


Accelerated High School Graduation Options



Florida Department of Education
DIVISION of PUBLIC SCHOOLS
"We're all about increased student achievement"

Jim Warford
Chancellor
Senate Education Committee

November 19, 2003

Jim Horne, Commissioner of Education

Graduation Options

[Section 1003.429, F.S.]

Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, all students scheduled to graduate in 2004 and thereafter may select one of the following three high school graduation options:

- general requirements for high school graduation (24 credits)
- 3 - year standard college preparatory program (18 credits)
- 3- year career preparatory program (18 credits)

General Requirements for High School Graduation (24 credits)

- 4 credits in English
- 3 credits in math including Algebra 1
- 3 credits in science (2 labs)
- 1 credit in American history
- 1 credit in world history
- ½ credit in economics
- ½ credit in American Government
- 1 credit in practical arts, career and technical education, or performing fine arts
- 1 credit in physical education
- ½ credit life management skills
- 8 ½ credits in electives

Senate Bill 30-A Accelerated High School Graduation Options

- Requires each school district, at the beginning of each school year, to notify parents of students in or entering high school of the opportunity and benefits of advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, dual enrollment, and Florida Virtual School courses

Senate Bill 30-A Accelerated High School Graduation Options

- Requires that beginning with the 2003-04 school year, each district school board must provide each student in grades 6-12 and their parents with the 3- and 4-year high school graduation options
- Stipulates that students who successfully complete a 3-year college preparatory curriculum of 18 credits meet the minimum academic standards for admission to a state university, instead of the 19 credits

3-year Standard College Preparatory Program (18 credits) Requirements

- 4 credits in English
- 3 credits in math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 3 credits in science (two labs)
- 3 credits in social sciences
- 2 credits in same second language
- 3 credits in electives

3-year Career Preparatory Program (18 credits) Requirements

- 4 credits in English
- 3 credits in math (Algebra 1)
- 3 credits in science (two labs)
- 3 credits in social sciences
- 2 credits in same second language
- 3 credits in electives

Senate Bill 30-A Accelerated High School Graduation Options

- Both 3-year options require more academic courses than the current 4-year standard program
- Both 3-year options reduce the number of elective courses and require students to take two credits in foreign language
- The 3-year college preparatory program requires higher-level math courses than the 4-year standard program
- Districts cannot add extra requirements to either of the 3-year, 18-credit programs
- These graduation options are simply options at the exclusive right of the student and his/her parent(s)

Commissioner Horne's Accelerated High School Graduation Options Recommendations

- Repeal the 3-year Career Preparatory program
- Make substantial changes that add rigor to the 3-year College Preparatory program

Commissioner Horne's Recommendations for Changes to 3-year College Prep Program

- Require students to achieve a 3 or above on the 8th, 9th, and 10th grade FCAT in reading and math
- Require students to achieve level 4 or above in 8th and 10th grade on FCAT writing
- Increase the GPA requirement to 3.0 and consider all courses taken when calculating the GPA
- Require students to take at least one weighted advanced course (honors, dual enrollment, AP, IB, or AICE) each year for all three years of enrollment

Commissioner Horne's Recommendations for Changes to 3-year College Prep Program

- Increase the rigor of Social Science courses to include:
 - 1 credit in American history
 - 1 credit in world history
 - ½ credit in American government
 - ½ credit in economics
- Require school boards to establish a reasonable deadline by which a student and his/her parents must select a graduation option