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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: July 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Student Progression Legislative Updates

Contact Information:

Felicia Trumpler
850-245-0457
Felicia.Trumpler@fldoe.org

Damera Hopkins
850-245-7844
Damera.Hopkins@fldoe.org

DPS: 2021-91

The 2021 Florida Legislature passed, and Governor DeSantis signed into law, Senate Bills (SB) 1028 and 1108, and House Bill (HB) 1159. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts of the new responsibilities and considerations of each bill related to student progression. Except as otherwise expressed, these laws take effect July 1, 2021.

SB 1028/HB 1159 **Student Retention**

- Authorizes a parent or guardian to submit a written request by June 30, 2021, that his or her K-5 public school student be retained for academic reasons for the 2021-2022 school year in the grade level to which the student was assigned at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.
 - A parent or guardian who wishes for his or her student to be retained as provided by this act must submit, in writing, to the school principal a retention request that specifies the academic reasons for the retention. Requests received by the principal on or before June 30, 2021, must be considered. A principal may consider a request received after that date at his or her discretion.
 - A principal who considers a retention request submitted pursuant to this subsection shall inform the student's teachers of the retention request and collaboratively discuss with the parent or guardian any basis for agreement or disagreement with the request. As part of the discussion with the parent or guardian, the principal shall disclose that retention may impact the student's eligibility to participate in high school interscholastic sports due to the student's age.
- Requires the principal to collaboratively discuss the request with the parent or guardian any basis for agreement or disagreement with the request; however, the bill specifies that the parent or guardian has the final decision whether to retain the student.

JACOB OLIVA
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SB 1108

Civic Literacy Requirement

- Creates a process to allow students in high school to earn the civic literacy requirement before enrolling in a public college or university in this state.
- Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, students taking United States Government will be required to take the assessment of civic literacy pursuant to section (s.) [1007.25\(4\)](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.).
- Students who earn a passing score on the civic literacy assessment in the high school course will be exempt from the postsecondary civic literacy assessment as required by s. [1007.25\(4\)](#), F.S.

Graduation Requirements for Certain Students in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program

- Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, students who have been enrolled in an ESOL program for less than two school years and have met all requirements for the standard high school diploma except the passage of any must-pass assessment under ss. [1003.4282](#) or [1008.22](#), F.S., or alternate assessment, may meet the requirement to pass the statewide, standardized grade 10 English Language Arts assessment by satisfactorily demonstrating grade-level expectations on formative assessments, in accordance with State Board of Education rule.

For questions regarding high school and postsecondary student progression, please contact Felicia Trumpler at 850-245-0457 or Felicia.Trumpler@fldoe.org. For questions regarding elementary and middle school student progression, please contact Damera Hopkins at 850-245-7844 or Damera.Hopkins@fldoe.org.

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cc: School District Student Services Directors
School Principals