

## COMPONENTS OF SENATE BILL 1908

### Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

The State Board of Education shall review the Sunshine State Standards and replace them with Next Generation Sunshine State Standards prior to December 31, 2011.

- The reading content standards (adopted in January 2007), mathematics content standards (adopted in September 2007), and science content standards (adopted in February 2008) meet the specified requirements for Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and will not be revised again before December 2011.
- The social studies, health education, and physical education standards, which will be submitted to the State Board of Education for adoption at their October 2008 meeting, will also meet the requirements to be Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.
- The content standards for Language Arts (adopted in January 2007) must be revised and replaced to comply with new requirements, specifically, identifying significant literary genres and authors that encompass a comprehensive range of historical periods.
- The State Board of Education approved a timeline for the revision of content standards at their June 2008 meeting which is available at this Web site:  
[http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2008\\_06\\_17/Next%20Gen%20Stan.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2008_06_17/Next%20Gen%20Stan.pdf).

A rule will be developed to establish a schedule for the periodic review and revision of the standards by the end of the year.

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### School Grading

#### School Grading System

The bill provides additional criteria and student assessment data for designating school grades, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year for high schools with grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12.

- Fifty (50) percent of a school's grade will be based on the existing FCAT-related factors in s. 1008.34(3)(a), F.S., and the other half will be based on factors that include:
  - A school's high school graduation rate;
  - As valid data become available, the performance and participation of students in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, dual enrollment courses, Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses, and the achievement of industry certification in a career and professional academy;

- The postsecondary readiness of the students as measured by the SAT, ACT, or the common placement test;
  - The high school graduation rate of at-risk students who scored at Level 2 or lower on the grade 8 FCAT Reading and Mathematics examinations;
  - The performance of a school's students on statewide standardized end-of-course assessments approved by the Department of Education, when available; and
  - The annual growth or decline in these components.
- Beginning in 2009-10, in order for a high school to receive a grade of "A" the school must demonstrate adequate progress for at-risk students who scored at Level 2 or lower on the grade 8 FCAT Reading and Mathematics examinations.
  - Provides the Commissioner of Education with authority to set cell-size requirements for school grades. Establishes criteria under which schools with fewer than the minimum number of students tested, as required for reliable results and protection of student confidentiality, are exempted from receiving school grades.
  - Provides the State Board of Education rule making authority to administer this section.

These provisions are to be implemented for the 2009-10 reporting year. They will be reflected in the Guide to Calculating School Grades technical assistance paper (TAP) for 2009. A copy of the most recent TAP is available via a link at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>. The TAP for school grades for 2008 is being finalized and will be posted online at the same time that grades for 2008 are released.

These provisions will be reflected in Rule 6A-1.09981, FAC. Rule development workshops are pending.

#### Alternative School Improvement Rating System

- Amends s. 1003.341, F.S., to revise the definition of "home school" for purposes of calculating school grades for schools that refer students to alternative schools, and requires annual collaboration among school principals concerning the school assignment of students attending an alternative school. The amended definition of "home school" is: "the school to which the student would be assigned if the student was not assigned to an alternative school."
- Provides for the forfeiture of School Recognition Program funds for one fiscal year if a school district fails to assign the FCAT scores of each of its students to his or her home school or to the alternative school that receives a grade.
- Provides the Commissioner of Education with authority to set cell-size requirements for school improvement ratings. Establishes criteria under which schools with fewer than the minimum number of students tested, as required for reliable results and protection of student confidentiality, are exempted from receiving school improvement ratings.

- Provides the State Board of Education rule making authority to administer this section.

These provisions will be implemented for the 2008-09 school year and reporting cycle. All provisions for the calculation of alternative school improvement ratings for 2007-08 will be described in a technical assistance paper currently under development (provisions for 2008-09 will be reflected in the TAP for 2009) and expected to be posted online (with a link at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>) when school grades are released for 2008.

Rule development workshops will be required in the coming year to update the applicable rule (6A-1.099822, FAC.).

#### School Recognition

- Revises the identification of schools that are eligible to receive school recognition funds to include schools that improve more than one letter grade and sustain that improvement in the following year.

This provision will be incorporated into the calculation of Florida School Recognition Awards for 2008, which are finalized after the closing of the appeals period for school grades.

A separate technical assistance paper is not produced for this program activity. However, information applicable to this program is available online at <http://www.fldoe.org/evaluation/schrmmain.asp>, including recognized schools and award amounts for the years in which this program has been in effect.

