

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN, Chair
ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ, Vice Chair

Members

GARY CHARTRAND
DR. AKSHAY DESAI
BARBARA S. FEINGOLD
JOHN R. PADGET

John L. Winn
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Michael Grego
DATE: July 22, 2011

Contact Information:

Helen Lancashire
(850) 245-7851
Helen.Lancashire@fldoe.org
DPS: 2011-101

SUBJECT: CS/CS/HB 1255: Accelerated High School Graduation Options

Governor Rick Scott signed CS/CS/HB 1255, *An act relating to education accountability*, into law with an effective date of July 1, 2011. We are providing you with information on the key provisions of the bill that amend section 1003.429, Florida Statutes (F.S.), *Accelerated Graduation Options*. The enrolled bill is available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2011/1255/BillText/er/PDF>.

Specifically, subsections of s. 1003.429, F.S., are amended to:

- (2) suggest, but no longer require, that a student and the student's parent meet with designated school personnel to receive an explanation of the relative requirements, advantages, and disadvantages of each program option. This change was accomplished by replacing the word "must" with "should."
- (2) add that if an effort to meet with the student's parent fails and that effort has been documented by designated school personnel, the student may select either the three-year standard college preparatory program or the three-year career preparatory program with the written consent of the student's parent. A student may select a program without the written consent of the student's parent if the student is 18 years of age or older.
- (3) state that beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, each district school board shall provide students in grades *six through 12* and their parents with information concerning the three-year and four-year high school graduation options. This change updated the effective year from the 2006-2007 school year and extends the school years that information must be provided from grades six through nine to grades six through 12.

DR. MICHAEL GREGO
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Accelerated High School Graduation Options

July 22, 2011

Page Two

- (4) add that selection of one of the three-year graduation program options may be completed by the student at any time during grades nine through 12 instead of prior to the end of grade nine and is exclusively up to the student and the parent. This change was accomplished by replacing the word “must” with “may.”
- (4) eliminate the requirement that each district school board shall establish policies for extending the deadline for program selection to the end of the student’s first semester of grade 10 for a student who entered a Florida public school after grade nine upon transfer from a private school or another state or who was prevented from choosing a graduation option due to illness during grade nine.
- (4) replace language that if a student and parent fail to select a graduation option with *one of the accelerated high school graduation options*, the student shall be considered to have selected the general requirements for high school graduation program as specified in s. 1003.428, F.S.

We appreciate your continued efforts to ensure the provision of information to students and families on the available graduation program options. It is important to note that these revisions impact the annual revision of the 2011-2012 district student progression plan. Resources related to student progression are available online at <http://www.fldoe.org/bii/studentpro/>. If you have questions related to the implementation of this legislation, please contact Helen Lancashire, School Counseling Consultant, via email at Helen.Lancashire@fldoe.org or (850) 245-7851.

MG/hl

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
District Curriculum Contacts
Student Services Directors
Exceptional Student Education Directors
High School Principals
Middle School Principals
Guidance Counselors