

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to civic education; providing a short  
3           title; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the  
4           requirements for a standard high school diploma to  
5           include a specified course; providing requirements for  
6           such course; creating s. 1003.4321, F.S.; establishing  
7           the Florida Seal of Civic Engagement Program;  
8           providing the purpose of the program; requiring the  
9           State Board of Education to establish criteria for  
10          awarding the seal; providing requirements for such  
11          criteria; providing Commissioner of Education and  
12          school districts duties; prohibiting a school district  
13          or the Department of Education from charging a fee for  
14          the seal; requiring the state board to adopt rules;  
15          amending s. 1003.497, F.S.; providing that a  
16          nonpartisan civic literacy project may be included in  
17          service-learning programs, activities, or policies;  
18          creating s. 1003.4971, F.S.; authorizing certain  
19          students to complete a nonpartisan civic literacy  
20          project; requiring the state board to develop the  
21          minimum criteria for a project and a process to  
22          confirm completion; providing requirements for such  
23          criteria and nonpartisan civic literacy projects;  
24          prohibiting a student from receiving remuneration for  
25          specified purposes; providing the hours devoted to

26 such a project and the project may be used for  
27 specified purposes; authorizing a school to integrate  
28 a nonpartisan civic literacy project into a service-  
29 learning program or activity; requiring the state  
30 board to adopt rules; creating s. 1003.632, F.S.;  
31 requiring the state board to annually designate public  
32 schools that meet specified criteria as Democracy  
33 Schools; requiring the state board to establish the  
34 criteria for designation as a Democracy School;  
35 providing requirements for such criteria; requiring  
36 the state board to adopt rules; amending s. 1007.25,  
37 F.S.; providing that earning the Seal of Civic  
38 Engagement demonstrates competency in civic literacy  
39 for specified purposes; providing membership  
40 requirements for a specified faculty committee;  
41 amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; revising school grade  
42 components to include students who complete a  
43 specified course with a grade of "B" or higher;  
44 providing a weighted calculation for schools  
45 designated as a Democracy School; providing an  
46 effective date.

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

49  
50 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section

51 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

52 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school  
53 diploma.—

54 (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT  
55 REQUIREMENTS.—

56 (d) Three credits in social studies.—A student must earn  
57 one credit in United States History; one credit in World  
58 History; one-half credit in economics, which must include  
59 financial literacy; and one-half credit in United States  
60 Government or, beginning with students entering grade 9 in the  
61 2020-2021 school year, one-half credit in United States  
62 Government and Civic Engagement. The United States History EOC  
63 assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course  
64 grade. The one-half credit in United States Government and Civic  
65 Engagement must include an individual or group nonpartisan civic  
66 literacy project pursuant to s. 1003.4971 as a laboratory  
67 component. The state board shall approve and identify in the  
68 Course Code Directory the United States Government and Civic  
69 Engagement course. Such course may be offered as a semester  
70 course or a yearlong course.

71 Section 2. Section 1003.4321, Florida Statutes, is created  
72 to read:

73 1003.4321 Florida Seal of Civic Engagement Program.—

74 (1) The Florida Seal of Civic Engagement Program is  
75 established to recognize each high school graduate who has

76 | attained a high level of community involvement and academic  
 77 | achievement in civics.

78 | (2) The purpose of the Florida Seal of Civic Engagement  
 79 | Program is to encourage students to understand the basic  
 80 | principles of American democracy and to foster a sense of  
 81 | citizenship and community involvement.

82 | (3) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the Seal of  
 83 | Civic Engagement shall be awarded to a high school student who  
 84 | earns a standard high school diploma and who meets the  
 85 | requirements established by the State Board of Education. In  
 86 | establishing the criteria for awarding the Seal of Civic  
 87 | Engagement, the state board shall include all of the following:

88 | (a) Completion of the United States Government and Civic  
 89 | Engagement course with a grade of "B" or higher.

90 | (b) Community service or extracurricular activities that  
 91 | are related to civic engagement.

92 | (c) Additional academic achievement in courses that  
 93 | include the study of civics and the United States Government.

94 | (4) The Commissioner of Education shall:

95 | (a) Prepare and provide to each school district an  
 96 | appropriate insignia to affix to a student's diploma indicating  
 97 | that the student has been awarded the Seal of Civic Engagement.

98 | (b) Provide information necessary for school districts to  
 99 | successfully implement the program.

