

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1232

An act relating to career and professional education; amending s. 1003.491, F.S.; creating the Florida Career and Professional Education Act for the purpose of improving academic performance and responding to the state's workforce needs; requiring that district school boards develop strategic plans to address and meet local and regional workforce needs; requiring that all school districts establish a career and professional academy by a specified date; providing additional requirements for each school board's strategic plan; requiring that the State Board of Education establish a process to review newly proposed core secondary courses; requiring a curriculum review committee; providing for the membership of the committee; requiring that approved courses be added to the Course Code Directory; providing for an appeal if a proposed core course is denied; amending s. 1003.492, F.S.; providing for coordination between career and professional academies and industry; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules using the expertise of Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc.; requiring the Department of Education to collect and analyze data concerning student achievement and performance; providing requirements for such analysis; requiring that the department report the results of the analysis annually to the Legislature; deleting obsolete provisions concerning a study by the department; amending s. 1003.493, F.S.; redefining the term "career and professional academy" to mean a program that integrates an academic curriculum with an industry-specific curriculum; requiring public schools and school districts to offer career and professional academies; revising the goals of and requirements for a career and professional academy; requiring the Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors of the State University System, to establish a mechanism for transferring credits to postsecondary institutions; requiring that a career and professional academy provide opportunities for students to attain the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award; requiring that career courses lead to industry certification; requiring that specified percentages of students achieve certification or college credit in order for a course to continue to be offered; requiring the Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes to advise and assist newly established career and professional academies; repealing s. 1003.494, F.S., relating to the Career High-Skill Occupational Initiative for Career Education (CHOICE) academies; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; providing for calculating the value of full-time equivalent student membership for students enrolled in a career and professional academy program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 1003.491, F.S., for present text.)

1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.

(1) The primary purpose of the Florida Career and Professional Education Act is to:

(a) Improve middle and high school academic performance by providing rigorous and relevant curriculum opportunities;

(b) Provide rigorous and relevant career-themed courses that articulate to postsecondary-level coursework and lead to industry certification;

(c) Support local and regional economic development;

(d) Respond to Florida's critical workforce needs; and

(e) Provide state residents with access to high-wage and high-demand careers.

(2) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each district school board shall develop, in collaboration with local workforce boards and postsecondary institutions approved to operate in the state, a strategic 5-year plan to address and meet local and regional workforce demands. If involvement of the local workforce board in the strategic plan development is not feasible, the local school board, with the approval of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall collaborate with the most appropriate local business leadership board. Two or more school districts may collaborate in the development of the strategic plan and offer a career and professional academy as a joint venture. Such plans must describe in detail provisions for efficient transportation of students, maximum use of shared resources, and access to courses through the Florida Virtual School when appropriate. Each strategic plan shall be completed no later than June 30, 2008, and shall include provisions to have in place at least one operational career and professional academy, pursuant to s. 1003.492, no later than the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

(3) The strategic 5-year plan developed jointly between the local school district, local workforce boards, and state-approved postsecondary institutions shall be constructed and based on:

(a) Research conducted to objectively determine local and regional workforce needs for the ensuing 5 years, using labor projections of the United States Department of Labor and the Agency for Workforce Innovation;

(b) Strategies to develop and implement career academies based on those careers determined to be in high demand;

- (c) Maximum use of private-sector facilities and personnel;
- (d) Strategies that ensure instruction by industry-certified faculty and standards and strategies to maintain current industry credentials and for recruiting and retaining faculty to meet those standards;
- (e) Alignment to requirements for middle school career exploration and high school redesign;
- (f) Provisions to ensure that courses offered through career and professional academies are academically rigorous, meet or exceed appropriate state-adopted subject area standards, result in attainment of industry certification, and, when appropriate, result in postsecondary credit;
- (g) Establishment of student eligibility criteria in career and professional academies which include opportunities for students who have been unsuccessful in traditional classrooms but who show aptitude to participate in academies. School boards shall address the analysis of eighth grade student achievement data to provide opportunities for students who may be deemed as potential dropouts to participate in career and professional academies;
- (h) Strategies to provide sufficient space within academies to meet workforce needs and to provide access to all interested and qualified students;
- (i) Strategies to engage Department of Juvenile Justice students in career and professional academy training that leads to industry certification;
- (j) Opportunities for high school students to earn weighted or dual enrollment credit for higher-level career and technical courses;
- (k) Promotion of the benefits of the Gold Seal Bright Futures Scholarship;
- (l) Strategies to ensure the review of district pupil-progression plans and to amend such plans to include career and professional courses and to include courses that may qualify as substitute courses for core graduation requirements and those that may be counted as elective courses; and
- (m) Strategies to provide professional development for secondary guidance counselors on the benefits of career and professional academies.
- (4) The State Board of Education shall establish a process for the continual and uninterrupted review of newly proposed core secondary courses and existing courses requested to be considered as core courses to ensure that sufficient rigor and relevance is provided for workforce skills and postsecondary education and aligned to state curriculum standards. The review of newly proposed core secondary courses shall be the responsibility of a curriculum review committee whose membership is approved by the Workforce Florida Board as described in s. 445.004, and shall include:
- (a) Three certified high school guidance counselors recommended by the Florida Association of Student Services Administrators.

