

CHAPTER 2025-57

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1402

An act relating to students enrolled in dropout retrieval programs; amending s. 1002.45, F.S.; revising assessment and accountability requirements for a virtual instruction program provider; providing that a virtual instruction program provider operating exclusively as a dropout retrieval program is exempt from specified requirements; amending s. 1003.53, F.S.; providing that dropout retrieval programs serve a specified group of students; requiring a dropout retrieval program to choose to receive a school grade or school improvement rating; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 1002.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.45 Virtual instruction programs.—

(7) ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(a) Each approved virtual instruction program provider contracted pursuant to this section must:

1. Participate in the statewide assessment program under s. 1008.22 and in the state's education performance accountability system under s. 1008.31.

2. Receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341, as applicable, for each district with which it contracts, based on the assessment scores of all students served within the school district. The school improvement rating received by each approved virtual instruction program provider shall be based upon the aggregated assessment scores of all students served by the provider statewide. Each approved virtual instruction program provider shall receive a district grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 based upon the aggregated assessment scores of all students served by the provider statewide and a separate school grade or school improvement rating for each school district with which it contracts based upon the assessment scores of all students served within the school district. A virtual instruction program provider operating exclusively as a dropout retrieval program as described in s. 1003.53(7) is exempt from the district grade requirement of this paragraph. The department shall publish the school grade or school improvement rating received by each approved virtual instruction program provider on its Internet website. The department shall develop an evaluation method for providers of part-time programs which includes the percentage of students making learning gains, the percentage of students successfully passing any required end-

of-course assessment, the percentage of students taking Advanced Placement examinations, and the percentage of students scoring 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement examination.

Section 2. Present subsection (7) of section 1003.53, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (8), and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

1003.53 Dropout prevention and academic intervention.—

(7) Dropout retrieval programs serve students who have officially withdrawn from high school before graduation and who are not engaged in the education system at the time of enrollment in the program. Each dropout retrieval program shall choose to receive a school grade under s. 1008.34 or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 2025.