

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
1			<b>VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION</b>				
2	25		<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>878.00</b>	<b>878.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
3	25		Salaries and Benefits	65,466,565	65,466,565	0	0.00%
4	26		Other Personal Services	1,614,259	1,614,259	0	0.00%
5	27		Expenses	12,771,523	12,771,523	0	0.00%
6	28		Grants and Aids - Adults With Disabilities Funds	8,126,853	5,076,853	(3,050,000)	-37.53%
7			Adults with Disabilities - Helping People Succeed	109,006	109,006	0	0.00%
8			Arc Broward Skills Training - Adults with Disabilities (HF 1241) (SF 1135)	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
9			Brevard Adults with Disabilities (AWD) (HF 1300) (SF 1026)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
10			Bridging the Gap in Employment of Young Adults with Unique Abilities (HF 2031) (SF 3000)	600,000	0	(600,000)	-100.00%
11			Broward County Public Schools Adults with Disabilities	800,000	800,000	0	0.00%
12			Flagler Adults with Disabilities Program	535,892	535,892	0	0.00%
13			Gadsden Adults with Disabilities Program	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
14			Gulf Adults with Disabilities Program	35,000	35,000	0	0.00%
15			Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM)	750,000	750,000	0	0.00%
16			Jackson Adults with Disabilities Program	1,019,247	1,019,247	0	0.00%
17			Jacksonville School for Autism Supportive Transition & Employment Placement (STEP) (HF1264) (SF1422)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
18			Jonathan's Landing - Workforce Advancement Pgm for Adults with Autism (HF 2059) (SF 1886)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
19			Leon Adults with Disabilities Program	225,000	225,000	0	0.00%
20			Miami-Dade Adults with Disabilities Program	1,125,208	1,125,208	0	0.00%
21			NextStep Autism Transition Program (HF 1961) (SF 2641)	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
22			Palm Beach Habilitation Center/Arc of Palm Beach County	225,000	225,000	0	0.00%
23			Sumter Adults with Disabilities Program	42,500	42,500	0	0.00%
24			Tallahassee State College Adults with Disabilities Program	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
25			Taylor Adults with Disabilities Program	42,500	42,500	0	0.00%
26			Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (SF 1693) (HF 2812)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
27			Wakulla Adults with Disabilities Program	42,500	42,500	0	0.00%
28	29		Operating Capital Outlay	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
29	30		Contracted Services	20,044,901	19,744,901	(300,000)	-1.50%
30			Able Trust - High School High Tech Futures in Focus Program (HF 3024) (SF2382)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
31			High School High Tech Program	1,018,000	1,018,000	0	0.00%
32	31		Grants and Aids - Independent Living Services	7,069,793	6,319,793	(750,000)	-10.61%
33			Community Transition Services for Adults with Disabilities (HF 1403) (SF 1109)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
34	32		Purchased Client Services	146,582,621	162,782,621	16,200,000	11.05%
35			Increased Cost of Operations	0	16,200,000	16,200,000	100.00%
36	33		Risk Management Insurance	625,126	625,126	0	0.00%
37	34		Tenant Broker Commissions	97,655	97,655	0	0.00%
38	34A		Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services	314,153	314,153	0	0.00%
39	35		Purchased Per Statewide Contract	670,078	670,078	0	0.00%
40	36		Other Data Processing Services	249,579	249,579	0	0.00%
41	37		Education Technology and Information Services	373,772	373,772	0	0.00%
42	37A		Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	850,000	0	(850,000)	-100.00%
43			Local Governments and Nonstate Entities - FCO Facility Repairs Maintenance and Construction	100,000	0	(100,000)	-100.00%
44			HabCenter Boca Raton - Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (HF 2812) (SF 1693)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
45			Learning Independence for Tomorrow (LiFT) Campus (HF 2510) (SF 2388)	264,881,878	276,131,878	11,250,000	4.25%
46			<b>BLIND SERVICES</b>				
