

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public school attendance; creating s.
 3 1003.215, F.S.; creating the Student Preparedness Pilot
 4 Program; requiring Duval County School District and each
 5 selected school district to review and identify curricula
 6 options for certain students; requiring students age 16
 7 years but have not reached the age of 18 years in pilot
 8 program districts who do not regularly attend school to be
 9 subject to specific attendance and completion
 10 requirements; providing for an application and selection
 11 process for school district participation in the pilot
 12 program; specifying school attendance and completion
 13 requirements and procedures for termination of school
 14 enrollment; specifying that students who select a
 15 nontraditional academic option are not considered to be an
 16 eligible student for purposes of school grading; requiring
 17 an annual study and reporting by the Office of Program
 18 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability; amending s.
 19 1003.01, F.S., adding cross-references; defining regular
 20 program attendance in a pilot program school district;
 21 amending s. 1003.21, F.S., requiring any student in a
 22 pilot program school district to be informed of attendance
 23 requirements; amending s. 1004.99, F.S., providing for
 24 bronze, silver, and gold credential levels; requiring
 25 minimum scores on assessments for each credential level;
 26 providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Section 1003.215, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.215 Student Preparedness Pilot Program.--

(1) The Legislature finds it to be in the public interest that all students exit from the public schools with academic skills that provide the students with the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education or with skills that lead to ready to work certification, industry certification, or skill licensure.

(2) (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, and continuing through the 2014-2015 school year, there is created the Student Preparedness Pilot Program to be piloted by school districts. Students in a school district selected to implement the pilot program pursuant to subsection (3) who attain the age of 16 years but have not reached the age of 18 years and who choose to exercise their option not to regularly attend school pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c), shall be subject to the attendance and completion requirements of this section.

(b) In the 2008-2009 school year, each school district selected pursuant to subsection (3) shall review, identify, and develop curricula options for the implementation of the pilot program requirements pursuant to subsection (5)(a) for students who attain the age of 16 years but have not reached the age of 18 years whose academic goals may not include a traditional high school diploma. These options shall include, but are not limited to, nontraditional academic options and flexible attendance options and may include a phase-in of students by age or grade. Each selected school district must develop a plan to meet the

57 student's needs and the attendance and completion requirements
 58 of this section prior to implementation of the pilot program in
 59 the 2009-2010 school year.

60 (3) The Department of Education shall develop an
 61 application process for all school districts to apply to
 62 participate in the pilot program. The State Board of Education
 63 shall select the pilot program districts, one of which shall be
 64 the Duval County School District.

65 (4) Parents of public school students enrolled in a
 66 participating pilot program district must receive accurate and
 67 timely information regarding their child's academic progress and
 68 must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in
 69 school.

70 (5) (a) A student in a participating pilot program district
 71 who attains the age of 16 years but has not reached the age of
 72 18 years has the right to file a formal declaration of intent to
 73 terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by the
 74 parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the school
 75 district of the district's receipt of the student's declaration
 76 of intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's
 77 guidance counselor or other school personnel must conduct an
 78 exit interview pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c). Any student in a
 79 participating pilot program district who files a declaration
 80 seeking to terminate school enrollment but has not reached the
 81 age of 18 years shall be required to continue pursuing credits
 82 toward a high school diploma, pursue a high school equivalency
 83 diploma with participation in the Florida Ready to Work
 84 Certification Program under s. 1004.99, participate in a career

85 or job training program leading to industry certification or
 86 skill licensure that is developed by or in cooperation with the
 87 district school board, or participate in the Ready to Work
 88 Certification Program under s. 1004.99 until completion or
 89 attainment of the age of 18 years.

90 (b) A Student Preparedness Pilot Program student subject
 91 to the attendance and completion requirements of this section is
 92 not an "eligible student" for purposes of school grading under
 93 s. 1008.34(3)(b) if the student has selected the nontraditional
 94 academic options of the program.

95 (6) Students who become or have become married or who are
 96 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and
 97 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other
 98 students.

