

CHAPTER 99-150

Senate Bill No. 1794

An act relating to postsecondary remediation; amending s. 239.301, F.S., relating to adult general education; revising a provision relating to funding for college-preparatory classes; amending s. 240.1161, F.S., relating to district interinstitutional articulation agreements; authorizing the provision of performance incentive funds for the effective implementation of remedial reduction plans; providing that interinstitutional articulation agreements include a plan outlining the mechanisms and strategies for improving the preparation of elementary, middle, and high school teachers; amending s. 240.117, F.S., relating to common placement testing for public postsecondary education; revising a provision relating to funding for college-preparatory classes; amending s. 240.124, F.S.; providing exceptions to the requirement that students enrolled in the same course more than twice pay the full cost of instruction and not be included in calculations for state funding purposes; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 239.301, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

239.301 Adult general education.—

(4)

(d) Expenditures for college-preparatory and lifelong learning students shall be reported separately. Allocations for college-preparatory courses shall be based on proportional full-time equivalent enrollment. Program review results shall be included in the determination of subsequent allocations. A student shall be funded to enroll in the same college-preparatory class within a skill area only twice ~~once~~, after which time the student shall pay 100 percent of the full cost of instruction to support the continuous enrollment of that student in the same class; however, students who withdraw or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may be granted an exception only once for each class, provided approval is granted according to policy established by the board of trustees. Each community college shall have the authority to review and reduce payment for increased fees due to continued enrollment in a college-preparatory class on an individual basis contingent upon the student's financial hardship, pursuant to definitions and fee levels established by the State Board of Community Colleges. College-preparatory and lifelong learning courses do not generate credit toward an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 240.1161, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.1161 District interinstitutional articulation agreements.—

(2) The district interinstitutional articulation agreement for each school year must be completed before high school registration for the fall term of the following school year. The agreement must include, but is not limited to, the following components:

(c) Mechanisms and strategies for reducing the incidence of postsecondary remediation in math, reading, and writing for first-time-enrolled recent high school graduates, based upon the findings in the postsecondary readiness-for-college report produced pursuant to s. 240.118. Each articulation committee shall annually analyze and assess the effectiveness of the mechanisms toward meeting the goal of reducing postsecondary remediation needs. Results of the assessment shall be annually presented to participating district school boards and community college boards of trustees and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Mechanisms currently being initiated.
2. An analysis of problems and corrective actions.
3. Anticipated outcomes.
4. Strategies for the better preparation of students upon graduation from high school.
5. An analysis of costs associated with the implementation of postsecondary remedial education and secondary-level corrective actions.
6. The identification of strategies for reducing costs of the delivery of postsecondary remediation for recent high school graduates, including the consideration and assessment of alternative instructional methods and services such as those produced by private providers.

Wherever possible, public schools and community colleges are encouraged to share resources, form partnerships with private industries, and implement innovative strategies and mechanisms such as distance learning, summer student and faculty workshops, parental involvement activities, and the distribution of information over the Internet. The Legislature may provide performance incentive funds for the effective implementation of remedial reduction plans developed and implemented pursuant to this paragraph. The district interinstitutional articulation agreement shall include a plan that outlines the mechanisms and strategies for improving the preparation of elementary, middle, and high school teachers. Effective collaboration among school districts, postsecondary institutions, and practicing educators is essential to improving teaching in Florida's elementary and secondary schools and consequently, the retention and success of students through high school graduation and into postsecondary education. Professional development programs shall be developed cooperatively and include curricular content which focuses upon local and state needs and responds to state, national, and district policy and program priorities. School districts and community colleges are encouraged to develop plans which utilize new technologies, address critical needs in their implementation, and include both preservice and inservice initiatives.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 240.117, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.117 Common placement testing for public postsecondary education.—

(4)(a) Community college or state university students who have been identified as requiring additional preparation pursuant to subsection (1) shall enroll in college-preparatory or other adult education pursuant to s. 239.301 in community colleges to develop needed college-entry skills. These students shall be permitted to take courses within their degree program concurrently in other curriculum areas for which they are qualified while enrolled in college-preparatory instruction courses. A student enrolled in a college-preparatory course may concurrently enroll only in college credit courses that do not require the skills addressed in the college-preparatory course. The State Board of Community Colleges shall specify the college credit courses that are acceptable for students enrolled in each college-preparatory skill area, pursuant to s. 240.311(3)(q). A student who wishes to earn an associate in arts or a baccalaureate degree, but who is required to complete a college-preparatory course, must successfully complete the required college-preparatory studies by the time the student has accumulated 12 hours of lower-division college credit degree coursework; however, a student may continue enrollment in degree-earning coursework provided the student maintains enrollment in college-preparatory coursework for each subsequent semester until college-preparatory coursework requirements are completed, and the student demonstrates satisfactory performance in degree-earning coursework. A passing score on a standardized, institutionally developed test must be achieved before a student is considered to have met basic computation and communication skills requirements; however, no student shall be required to retake any test or subtest that was previously passed by said student. A student shall be funded to enroll in the same college-preparatory class within a skill area only twice ~~once~~, after which time the student shall pay 100 percent of the full cost of instruction to support continuous enrollment of that student in the same class and such student shall not be included in calculations of full-time equivalent enrollments for state funding purposes; however, students who withdraw or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may be granted an exception only once for each class, provided approval is granted according to policy established by the board of trustees. Each community college shall have the authority to review and reduce fees paid by students due to continued enrollment in a college-preparatory class on an individual basis contingent upon the student's financial hardship, pursuant to definitions and fee levels established by the State Board of Community Colleges. Credit awarded for college-preparatory instruction may not be counted towards fulfilling the number of credits required for a degree.

Section 4. Section 240.124, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240.124 Funding for continuous enrollment in college credit courses.—~~Beginning fall semester 1997, A student enrolled in the same undergraduate college-credit college-credit course more than twice two times shall pay matriculation at 100 percent of the full cost of instruction and shall not be~~

included in calculations of full-time equivalent enrollments for state funding purposes. However, students who withdraw or fail a class due to extenuating circumstances may be granted an exception only once for each class, provided that approval is granted according to policy established by the board of trustees of the community colleges or the Board of Regents for the State University System. Each community college and state university shall have the authority to review and reduce fees paid by students due to continued enrollment in a college-credit class on an individual basis contingent upon the student's financial hardship, pursuant to definitions and fee levels established by the State Board of Community Colleges for the community colleges and the Board of Regents for the State University System. For purposes of this section, first-time enrollment in a class shall mean enrollment in a class beginning fall semester 1997, and calculations of the full cost of instruction shall be based on the systemwide average of the prior year's cost of undergraduate programs for the Community College System and the State University System. The Board of Regents and the State Board of Community Colleges may make exceptions to this section for individualized study, elective coursework, courses that are repeated as a requirement of a major, and courses that are intended as continuing over multiple semesters, excluding the repeat of coursework more than two times to increase grade point average or meet minimum course grade requirements.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, and shall apply beginning with the Fall term in 1999.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 12, 1999.