A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; requiring certain internships to be included in counseling materials and presented with certain courses; requiring the Department of Education to develop certain courses; deleting obsolete language; revising the requirements students must meet to satisfy the graduation requirements of the Career and Technical Education pathway option; amending s. 1003.491, F.S.; revising the requirements of a certain strategic 3-year plan to include promotion of specified Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards; amending s. 1003.493, F.S.; requiring certain career and professional academies and secondary schools to promote the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award; amending ss. 1009.22 and 1009.23, F.S.; prohibiting the transportation access fee from being included in the calculation of Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award for certain students who earn a high school diploma from a non-Florida school; amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; revising student eligibility requirements for the Florida

Academic Scholars award; providing requirements for the Advanced Placement Capstone designation as an eligibility requirement for the Florida Academic Scholars award; amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; revising student eligibility requirements for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award; amending s. 1007.271, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain career dual enrollment agreements; revising the requirements for certain dual enrollment articulation agreements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (7), and subsection (9) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

(1) TWENTY-FOUR CREDITS REQUIRED.—

(b) The required credits may be earned through equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses as defined in s. 1003.01(2), including work-related internships approved by the State Board of Education and identified in the

course code directory. Such internships must be included in counseling materials and presented with courses required for graduation. However, any must-pass assessment requirements must be met. An equivalent course is one or more courses identified by content-area experts as being a match to the core curricular content of another course, based upon review of the state academic standards for that subject. An applied course aligns with state academic standards and includes real-world applications of a career and technical education standard used in business or industry. An integrated course includes content from several courses within a content area or across content areas.

(7) CAREER EDUCATION COURSES THAT SATISFY HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.—

(a) Participation in equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses engages students in their high school education, increases academic achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary success. The department shall develop, for approval by the State Board of Education, multiple, additional equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses or a series of courses that meet the requirements set forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and this subsection and allow students to earn credit in ~~both~~ the equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education course and courses required for high school

graduation under this section and s. 1003.4281.

1. The state board must determine at least biennially whether sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant the award of academic credit, including satisfaction of graduation, assessment, and state university admissions requirements under this section.

2. Career education courses must:

a. Include workforce and digital literacy skills.

b. Integrate required course content with practical applications and designated rigorous coursework that results in one or more industry certifications or clearly articulated credit or advanced standing in a 2-year or 4-year certificate or degree program, which may include high school junior and senior year work-related internships or apprenticeships. The department shall negotiate state licenses for material and testing for industry certifications.

The instructional methodology used in these courses must comprise authentic projects, problems, and activities for contextual academic learning and emphasize workplace skills identified under s. 445.06.

3. A student who earns credit upon completion of 1 year of related technical instruction for an apprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 or preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of

Education under chapter 446 may use such credit to satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements in paragraph (3)(e) or paragraph (3)(g). The state board shall approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which earned credit may be used pursuant to this subparagraph.

4. The State Board of Education shall, by rule, establish a process that enables a student to receive work-based learning credit or credit in electives for completing a threshold level of demonstrable participation in extracurricular activities associated with career and technical student organizations. Work-based learning credit or credit in electives for extracurricular activities or supervised agricultural experiences may not be limited by grade level.

(9) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION PATHWAY OPTION. ~~Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year,~~ A student is eligible to complete an alternative pathway to earning a standard high school diploma through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway option. Receipt of a standard high school diploma awarded through the CTE pathway option requires the student's successful completion of at least 18 credits. A student completing the CTE pathway option must earn at least a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

(a) In order for a student to satisfy the requirements of the CTE pathway option, he or she must meet the GPA requirement

and:

1. Meet the requirements in paragraphs (3)(a)-(d) and, additionally, for students who entered ~~entering~~ grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter, paragraph (3)(h);