100 | (5) Each school district shall:

101        (a) Maintain appropriate records to identify a student who  
102 has met the requirements to receive the Seal of Civic  
103 Engagement.

104        (b) Provide the commissioner with the number of students  
105 who have met the requirements to receive the Seal of Civic  
106 Engagement.

107        (c) Affix the appropriate insignia to the student's  
108 diploma and indicate on the student's transcript that the  
109 student has earned the Seal of Civic Engagement.

110        (6) A school district or the Department of Education may  
111 not charge a fee for the Seal of Civic Engagement.

112        (7) The state board shall adopt rules to implement this  
113 section. Such rules must, at a minimum, include all of the  
114 following:

115        (a) The requirements a student must meet to be awarded the  
116 Seal of Civic Engagement.

117        (b) A process to confirm a student's successful completion  
118 of the requirements to receive the Seal of Civic Engagement.

119        Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1003.497, Florida  
120 Statutes, is amended to read:

121        1003.497 Service learning.—

122        (1) The Department of Education shall encourage school  
123 districts to initiate, adopt, expand, and institutionalize  
124 service-learning programs, activities, and policies in  
125 kindergarten through grade 12, including nonpartisan civic

126 literacy projects under s. 1003.4971. Service learning refers to  
127 a student-centered, research-based teaching and learning  
128 strategy that engages students in meaningful service activities  
129 in their schools or communities. Service-learning activities are  
130 directly tied to academic curricula, standards, and course,  
131 district, or state assessments. Service-learning activities  
132 foster academic achievement, character development, civic  
133 engagement, and career exploration and enable students to apply  
134 curriculum content, skills, and behaviors taught in the  
135 classroom.

136 Section 4. Section 1003.4971, Florida Statutes, is created  
137 to read:

138 1003.4971 Nonpartisan Civic Literacy Projects.-

139 (1) Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2020-  
140 2021 school year, students shall complete a nonpartisan civic  
141 literacy project as the laboratory component of the United  
142 States Government and Civic Engagement course offered under s.  
143 1003.4282. The State Board of Education shall develop the  
144 minimum criteria for a nonpartisan civic literacy project and a  
145 process for a district school board to confirm a student's  
146 completion of the project. The criteria for nonpartisan civic  
147 literacy projects must, at a minimum, require a student to:

148 (a) Identify a civic issue that impacts his or her  
149 community.

150 (b) Rigorously research the issue from multiple

151 perspectives and develop a plan for his or her personal  
152 involvement in addressing the issue.

153 (c) Create a portfolio to evaluate and reflect upon his or  
154 her experience and the outcomes of his or her involvement.

155 (2) (a) A nonpartisan civic literacy project must be  
156 nonpartisan in nature and focus on addressing at least one  
157 community issue.

158 (b) A nonpartisan civic literacy project must promote a  
159 student's ability to consider differing points of view and  
160 engage in civil discourse with individuals who hold an opposing  
161 opinion.

162 (c) A student may not receive remuneration for his or her  
163 work relating to the nonpartisan civic literacy project.

164 (d) The hours that a high school student devotes to a  
165 nonpartisan civic literacy project may be counted toward meeting  
166 community service requirements for high school graduation and  
167 community service requirements for participation in the Florida  
168 Bright Futures Scholarship Program. School districts are  
169 encouraged to include and accept nonpartisan civic literacy  
170 project activities and hours in requirements for academic  
171 awards, especially those awards that currently include community  
172 service as a criterion or selection factor.

173 (3) The state board shall adopt rules to administer this  
174 section.

175 Section 5. Section 1003.632, Florida Statutes, is created

176 to read:

177 1003.632 Democracy Schools.—The purpose of this section is  
178 to recognize each public school in the state that demonstrates a  
179 commitment to integrating high-quality civic learning, including  
180 civic-engagement skills, into its academic curricula.

181 (1) The State Board of Education shall annually designate  
182 each public school in the state that provides students with  
183 high-quality civic learning, including civic-engagement skills,  
184 as a Democracy School.

185 (2) The state board shall establish the criteria for  
186 designation as a Democracy School. The criteria must include all  
187 of the following:

188 (a) Offering the United States Government and Civic  
189 Engagement course as a yearlong course.

190 (b) The extent to which strategies to develop high-quality  
191 civic learning, including civic-engagement skills, are  
192 integrated into the classroom using best instructional  
193 practices.

194 (c) The scope of integration of high-quality civic  
195 learning, including civic-engagement skills, across the school's  
196 curricula.

