

581-2095-07

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Education
Pre-K - 12

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to school attendance; amending
s. 1003.21, F.S.; revising the requirements
that must be met when a student withdraws from
school; requiring a student who is withdrawing
to be assigned a counselor to provide
educational information until the student is 18
years old; amending s. 1003.428, F.S.;
requiring 9th graders or students who are
withdrawing from school to receive instruction
about the effects of withdrawing from high
school; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.21 School attendance.--

(1)

(c) A student who has not graduated and who attains
the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to
compulsory school attendance after ~~beyond~~ the date upon which
he or she attains that age if the student files a formal
declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the
district school board. Such ~~Public school~~ students ~~who have~~
~~attained the age of 16 years and who have not graduated~~ are
subject to compulsory school attendance until the formal
declaration of intent is filed with the district school board.
The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school
enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential
and must be signed by the student and the student's parent.

581-2095-07

1 The school district must notify the student's parent of
 2 receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate
 3 school enrollment. The student's guidance counselor or other
 4 school personnel must conduct an exit interview with the
 5 student to determine the student's plans. The school must also
 6 assign a counselor to the student who shall serve as a
 7 resource for educational information until the student attains
 8 the age of 18. reasons for the student's decision to terminate
 9 ~~school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the~~
 10 ~~student in school. The student must be informed of~~
 11 ~~opportunities to continue his or her education in a different~~
 12 ~~environment, including, but not limited to, adult education~~
 13 ~~and GED test preparation. Additionally, the student must~~
 14 ~~complete a survey in a format prescribed by the Department of~~
 15 ~~Education to provide data on student reasons for terminating~~
 16 ~~enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep students~~
 17 ~~enrolled.~~

18 Section 2. Present subsections (9) through (11) of
 19 section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 20 subsections (10) through (12), respectively, and a new
 21 subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

22 1003.428 General requirements for high school
 23 graduation; revised.--

24 (9) Each student who is in the second semester of the
 25 9th grade, or any student who is withdrawing from school
 26 without graduating or transferring to another school, must be
 27 given instruction that includes a detailed discussion of the
 28 relative advantages and disadvantages of the following:

29 (a) The value of a high school education, both
 30 financially and culturally;

31 (b) The alternative assessments, such as the SAT and

581-2095-07

1 the ACT, the scores of which could help the student obtain a
2 high school diploma; and

3 (c) The secondary and postsecondary options that are
4 available, including secondary career and professional academy
5 opportunities, workforce training, and enrolling in a
6 community college or university, and the prerequisites to
7 each, with or without a diploma.

8 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
9 law.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31