47	38		<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>279.75</b>	<b>279.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
48	38		Salaries and Benefits	19,839,618	19,839,618	0	0.00%
49	39		Other Personal Services	498,690	498,690	0	0.00%
50	40		Expenses	2,973,667	2,973,667	0	0.00%
51	41		Grants and Aids - Community Rehabilitation Facilities	4,948,260	4,948,260	0	0.00%
52	42		Operating Capital Outlay	289,492	289,492	0	0.00%
53	43		Food Products	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
54	44		Acquisition of Motor Vehicles	165,000	120,000	(45,000)	-27.27%
55	45		Grants and Aids - Client Services	39,496,717	37,221,717	(2,275,000)	-5.76%
56			Blind Babies Successful Transition from Preschool to School	2,438,004	2,438,004	0	0.00%
57			Blind Children's Program	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
58			Client Services - General Program - Recurring Base	27,128,169	27,128,169	0	0.00%
59			Community Rehabilitation Program Rates	5,778,379	5,778,379	0	0.00%
60			Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (HF 2737)	2,200,000	500,000	(1,700,000)	-77.27%
61			Lighthouse for the Blind - Miami	150,000	150,000	0	0.00%
62			Lighthouse for the Blind - Pasco/Hernando	50,000	50,000	0	0.00%
63			Maintaining Independence for the Blind (HF 2768)	75,000	0	(75,000)	-100.00%
64			Older Blind Program	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
65			Service Provider's Indirect Costs	477,165	477,165	0	0.00%
66			Vision Beyond Limits: Breaking Barriers for the most significantly disabled of Florida (SF 1572)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
67	46		Contracted Services	931,140	931,140	0	0.00%
68	47		Grants and Aids - Independent Living Services	35,000	35,000	0	0.00%
69	48		Risk Management Insurance	212,224	212,224	0	0.00%
70	49		Library Services	189,735	189,735	0	0.00%
71	50		Vending Stands - Equipment and Supplies	8,572,345	10,884,166	2,311,821	26.97%
72			<i>Workload - Additional Spending Authority</i>	0	2,311,821	2,311,821	100.00%
73	51		Tenant Broker Commissions	18,158	18,158	0	0.00%
74	51A		Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	104,535	104,535	0	0.00%
75	52		Other Data Processing Services	686,842	686,842	0	0.00%
76	53		Education Technology and Information Services	246,785	246,785	0	0.00%
77	54		Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	430,327	430,327	0	0.00%
78			<b>Total: BLIND SERVICES</b>	<b>79,838,535</b>	<b>79,830,356</b>	<b>(8,179)</b>	<b>-0.01%</b>
79			<b>PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</b>				
80	55		Grants and Aids - Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory	6,000,000	3,500,000	(2,500,000)	-41.67%
81			<i>University of Miami-Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory (SF 2435) (HF 2004)</i>	<i>2,500,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(2,500,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
82	56		Grants and Aids - Historically Black Private Colleges	31,921,685	31,421,685	(500,000)	-1.57%
83			<i>Bethune-Cookman University</i>	<i>16,960,111</i>	<i>16,960,111</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
84			<i>Edward Waters University</i>	<i>6,429,526</i>	<i>6,429,526</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
85			<i>Edward Waters University - Campus Security Grants Enhancement- Phase 2 (HF 1924) (SF 1990)</i>	<i>500,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(500,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
86			<i>Edward Waters University - Institute on Criminal Justice</i>	<i>1,000,000</i>	<i>1,000,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
87			<i>Florida Memorial University</i>	<i>7,032,048</i>	<i>7,032,048</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
88	57		Grants and Aids - Private Colleges and Universities	7,265,000	5,000,000	(2,265,000)	-31.18%
89			<i>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Aerospace Academy</i>	<i>3,000,000</i>	<i>3,000,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
90			<i>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Hypersonic Equipment (HF 2107) (SF 2512)</i>	<i>1,500,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(1,500,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
