

Senate Bill No. 842

An act relating to grade forgiveness policies; amending s. 232.246, F.S.; revising requirements for district grade forgiveness policies; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (5) of section 232.246, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

232.246 General requirements for high school graduation.—

(5) Each district school board shall establish standards for graduation from its schools, and these standards must include:

(e) For purposes of paragraphs (c) and (d):

1. Each district shall adopt policies designed to assist students in meeting these requirements. These policies may include, but are not limited to: forgiveness policies, summer school attendance, special counseling, volunteer and/or peer tutors, school-sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills classes. Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year and each year thereafter, forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in another course. Any course grade not replaced according to a district forgiveness policy shall be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required for graduation.

2. At the end of each semester, the parent or guardian of each student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade point average of less than 0.5 above the cumulative grade point average required for graduation shall be notified that the student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the policies the district has in place to assist the student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

3. Special assistance to obtain a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 229.814 may be given only when the student has completed all requirements for graduation except the attainment of the required cumulative grade point average.

The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida Administrative Code even though not defined as "rules."

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2000.