

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** CS/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	12 Y, 0 N, As CS	Beagle	Ahearn
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee		Seifert	Heflin
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, 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.

Student participation rates and performance in fine arts courses are not currently factored into school grades.

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, the bill requires each K-12 public school's grade to include a maximum of 10 bonus points, as determined by the Department of Education (DOE), for the student participation rate and, as valid data becomes available, the performance of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses, which are visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

The bill requires DOE to annually report data comparing the performance of students who participate in fine arts courses with those who do not participate in such courses. In addition, DOE must establish an "Arts for All Students" advisory committee composed of fine arts education experts. The advisory committee must develop criteria and a formula for granting K-12 public schools and school districts an "Arts for All Students" model school designation or an "Arts for All Students" model school district designation. DOE must award the designations based upon the criteria and formula developed by the advisory committee.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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, 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

Student participation rates and performance in fine arts courses are not currently factored into school grades.

##### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, the bill requires each K-12 public school's grade to include a maximum of 10 bonus points, as determined by the Department of Education (DOE), for the student participation rate and, as valid data becomes available, the performance of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses, which are visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

The bill requires DOE to annually report to parents, school district leaders, and school administrators data comparing the student achievement, learning gains, and graduation rates of students who participate in fine arts courses with those of students who do not participate in such courses. The comparison data must include students enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages programs, exceptional student education programs, and free or reduced-price meal programs. The bill defines "fine arts education curriculum" to include visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses.

DOE must establish an "Arts for All Students" advisory committee composed of fine arts education experts. The advisory committee must recommend criteria and a formula for granting K-12 public schools and school districts an "Arts for All Students" model school designation or an "Arts for All Students" model school district designation. In developing criteria and a formula for the designations, the committee must examine data regarding:

- Fine arts course offerings by grade level.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

- The number of students enrolled in fine arts courses and those enrolled in more than one fine arts course or discipline per academic year.
- The number of hours dedicated to fine arts education by discipline.
- The certification level of fine arts teachers.
- The number of designed, equipped, and dedicated classroom spaces for fine arts instruction.

DOE must use the criteria and formula recommendations developed by the advisory committee to award designations to schools and school districts.

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 bonus 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.** Creates s. 1003.499, F.S., relating to Fine arts education; requires annual reporting; creates an advisory committee; specifies the committee's duties.

**Section 2.** Amends s. 1008.34, F.S., relating to the School grading system; requires bonus points for fine arts participation rates in the calculation of school grades.

**Section 3.** 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**

On March 27, 2013, the K-12 Subcommittee adopted a strike-all amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment:

- Limited the degree to which the participation rate of students who are enrolled in fine arts courses is factored into the calculation of school grades to up to 10 bonus points, whereas the bill did not specify how fine arts participation would be weighted in the calculation.
- Removed provisions requiring that information regarding fine arts participation and access be included in the commissioner's annual student performance report.
- Added provisions requiring DOE to annually report data comparing the performance of students who participate in fine arts courses with those who do not participate in such courses and creating an advisory committee to develop criteria for "Arts for All Students" model school and school district designations.