91			<i>Florida Southern College - Planetarium Equipment for Educational Programming (SF 1005) (HF 1864)</i>	<i>500,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(500,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
92			<i>Jacksonville University - EPIC</i>	<i>2,000,000</i>	<i>2,000,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
93			<i>Warner University - Agriculture Education Expansion (HF 2392) (SF 1784)</i>	<i>265,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(265,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
94	58		Special Categories Effective Access To Student Education Grant	135,903,100	137,669,150	1,766,050	1.30%
95			<i>EASE</i>	<i>132,685,000</i>	<i>134,491,000</i>	<i>1,806,000</i>	<i>1.36%</i>
96			<i>EASE - Plus</i>	<i>3,218,100</i>	<i>3,178,150</i>	<i>(39,950)</i>	<i>-1.24%</i>
97	58A		Grants and Aids - To Local Government and Non-State Entities (FCO)	5,833,333	0	(5,833,333)	-100.00%
98			<i>Florida Southern College - Florida Agribusiness Focus: Horticultural Sciences Learning Laboratory/Greenhouses (SF 1040) (HF 1863)</i>	<i>2,500,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(2,500,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
99			<i>Jacksonville University - GROW Florida Nurses Program (HF 1743) (SF 2853)</i>	<i>1,333,333</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(1,333,333)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
100			<i>Palm Beach Atlantic University - LeMieux Center for Public Policy (HF 1255) (SF 1664)</i>	<i>2,000,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(2,000,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
101			<b>Total: PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>186,923,118</b>	<b>177,590,835</b>	<b>(9,332,283)</b>	<b>-4.99%</b>
102			<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - STATE</b>				
103	3		Grants and Aids - Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program	637,661,624	692,468,437	54,806,813	8.59%
104			<i>Bright Futures Scholarship Program - Workload</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>54,806,813</i>	<i>54,806,813</i>	<i>100.00%</i>
105	58B		Open Door Grant Program	35,000,000	35,000,000	0	0.00%
106			<i>Restore Nonrecurring</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>35,000,000</i>	<i>35,000,000</i>	<i>100.00%</i>
107	59		Grants and Aids - Benacquisto Scholarship Program	38,101,648	36,409,116	(1,692,532)	-4.44%
108			<i>Benacquisto Scholarship Program - Reduction</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(1,692,532)</i>	<i>(1,692,532)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
109	60		First Generation In College Matching Grant Program	10,617,326	10,617,326	0	0.00%
110	61		Prepaid Tuition Scholarships	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	0.00%
111	62		Florida Able, Incorporated	1,770,000	1,770,000	0	0.00%
112	64		Grants and Aid - Nursing Student Loan Reimbursement/ Scholarships	1,233,006	1,233,006	0	0.00%
113	65		Mary Mcleod Bethune Scholarship	321,000	321,000	0	0.00%
114	4, 66		Student Financial Aid	302,773,861	307,500,914	4,727,053	1.56%
115			<i>Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased/Disabled Veterans</i>	<i>29,124,029</i>	<i>34,701,082</i>	<i>5,577,053</i>	<i>19.15%</i>
116			<i>Take Stock in College and Career (SF 2976) (HF 2527)</i>	<i>850,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(850,000)</i>	<i>-100.00%</i>
117	67		Out of State Law Enforcement Officers Equivalency and Licensing	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
118	68		Florida First Responder Scholarship Program	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	0.00%
119	70		Grants and Aids - Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program	18,050,000	18,050,000	0	0.00%
120	71		Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) - Scholarship Program	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	0.00%
121			<b>Total: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - STATE</b>	<b>1,070,028,465</b>	<b>1,127,869,799</b>	<b>57,841,334</b>	<b>5.41%</b>
122			<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - FEDERAL</b>				
123	73		Student Financial Aid	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
124	74		Transfer Default Fees to the Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%