(b) Three assistant superintendents for curriculum and instruction, recommended by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and who serve in districts that operate successful career and professional academies pursuant to s. 1003.492. Committee members in this category shall employ the expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in the review of proposed courses.

(c) Three workforce representatives recommended by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

(d) Three admissions directors of postsecondary institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, representing both public and private institutions.

(e) The Deputy Commissioner of Education responsible for K-12 curriculum and instruction. The Deputy Commissioner shall employ the expertise of appropriate subject area specialists in the review of proposed courses.

(5) The submission and review of newly proposed core courses shall be conducted electronically and each proposed core course shall be approved or denied within 60 days. All courses approved as core courses for high school graduation purposes shall be immediately added to the Course Code Directory. Approved core courses shall also be reviewed and considered for approval for dual enrollment credit. The Board of Governors and the Commissioner of Education shall jointly recommend an annual deadline for approval of new core courses to be included for purposes of postsecondary admissions and dual enrollment credit the following academic year. The State Board of Education shall establish an appeals process in the event that a proposed course is denied which shall require a consensus ruling by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Commissioner of Education within 15 days. The curriculum review committee must be established and operational no later than September 1, 2007.

Section 2. Section 1003.492, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.492 Industry-certified career education programs.—

~~(1) A Career and professional academies education program within a comprehensive high school program of study shall be coordinated with the appropriate industry indicating that all components of the program are relevant and appropriate to prepare the student for further education or for employment in that industry.~~

(2) The State Board of Education shall use the expertise of Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc., to develop and adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for implementing an industry certification process, which rules must establish any necessary procedures for obtaining appropriate business partners and requirements for business and industry involvement in curriculum oversight and equipment procurement. Industry certification shall be defined by the Agency for Workforce Innovation, based upon the highest available national standards for specific industry certification, to ensure student skill proficiency and to address emerging labor-market and industry trends. A regional workforce board or a career and

professional academy may apply to Workforce Florida, Inc., to request additions to the approved list of industry certifications based on high-demand job requirements in the regional economy. The list of industry certifications approved by Workforce Florida, Inc., shall be published and updated annually by a date certain, to be included in the adopted rule.

(3) The Department of Education shall collect study student achievement and performance data in industry-certified career education programs and shall work with Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc., in the analysis of collected data. The department shall identify districts that currently operate industry-certified career education programs. The data collection and analyses study shall examine the performance of participating students over time. Performance factors shall include, but not be limited to, graduation rates, retention rates, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards, additional educational attainment, employment records, earnings, and industry certification, and employer satisfaction. The results of this study shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually by December 31, 2004.

~~(4) The Department of Education shall conduct a study to determine if a cost factor should be applied to industry-certified career education programs and review the need for startup funding for the programs. The study shall be completed by December 31, 2004, and shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.~~

Section 3. Section 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.493 Career and professional academies.—

(1) A “career and professional academy” is a research-based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum with an industry-specific industry-driven career curriculum aligned directly to priority workforce needs established by the regional workforce board. Career and professional academies shall ~~may~~ be offered by public schools and, school districts, ~~or~~ The Florida Virtual School is encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career and professional courses as appropriate. Students completing career and professional academy programs must receive a standard high school diploma, the highest available industry certification, and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the academy partners with a postsecondary institution approved to operate in the state.

(2) The goals of a career and professional academy are to:

(a) Increase student academic achievement and graduation rates through integrated academic and career curricula.

(b) Prepare graduating high school students to make appropriate choices relative to employment and future educational experiences.

~~(c)~~ Focus on career preparation through rigorous academics and industry certification.

~~(d)~~ Raise student aspiration and commitment to academic achievement and work ethics through relevant coursework.

~~(e)(d) Support graduation requirements pursuant to s. 1003.428 by providing creative, applied major areas of interest by providing creative, applied majors as provided by law.~~

(f)(e) Promote acceleration mechanisms, such as dual enrollment, articulated credit, or occupational completion points, so that students may earn postsecondary credit while in high school.

(g)(f) Support the state's economy by meeting industry needs for skilled employees in high-demand occupations.

(3) Existing career education courses may serve as a foundation for the creation of a career and professional academy. A career and professional academy may be offered as one of the following small learning communities:

(a) A school-within-a-school career academy, as part of an existing high school, that provides courses in one occupational cluster. Students in the high school are not required to be students in the academy.

