

## Technical Assistance Paper and Q&A for Senate Bill 850

---

---

Yes, it may be beneficial to negotiate the terms of the entire dual enrollment program concurrently.

➤ **What are the requirements of students participating in a collegiate high school program as required by s. 1007.273, F.S.?**

Each student participating in a collegiate high school program must enter into a performance contract that must be signed by the student, parent, school district and Florida College System institution. The contract components must include, at a minimum, the schedule of courses by semester, industry certifications available to the student, attendance requirements and course grade requirements.

➤ **Does a new contract have to be signed each semester?**

No, there is no explicit requirement that the contract be renewed or signed each semester. However, the contract must specify courses and industry certification availability by semester. This could be accomplished in a number of ways, including establishing a program of study for the school year or by adding an addendum to the contract each term of enrollment.

➤ **Does a district school board have authority to work with postsecondary institutions other than the Florida College System institution within its designated service area to establish a collegiate high school program?**

Yes, in addition to the contract with the Florida College System institution, the district school board may execute a contract with a state university or institution that is eligible to participate in the Florida Resident Access Grant Program.

➤ **How are collegiate high school programs, as required by s. 1007.273, F.S., funded?**

Collegiate high school programs are funded in accordance with ss. 1007.271 and 1011.62, F.S. In the case of a charter school operated by a Florida College System institution serving to meet the collegiate high school program requirement, the funding mechanism shall be delineated in the executed contract.

➤ **Does the collegiate high school program have to include more than one CAPE industry certification option for eligible students?**

Section 1007.273, F.S., requires that an eligible participant have an option of earning CAPE industry certifications; therefore, more than one CAPE industry certification must be available for students interested in pursuing them.

### ***Students with Disabilities and High School Graduation***

- Section 19 –Effective July 1, 2015, repeals s. 1003.438, F.S., Special high school graduation requirements for certain exceptional students:

➤ **Can students who have been working toward a special diploma and who will be in grades 10-12 in 2014-15 change to work towards earning a standard diploma?**

Yes, they may elect to work toward graduating with a standard diploma if they meet all of the requirements that will be specified in the State Board of Education

## Technical Assistance Paper and Q&A for Senate Bill 850

---

---

Rule. Once the student makes such a change, a special diploma is no longer an option.

- Section 20 – Creates s. 1003.5716, F.S., Transition to postsecondary education and career opportunities.
  - **Is a student with a disability eligible for a Scholar or Merit designation, as referenced in s. 1003.5716, F.S.?**  
Yes, upon the statement of intent to pursue a standard diploma and a Scholar or Merit designation the student should have access to enroll in the required courses or programs.
  - **When does a parent of a student with a disability choose a standard diploma, with a Scholar or Merit designation?**  
Before a student with a disability turns the age of 14 or not later than the first IEP to be in place when the student attains the age of 16 the IEP must include a statement of intent to pursue a standard high school diploma and a Scholar or Merit designation as determined by the parent.
- Section 26 – Amends. 1007.263, F.S., Florida College System institutions; admissions of students:
  - **Will a student who has earned a special diploma prior to July 1, 2015, be eligible to enroll in a Florida College System institution certificate career education program?**  
Yes.
- Section 27 –
  - **May a student with a disability, as defined in s. 1003.438, F.S., participating in the Road to Independence Program as of June 20, 2014, continue to participate in the program, as long as he or she meets the eligibility criteria?**  
Yes.
- Section 28 – Clarifies that a student with a disability whose IEP, as of June 20, 2014, states the student's intent to receive a special diploma, as defined in s. 1003.438, F.S., shall be awarded a special diploma if all requirements for a special diploma are met.
  - **If the individual education plan (IEP) created for a student in grade 7 or 8, as of June 20, 2014, places the student on a special diploma pathway, can they choose a standard diploma option or can he or she opt to stay on special diploma pathway?**  
Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter, may not work toward a special diploma, they must choose a standard diploma option.
- Section 33 amends s. 1003.4282, F.S., Requirements for a standard high school diploma
  - **Must districts offer all students with disabilities a pathway for a standard diploma?**  
Yes.

## Technical Assistance Paper and Q&A for Senate Bill 850

---

---

- **May a student with a disability who has completed the requirements for a standard diploma defer the diploma and get services, such as dual enrollment, until they are 22 or just students who use the new, alternative course of study options?**

The potential to defer receipt of a standard high school diploma applies to any student with a disability, as long as the requirements of s. 1003.4282(10)(c) are met.

### *Florida Personal Learning Account*

- Section 16 – Creates s. 1002.385, F.S., Florida personal learning scholarship accounts-school district obligations.

- **What is the Personal Learning Scholarship Account Program?**

The Personal Learning Scholarship Account Program (PLSA) was established in 2014 to provide parents the option to better meet the individual needs of their eligible children. Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts are administered by eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations (SFO). Parents of eligible children may use the accounts to purchase approved goods or services, as well as provide for prepaid college plans.

- **Who is eligible for the Personal Learning Scholarship Account Program?**

A student is eligible for a PLSA from a nonprofit SFO through this program, if:

- The student is a resident of Florida;
- The student is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school in Florida;
- Has a disability as defined by s. 1002.385(2)(d), F.S. These disabilities include: autism as defined in s. 393.063 (3); cerebral palsy as defined in s. 393.063(4); Down syndrome, as defined in s. 393.063(13); an intellectual disability as defined in 393.063(21); Prader-Willi syndrome, as defined in s. 393.063(25); spina bifida, as defined in s. 393.063(36); a student in kindergarten who is defined as being a high-risk child in accordance with s. 393.20(20) and Williams syndrome.; and
- Is the subject of an IEP written in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education, or has received a diagnosis of an eligible disability from a licensed physician or psychologist.

- **What are the school district responsibilities for the Personal Learning Scholarship Account Program?**

For a student with a disability who does not have a matrix of services under s. 1011.62(1)(e), F.S., and for whom the parent requests a matrix of services, the school district must complete a matrix of service as they existed before the 2000-2001 school year, with the following provisions:

- Within 10 school days after a school district receives notification of a parent's request for completion of a matrix of services, the school district must notify the student's parent if the matrix of services has not been completed;