Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Rules

BILL: CS/SB 1694

INTRODUCER: Education Postsecondary Committee and Senator Avila

SUBJECT: Technology Education

DATE: February 23, 2026   REVISED:

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE		ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	HE		**Fav/CS**
2.	Gray	Elwell	AHE		**Favorable**
3.	Jahnke	Kruse	RC		**Favorable**

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I.   Summary:

CS/SB 1694 requires technology-integrated postsecondary general education core courses to provide instruction in digital literacy and competency, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and, as applicable, related subject areas such as software engineering, computer networks, database systems, and cybersecurity.

The bill also encourages high school computer science courses that include AI to provide instruction on how AI systems use data, the benefits and limitations of AI, and the responsible use of AI in academic and personal contexts.

This bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on institutions that offer such courses. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

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. 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.

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.

General education core courses must meet the following subject-specific 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 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.[1]

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.[2]

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.[3]

Computer science courses must be offered to students in high school and middle school.[4] 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

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[1] Section 1007.25(3), F.S.
[2] Section 1007.2616(1), F.S.
[3] Section 1007.2616(2), F.S.
[4] *Id.*

science courses and technology-related industry certifications that satisfy mathematics or science graduation requirements must be included in the Course Code Directory.[5]

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

III.   **Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill amends s. 1007.25, F.S., by requiring technology-integrated postsecondary general education courses to provide students with opportunities to build digital literacy and competency, including instruction on the application of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to the course, and, as applicable, covering related areas such as software engineering, computer networks, database systems, and cybersecurity.

The bill amends s. 1007.2616, F.S., by encouraging high school computer science courses that include AI to provide students with a foundational understanding of AI to critically evaluate how AI systems use data to present information; recognize the benefits, limitations, and potential risks of AI; and apply ethical reasoning to the responsible use of AI in academic and personal contexts.

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.

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[5] Section 1007.2616(6), F.S.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on institutions by requiring the specified instruction on AI.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends sections 1007.25 and 1007.2626 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

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

CS by Education Postsecondary on February 4, 2026:
The committee substitute removes from the bill the addition of a sixth general education core course area in technology, and instead adds a requirement that any postsecondary general education core course that integrates technology include instruction that builds students' digital literacy and competency, provides exposure to artificial intelligence (AI) tools, and, as applicable, covers related areas such as software engineering, computer networks, database systems, and cybersecurity.

The committee substitute also encourages high school computer science courses that include AI to incorporate foundational AI literacy, including an understanding of how AI systems use data, their benefits and limitations, and responsible use in academic and personal contexts.

B. Amendments:

None.