

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to student achievement; amending s.  
3           1002.394, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
4           by the act; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; deleting  
5           provisions providing for the award of a certificate of  
6           completion to certain students; conforming provisions  
7           to changes made by the act; amending ss. 1003.433 and  
8           1007.263, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
9           by the act; creating the Music-based Supplemental  
10          Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement and Success  
11          Pilot Program within the Department of Education for a  
12          specified purpose; providing for participation in the  
13          pilot program; providing school district duties;  
14          requiring the Commissioner of Education to select  
15          school districts for participation in the pilot  
16          program, subject to legislative appropriation;  
17          requiring the University of Florida's College of  
18          Education to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot  
19          program; providing requirements for such evaluation;  
20          requiring such college to provide progress monitoring  
21          updates to the department and the Legislature and a  
22          comprehensive report to the Governor, the Legislature,  
23          and a certain center by a specified date; providing  
24          for expiration of the pilot program; providing an  
25          effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 1002.394, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.394 The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.—

(16) TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM.—A student with a disability who is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years of age and who has not received a high school diploma ~~or certificate of completion~~ is eligible for enrollment in his or her private school's transition-to-work program. A transition-to-work program shall consist of academic instruction, work skills training, and a volunteer or paid work experience.

(a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating private school must:

1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must include a written description of the academic instruction and work skills training students will receive and the goals for students in the program.

2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.

3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent, the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized

51 | plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of  
52 | Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the  
53 | office.

54 |       4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed  
55 | by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of  
56 | the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

57 |       5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the  
58 | student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and,  
59 | if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

60 |       6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report  
61 | that documents and explains the student's progress and  
62 | performance in the program.

63 |       7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records  
64 | for the student.

65 |       (b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program  
66 | must, at a minimum:

67 |       1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the private school's  
68 | physical facility, which must include academic instruction and  
69 | work skills training.

70 |       2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's  
71 | volunteer or paid work experience.

72 |       (c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a  
73 | business must:

74 1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's  
 75 performance and hours worked and provide the information to the  
 76 private school.

77 2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.

78 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and paragraphs  
 79 (a) and (d) of subsection (8) of section 1003.4282, Florida  
 80 Statutes, are amended to read:

81 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school  
 82 diploma.—

83 (5) AWARD OF A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

84 (c) A student who earns the required 24 credits, or the  
 85 required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5), but fails to pass the  
 86 assessments required under s. 1008.22(3) or achieve a 2.0 GPA  
 87 ~~shall be awarded a certificate of completion in a form~~  
 88 ~~prescribed by the State Board of Education. However, a student~~  
 89 ~~who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion~~ may  
 90 elect to remain in high school either as a full-time student or  
 91 a part-time student for up to 1 additional year and receive  
 92 special instruction designed to remedy his or her identified  
 93 deficiencies.

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

97 (a) A parent of the student with a disability shall, in  
 98 collaboration with the individual education plan (IEP) team

99 | during the transition planning process pursuant to s. 1003.5716,  
 100 | declare an intent for the student to graduate from high school  
 101 | with ~~either~~ a standard high school diploma ~~or a certificate of~~  
 102 | ~~completion. A student with a disability who does not satisfy the~~  
 103 | ~~standard high school diploma requirements pursuant to this~~  
 104 | ~~section shall be awarded a certificate of completion.~~

105 |         (d) A student with a disability who ~~receives a certificate~~  
 106 | ~~of completion and~~ has an individual education plan that  
 107 | prescribes special education, transition planning, transition  
 108 | services, or related services through 21 years of age may  
 109 | continue to receive the specified instruction and services.

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

117 |         Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
 118 | 1003.433, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119 |         1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-  
 120 | of-country transfer students and students needing additional  
 121 | instruction to meet high school graduation requirements.-

122 |         (2) Students who earn the required 24 credits for the  
 123 | standard high school diploma except for passage of any must-pass

124 assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an alternate  
125 assessment by the end of grade 12 must be provided the following  
126 learning opportunities:

127 (b) ~~Upon receipt of a certificate of completion,~~ Be  
128 allowed to take the College Placement Test and be admitted to  
129 developmental education or credit courses at a Florida College  
130 System institution, as appropriate.

131 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1007.263, Florida  
132 Statutes, is amended to read:

133 1007.263 Florida College System institutions; admissions  
134 of students.—Each Florida College System institution board of  
135 trustees is authorized to adopt rules governing admissions of  
136 students subject to this section and rules of the State Board of  
137 Education. These rules shall include the following:

138 (4) A student who has earned the required 24 credits under  
139 s. 1003.4282, or the required 18 credits under s. 1002.3105(5),  
140 for the standard high school diploma except for passage of any  
141 must-pass assessment under s. 1003.4282 or s. 1008.22 or an  
142 alternate assessment by the end of grade 12 ~~been awarded a~~  
143 ~~certificate of completion under s. 1003.4282~~ is eligible to  
144 enroll in certificate career education programs.

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146 Each board of trustees shall establish policies that notify  
147 students about developmental education options for improving  
148 their communication or computation skills that are essential to

149 performing college-level work, including tutoring, extended time  
150 in gateway courses, free online courses, adult basic education,  
151 adult secondary education, or private provider instruction.

152 Section 5. (1) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year,  
153 the Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner  
154 Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program is created within  
155 the Department of Education for a period of 2 school years. The  
156 purpose of the pilot program is to assist school districts that  
157 participated in the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive  
158 Program in using music-based supplemental materials through the  
159 Muzology digital learning system to support the curriculum for  
160 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educational  
161 courses for middle school students.

162 (2) The pilot program shall be open to the Alachua,  
163 Marion, and Miami-Dade school districts. In order for a school  
164 district to participate in the pilot program, the district  
165 school superintendent must annually certify to the department,  
166 in a format prescribed by the department, that each  
167 participating middle school class:

168 (a) Includes students who participated in the Early  
169 Childhood Music Education Incentive Program.

170 (b) Uses music-based supplemental materials through the  
171 Muzology digital learning system at least twice a week in STEM  
172 educational courses.

173 (c) Is taught by certified mathematics teachers.

174 (d) Complies with class size requirements under s.  
 175 1003.03, Florida Statutes.

176 (3) (a) The Commissioner of Education shall select school  
 177 districts for participation in the pilot program, subject to  
 178 legislative appropriation. Selected school districts shall  
 179 annually receive \$6 per full-time equivalent student  
 180 participating in the pilot program.

181 (b) To maintain eligibility for participation in the pilot  
 182 program, a selected school district must annually certify to the  
 183 department, in a format prescribed by the department, that each  
 184 participating middle school class meets the requirements of  
 185 subsection (2). If a selected school district fails to provide  
 186 the annual certification for a fiscal year, the school district  
 187 must return all funds received through the pilot program for  
 188 that fiscal year.

189 (4) (a) The University of Florida's College of Education  
 190 shall evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program by  
 191 measuring the academic performance of participating students and  
 192 the success of the pilot program. The evaluation must include,  
 193 but is not limited to, a quantitative analysis of the  
 194 achievement of participating students and a qualitative  
 195 evaluation of participating students.

196 (b) The University of Florida's College of Education shall  
 197 provide:



198        1. Progress monitoring updates to the department and the  
 199 Legislature.

200        2. A comprehensive report on the results and efficacy of  
 201 the pilot program to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
 202 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the University  
 203 of South Florida's Florida Center for Partnerships in Arts-  
 204 Integrated Teaching (PAInT) by June 30, 2026.

205        (5) This section expires June 30, 2026.

206        Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.