

HB 7059 - Acceleration Options in Public Education

This is a far reaching bill that requires schools to develop Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options to provide eligible public school students educational options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction; requires school district to adopt policy for early graduation; establishes performance based funding for certain courses with EOCs in the 4th year of administration; provides for career-themed courses; revises provisions relating to articulated acceleration mechanisms & dual enrollment programs; provides requirements for development & contents of school district & Florida College System institution articulation agreement; requires comprehensive student progression plan to include information on accelerated educational options; provides reporting requirements for student funding; provides for calculation of additional FTE membership based on completion of career-themed courses & early graduation.

ACCEL Options: Establishes ACCEL options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction including midyear and whole grade acceleration, to eligible students; requires principals and school districts to establish eligibility requirements for ACCEL options and a process for a parent to request student participation in an ACCEL option; and requires a school district's student progression plan to include information about ACCEL options, early and accelerated graduation options, and dual enrollment courses included in the dual enrollment articulation agreement.

Early Graduation: Provides a student the option to graduate from high school early once a student meets the standard graduation requirements; authorizes eligible high school students who graduate midyear to receive a Bright Futures Scholarship award during the spring term; authorizes school districts to receive funding for unpaid credits delivered to students who graduate early; defines unpaid credits; and requires school districts to notify parents and advise students of the options for early and accelerated high school graduation.

End-of-Course Assessments: Establishes performance based funding for Algebra I, Biology I, and Geometry courses contingent upon students passing the end-of-course (EOC) assessments, beginning in the fourth year of administering the EOC, and requires the Algebra I EOC to be administered four times annually.

Dual Enrollment Program: Clarifies student eligibility requirements for dual enrollment; provides faculty and curriculum standards for college credit dual enrollment courses, which are consistent with those required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and are currently outlined in State Board rule; requires superintendents and Florida College System (FCS) institution presidents to establish a dual enrollment articulation agreement instead of a district interinstitutional articulation agreement; repeals s. 1007.235, F.S., relating to district interinstitutional articulation agreements; repeals s. 1007.272, F.S., relating to joint dual enrollment and advanced placement instruction; and prohibits the practice of "credit in escrow."

Career and Professional Education: Defines a career-themed course and clarifies that any school can offer career-themed courses, not just career and professional academies and changes the existing strategic five year plan to address and meet local and regional workforce needs to a three year plan. Provides districts with additional flexibility in the delivery of the required Career and Education Planning course for middle school students by removing the requirement to use Florida CHOICES and FACTS.org and the online ePEP.

FTE Calculation: Establishes provisions to report FTE for students passing EOC exams without taking the course, weighted funding for middle school students earning industry certifications and provisions to report unpaid FTE credits for students who graduate early if the district delivered the additional instruction.