 1007.25(3)(c), F.S.
[4] Section 1007.25(3)(d), F.S.
[5] Section 1007.2616(1), F.S.
[6] *Id.*
[7] *Id.*
[8] Section 1007.2616(2)(a), F.S.
[9] Section 1007.2616(6), F.S.

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #/SUBJECT	HOUSE/*SENATE* SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2024	CS/CS/HB 1285 - Education	Canady/ *Burgess*	The bill became law on July 1, 2024.
2023	CS/CS/CS/SB 266 - Higher Education	Andrade/ *Grall*	The bill became law on July 1, 2023.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Careers & Workforce Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N, As CS	1/28/2026	Kiner	Wolff
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	• Clarified requirements for postsecondary general education core courses that incorporate the use of technology. • Required computer science courses offered to high school students to include instruction on artificial intelligence. • Removed proposed changes to elective requirements for the standard high school diploma.			

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