99 (7) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
 100 Accountability (OPPAGA), in cooperation with the participating
 101 pilot program districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices
 102 and regional workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce
 103 Innovation, the Department of Education, and the Department of
 104 Juvenile Justice, shall conduct a study annually of the impact
 105 of the pilot program on dropout and graduation rates, on the
 106 employability of students, and on juvenile crime, using 2007-
 107 2008 data as the baseline for the research. OPPAGA shall develop
 108 criteria for collection and reporting of data with input from
 109 the cooperating entities. The results of each annual report
 110 shall be made available to participating pilot program
 111 districts, the applicable state attorneys' offices and regional
 112 workforce boards, the Agency for Workforce Education, the

113 Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
 114 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
 115 House of Representatives by January 1 following each school
 116 year, beginning January 1, 2012.

117 Section 2. Subsection (8), subsection (13) of section
 118 1003.01, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

119 1003.01 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the term:

120 (8) "Habitual truant" means a student who has 15 unexcused
 121 absences within 90 calendar days with or without the knowledge
 122 or consent of the student's parent, is subject to compulsory
 123 school attendance under s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a), and is not
 124 exempt under s. 1003.21(3) or s. 1003.24, is subject to the
 125 Student Preparedness Pilot Program under s. 1003.215, or by
 126 meeting the criteria for any other exemption specified by law or
 127 rules of the State Board of Education. Such a student must have
 128 been the subject of the activities specified in ss. 1003.26 and
 129 1003.27(3), without resultant successful remediation of the
 130 truancy problem before being dealt with as a child in need of
 131 services according to the provisions of chapter 984.

132 (13) (a) "Regular school attendance" means the actual
 133 attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law
 134 and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance
 135 within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by attendance
 136 in:

- 137 1. ~~(a)~~ A public school supported by public funds;
- 138 2. ~~(b)~~ A parochial, religious, or denominational school;
- 139 3. ~~(c)~~ A private school supported in whole or in part by
 140 tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;

141 4. ~~(d)~~ A home education program that meets the
142 requirements of chapter 1002; or

143 5. ~~(e)~~ A private tutoring program that meets the
144 requirements of chapter 1002.

145 (b) "Regular program attendance" for a student in the
146 Student Preparedness Pilot Program pursuant to s. 1003.215 means
147 actual attendance by the student in traditional or
148 nontraditional academic options as defined by law and rules of
149 the State Board of Education. The district school
150 superintendent shall be responsible for enforcing such
151 attendance.

152 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
153 1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

154 1003.21 School attendance.--

155 (1)

156 (c) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the
157 school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance
158 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the
159 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school
160 enrollment with the district school board. Public school
161 students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not
162 graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the
163 formal declaration of intent is filed with the district school
164 board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school
165 enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential
166 and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The
167 school district must notify the student's parent of receipt of
168 the student's declaration of intent to terminate school

169 enrollment. The student's guidance counselor or other school
 170 personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student to
 171 determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate
 172 school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the
 173 student in school. The student must be informed of opportunities
 174 to continue his or her education in a different environment,
 175 including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test
 176 preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in
 177 a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide
 178 data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions
 179 taken by schools to keep students enrolled. A student enrolled
 180 in a Student Preparedness Pilot Program school district must
 181 receive information regarding the program's attendance and
 182 completion requirements under s. 1003.215.

183 Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) is amended,
 184 current subsection (4) is renumbered as subsection (5), and a
 185 new subsection (4) is added to section 1004.99, Florida
 186 Statutes, to read:

187 1004.99 Florida Ready to Work Certification Program.--

188 (3) The Florida Ready to Work Certification Program shall
 189 be composed of:

190 (d) A Florida Ready to Work Credential ~~certificate~~ and
 191 portfolio awarded to students upon successful completion of the
 192 instruction. Each portfolio must delineate the skills
 193 demonstrated by the student as evidence of the student's
 194 preparation for employment.

195 (4) The Florida Ready to Work Credential shall be awarded
 196 to students who successfully pass assessments in Reading for

197 Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information or
 198 any other assessments of comparable rigor. Each assessment
 199 shall be scored on a scale of three to seven. The level of the
 200 credential each student receives is based on the following:

201 (a) A bronze-level credential requires a minimum score of
 202 3 or above on each of the assessments.

203 (b) A silver-level credential requires a minimum score of
 204 4 or above on each of the assessments.

205 (c) A gold-level credential requires a minimum score of 5

206 (c) A gold-level credential requires a minimum score of 5 or
 207 above on each of the assessments.

208 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008..