The Florida Senate

BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Postsecondary

BILL:	SB 1694
INTRODUCER:	Senator Avila
SUBJECT:	Technology Education
DATE:	February 3, 2026
REVISED:	

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	HE	**Pre-meeting**
2.			AHE	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 1694 revises general education core course standards for public postsecondary institutions by adding technology as a sixth general education core course area. The bill requires technology courses to provide students with an understanding of computer science through artificial intelligence applications and instruction in specified technology-related subject areas.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

General Education Core Courses

General education core course options consist of a maximum of five courses within each of the following subject areas: communication, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences, unless an exception is approved by the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.[1] Each general education core course option includes high-level academic and critical thinking skills and common competencies that students must demonstrate to successfully complete the course.[2]

General education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include 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]

[1] Section 1007.25(3)(a), F.S.
[2] Section 1007.25(3)(b), F.S.
[3] Section 1007.25(3)(c), F.S.

General education core courses must meet the following subject-specific standards:[4]

- 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 mastery 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 computational models and methods by applying such models and methods in problem solving.

Computer Science and Technology Instruction

Computer science is the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including principles, hardware and software design, applications, and societal impacts, as well as computer coding and programming.[5]

Students in grades K-12 have opportunities to learn computer science, including computer coding and computer programming. Such opportunities may include instruction in 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.[6]

Computer science courses must be offered to students in high school and middle school.[7] High school students must have opportunities to take computer science courses and earn technology-related industry certifications to meet high school graduation requirements. Eligible computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications that satisfy mathematics or science graduation requirements must be included in the Course Code Directory.[8]

There is no similar state-level computer science requirement for Florida College System institutions or state universities.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 1007.25(3)(d), F.S., by adding technology as a sixth general education core course area. The bill requires technology courses to provide students with an understanding of

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

computer science through artificial intelligence applications and instruction in specified technology-related subject areas, including robotics, software engineering, computer networks, database systems, and cybersecurity.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1007.25 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.