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#### **College Readiness**

Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, the bill requires that a **college readiness assessment** (currently CPT, ACT or SAT) shall be administered to all high school students prior to grade 12 (changed from all second semester sophomores) with defined FCAT scores and who indicate an interest in postsecondary education. The Department will purchase or develop assessments and assist districts and community colleges with their administration. The State Board of Education must establish by rule the minimum test scores a student must achieve to demonstrate readiness. Students achieving the minimum scores, and enrolling in a community college within 2 years, will not be required to enroll in remediation courses. High schools, to the extent practicable, must provide students in grade 12 who score below the minimum scores access to remedial instruction prior to graduation, which shall be a **collaborative effort** between secondary and postsecondary institutions.

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### **Assessment**

- Allows the Commissioner to incorporate end-of-course assessments into the statewide assessment program. These assessments may be administered in addition to the comprehensive assessments of reading, mathematics, writing, and science, and must be rigorous, statewide, standardized, and aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Planning is underway to determine how end-of-course assessments will be incorporated into the statewide assessment program.
- Removes the requirement that the statewide assessment program include norm-referenced tests. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, the FCAT NRT will not be administered as a part of the statewide assessment program.
- Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year through 2011-2012, requires the Commissioner to discontinue the administration of the multiple-choice items on the comprehensive assessment of writing. In 2012-2013, the Commissioner must administer a comprehensive assessment of writing with specific characteristics, including a combination of multiple-choice, short-response, and extended-response items.
- Requires the Commissioner to provide notice to school districts, by August 1 of each year, of the testing and reporting schedules for the school year following the upcoming school year. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the schedule must provide for comprehensive assessments of writing to be administered no earlier than the week of March 1 and comprehensive statewide assessments of other subjects to be administered no earlier than the week of April 15. Statewide end-of-course assessments must be administered within the last two weeks of a course. Student test results must be reported by the final day of the regular school year for students.
- Directs the Commissioner to establish procedures for transitioning to new assessments that impact the testing requirements for high school graduation. This new language will allow the Department to phase-out old assessment programs, such as the High School Competency Test (HSCT).
- Requires assessments, including the subject area examinations of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination program to be aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

Rules related to assessment will be reviewed and revised as appropriate.

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### **FCAT Preparation Activities**

Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, districts must prohibit schools from suspending a regular program of curricula to administer practice tests or engage in other test-preparation activities for a statewide assessment. However, the following activities are authorized:

- Distributing to students the sample test books and answer keys published by the Department of Education.
- Providing individualized instruction in test-taking strategies, without suspending the school's regular program of curricula, for a student who scores at Level 1 or Level 2 on a prior administration of the statewide assessment.
- Providing individualized instruction in the content knowledge and skills assessed, without suspending the school's regular program of curricula, for a student who scores at Level 1 or Level 2 on a prior administration of the statewide assessment or a student who, through a diagnostic assessment administered by the school district, is identified as having a deficiency in the content knowledge and skills assessed.
- Incorporating test-taking exercises and strategies into curricula for intensive reading and mathematics intervention courses.
- Administering a practice test or engaging in other test-preparation activities for the statewide assessment which are determined necessary to familiarize students with the organization of the assessment, the format of the test items, and the test directions, or which are otherwise necessary for the valid and reliable administration of the assessment, as set forth in rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

Note: While this prohibition is directed to classroom instruction, districts should consider these limitations while making instructional materials purchases.

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### **Electronic Personal Education Plan**

The bill requires an annual review of each high school student's electronic Personal Education Plan (ePEP). This will take effect in the 2009-10 school year, when entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders are required to have completed an ePEP in order to be promoted from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Those who enter high school that year or after without an ePEP, including students who completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade out of state, in a private school, or who were home schooled, must be given assistance in creating a plan. Therefore, 100% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2009-10 and after will have an ePEP, which they must review yearly to track their progress and modify as required. Counselors or other personnel will be able to check that each student has visited their plan, and view any changes made, through the Student Activity System. The System currently records the date the students viewed their records and will be modified to also show the date the ePEP was actually updated (i.e., changed). Additional information and instructions will be available once the Student Activity System update is complete.

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### **Arts Requirement for High School Graduation**

The bill adds practical arts courses that incorporate artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination, as identified through the Course Code Directory, to the current options of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, speech, and debate courses that high school students can take to meet the fine or performing arts graduation requirement. This change will make it possible for students enrolled in arts-related career and technical education courses to meet this graduation requirement through their planned programs of study. Rule 6A-1.09441, FAC., *Requirements for Programs and Courses Which are Funded Through the Florida Education Finance Program and for Which the Student May Earn Credit Toward High School Graduation*, will be amended to update the Course Code Directory by the end of the year.

