

**By** the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Berman

581-01915-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to requirements for a standard high school diploma; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; providing that students can substitute marching band experience for physical education and performing fine arts credit requirements for a standard high school diploma; providing that students with disabilities may participate in the Special Olympics to meet the physical education requirement for a standard high school diploma; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) and paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

(3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT

## REQUIREMENTS.—

(f) *One credit in physical education.*—Physical education must include the integration of health. Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education. A district school board may not require that the one credit in physical education be taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of 2 years of marching band shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education and or the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the

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30 requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual  
31 education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of one semester  
32 with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a  
33 physical activity class that requires participation in marching  
34 band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance  
35 class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or  
36 one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used  
37 to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement  
38 for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 plan.  
39 Completion of 2 years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps  
40 (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of which is drills,  
41 shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education  
42 and the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit  
43 may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or  
44 the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or  
45 504 plan.

46 (8) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Beginning with students  
47 entering grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year, this subsection  
48 applies to a student with a disability.

49 (b) The following options, in addition to the other options  
50 specified in this section, may be used to satisfy the standard  
51 high school diploma requirements, as specified in the student's  
52 individual education plan:

53 1. For a student with a disability for whom the IEP team  
54 has determined that the Florida Alternate Assessment is the most  
55 appropriate measure of the student's skills:

56 a. A combination of course substitutions, assessments,  
57 industry certifications, other acceleration options, or  
58 occupational completion points appropriate to the student's

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59 unique skills and abilities that meet the criteria established  
60 by State Board of Education rule.

61 b. A portfolio of quantifiable evidence that documents a  
62 student's mastery of academic standards through rigorous metrics  
63 established by State Board of Education rule. A portfolio may  
64 include, but is not limited to, documentation of work  
65 experience, internships, community service, and postsecondary  
66 credit.

67 2. A student with a disability may participate in the  
68 Special Olympics as a course substitution for the physical  
69 education requirement under paragraph (3) (f). A student who  
70 chooses this option must participate in the Special Olympics for  
71 one school year, as determined by the student's IEP team.

72 3. For a student with a disability for whom the IEP team  
73 has determined that mastery of academic and employment  
74 competencies is the most appropriate way for a student to  
75 demonstrate his or her skills:

76 a. Documented completion of the minimum high school  
77 graduation requirements, including the number of course credits  
78 prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education.

79 b. Documented achievement of all annual goals and short-  
80 term objectives for academic and employment competencies,  
81 industry certifications, and occupational completion points  
82 specified in the student's transition plan. The documentation  
83 must be verified by the IEP team.

84 c. Documented successful employment for the number of hours  
85 per week specified in the student's transition plan, for the  
86 equivalent of 1 semester, and payment of a minimum wage in  
87 compliance with the requirements of the federal Fair Labor

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88 Standards Act.

89       d. Documented mastery of the academic and employment  
90 competencies, industry certifications, and occupational  
91 completion points specified in the student's transition plan.  
92 The documentation must be verified by the IEP team, the  
93 employer, and the teacher. The transition plan must be developed  
94 and signed by the student, parent, teacher, and employer before  
95 placement in employment and must identify the following:

96       (I) The expected academic and employment competencies,  
97 industry certifications, and occupational completion points;

98       (II) The criteria for determining and certifying mastery of  
99 the competencies;

100       (III) The work schedule and the minimum number of hours to  
101 be worked per week; and

102       (IV) A description of the supervision to be provided by the  
103 school district.

104       4.3. Any change to the high school graduation option  
105 specified in the student's IEP must be approved by the parent  
106 and is subject to verification for appropriateness by an  
107 independent reviewer selected by the parent as provided in s.  
108 1003.572.

109  
110 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss.  
111 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection, including  
112 rules that establish the minimum requirements for students  
113 described in this subsection to earn a standard high school  
114 diploma. The State Board of Education shall adopt emergency  
115 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54.

116       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.