

Florida Department of Education

Bill Number: Senate Bill 1232

Bill Title: Florida Career and Professional Education Act

Bill Sponsor: Senator Gaetz

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

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Executive Summary:

"The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy."

The purpose of the act is to improve secondary academic performance by providing a rigorous and relevant education, provide coursework that articulates to postsecondary coursework and/or industry certification, support local and regional economic development, respond to Florida's workforce needs, and provide access to high-wage and high-demand careers.

This act amends s. 1003.491 by:

- Requiring school districts to develop, in collaboration with local workforce boards and postsecondary institutions, strategic five-year plans during the 2007-2008 school year that include provision for a least one academy to be operational in the school district at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year; and listing other strategic plan requirements.
- Requiring the State Board of Education to establish a process for the continual review of newly proposed core high school courses to meet the requirements for industry standards and to address emerging academic and labor market needs; requiring that a curriculum review committee, whose membership is approved by the Workforce Florida Board, review all newly proposed core secondary courses; requiring that the submission and review of newly proposed core courses be conducted electronically with a 60 day window for approval or denial.

This act amends s. 1003.492 by:

- Requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) to identify appropriate industry certifications based on the highest national standards available; requiring the Department of Education to work with Workforce Florida and Enterprise Florida to collect and analyze academic achievement and performance data of students participating in academies.

This act amends s. 1003.493 by:

- Defining career and professional academies as research-based programs that integrate a rigorous academic curriculum with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to a priority workforce need established by the regional workforce board; requiring that students receive a standard high school diploma, the highest available certification, and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit; stating that existing career education courses can serve as the basis for the creation of a new academy.

This act repeals s. 1003.494 (Career High-Skill Occupational Initiative for Career Education [CHOICE] academies), but stipulates in s. 1003.493 that the Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes shall serve in an advisory role and shall offer technical assistance for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2007, as districts create new career and professional academies.

This act amends s. 1011.62 by requiring the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to provide a bonus weight (0.3 FTE) for the funding of students enrolled in an industry-certified career and professional academy and who are awarded a certificate of successful completion.

General Implementation Timeline:

- Each district's strategic plan must be completed by June 30, 2008.
- Each district must have at least one operational career and professional academy no later than the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.
- Approval or denial of newly proposed core courses that meet industry standards shall be determined within 60 days.
- If there is an appeal, a consensus ruling will be made by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Commissioner of Education within 5 days.
- The curriculum review committee must be established and operational by September 1, 2007.
- The Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes shall serve in an advisory role and shall offer technical assistance for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2007, as districts create new career and professional academies.