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### **Standard High School Diploma Designations**

The bill adds the following four new designations to the standard high school diploma beginning with the 2008-09 school year, as applicable:

- Major Area of Interest
- Completion of four or more accelerated college credit courses in AP, IB, AICE, or dual enrollment (the Commissioner is charged with establishing guidelines for successful passage of examinations or coursework in each of these areas for the purpose of this designation)
- Career education certification
- Florida Ready to Work Credential

Rule 6A-1.0995, FAC., *Form of High School Diplomas and Certificates of Completion*, will be amended by the end of this year.

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### **Dual Enrollment**

The bill includes a provision requiring the Interinstitutional Articulation Agreement (pursuant to s. 1007.235, F.S.) to stipulate that the college granting the postsecondary credit for dual enrollment courses is responsible for assigning grades for those courses. School districts are prohibited from changing any grade (once assigned by the college) when posting it to the high school transcript.

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### **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

The bill ensures implementation of IDEA 2004 across school districts, given the state's responsibilities for general supervision.

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### **School Advisory Council (SAC) Membership**

The bill requires that the majority of members of a SAC must not be employed by the school district. Previously, the majority of the SAC members at a school could not be employed by that school.

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### **Teacher Certification**

The bill requires that as the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards are adopted, the teacher certification subject area examinations shall be aligned to the new standards.

The bill provides a new option for satisfying the subject area mastery requirement for certification. For foreign languages for which there are no Florida-developed subject area tests, scores earned on the oral and written proficiency tests administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) will now satisfy the mastery of subject area knowledge requirement. The scores must be above the intermediate level. This change means that as of July 1, 2008, it will no longer be necessary for Form CT-114 (currently used by superintendents to verify subject matter competence when there is no subject area test) to be submitted to the certification bureau.

Upon receipt of the appropriate verification of ACTFL scores, the subject mastery requirement will be met. Further technical information will be provided to district certification contacts. Technical amendments are expected to be made to Rule 6A-4.004, FAC., *Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Vocational, and Specialty Class Coverages*, by October 2008.

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### **Corporate Tax Credit (CTC) Scholarship Assessments**

Private schools participating in the CTC Scholarship Program will no longer be allowed to use the FCAT as a nationally norm-referenced test to measure student achievement.

Rule 6A-6.0960, F.A.C., *Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program*, will be amended by October 2008.

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### **Test of Adult Basic Education**

The bill amends s. 1004.91, F.S., for certain adult students. An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Education in accordance with the provisions of chapter 446 will no longer have to be tested for basic skills within the first six weeks of enrollment. Students in a registered apprenticeship program will automatically be counted as program completers when they complete the program and obtain journeyman status.

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### **Florida Ready to Work Credential**

The bill provides a Florida Ready to Work Credential to a student who successfully passes assessments in Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information, or any other assessments of comparable rigor. Each assessment shall be scored on a scale of 3 to 7. The level of the credential each student receives is based on the following:

- A bronze-level credential requires a minimum score of 3 or above on each of the assessments.
- A silver-level credential requires a minimum score of 4 or above on each of the assessments.
- A gold-level credential requires a minimum score of 5 or above on each of the assessments.

The Florida Ready to Work Credential and portfolio is awarded to students upon successful completion of the instruction. Each portfolio must delineate the skills demonstrated by the student as evidence of the student's preparation for employment. By the 2008-2009 school year, each standard high school diploma shall include, as applicable a designation reflecting a Florida Ready to Work Credential in accordance with s. 1004.99, F.S.

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### **Florida Teachers Lead Program**

The bill deletes the word “Stipend” from the name of the Teachers Lead Program. In other provisions, the bill:

- Prohibits purchase of equipment with Teachers Lead funds; this provision will clarify that the school district is expected to supply necessary equipment and will eliminate confusion over inventory;
- Requires the Commissioner of Education to disburse the Teachers Lead funds to the school districts by July 15;
- Specifies that funds may be allocated and expended through the use of debit cards, direct deposit, check, or purchasing card and that the funds are not subject to competitive bidding or collective bargaining (this subsection is retroactive to July 1, 2007);
- Limits to four years the amount of time that a classroom teacher must keep receipts for materials and supplies purchased with funds;
- Provides that Teachers Lead funds do not affect a classroom teacher’s wages, hours, or terms and conditions of employment and are therefore not subject to collective bargaining; and
- Specifies that a classroom teacher may decline receipt of or return the funds without explanation or cause.

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### **Cafeteria Sanitation Certificate**

The bill requires each school cafeteria to post in a visible location and on the school Web site the school's annual sanitation certificate and a copy of its most recent sanitation inspection report, as required by federal law (42 U.S.C. s. 1758).

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