2.a. For a student who entered grade 9 before the 2024-2025 school year, complete two credits in career and technical education~~. The courses must~~ that result in a program completion and an industry certification or complete three credits in career and technical education which are not required to result in a program completion or an industry certification; or

b. For a student who entered grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, complete three credits in career and technical education. The courses are not required to result in a program completion or an industry certification; and

3.a. For a student who entered ~~enters~~ grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year, complete two credits in electives or work-based learning programs if the student completes two credits in career and technical education or one credit in electives or work-based learning programs if the student completes three credits in career and technical education as described in sub-subparagraph 2.a. A one-half credit in financial literacy may be included in the two credits of electives; ~~or~~

b. For a student who entered ~~enters~~ grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year ~~and thereafter~~, complete one and one-half

credits in electives or work-based learning programs; or

c. For a student who entered grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, complete one credit in electives or work-based learning programs.

(b) Each district school board shall incorporate the CTE pathway option to graduation in the student progression plan required under s. 1008.25.

(c) Adjunct educators certified pursuant to s. 1012.57 may teach courses in the CTE pathway option.

Section 2. Paragraphs (j) and (n) of subsection (3) of section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.

(3) The strategic 3-year plan developed jointly by the local school district, local workforce development boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary institutions must be constructed and based on:

(j) Strategies to recruit students into career-themed courses and career and professional academies. The strategies shall ~~which~~ include providing in-person academic advising, including information on career education programs and

postsecondary scholarships, by a certified school counselor or the school principal or his or her designee. ~~opportunities for students who have been unsuccessful in traditional classrooms but who are interested in enrolling in career-themed courses or a career and professional academy. School boards shall provide opportunities for students who may be deemed as potential dropouts or whose cumulative grade point average drops below a 2.0 to enroll in career-themed courses or participate in career and professional academies. Such students must be provided in-person academic advising that includes information on career education programs by a certified school counselor or the school principal or his or her designee during any semester the students are at risk of dropping out or have a cumulative grade point average below a 2.0~~;

(n) Promotion of the benefits of the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;

Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 1003.493, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.493 Career and professional academies and career-themed courses.—

(4) Each career and professional academy and secondary school providing a career-themed course must:

(c) Promote and provide opportunities for students enrolled in a career and professional academy or a career-themed

course to attain, at minimum, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award or the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award pursuant to s. 1009.536.

Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of section 1009.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—

(13)

(b) Notwithstanding ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, the transportation access fee authorized under paragraph (a) may not be included in calculating the amount a student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a Florida Medallion Scholars award, ~~or~~ a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award.

Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (18) of section 1009.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

(18)

(b) Notwithstanding ss. 1009.534, 1009.535, and 1009.536, the transportation access fee authorized under paragraph (a) may not be included in calculating the amount a student receives for a Florida Academic Scholars award, a Florida Medallion Scholars award, ~~or~~ a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, or a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award.

Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (18) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.—

(18)

(c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a state-approved teacher preparation program, the tuition and fees waived under this subsection must be reported for state funding purposes under ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed to the student. The amount disbursed to the student must be equal to the award amount the student has received under s. 1009.534(3) ~~s. 1009.534(2)~~ or s. 1009.535(2).

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

(1) In order to be eligible for an initial award from any of the scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a student must:

(b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma pursuant to s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282 or a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 unless:

1. The student completes a home education program according to s. 1002.41;

2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on, or, within 12 months before the student's high school graduation, has retired from, military or public service

assignment away from Florida; or

3. The student earns a high school diploma from a Florida private school operating pursuant to s. 1002.42.

Section 8. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, subsection (1) is amended, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:

(a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(b) Has attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to

earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office, ~~or~~ an Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the University of Cambridge International Examinations Office, or an Advanced Placement Capstone designation from the College Board beginning with high school students graduating in the 2025-2026 school year;

(d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist; or

(e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

The student must complete a program of volunteer service or~~,~~ ~~beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter,~~ paid work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program

students, which must include 100 hours of volunteer service, paid work, or a combination of both. ~~Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in the student's total of paid work hours.~~ The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

(2) For purposes of this section, the Advanced Placement Capstone designation shall consist of six Advanced Placement courses, including Advanced Placement Seminar; Advanced Placement Research; one Advanced Placement course in mathematics or science; one Advanced Placement course in English; one Advanced Placement course in art, history, or social sciences; and one Advanced Placement course in a subject of the student's choice. Receipt of the Advanced Placement Capstone designation

does not satisfy the requirements for a standard high school diploma under s. 1003.4282.

Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:

(a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered

Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(c) Has attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist but has not completed the program of volunteer service or paid work required under s. 1009.534; or

(e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the program of volunteer service or paid work required under s. 1009.534.

A high school student must complete a program of volunteer service or~~, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter,~~ paid work approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include 75 hours of volunteer service, 100 hours of paid work, or 100 hours of a combination

of both. ~~Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in a student's total of required paid work hours.~~ The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

Section 10. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (2), and subsection (5) of section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards.—The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award are created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and reward academic achievement and career preparation by high school students who wish to continue their education.

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:

(a) Completes ~~the secondary school portion of a sequential program of studies that requires~~ at least three high ~~secondary~~ school career and technical education credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for any of the three required career credits.

(b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department of Education.

(c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding elective courses.

(d) Has achieved ~~Earns~~ a minimum weighted ~~unweighted~~ grade point average of 3.0 ~~3.5~~ on a 4.0 scale in high school ~~for secondary~~ career and technical education courses ~~that comprise the career program~~.

(e) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service, or 75 hours of volunteer service for students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, or~~, beginning with high school students graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year~~

~~and thereafter,~~ 100 hours of paid work, approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, or 100 hours of a combination of both. ~~Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in a student's total of required paid work hours.~~ The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

(2) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and the student:

(b) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service, or 75 hours of volunteer service for students entering grade 9 in

the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, ~~beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter,~~ 100 hours of paid work, approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, or 100 hours of a combination of both. ~~Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in a student's total required paid work hours.~~ The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

(5)(a) A student who is ~~initially~~ eligible ~~in the 2012-2013 academic year and thereafter~~ may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to

complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific degree not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.

(b)1. A student who is ~~initially~~ eligible ~~in the 2017-2018 academic year and thereafter~~ for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award under subsection (2) may receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit

hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers from one of these program levels to another program level is eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar who completes a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) may also receive an award for:

a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science degree program for which there is a statewide associate in science degree program to bachelor of science degree program articulation agreement; or

b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

Section 11. Paragraph (f) of subsection (7) of section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (p) is added to subsection (21) of that section, to read:

1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

(7) Career dual enrollment shall be provided as a curricular option for secondary students to pursue in order to earn industry certifications adopted pursuant to s. 1008.44, which count as credits toward the high school diploma. Career dual enrollment shall be available for secondary students seeking a degree and industry certification through a career education program or course. Each career center established under s. 1001.44 shall enter into an agreement with each high

school in any school district it serves. ~~Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year,~~ The agreement must be completed annually and submitted by the career center to the Department of Education by August 1. The agreement must:

(f) Delineate costs incurred by each entity and determine how transportation will be provided for students who are unable to provide their own transportation and how students will be notified of such transportation.

(g) Address scheduling changes that will increase access and student participation.

(21) Each district school superintendent and each public postsecondary institution president shall develop a comprehensive dual enrollment articulation agreement for the respective school district and postsecondary institution. The superintendent and president shall establish an articulation committee for the purpose of developing the agreement. Each state university president may designate a university representative to participate in the development of a dual enrollment articulation agreement. A dual enrollment articulation agreement shall be completed and submitted annually by the postsecondary institution to the Department of Education on or before August 1. The agreement must include, but is not limited to:

(p) Any scheduling changes that are necessary to increase access and student participation.

Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.