

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 781 Designation of School Grades

SPONSOR(S): Porter

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1222

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee	14 Y, 0 N	Dehmer	Healy
2) PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	Seifert	Potvin
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

School grades are used to explain a school's performance in a familiar, easy-to-understand manner for parents and the public. School grades are also used to determine whether a school must select or implement a turnaround option or whether a school is eligible for school recognition funds as appropriated by the Legislature. School grades identify schools as having an A through F grade and are determined annually. Elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools each share a basic model for determining school grades, based on the percentage of total points earned by a school for each component in the grading model.

A school that serves any combination of K-3 students, that does not receive a school grade as a result of its students not being tested and included in the school grading system, receives the school grade of a K-3 feeder pattern school determined by the Department of Education and verified by the district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60 percent of the students are assigned to the graded school.

The bill revises the number of students required to establish a school feeder pattern from 60 percent to a majority.

No fiscal impact to state government.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

School grades are used to explain a school’s performance in a familiar, easy-to-understand manner for parents and the public.¹ School grades are also used to determine whether a school must select or implement a turnaround option² or whether a school is eligible for school recognition funds as appropriated by the Legislature.³

The annual reports must identify schools as having one of the following grades:

- “A,” for schools making excellent progress – 62% or higher of total points.
- “B,” for schools making above average progress – 54% to 61% of total points.
- “C,” for schools making satisfactory progress – 41% to 53% of total points.
- “D,” for schools making less than satisfactory progress – 32% to 40% of total points.
- “F,” for schools failing to make adequate progress – 31% or less of total points.⁴

Elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools each share a basic model for determining school grades, based on the percentage of total points earned by a school for each component in the model. Middle and high school models include additional components beyond the basic model.⁵ Combination school models include the additional components for the grades served (e.g., a school serving grades K through 12 would include the additional components for the middle and high school models).

School Grades Models							
Basic/Elementary (700 Points)			Middle School (Basic +200 Points)		High School (Basic+300 Points)		
English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Civics EOC Assessment	Acceleration Success	U.S. History EOC Assessment	Graduation Rate	Acceleration Success
Achievement (0% to 100%)	Achievement (0% to 100%)	Achievement (0% to 100%)	Achievement (0% to 100%)	Percentage of students who pass high school EOC assessments & industry certifications (0% to 100%)	Achievement (0% to 100%)	Overall, 4-year graduation rate (0% to 100%)	Percent of students eligible to earn college credit through AP, IB, AICE, dual enrollment, or earn industry certification (0% to 100%) ⁶
Learning Gains (0% to 100%)	Learning Gains (0% to 100%)						
Learning Gains of Low 25% (0% to 100%)	Learning Gains of Low 25% (0% to 100%)						

A school’s grade must include only those components for which at least 10 students have complete data. If a school does not meet the 10-student threshold for a component, it will receive a school grade based only on the remaining components.⁷

¹ Section 1008.34(1), F.S. If there are fewer than 10 eligible students with data for a component, the component is not included in the calculation. Section 1008.34(3)(a), F.S.

² See s. 1008.33(4), F.S.

³ See s. 1008.26, F.S.

⁴ Section 1008.34(2), F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(d), F.A.C.

⁵ See s. 1008.34(3)(b), F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(a)-(c), F.A.C.

⁶ Other assessments used to measure college readiness, such as the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test and the College Level Examination Program, are not included in the Acceleration Success component of the school grading formula.

A school that serves any combination of K-3 students, that does not receive a school grade as a result of its students not being tested and included in the school grading system, receives the school grade of a K-3 feeder pattern school determined by the Department of Education and verified by the district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60 percent of the students are scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill revises the number of students required to establish a school feeder pattern from 60 percent of students scheduled to be assigned, to a majority of students scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1008.34, F.S., relating to the school grading system, schools report cards and the district grade.

Section 2. Provides and effective date of July 1, 2017.

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.

⁷ See s. 1008.34(3)(a), F.S.

⁸ Section 1008.34(3)(a)2, F.S.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.