

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

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

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

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

a. A combination of course substitutions, assessments, industry certifications, other acceleration options, or 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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Standards Act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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