(b) A total school configuration providing multiple academies, each structured around an occupational cluster. Every student in the school is in an academy.

(4) Each career and professional academy must:

(a) Provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum integrated with a career curriculum. The curriculum must take into consideration multiple styles of student learning; promote learning by doing through application and adaptation; maximize relevance of the subject matter; enhance each student's capacity to excel; and include an emphasis on work habits and work ethics.

(b) Include one or more partnerships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic development organizations, or other appropriate partners from the local community. Such partnerships shall be delineated in articulation agreements to provide for career-based courses that earn postsecondary credit. Such agreements may include articulation between the academy and public or private 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions and technical centers. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors, shall establish a mechanism to ensure articulation and transfer of credits to postsecondary institutions in this state. Such partnerships must provide opportunities for:

1. Instruction from highly skilled professionals who possess industry-certification credentials for courses they are teaching.

2. Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.

3. A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.

4. ~~The highest available level of industry certification. Where no national or state certification exists, school districts may establish a local certification in conjunction with the local workforce development board, the chamber of commerce, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation.~~

5. Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s. 1007.23 upon program completion.

(c) Provide shared, maximum use of private-sector facilities and personnel.

~~(d)(e) Provide personalized creative and tailored student advisement, including a parent-participation component, parent participation and coordination with middle schools to promote and support provide career exploration and education planning as required under s. 1003.4156. Coordination with middle schools must provide information to middle school students about secondary and postsecondary career education programs and academies.~~

(e)(d) Promote and provide opportunities for career and professional academy students to attain, at minimum, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award pursuant to s. 1009.536 a career education certification on the high school diploma pursuant to s. 1003.431.

~~(f)(e) Provide instruction in careers designated as high growth, high demand, and high pay by the local workforce development board, the chamber of commerce, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation.~~

(g)(f) Deliver academic content through instruction relevant to the career, including intensive reading and mathematics intervention required by s. 1003.428, with an emphasis on strengthening reading for information skills.

~~(h)(g) Offer applied courses that combine academic content with technical skills. Such courses must be submitted to the Department of Education no later than 5 months before the beginning of the school term in which such courses are planned to be offered. The State Board of Education must approve or disapprove courses no later than 3 months before the beginning of the school term in which such courses are planned to be offered. The department shall present new courses to the state board for approval a minimum of three times annually.~~

(i)(h) Provide instruction resulting in competency, certification, or credentials in workplace skills, including, but not limited to, communication skills, interpersonal skills, decisionmaking skills, the importance of attendance and timeliness in the work environment, and work ethics.

(j)(i) Provide opportunities for students to obtain the Florida Ready to Work Certification pursuant to s. 1004.99.

(k)(j) Include an evaluation plan developed jointly with the Department of Education and the local workforce board. The evaluation plan must include an assessment a self-assessment tool based on national industry standards, such as the Career Academy National Standards of Practice, and outcome measures, including, but not limited to, achievement of industry certifications, graduation rates, enrollment in postsecondary education, business and industry satisfaction, employment and earnings, achievement of industry certification, awards of postsecondary credit and scholarships,

and FCAT achievement levels and learning gains. The Department of Education shall use Workforce Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida, Inc., in identifying industry experts to participate in developing and implementing such assessments.

(l) Include a plan to sustain career and professional academies.

(m) Redirect appropriated career funding to career and professional academies.

(5) All career courses offered in a career and professional academy must lead to industry certification or college credit linked directly to the career theme of the course. At least 50 percent of students enrolled in a career course must achieve industry certifications or college credits during the second year the course is offered in order for the course to be offered a third year. At least 66 percent of students enrolled in such a course must achieve industry certifications or college credits during the third year the course is offered in order for it to be offered a fourth year and thereafter.

(6) The Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes shall serve in an advisory role and shall offer technical assistance in the development of newly established career and professional academies for a 3-year period beginning July 1, 2007.

Section 4. Section 1003.494, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 5. Present paragraphs (p) through (t) of subsection (1) of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (q) through (u), respectively, and a new paragraph (p) is added to that subsection, to read:

1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each district for operation of schools is not determined in the annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as follows:

(1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR OPERATION.—The following procedure shall be followed in determining the annual allocation to each district for operation:

(p) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership based on certification of successful completion of industry-certified career and professional academy programs pursuant to s. 1003.492.—A value of 0.3 full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student who completes an industry-certified career and professional academy program under s. 1003.492 and who is issued an industry certificate. Such value shall be added to the total full-time equivalent student membership in secondary career education programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent year for courses that were not funded through dual enrollment. Unless a different amount is specified in the General Appropriations Act, the appropriation for this calculation is limited to \$30 million annually. If the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund the total calculation, the appropriation shall be prorated.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor June 26, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 26, 2007.