area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be determined by diagnosis of reading needs. The department shall provide guidance on appropriate strategies for diagnosing and meeting the varying instructional needs of students reading below grade level. Reading courses shall be designed and offered pursuant to the comprehensive reading plan required by s. 1011.62(8).

(c) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or Level 2 on FCAT Mathematics, the student must receive remediation the following year, which may be integrated into the student's required mathematics course.

(2) Students in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8 who are not enrolled in schools with a middle grades configuration are subject to the promotion requirements of this section.

(3) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this section and may enforce the provisions of this section pursuant to s. 1008.32.

Section 22. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.--

(1) Each district school board shall provide all courses required for middle grades promotion, high school graduation, and appropriate instruction designed to ensure that students meet State Board of Education adopted standards in the following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics,
science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical
education, and the arts.

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
approved methods of instruction, the following:

(a) The history and content of the Declaration of
Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law, self-
evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government,
popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of life, liberty,
and property, and how they form the philosophical
foundation of our government.

(b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the
provisions of the Constitution of the United States and
amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments
that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution
provides the structure of our government.

(c) The arguments in support of adopting our republican
form of government, as they are embodied in the most important
of the Federalist Papers.

(d) Flag education, including proper flag display and flag
salute.
(e) The elements of civil government, including the primary functions of and interrelationships between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

(f) The history of the United States, including the period of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the present. American history shall be viewed as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation based largely on the universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence.

(g) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.

(h) The history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of African Americans to society.

(i) The elementary principles of agriculture.

(j) The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and mind.

(k) Kindness to animals.

(l) The history of the state.

(m) The conservation of natural resources.

(n) Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

(o) Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board in fulfilling the requirements of law.

(p) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States.

(q) The study of women's contributions to the United States.

(r) The nature and importance of free enterprise to the United States economy.
A character-development program in the elementary schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which is secular in nature and stresses such character qualities as attentiveness, patience, and initiative. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that shall be submitted to the department for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of patriotism, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property, honesty, charity, self-control, racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance, and cooperation.

In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans when practicable.

The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

Any student whose parent makes written request to the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted may not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course
descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not interfere with the local determination of appropriate curriculum which reflects local values and concerns.

Section 23. Section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation; revised.--

(1) Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to s. 1003.429, beginning with students entering their first year of high school in the 2007-2008 school year, graduation requires the successful completion of a minimum of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum. Students must be advised of eligibility requirements for state scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions.

(2) The 24 credits may be earned through applied, integrated, and combined courses approved by the Department of Education and shall be distributed as follows:

(a) Sixteen core curriculum credits:

1. Four credits in English, with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature.

2. Four credits in mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level mathematics course. School districts are encouraged to set specific goals to increase enrollments in, and successful completion of, geometry and Algebra II.