

# AS TABLED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

A BILL

entitled

## EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT 2021

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Education Act 1996 to reduce the age at which students may be enrolled at an aided or maintained school that provides senior school education, and to introduce the concept of signature learning programmes into senior school education,

Be it enacted by The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

### Citation

1 This Act, which amends the Education Act 1996 (the "principal Act"), may be cited as the Education Amendment Act 2021.

### Amendments: senior school education

2 (1) The principal Act is amended in accordance with this section to provide for students who have attained the age of thirteen years to be enrolled at an aided or maintained school that provides senior school education.

(2) Section 2 is amended—

- (a) in the definition of "middle school education" by deleting the word "fifteen" and substituting "fourteen";
- (b) in the definition of "senior school education" by deleting the word "fifteen" and substituting "thirteen".

(3) Section 24 is amended—

- (a) in paragraph (b) by deleting the word "fourteen" and substituting "thirteen";
- (b) in paragraph (c) by deleting the word "fifteen" and substituting "thirteen".

(4) Section 25A(2)(a) and section 25G(1) are amended by deleting the words "senior 2 level" and substituting "senior 3 level".

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### Amendments: signature learning programmes

3 (1) The principal Act is amended in accordance with this section to require an aided or maintained school that provides senior school education to include one or more signature learning programmes into the curriculum of that school, as directed by the Minister.

(2) Section 2 is amended by inserting the following definition in its proper alphabetical order—

“signature learning programme” means a programme focused on learning and skills development which—

- (a) is based on sectors of the economy, including tourism, finance, insurance, trades, or any other sector of the economy as may be prescribed; and
- (b) consists of one or more of the learning areas referred to in section 23(1A);”.

(3) Section 8(2) is amended by inserting the following after paragraph (d)—

“(dd) prescribing additional signature learning programmes;”.

(4) Section 22 is amended—

- (a) by numbering the provision as subsection (1);
- (b) by inserting the following as subsection (2)—

“(2) Where the Minister gives a direction under subsection (1) to a school that provides senior school education, he shall also specify in the direction one or more signature learning programmes to be provided by that school.”.

(5) Section 23 is amended by inserting the following after subsection (1)—

“(1A) The curriculum of a signature learning programme referred to in section 22(2) shall include such of the following learning areas as the Minister considers appropriate, that is to say, business, English, health and physical education, languages, media and communications, mathematics, personal and social development, science, social studies and humanities, technology and engineering, the arts, and such other learning areas intended to build the skills and competencies of students to pursue a career or further educational goals.”.

### Commencement

4 This Act comes into operation on such day as the Minister appoints by notice published in the Gazette.

## EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Education Act 1996 (the “principal Act”) to reduce the age at which students may be enrolled at an aided or maintained school that provides senior school education, and to introduce the concept of signature learning programmes into senior school education.

Clause 1 is self explanatory.

Clause 2 amends the principal Act by providing for the enrolment at an aided or maintained school that provides senior school education of students who have attained the age of thirteen years.

Clause 3 provides (a) a definition for “signature learning programme” including programmes relating to tourism, finance, insurance and trades; (b) for the Minister to prescribe additional learning programmes; (c) for the Minister to direct an aided or maintained school that provides senior school education to provide one or more signature learning programmes at that school; and (d) for the Minister to determine a curriculum that includes one or more learning areas referred to in the new section 23(1A).

Clause 4 provides for the Act to be brought into operation by notice published in the Gazette.