

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 283 Public School Student Participation in Fine Arts Courses

SPONSOR(S): McBurney and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 428

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-12 Subcommittee		Beagle	Ahearn
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida public schools, including charter schools, earn a school grade of A through F based upon student achievement data from statewide, standardized assessments. A school's grade is calculated based upon points earned for student achievement scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Writing, the Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA), and statewide, standardized end-of-course (EOC) assessments; student learning gains in reading and mathematics; and the improvement of the lowest 25 percent of students in the school in reading and mathematics. School grades for middle schools include an additional component measuring middle school students' participation and performance on high school level EOC assessments. High school grades are calculated using additional components such as graduation rates, student participation and performance in accelerated courses, and postsecondary readiness of on-time graduates as measured by the SAT, the ACT, the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, or the common placement test.

The Commissioner of Education must annually report statewide assessment results for the state, school districts, and schools. The annual report must describe the performance of each public school and its major student populations, and include the percent of students performing at or above grade level and making a year's worth of progress in reading and mathematics.

Student participation rates in fine arts courses are not currently factored into school grades or reported in the commissioner's annual report.

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the bill requires each K-12 public school's grade to include the participation rate of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses, which are visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

In addition, the commissioner's annual report must include information regarding student access to, and participation in, fine arts courses, the number and certification status of educators providing arts instruction, and the manner in which schools are providing the core curricular content for fine arts established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state government or school districts.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

School Grades

Florida public schools, including charter schools, earn a school grade of A through F based upon student achievement data from statewide standardized assessments.¹ A school's grade is calculated based upon points earned for student achievement scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Writing, the Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA), and statewide, standardized end-of-course (EOC) assessments; student learning gains in reading and mathematics; and the improvement of the lowest 25 percent of students in the school in reading and mathematics.² School grades for middle schools include an additional component measuring middle school students' participation and performance on high school level EOC assessments. High school grades are calculated using additional components such as graduation rates, student participation and performance in accelerated courses, and postsecondary readiness of on-time graduates as measured by the SAT, the ACT, the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, or the common placement test.³

The Commissioner of Education must annually report statewide assessment results for the state, school districts, and schools. The annual report must describe the performance of each public school and its major student populations, and include the percent of students performing at or above grade level and making a year's worth of progress in reading and mathematics.⁴

Student participation rates in fine arts courses are not currently factored into school grades or reported in the commissioner's annual report.

Effect of Proposed Changes

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, the bill requires each K-12 public school's grade to include the participation rate of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses, which are visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

In addition, the commissioner's annual report must include information regarding student access to, and participation in, fine arts courses, the number and certification status of educators providing arts instruction, and the manner in which schools are providing the core curricular content for fine arts established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

Currently, school grades are based upon student performance outputs. The bill would factor student participation in fine arts courses into a school's grade, without measuring student performance in such courses.

¹ Section 1008.34(3)(b)3., F.S. To receive a school grade, a school must have at least 30 full-year-enrolled students with valid Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores in reading for the current and prior years and at least 30 full-year-enrolled students with valid FCAT scores in mathematics for the current and prior years are assigned a school grade. For high schools, there must be at least 10 eligible students with current and prior year math scores (rather than 30) for the school to qualify for a grade in 2012 and at least 20 students with current and prior year math scores to qualify for a grade beginning in 2013. Department of Juvenile Justice schools are not graded, and alternative schools that provide dropout prevention and academic intervention services have the option of earning a school grade or a school improvement rating. If an alternative school chooses to receive a school improvement rating instead of a school grade, student performance is also included in the school grade of the students' home school. Rule 6A-1.09981(3)(a), F.A.C.; ss. 1008.34(3)(a)1. and (c)3. and 1008.34(3)(c)3., F.S.

² Section 1008.34(3)(b)1., F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(1)(a)1.a.-c., F.A.C.

³ Section 1008.34(3)(b)3., F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *Florida School Grades* (July 2012), available at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/pdf/1112/SchoolGradesPressPacket.pdf>.

⁴ Section 1008.34(1), F.S.

The bill could increase student participation in fine arts courses; however, it may also induce schools to over-fill these courses solely to obtain the school grade points, as class size caps do not apply to fine arts classes. This could dilute the quality of fine arts instruction or lead to the enrollment of students in arts courses regardless of their interests or willingness to do so.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1008.34, F.S., relating to the School grading system; requires inclusion of fine arts participation rates in school grades; requires inclusion of information related to fine arts instruction in annual reports.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.