

CHAPTER 2021-160

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 52

An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s. 1004.6495, F.S.; revising grant specifications; requiring funds appropriated for the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program to only be used for certain grants as specifically authorized in the General Appropriations Act; removing a cap on grant awards; amending s. 1007.273, F.S.; renaming collegiate high school programs as early college programs; defining the term “early college program”; requiring early college programs to prioritize certain courses; deleting obsolete language; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; authorizing charter schools to execute contracts with certain institutions to establish an early college program; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; clarifying fee exemptions for the Department of Children and Families; creating s. 1009.30, F.S.; providing legislative findings; establishing the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program; providing for the administration of the program; providing for the reimbursement of tuition and costs to eligible postsecondary institutions; requiring students participating in dual enrollment programs to meet specified minimum eligibility requirements in order for institutions to receive reimbursements; requiring participating institutions to annually report specified information to the Department of Education by certain dates; providing a reimbursement schedule for tuition and instructional materials costs; requiring the Department of Education to reimburse institutions by specified dates; providing that reimbursement for dual enrollment courses is contingent upon appropriations; providing for the prorating of reimbursements under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; creating s. 1012.978, F.S.; authorizing state university boards of trustees to implement a bonus scheme for state university system employees based on awards for work performance or employee recruitment and retention; requiring a board of trustees to submit the bonus scheme to the Board of Governors; requiring the Board of Governors to approve such bonus scheme before its implementation; amending ss. 1002.20 and 1003.4282, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.; authorizing certain colleges and universities to develop professional development systems; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 1004.6495, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.6495 Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program and Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities.—

(5) CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities is established within the University of Central Florida. At a minimum, the center shall:

(b) Coordinate, facilitate, and oversee the statewide implementation of this section. At a minimum, the director shall:

1. Consult and collaborate with the National Center and the Coordinating Center, as identified in 20 U.S.C. s. 1140q, regarding guidelines established by the center for the effective implementation of the programs for students with disabilities and for students with intellectual disabilities which align with the federal requirements and with standards, quality indicators, and benchmarks identified by the National Center and the Coordinating Center.

2. Consult and collaborate with the Florida Talent Development Council to identify meaningful credentials for FPCTPs and to engage businesses and stakeholders to promote experiential training and employment opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.

3. Establish requirements and timelines for the:

a. Submission and review of an application.

b. Approval or disapproval of an initial or renewal application.

c. Implementation of an FPCTP, which must begin no later than the academic year immediately following the academic year during which the approval is granted.

4. Administer scholarship funds.

5. Administer FPCTP ~~start-up and enhancement~~ grants. From funds appropriated in the 2016-2017 fiscal year for the FPCTP, \$3 million shall be used for such grants. Thereafter, funds appropriated for the FPCTP may only be used for such grants as if specifically authorized in the General Appropriations Act. ~~The maximum annual start-up and enhancement grant award shall be \$300,000 per institution.~~

6. Report on the implementation and administration of this section by planning, advising, and evaluating approved degree, certificate, and non-degree programs and the performance of students and programs pursuant to subsection (8).

Section 2. Section 1007.273, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1007.273 Early college ~~Collegiate high school~~ program.—

(1) Each Florida College System institution shall work with each district school board in its designated service area to establish one or more early college ~~collegiate high school~~ programs. As used in this section, the term

“early college program” means a structured high school acceleration program in which a cohort of students is enrolled full time in postsecondary courses toward an associate degree. The early college program must prioritize courses applicable as general education core courses under s. 1007.25 for an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree.

~~(2) At a minimum, collegiate high school programs must include an option for public school students in grade 11 or grade 12 participating in the program, for at least 1 full school year, to earn CAPE industry certifications pursuant to s. 1008.44 and to successfully complete 30 credit hours through the dual enrollment program under s. 1007.271 toward the first year of college for an associate degree or baccalaureate degree while enrolled in the program.~~

~~(3) Each district school board and its local Florida College System institution shall execute a contract to establish one or more early college collegiate high school programs at a mutually agreed upon location or locations. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, If the institution does not establish a program with a district school board in its designated service area, another Florida College System institution may execute a contract with that district school board to establish the program. The contract must be executed by January 1 of each school year for implementation of the program during the next school year. The contract must:~~

~~(a) Identify the grade levels to be included in the early college collegiate high school program which must, at a minimum, include grade 12.~~

~~(b) Describe the early college collegiate high school program, including the delineation of courses and industry certifications offered, including online course availability; the high school and college credits earned for each postsecondary course completed and industry certification earned; student eligibility criteria; and the enrollment process and relevant deadlines.~~

~~(c) Describe the methods, medium, and process by which students and their parents are annually informed about the availability of the early college collegiate high school program, the return on investment associated with participation in the program, and the information described in paragraphs (a) and (b).~~

~~(d) Identify the delivery methods for instruction and the instructors for all courses.~~

~~(e) Identify student advising services and progress monitoring mechanisms.~~

~~(f) Establish a program review and reporting mechanism regarding student performance outcomes.~~

~~(g) Describe the terms of funding arrangements to implement the early college collegiate high school program.~~

~~(3)(4)~~ Each student participating in an early college ~~a-collegiate-high school~~ program must enter into a student performance contract which must be signed by the student, the parent, and a representative of the school district and the applicable Florida College System institution, state university, or other institution participating pursuant to subsection ~~(4)~~ (5). The performance contract must include the schedule of courses, by semester, ~~and industry certifications to be taken by the student,~~ student attendance requirements, and course grade requirements.

