

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/CS/HB 283 Public School Student Participation in Fine Arts Courses
SPONSOR(S): Education Committee, Education Appropriations Subcommittee, K-12 Subcommittee, 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	11 Y, 0 N, As CS	Seifert	Heflin
3) Education Committee	13 Y, 1 N, As CS	Beagle	Mizereck

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.

The bill requires that the grade of each public K-12 school include up to 10 bonus points, as determined by the Department of Education (DOE), for student participation and performance in fine arts courses, which are visual arts, music, dance, and theatre courses. This requirement is contingent upon funding in the General Appropriations Act and State Board of Education approval of a statewide, standardized EOC assessment for each fine arts course.

The bill requires DOE, based upon annual reporting by schools, to prepare an annual report describing:

- Student access to and participation in fine arts courses;
- The number and certification status of instructors of such courses; and
- The manner in which schools are providing the core curricular content for fine arts established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

DOE must annually post the report on its website.

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.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, 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

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

Effect of Proposed Changes

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The bill could induce public schools to expand fine arts course offerings, thereby increasing opportunities for students to participate in such 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

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>.

arts courses. 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., requires an annual report on fine arts.

Section 2. Amends s. 1008.34, F.S., relating to the School grading system; requires bonus points for fine arts participation rates and student performance in the calculation of school grades; conditions implementation of bonus points upon funding and state board approval of fine arts EOC assessments.

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:

Implementation of the changes to the school grade calculation are contingent upon funding and state board approval of a statewide, standardized EOC assessment for each fine arts course. The FY 2013-14 General Appropriations Act does not include funding for such assessments.

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.

On April 9, 2013, the Education Appropriations Subcommittee adopted a strike-all amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment:

- Required DOE's reporting of data regarding student access and participation in fine arts courses, fine arts educators, and fine arts instruction rather than data comparing the performance of students who participate in fine arts courses with those who do not.
- Added provisions conditioning the implementation of school grade bonus points for student participation and performance in fine arts courses upon funding and state board approval of a statewide, standardized EOC assessment for each fine arts course.
- Removed provisions creating an advisory committee to develop criteria for "Arts for All Students" model school and school district designations.

On April 16, 2013, the Education Committee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment added a requirement that DOE annually post the fine arts report on its website.

This bill analysis is drafted to the committee substitute adopted by the Education Committee.