



SENATE BILL 223: Expand Academic Trans. Pathways/Sophomore HS.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	March 5, 2025
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Lee, Moffitt	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 223 would remove the limitations on the types of career and technical education pathways available for sophomore high school students.*

CURRENT LAW: The Career and College Promise Program allows local community colleges to offer high school courses through (i) Cooperative Innovative High Schools in collaboration with local school administrative units, (ii) college transfer pathways in collaboration with public school units and nonpublic schools, and (iii) career and technical education (CTE) pathways in collaboration with public school units and nonpublic schools.

CTE Pathway – High School Juniors and Seniors

For qualified junior and senior high school students, these pathways lead to a CTE certificate, diploma, or State or industry-recognized credential. To be eligible, students must demonstrate college readiness by meeting one of the following: (i) having at least a 2.8 unweighted high school GPA, (ii) demonstrating readiness on approved assessments in English, reading, and mathematics, or (ii) having the recommendation of the high school principal and the college's Chief Academic Officer or Chief Student Development Administrator.

CTE Pathway – High School Freshmen and Sophomores

For qualified freshman and sophomore high school students, these pathways lead to a CTE certificate or diploma in one of the following:

- Industrial and engineering technologies.
- Agriculture and natural resources.
- Transportation technology.
- Construction.
- Business technologies.

To be eligible, students must have the recommendation of the high school principal and the college's Chief Academic Officer or Chief Student Development Administrator and have completed the following: (i) pass Math I with a C or better, (ii) score at least a 3 on the end of course exam (EOC) for Math I and (iii) score at least a 3 on the 8th grade English Language Arts end of grade exam (EOG); OR otherwise demonstrate college readiness in English, reading, and mathematics on diagnostic assessment tests that have been approved by the State Board of Community Colleges.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 223 would remove the restriction to specific CTE pathways for sophomore high school students.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Senate Bill 223 would be effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578