197 (d) The extent to which school administrators and  
198 instructional personnel have made high-quality civic learning,  
199 including civic-engagement skills, an instructional priority.

200 (e) The extent to which the school supports

201 interdisciplinary, teacher-led professional learning communities  
202 to support continuous improvement in instruction and student  
203 achievement.

204 (3) The state board shall adopt rules to administer this  
205 section.

206 Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 1007.25, Florida  
207 Statutes, is amended to read:

208 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
209 other degree requirements.—

210 (4) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida  
211 College System institution or state university in the 2018-2019  
212 school year and thereafter, each student must demonstrate  
213 competency in civic literacy. Students must have the option to  
214 demonstrate competency through successful completion of a civic  
215 literacy course, ~~or~~ by achieving a passing score on an  
216 assessment, or, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, by  
217 earning the Seal of Civic Engagement pursuant to s. 1003.4321.  
218 The State Board of Education must adopt in rule and the Board of  
219 Governors must adopt in regulation at least one existing  
220 assessment that measures competencies consistent with the  
221 required course competencies outlined in paragraph (b). The  
222 chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board  
223 of Governors, or their respective designees, shall jointly  
224 appoint a faculty committee, representing faculty from public  
225 postsecondary educational institutions located in counties of

226 | varying size and demographic makeup, to:

227 |       (a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an  
 228 | existing general education core course in American History or  
 229 | American Government to include civic literacy.

230 |       (b) Establish course competencies and identify outcomes  
 231 | that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic  
 232 | principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our  
 233 | republican form of government, an understanding of the United  
 234 | States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how  
 235 | they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of  
 236 | self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court  
 237 | cases and their impact on law and society.

238 |       Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
 239 | 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

240 |       1008.34 School grading system; school report cards;  
 241 | district grade.—

242 |       (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

243 |       (b)1. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a school's  
 244 | grade shall be based on the following components, each worth 100  
 245 | points:

246 |       a. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
 247 | standardized assessments in English Language Arts under s.  
 248 | 1008.22(3).

249 |       b. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
 250 | standardized assessments in mathematics under s. 1008.22(3).

251 c. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
252 standardized assessments in science under s. 1008.22(3).

253 d. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide,  
254 standardized assessments in social studies under s. 1008.22(3).

255 e. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning  
256 Gains in English Language Arts as measured by statewide,  
257 standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

258 f. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning  
259 Gains in mathematics as measured by statewide, standardized  
260 assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

261 g. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25  
262 percent in English Language Arts, as identified by prior year  
263 performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make  
264 Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized English  
265 Language Arts assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

266 h. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25  
267 percent in mathematics, as identified by prior year performance  
268 on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains  
269 as measured by statewide, standardized Mathematics assessments  
270 administered under s. 1008.22(3).

271 i. For schools comprised of middle grades 6 through 8 or  
272 grades 7 and 8, the percentage of eligible students passing high  
273 school level statewide, standardized end-of-course assessments  
274 or attaining national industry certifications identified in the  
275 CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules

276 adopted by the State Board of Education.

277  
278 In calculating Learning Gains for the components listed in sub-  
279 subparagraphs e.-h., the State Board of Education shall require  
280 that learning growth toward achievement levels 3, 4, and 5 is  
281 demonstrated by students who scored below each of those levels  
282 in the prior year. In calculating the components in sub-  
283 subparagraphs a.-d., the state board shall include the  
284 performance of English language learners only if they have been  
285 enrolled in a school in the United States for more than 2 years.

286 2. For a school comprised of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or  
287 grades 10, 11, and 12, the school's grade shall also be based on  
288 the following components, each worth 100 points:

289 a. The 4-year high school graduation rate of the school as  
290 defined by state board rule.

291 b. The percentage of students who were eligible to earn  
292 college and career credit through College Board Advanced  
293 Placement examinations, International Baccalaureate  
294 examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International  
295 Certificate of Education examinations; ~~or~~ who, at any time  
296 during high school, earned national industry certification  
297 identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List,  
298 pursuant to rules adopted by the state board; or beginning with  
299 the 2020-2021 school year, who complete the United States  
300 Government and Civic Engagement course with a grade of "B" or

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301 higher. For a school that is designated as a Democracy School  
302 pursuant to s. 1003.632, the percentage of students who  
303 completed the United States Government and Civic Engagement  
304 course with a grade of "B" or higher shall be multiplied by a  
305 weight of 1.2 for purposes of this sub-subparagraph.

306 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.