

1098 area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be
1099 determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall
1100 provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and
1101 meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading
1102 below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered
1103 pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s.
1104 1011.62(8).

1105 (c) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or
1106 Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive
1107 remediation the following year, which may be integrated into the
1108 student's required mathematics course.

1109 (2) Students in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8 who are not
1110 enrolled in schools with a middle grades configuration are
1111 subject to the promotion requirements of this section.

1112 (3) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant
1113 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
1114 section and may enforce the provisions of this section pursuant
1115 to s. 1008.32.

1116 Section 22. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended
1117 to read:

1118 1003.42 Required instruction.--

1119 (1) Each district school board shall provide all courses
1120 required for middle grades promotion, high school graduation,
1121 and appropriate instruction designed to ensure that students
1122 meet State Board of Education adopted standards in the following
1123 subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics,

1124 science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical
 1125 education, and the arts.

1126 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
 1127 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
 1128 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
 1129 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
 1130 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
 1131 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
 1132 approved methods of instruction, the following:

1133 (a) The history and content of the Declaration of
 1134 Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law, self-
 1135 evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government,
 1136 popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of life, liberty,
 1137 and property, and how they form ~~it forms~~ the philosophical
 1138 foundation of our government.

1139 (b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the
 1140 provisions of the Constitution of the United States and
 1141 amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments
 1142 that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution
 1143 provides the structure of our government.

1144 ~~(c)-(b)~~ The arguments in support of adopting our republican
 1145 form of government, as they are embodied in the most important
 1146 of the Federalist Papers.

1147 ~~(c) The essentials of the United States Constitution and~~
 1148 ~~how it provides the structure of our government.~~

1149 (d) Flag education, including proper flag display and flag
 1150 salute.

1151 (e) The elements of civil government, including the
1152 primary functions of and interrelationships between the Federal
1153 Government, the state, and its counties, municipalities, school
1154 districts, and special districts.

1155 (f) The history of the United States, including the period
1156 of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the
1157 Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present
1158 boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the
1159 present. American history shall be viewed as factual, not as
1160 constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, teachable, and
1161 testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation
1162 based largely on the universal principles stated in the
1163 Declaration of Independence.

1164 (g)~~(f)~~ The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the
1165 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
1166 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
1167 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
1168 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the
1169 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
1170 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful
1171 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity
1172 in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting
1173 democratic values and institutions.

1174 (h)~~(g)~~ The history of African Americans, including the
1175 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
1176 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the

1177 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of
 1178 African Americans to society.

1179 (i)~~(h)~~ The elementary principles of agriculture.

1180 (j)~~(i)~~ The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating
 1181 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and
 1182 mind.

1183 (k)~~(j)~~ Kindness to animals.

1184 (l)~~(k)~~ The history of the state.

1185 (m)~~(l)~~ The conservation of natural resources.

1186 (n)~~(m)~~ Comprehensive health education that addresses
 1187 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental
 1188 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of
 1189 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences
 1190 of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury
 1191 prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention
 1192 and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

1193 (o)~~(n)~~ Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or
 1194 fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of
 1195 the State Board of Education and the district school board in
 1196 fulfilling the requirements of law.

1197 (p)~~(o)~~ The study of Hispanic contributions to the United
 1198 States.

1199 (q)~~(p)~~ The study of women's contributions to the United
 1200 States.

1201 (r) The nature and importance of free enterprise to the
 1202 United States economy.

1203 ~~(s)~~ ~~(e)~~ A character-development program in the elementary
1204 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
1205 is secular in nature ~~and stresses such character qualities as~~
1206 ~~attentiveness, patience, and initiative~~. Beginning in school
1207 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be
1208 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school
1209 board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-
1210 development program that shall be submitted to the department
1211 for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress
1212 the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship;
1213 kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal
1214 property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and
1215 religious tolerance; and cooperation.

1216 ~~(t)~~ ~~(r)~~ In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices
1217 that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting
1218 democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or
1219 before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the
1220 instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of
1221 local veterans when practicable.

1222
1223 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
1224 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

1225 (3) Any student whose parent makes written request to the
1226 school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of
1227 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its
1228 symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted may
1229 not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course

1230 descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not
1231 interfere with the local determination of appropriate curriculum
1232 which reflects local values and concerns.

1233 Section 23. Section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is created
1234 to read:

1235 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
1236 revised.--

1237 (1) Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to s.
1238 1003.429, beginning with students entering their first year of
1239 high school in the 2007-2008 school year, graduation requires
1240 the successful completion of a minimum of 24 credits, an
1241 International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced
1242 International Certificate of Education curriculum. Students must
1243 be advised of eligibility requirements for state scholarship
1244 programs and postsecondary admissions.

1245 (2) The 24 credits may be earned through applied,
1246 integrated, and combined courses approved by the Department of
1247 Education and shall be distributed as follows:

1248 (a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

1249 1. Four credits in English, with major concentration in
1250 composition, reading for information, and literature.

1251 2. Four credits in mathematics, one of which must be
1252 Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a
1253 higher-level mathematics course. School districts are encouraged
1254 to set specific goals to increase enrollments in, and successful
1255 completion of, geometry and Algebra II.