

# EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT BILL<sup>1</sup>

(WORKING DRAFT)

This is a preliminary draft only.

Please forward comments to [Tom@TomCuba.net](mailto:Tom@TomCuba.net).

## Summary:

The proposal is directed at the 25% of those young adults who fail to graduate from High School. It shall provide the minimum standards for the minimum acceptable levels of education at the secondary level. It is not meant to supplant the Sunshine Standards but to guide the pursuit of meeting them. The proposal will not affect high performing students, nor will it affect students seeking to be involved in a trades program. The proposal requires that each student meet knowledge and performance appropriate pre-requisites.

## Functional Elements of the Bill:

1. There is to be created a Table of Prerequisites based on the understanding that students simply must possess certain skills in order to obtain the next most complex set of skills.
2. The Table of Prerequisites shall address the model statement: "In order for a student to enroll in [insert class name] that student must be performing at or above grade level with a rating of C or above in the prerequisite class."
3. Each school board shall develop a curriculum in *Cognition* to include the development of *thinking* in place of memorization. Such courses are to teach the skills of understanding, reasoning, logic, derivation, synthesis of ideas, and presentation in spoken, written, and mentoring formats. In addition, Cognition must include education in exploratory thought, using imagination to construct a situation or "hypothesis" and logic to test the potential of converting that vision into reality: Asking "What if" and responding with a prediction, supported by reasoning.
4. Cognition is also to include following instructions and correcting faulty instructions or logic. Logic must also include an understanding of the misuse of logic.
5. Any student failing to meet grade level standards with a rating of D or F shall enroll in remedial coursework during the next term even if that requires attending summer school. This may result in some students being enrolled in more than one language or mathematics course during a single year; a situation which, while undesirable, does not

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<sup>1</sup> This proposal was presented as a part of the author's campaign for a seat on the Florida House of Representatives.

eliminate the need of the student to learn the material nor the responsibility of the School Board to assist them in doing so.

6. No student shall be passed on to the next grade until performing at a level of C or above in at least two of the three categories of Language, Mathematics, and Cognition. Students earning a D shall be offered the choice of repeating the class in lieu of advancing to the next level.

7. Each teacher shall conduct performance level tests of their own construction within the first week of each term to determine the needs and existing levels of performance of each student. The results should be compared to the course syllabus which may then be adjusted if necessary. This exam is for the teacher's use only.

8. Recognizing that adult life requires the ability to compete, each student shall participate in a competitive activity, whether it be academic or physical during each term.