

**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO POLICY 6000.1 – HIGH SCHOOL SECTION
SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES REQUIRED BY 2003 LEGISLATION**

Page:	Current Policy:	Proposed Policy:	Rationale:
1	“Minimum total credits required for high school graduation is 24.”	Substitute the following sentence: “The number of credits required to progress from one grade to another in high school follows:”	Total number of credits is addressed in a later section of the policy. This section addresses promotion from one grade to the next.
1	“To be in grade 11, a student must have earned a minimum of 10 credits...”	“To be in grade 11, a student must have earned a minimum of 11 credits...”	Since students may change their mind about diploma options (from 18 to 24 or from 24 to 18), this change allows both groups of students to progress through the grades using the same criteria through the start of the 11 th grade. (Both the state and district are having discussions regarding possible elimination of grade levels and freshman/sophomore-type designations because, under the new diploma options, the 4-year designations are irrelevant.)
2	To be promoted to 12 th grade mid-year, a student must have earned 20.5 credits.	Add clarification that this only applies to students working towards a 24-credit diploma.	Not relevant for students who are graduating with 18 credits.
2	Credits may be reduced by a total of 2 credits to accommodate travel to vocational programs.	Add clarification that this only applies to students working towards a 24-credit diploma.	New legislation does not permit reduction of the 18 credits.

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3	Lists 6 accrediting organizations from which schools can accept transfer credits without further validation	Adds three additional accrediting organizations	Recent changes in SACS' policy for validating credits in Florida.
8	Not addressed	Indicates that parents of high school students will be notified annually of acceleration options.	Requirement of F.S. 1003.02 (1) (I)
2, 10	Credit is defined as 135 hours of bona fide instruction.	Credit is defined as 135 hours of bona fide instruction except in schools authorized to implement block scheduling. In schools with block schedules, 120 hours of bona fide instruction is equivalent to one credit.	Consistent with amended definition of credit in the new legislation. F.S.1002.436 (1) (a)
11	Students must pass the FCAT in order to earn a regular high school diploma.	Students must pass the FCAT or an alternative assessment as specified by the Florida Department of Education.	Consistent with new legislation that allows DOE to establish alternative assessments such as SAT and ACT. This applies to both the 24 and 18 credit options.
11	Not addressed.	"The requirement for a passing score on the FCAT may be waived for students with disabilities for whom the IEP committee determines that the FCAT cannot accurately measure the student's abilities, taking into consideration all reasonable accommodations."	Consistent with the ENOBLES Act.
13, 20	Not addressed.	Add that participation in an R.O.T.C. class with a significant component of drills will satisfy the half credit of physical education requirement for a 24-credit diploma.	Consistent with amendment to F.S. 1003.43. (1) (j)

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13, 14	Not addressed.	<p>Add chart showing legislatively mandated graduation requirements for an 18-credit college preparatory or career preparatory diploma.</p> <p>The only difference between the college prep diploma and the career prep diploma is the mathematics requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College prep requires three credits at the level of Algebra I or above. • Career prep requires three credits that must include Algebra I. <p>Note: The career prep diploma does not require any career/technical courses.</p> <p>The 18-credit options require two credits of the same foreign language. (Note: The law requires two credits of the same foreign language unless the student is a native speaker of or can otherwise demonstrate competency in a language other than English. If the student demonstrates competency in another language, the student may replace the language requirement with two credits in other academic courses.)</p> <p>The 18-credit options require students to pass the FCAT and to maintain a 2.0 GPA.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(CONTINUED on next page)</p>	Consistent with new legislation (F.S.103.429)

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	(CONTINUED from previous page)	The 18-credit options do not require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical/performing arts • health/life management skills • physical education/personal fitness • computer competency • service learning. 	Legislation specifically prohibits local school districts from adding requirements to the 18-credit options.
14	Not addressed	Add statement that the school district must annually notify parents of students entering or in high school of acceleration options and benefits.	Required by F. S. 1003.02.
14	Not addressed	Add statement that the school district must notify parents of 6 th through 12 th graders at the beginning of each school year of the three-year and four-year graduation options. Also add statement that graduation option is solely determined by the student/parent with the 4-year option being the default option if no choice is made.	Required by F. S. 1003.429.
14	40 hours of service learning are required for graduation.	Add clarification that service learning requirement applies to 24-credit diploma option.	Districts are not allowed to add additional requirements to the 18-credit diploma requirements.
15	Indicates students who graduate in June or August of 2003 may take 3 credits through co-enrollment	Delete that provision.	Obsolete
15	Requires students to be 16 years of age and in their third year of high school in order to participate in co-enrollment.	Delete	No basis in statute and could potentially penalize students choosing 18-credit diploma option.

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16	Indicates class rank will be computed based upon completion of 8 semesters for rotator schools and 16 semesters for block schools.	Indicate class rank will be computed based upon the declared year of graduation.	With both 18-credit and 24 credit diploma options, the number of semesters is no longer a feasible way to compare students.
16	Indicates that, for class ranking, students who graduate in less than 8 (or 16) semesters shall not displace students completing requirements in 8 (or 16) semesters.	Delete	With both 18-credit and 24-credit diploma options, this is no longer relevant.
17	Early admissions criteria were based upon the 24-credit requirements	Remove requirement to have completed a minimum of 18 credits. Remove requirement to have completed all graduation requirements except English 4 and/or government/economics. Indicate student must be entering their last year of high school based upon the declared graduation date. Indicate that all graduation requirements must be met except those that can be met in the final year.	Addresses the needs of students choosing the 18-credit diploma option as well as those selecting the 24-credit option.
18	Not addressed	Add: "Nothing in this policy shall be construed as prohibiting students choosing one of the three year, 18-credit diploma options from participating in early enrollment."	Since there are many unknowns at this time about how the 18-credit options will interface with early admissions, a generic statement of intent has been proposed to ensure students choosing the 18-credit option are not penalized. As more information becomes available, the policy can be refined as needed.