~~(4)(5)~~ In addition to executing a contract with the local Florida College System institution under this section, a district school board may execute a contract to establish an early college ~~a-collegiate-high school~~ program with a state university or an institution that is eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program, that is a nonprofit independent college or university located and chartered in this state, and that is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to grant baccalaureate degrees. Such university or institution must meet the requirements specified under subsections (2) and (3) ~~(3) and (4)~~.

(5) A charter school may execute a contract directly with the local Florida College System institution or another institution as authorized under this section to establish an early college program at a mutually agreed upon location.

(6) The early college ~~collegiate-high school~~ program ~~must~~ shall be funded pursuant to ss. 1007.271 and 1011.62. The State Board of Education shall enforce compliance with this section by withholding the transfer of funds for the school districts and the Florida College System institutions in accordance with s. 1008.32.

Section 3. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

(1) The following students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university:

(c) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of age, in the custody of the Department of Children and Families or who, after spending at least 6 months in the custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age, was placed in a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

(d) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative under s. 39.5085 or s. 39.6225 or

who was adopted from the Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

Section 4. Section 1009.30, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.30 Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program.—

(1) The Legislature finds and declares that dual enrollment is an integral part of the education system in this state and should be available for all eligible secondary students without cost to the student. There is established the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program to support postsecondary institutions in providing dual enrollment.

(2) The Department of Education shall administer the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (9).

(3)(a) Beginning in the 2021 fall term, the program shall reimburse eligible postsecondary institutions for tuition and related instructional materials costs for dual enrollment courses taken by private school or home education program secondary students during the fall or spring terms.

(b) Beginning in the 2022 summer term, the program shall reimburse institutions for tuition and related instructional materials costs for dual enrollment courses taken by public school, private school, or home education program secondary students during the summer term.

(4) A student participating in a dual enrollment program must meet the minimum eligibility requirements specified in s. 1007.271 in order for the institution to receive a reimbursement.

(5) Annually, by March 15, each participating institution must report to the department any eligible secondary students from private schools or home education programs who were enrolled during the previous fall or spring terms. Annually, by July 15, each participating institution must report to the department any eligible public school, private school, or home education program students who were enrolled during the summer term. For each dual enrollment course in which the student is enrolled, the report must include a unique student identifier, the postsecondary institution name, the postsecondary course number, and the postsecondary course name.

(6)(a) Florida College System institutions shall be reimbursed at the in-state resident tuition rate established in s. 1009.23(3)(a).

(b) State University System institutions and independent postsecondary institutions shall be reimbursed at the standard tuition rate established in s. 1009.24(4)(a).

(c) Institutions shall be reimbursed for instructional materials costs based on a rate specified in the General Appropriations Act.

(7) For dual enrollment courses taken during the fall and spring terms, the department must reimburse institutions by April 15 of the same year. For dual enrollment courses taken during the summer term, the department must reimburse institutions by August 15 of the same year, before the beginning of the next academic year.

(8) Reimbursement for dual enrollment courses is contingent upon an appropriation in the General Appropriations Act each year. If the statewide reimbursement amount is greater than the appropriation, the institutional reimbursement amounts specified in subsection (6) shall be prorated among the institutions that have reported eligible students to the department by the deadlines specified in subsection (5).

(9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 5. Section 1012.978, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1012.978 Bonuses for state university system employees.—Notwithstanding s. 215.425(3), a university board of trustees may implement a bonus scheme based on awards for work performance or employee recruitment and retention. The board of trustees must submit to the Board of Governors the bonus scheme, including the evaluation criteria by which a bonus will be awarded. The Board of Governors must approve any bonus scheme created under this section before its implementation.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(6) EDUCATIONAL CHOICE.—

(a) *Public educational school choices.*—Parents of public school students may seek any public educational school choice options that are applicable and available to students throughout the state. These options may include controlled open enrollment, single-gender programs, lab schools, virtual instruction programs, charter schools, charter technical career centers, magnet schools, alternative schools, special programs, auditory-oral education programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, International General Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE), CAPE digital tools, CAPE industry certifications, early college ~~collegiate high school~~ programs, Advanced International Certificate of Education, early admissions, credit by examination or demonstration of

competency, the New World School of the Arts, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Florida Virtual School. These options may also include the public educational choice options of the Opportunity Scholarship Program and the McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (10) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

(10) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year, this subsection applies to a student with a disability.

(c) A student with a disability who meets the standard high school diploma requirements in this section may defer the receipt of a standard high school diploma if the student:

1. Has an individual education plan that prescribes special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services through age 21; and

2. Is enrolled in accelerated college credit instruction pursuant to s. 1007.27, industry certification courses that lead to college credit, an early college ~~a collegiate high school~~ program, courses necessary to satisfy the Scholar designation requirements, or a structured work-study, internship, or preapprenticeship program.

The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this subsection, including rules that establish the minimum requirements for students described in this subsection to earn a standard high school diploma. The State Board of Education shall adopt emergency rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54.

Section 8. Subsection (6) of section 1012.98, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

(6) An organization of private schools or consortium of charter schools which has no fewer than 10 member schools in this state, which publishes and files with the Department of Education copies of its standards, and the member schools of which comply with the provisions of part II of chapter 1003, relating to compulsory school attendance, or a public or private college or university with a teacher preparation program approved pursuant to s. 1004.04, may also develop a professional development system that includes a master plan for inservice activities. The system and inservice plan must be submitted to the commissioner for approval pursuant to state board rules.

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 24, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 24, 2021.