

## Modifications made to student progression plans

By: Mark J. Crawford, Editor  
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The Bradford County School Board has reviewed and approved changes in the plans that govern student progression from one grade to the next.

There are three different progression plans, each based on a range of grade levels. Some changes spanned all three plans. For example, the BRIDGE program—an intermediate disciplinary step that called for brief assignment to the alternative school—is no more, but space was made for language regarding the immediate admittance of homeless students and assistance with medical physical and immunization documentation.

Under other special circumstances, temporary medical exceptions may also be granted for the immunization and physical requirements. There were also changes made based on the transition in some areas from Sunshine State Standards to the state's Next Generation academic standards. The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards referenced in the progression plans refers to revisions that are aimed at preparing students "to effectively engage, communicate, and compete globally with students around the world," or so the standards are described by the Florida Department of Education.

Approved changes and course descriptions can be reviewed at [www.floridastandards.org](http://www.floridastandards.org).

The evolution from progress tests to the more regular collection of student performance data required for the implementation of the district's Response to Intervention programs has also been noted in the new versions of the progression plans.

### Virtual Education

Each plan also includes the state requirement that school district's provide for full-time virtual education. Northeast Florida Education Consortium, which covers Bradford and Union counties, is coordinating this requirement for its members.

Though the enrollment period was the month of July, this may be extended on a case-by-case basis.

The program is for full-time students in kindergarten through eighth grade, and for those in grades nine through 12 so long as they do not meet the requirements for the district's dropout prevention program. Virtual instruction students are not home-school students, but students of the district who receive their education at home via computer technology. It is not for students who only want to take select courses in a virtual environment who may do so through Florida Virtual School.

In order to participate in the virtual education program, students must reside in the school district and have been enrolled all of the prior school year and present during the October and February student counts. Students are otherwise eligible if a parent is a member of the armed services or they were previously enrolled in a virtual program run by the school district.

Information on enrollment can be found on the school district's Web site at [www.mybradford.us/optional/parents.htm](http://www.mybradford.us/optional/parents.htm). For more information, contact Assistant Superintendent Lisa Prevatt by calling, 904-966-6800.

#### Elementary School

Other than those mentioned, there were few changes to the kindergarten through grade five progression plan. The state requirement for social promotion was added for exceptional education students, however, and that allows a student's IEP team to modify general education requirements with ESE benchmarks.

#### Middle School

Among the changes in the progression plan for students in grades six through eight, students will be required to complete one semester of physical education per year instead of 225 minutes per week based on the number available class periods.

Journalism and business are not offered at the middle school level and were removed as possible electives in the progression plan.

Agriculture courses have been added, but not for credit.

Promotion requirements in the plan were clarified. Students who fail one or two courses may be retained and scheduled for course recovery to retake those courses. If one course is successfully recovered prior to the start of the next school year, the student may be promoted to the next grade.

Students who fail more than two courses must be retained. The section on special assignment was eliminated. Students cannot skip a grade because of the requirements to pass certain core courses. Other changes included the modifications made to the uniform dress code.

### High School

Changes specific to the progression plan for grades nine through 12 included clarification that home-school students are under the same admittance requirements into Florida Virtual School, vocational programs and dual-enrollment classes. The definition of dual enrollment has been modified to reflect the state definition. Graduation requirements were expanded to allow for qualifying scores on a concordant test to substitute for passing the FCAT. Also, any student entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in school as a full- or part-time student for up to one year.

For the college bound or those seeking a Bright Futures Scholarship, the courses Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B will only count as one credit toward filling the math requirements. (They will still count as two credits toward graduation.) Also, beginning this school year, all students in the junior class will be required to take a science course during their junior year, the same year they take the science portion of the FCAT.

Agricultural science will count toward this requirement. Half-credit courses in health/life management and computer science/technology have been deleted from the graduation requirements. The courses will remain available to pursue as electives, however.

The high school progression plan still outlines the number of credits required to go from one credit to the next, but it no longer spells out from which types of courses those credits must come, i.e., one math, one English, one science, etc.

The plan now allows rigorous international courses to be counted in deciding the ranks of valedictorian and salutatorian, and it states that the high school principal has the authority to revoke senior privileges for Level II acts of misconduct.

There were also language changes in the sections related to promotion and assignment of ESE students.

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