

## **Section 1: Course Code Directory System Guide**

### **C) Middle Grades Promotion**

#### ***General Requirements for Middle Grades Promotion (Section 1003.4156, F. S.)***

#### ***For students entering middle school in the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter:***

The 2006-2007 Legislature passed House Bill 7087, creating Section 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, related to middle grades promotion. Beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2006-2007 school year, promotion from a school composed of middle grades 6, 7, and 8 requires that students must successfully complete academic courses as follows:

1. English – 3 middle school or higher year-long courses  
These courses must emphasize literature, composition, and technical text.
2. Mathematics - 3 middle school or higher year-long courses  
Each middle school must offer at least one high-school-level mathematics course for which students may earn high school credit.
3. Social Studies - 3 middle school or higher year-long courses  
One semester of these courses must include the study of state and federal government and civics education.
4. Science - 3 middle school or higher year-long courses
5. Career and Education Planning – to be completed in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
The course must be taught by any member of the instructional staff and must include, but is not limited to, the following components:.
6. One half-year course in career exploration and education planning to be completed in grade 7 or grade 8. The course may be taught by any member of the instructional staff and must include, but is not limited to, the following components:
  - a. Career exploration using CHOICE for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century or a comparable cost-effective program

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- b. Educational planning using the online student advising system Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS) at the Internet website FACTS.org and must result in the completion of a personalized academic and career plan. Each student's plan must be signed by the student, the student's guidance counselor or academic advisor, and the student's parent.

By January 1, 2007, the Department of Education shall develop course frameworks and professional development materials for the career and education planning course to be implemented as a stand-alone or integrated into another course or courses. Students in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8 who are not enrolled in schools with a middle grades configuration are subject to the promotion requirements of this section.

#### ***Parental Notification (S. 1003.4156 (1)(a)5, F.S.)***

Each school must hold a parent meeting either in the evening or on a weekend to inform parents about the course curriculum and activities. Each student must complete an electronic personal education plan (ePEP) that must be signed by the student, the student's instructor or guidance counselor, and the student's parent.

#### ***Intensive Intervention (S. 1003.4156(10)(b), F.S.)***

For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on FCAT Reading, the student must be enrolled in and complete an intensive reading course the following year. Placement of Level 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be determined by diagnosis of reading needs. For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must complete an intensive mathematics course the following year, which may be integrated into the student's required mathematics course. These courses are subject to approval by the department for inclusion in the Course Code Directory.

#### ***Required Instruction (S. 1003.42, F.S.)***

Each district school board shall provide all courses required for *middle grades promotion*, high school graduation, and appropriate instruction designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to meet State Board of Education adopted standards in the

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following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts.

#### ***Middle and High School Grading System (S. 1003.437, F.S.)***

The 2006 Florida Legislature amended s. 1003.437, Florida Statutes related to the high school grading system to include middle school. The grading system and interpretation of letter grades used for students in public schools in grades 6-12 shall be as follows:

- 1) Grade "A" equals 90 percent through 100 percent, has a grade point average value of 4, and is defined as "outstanding progress."
- 2) Grade "B" equals 80 percent through 89 percent, has a grade point average value of 3, and is defined as "above average progress."
- 3) Grade "C" equals 70 percent through 79 percent, has a grade point average value of 2, and is defined as "average progress."
- 4) Grade "D" equals 60 percent through 69 percent, has a grade point average value of 1, and is defined as "lowest acceptable progress."
- 5) Grade "F" equals zero percent through 59 percent, has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as "failure."
- 6) Grade "I" equals zero percent, has a grade point average value of zero, and is defined as "incomplete."

For the purposes of class ranking, district school boards may exercise a weighted grading system pursuant to s.1007.271, F.S.