
Florida's New High School Graduation Options



The New Department of
Education

Florida Department of Education
Jim Horne, Commissioner

Senate Bill 30-A: The Quality Education Act

- Amends several laws related to high school graduation
 - Establishes two new accelerated high school graduation programs
 - Aligns the number of credits required for state university system admissions with the new graduation programs
-

Guiding Principles for Developing Technical Assistance

Implementation guidelines should

- be consistent with definitions and interpretations established in general requirements for high school graduation
 - emphasize the accelerated nature of the new programs
 - provide maximum flexibility to students and parents
-

Process

- A broad range of input was solicited
 - K-20 work group
 - Governor's office
 - Legislative staff
 - Superintendents and other district staff
 - First technical assistance material distributed July 7, 2003
 - Questions and answers
 - Fact sheet
 - Sample notification letter
-

Key Questions

- Must the 18 credits required for the college preparatory program match the credits required for state university system admission?

Yes. The 18 credits required for the college preparatory program, including the three electives, must satisfy the course distribution requirements for state university system admissions.

Key Questions (cont.)

- Can districts require specific courses for students selecting one of the accelerated graduation programs?

Yes. A district school board may require specific courses and programs of study within the minimum credit requirement for any of the three graduation programs.

Key Questions (cont.)

- Will students selecting one of the accelerated graduation programs remain eligible for the Bright Futures Scholarship?

Yes. A student may be eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship for completing any of the three graduation programs and earning a standard high school diploma.

Key Questions (cont.)

- How will students who graduate through the college preparatory program be considered for admission to the state university system as compared to students who graduate through the general requirements?

State university system admission standards have been revised to align the number of credits required for admission with the two new graduation programs. Students will compete with other students who may have taken additional rigorous academic courses.
