

**Statewide Email**

**DATE SENT:** July 23, 2021

**FROM:** Henry Mack, Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

**TO:** District Career and Technical Education Directors  
Florida College System Workforce Administrators  
District Adult Education Directors  
Florida College System Adult Education Directors

**Via:** [Chancellor2@fldoe.org](mailto:Chancellor2@fldoe.org)

**SUBJECT:** Florida's Commitment to Workforce Education Shines Bright

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Colleagues:

In the past two years, we have worked through unprecedented challenges. Yet the strength of our career and technical education community never wavered. We adapted, remained resilient, and with true grit continued to serve our students. Rest assured, your efforts and hard work does not go unnoticed. With that in mind, please know these sentiments are echoed across the state by businesses, community leaders and policymakers alike. This support may be best evidenced by Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature's unprecedented investment of over \$50million in workforce education. To learn more about these commitments, please read the special edition newsletter below. If you would like to receive our regularly scheduled newsletters, please reach out to [Sierra.Anderson@fldoe.org](mailto:Sierra.Anderson@fldoe.org).

I am excited about the reimagined opportunities of success through CTE, and remain eager to see how we will become #1 in the nation for workforce education by 2030.

Thank you,

Henry

**Henry Mack**  
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**Florida Department of Education**  
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**Henry Mack**  
**Chancellor of Career and Adult Education**

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# GET THERE

Florida's Workforce Education Initiative



Last month, the state legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis made significant improvements to and unprecedented investments in our workforce education and development system. [House Bill 1507](#) is bold, innovative and collaborative.

We are transforming lives and thanks to Governor DeSantis' vision and commitment to career and technical education, we will impact millions. In total, more than \$50 million was awarded to our workforce education and apprenticeship programs which will fortify talent pipelines and help drive economic development.

While the past year has been challenging, it's also been a year of growth and opportunities – and Florida's commitment to workforce education shined bright. With the support of Governor DeSantis, the Florida Legislature and our community partners, we are well on our way to becoming number one in the nation for workforce development by 2030. Together, we will **Get There**.

To learn more about Florida's workforce initiatives, click [HERE](#) or the "Get There" button below.

[Get There](#)



As part of the celebration and bill signing last month, the Florida Department of Education also announced nearly \$600,000 in funding to Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) and apprentices through a partnership with the Florida Association for Career and Technical Education and CareerSource Florida. This was just the first round of funding; more to come!

The momentum continued to build with the signing of three bills aimed at improving workforce education, including HB 1507 which establishes the new "Open Door Grant Program." This will bring the "no-wrong-door" strategy to life and also includes \$35 million in federal funding to cover all unmet needs of Florida's adult learners seeking enrollment in integrated education and training programs or postsecondary CTE programs.

We hope you'll join us on our journey – one that moves us forward and puts Florida on the map as the place where businesses and individuals can achieve their dreams.



# HOUSE BILL 1507

## **\$35 MIL**

### OPEN DOOR WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM








**CAPE  
FUNDING**

**\$21.5 MIL**

IN POSTSECONDARY  
INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION  
PERFORMANCE FUNDING

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**SENATE  
BILL 52**

**\$15.5 MIL**

DUAL ENROLLMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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NEARLY

**\$10 MIL**

FOR THE EXPANSION OF  
REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP  
AND PREAPPRENTICESHIP  
PROGRAMS

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NEARLY

**\$600,000**

AWARDED TO REGISTERED  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

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### **Senate Bill 52: Postsecondary Education**

- Creates the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program, with a **\$15.5 million** appropriation, to close gaps for high school students who struggled to access dual enrollment opportunities year-round at Florida's state colleges and universities.

### **Senate Bill 366: Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment**

- Incentivizes businesses to hire students as employees by providing workers compensation through the school they are attending.
- Creates math pathways that align all of Florida's postsecondary institutions for

the benefit of students who are pursuing STEM careers.

- Expands Florida Private Student Assistance Program grant award to full-time certificate-seeking students at an aviation maintenance school.

### **House Bill 1507: Workforce Related Programs and Services**

- Creates a **“no-wrong-door” strategy**, where Floridians can access services from any workforce partner.
- Requires Florida’s workforce agencies, Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida to collaborate with business and industry to create a state-approved list of credentials so that Florida will always align workforce training with workforce demands.
- It also creates the Open Door Workforce Grant Program, with a **\$35 million appropriation**, to support high-demand programs.

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