

Impact of 2007 Legislation on FTE Student Enrollment

Few bills enacted during the 2007 Legislative Session contain provisions that will impact Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) student enrollment. Bills that may have an impact on FTE are discussed below.

1. K-8 Virtual School Program

SB 2800 increases the funds allocated to the K-8 Virtual School to \$9.5 million from \$7.2 million. Any student entering kindergarten or grade one may enroll in the K-8 virtual school if there is space. Pupils entering grade two through grade eight are eligible to enroll in the K-8 Virtual School only if they attended a public school the previous year.

Proposed Wording for Impact	Adopted Impact
	Last year there were 1,384 full time students enrolled in the K-8 Virtual School. This year there is funding for 1,880 students. The K-8 Virtual School has a long wait list and these slots are expected to be filled. Enrollment in the K-8 Virtual Schools may amount to a slight reduction in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) FTE Student Enrollment.

2. Receiving Credit for Recovery and Elective Courses

Previously, students were eligible to receive credit for both elective and recovered credit for the same course. SB 2092 deletes the credit recovery clause in s.1003.428, F.S., so that students cannot receive credit for the same course.

Proposed Wording of Impact	Adopted Impact
	Some students may have to take more courses than they otherwise would. This can be accomplished through: (1) Adult Education; (2) Virtual High School; or (3) staying in school longer. Other students may choose to drop out of school. Therefore, the impact on FTE is unknown but negligible at the most.

3. ESE Guaranteed Allocation Capped for Gifted Students

SB 1046 amends s. 1011.62, F.S., by limiting the amount of money used from the ESE Guaranteed Allocation for gifted students in grades 9-12 to the amount expended in 2006-07.

A report commissioned by the Legislature from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) on the funding for gifted students is due by Dec 1, 2007.

Proposed Wording of Impact	Adopted Impact
	The classification of students as gifted in any grade group will not be affected, nor is this a change to the entitlement for services. Each district's behavioral response to the change in funding (if any) cannot be predicted, so the effect on FTE is unknown.

4. Identifying Minorities for Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

SB 108 amends s. 1007.35, F.S., to urge school districts to identify minority and underrepresented students for participation in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses.

Proposed Wording of Impact	Adopted Impact
.	There will be no impact on reported FTE if there are more students enrolled in AP, IB or AICE courses. However, an increase (if any) in enrollment will only affect the add-on weighted FTE in the FEFP calculation

5. Florida Career and Professional Education Act

SB 1232 creates the Florida Career and Professional Education Act to provide for a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities. The Act attempts to improve high school education by preparing students for high wage jobs in high-demand careers. The provisions of the bill include:

1. Amending s. 1003.491, F.S., to require districts to open new career academies by the 2008-09 school year;
2. Amending s. 1003.493, F.S., to require that students receive a high school diploma, earn the highest level career certifications as well as provide opportunities for students to earn postsecondary credit;
3. Amending s. 1011.62, F.S., to require an add-on of 0.3 FTE in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for students enrolled in an industry-certified career and professional academy who are awarded a certificate of successful completion.

Proposed Wording of Impact	Adopted Impact
	<p>The change in demand for dual enrollment classes cannot be anticipated. Effects on FTEs are not expected to be substantial in the short-run. However, it may have a greater impact once the career academies are established and students take more postsecondary courses and career education courses. The add-on FTE only affects dollars in the FEFP funding formula beginning in 2008-09. This impact is capped at \$30 million.</p>

6. FTE for Dual Enrollment Students:

SB 2800 allows districts that follow 4X4 Block Scheduling to claim the equivalent FTE as if it were taught in the school district. Previously in s. 1011.62 (1)(i), F.S., the districts were limited to claiming 75 hours for dual enrolled students. School districts that had implemented Block Scheduling found that students who were enrolled in two dual enrollment courses and two regular courses did not earn the 0.5 FTE per semester and, thus, were not funded accordingly.

Proposed Wording of Impact	Adopted Impact
	<p>There will be a slight increase in FTE. With the number of students earning several college credits before they leave high school increasing, this is going to have an impact, albeit a slight one, on FTEs.</p>