125			<b>Total: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - FEDERAL</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
126			<b>EARLY LEARNING</b>				
127	75		<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
128	75		Salaries and Benefits	9,792,072	9,792,072	0	0.00%
129	76		Other Personal Services	339,000	339,000	0	0.00%
130	77		Expenses	1,378,956	1,378,956	0	0.00%
131	78		Operating Capital Outlay	20,000	20,000	0	0.00%
132	79A		Grants and Aids - Contracted Services	4,562,539	30,710,648	26,148,109	573.10%
133			<i>CCDF Supplemental Non-Disaster Discretionary - Enhancement</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15,720,109</i>	<i>15,720,109</i>	<i>100.00%</i>

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
134			CCDF Supplemental Disaster Hurricane Ian - Phase 2 - Enhancement	0	10,428,000	10,428,000	100.00%
135	80		Grants and Aids - Partnership for School Readiness	33,600,000	21,900,000	(11,700,000)	-34.82%
136			Differential Payment Program	3,500,000	3,500,000	0	0.00%
137			Growing Greatness for Florida's Youngest Children: Empowering Teachers to Improve School Readiness (HF 3466)	975,000	0	(975,000)	-100.00%
138			Help Me Grow Florida Network (HF 2833) (SF 3271) - Restore CCDF	4,500,000	4,500,000	0	0.00%
139			Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY) (HF1288) (SF 2140) - Restore CCDF	3,900,000	3,900,000	0	0.00%
140			Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System (PEARLS) (HF 1144) (SF 1012)	375,000	0	(375,000)	-100.00%
141			Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H)	20,000,000	10,000,000	(10,000,000)	-50.00%
142			Tiny Talkers Preschool Initiative (HF 3255)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
143	81		Grants and Aids - School Readiness Services	1,121,817,832	1,141,817,832	20,000,000	1.78%
144			Early Learning Coalitions Allocations	978,367,832	978,367,832	0	0.00%
145			School Readiness Match Program - Restore & Workload	30,000,000	40,000,000	10,000,000	33.33%
146			Fraud Restitution	950,000	950,000	0	0.00%
147			Gold Seal Quality Care Program - Restore & Workload	70,000,000	75,000,000	5,000,000	7.14%
148			Differential Payment Program - Restore & Workload	40,000,000	45,000,000	5,000,000	12.50%
149			Special Needs Differential - Restore	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	0.00%
150			Grants and Aids - Sch Readiness Plus Prq - Workload	0	5,356,803	5,356,803	100.00%
151	83		Grants and Aids - Early Learning Standards and Accountability	4,942,600	5,471,520	528,920	10.70%
152			VPK Program Assessments - Restore	0	2,095,525	2,095,525	100.00%
153			VPK Program Assessments - Workload	0	528,920	528,920	100.00%
154	84		Risk Management Insurance	27,019	27,019	0	0.00%
155	85		Grants and Aids - Voluntary Prekindergarten Program	434,199,644	486,160,121	51,960,477	11.97%
156			VPK - Base Funding & Increase -Workload	431,425,753	460,432,822	29,007,069	6.72%
157			VPK - Summer Bridge Program - Enhancement	2,773,891	2,773,891	0	0.00%
158			VPK Base Student Allocation Increase (5%) - Enhancement	0	22,953,408	22,953,408	100.00%
159	85A		Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	33,594	33,594	0	0.00%
160	86		Education and Technology and Information Services	3,516,587	3,516,587	0	0.00%
161	87		Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	596,975	596,975	0	0.00%
162			<b>Total: EARLY LEARNING</b>	<b>1,614,826,818</b>	<b>1,707,121,127</b>	<b>92,294,309</b>	<b>5.72%</b>
163			<b>STATE GRANTS/K12-FEFP</b>				
164	5, 88		Grants and Aids - Florida Educational Finance Program	13,142,130,165	13,493,281,777	351,151,612	2.67%
165			Fund Shift: Lottery to State School Trust Fund - Add	0	108,000,000	108,000,000	100.00%
166			Fund Shift: Lottery to State School Trust Fund - Deduct	0	(108,000,000)	(108,000,000)	-100.00%
167			Workload Increase	0	351,151,612	351,151,612	100.00%
168	6, 89		Grants and Aids - Class Size Reduction	2,732,978,359	2,705,780,966	(27,197,393)	-1.00%
169			Workload Reduction	0	(27,197,393)	(27,197,393)	-100.00%
170			<b>Total: STATE GRANTS/K12-FEFP</b>	<b>15,875,108,524</b>	<b>16,199,062,743</b>	<b>323,954,219</b>	<b>2.04%</b>
171			<b>STATE GRANTS/K12-NON FEFP</b>				
172	90		Grants and Aids - The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	0.00%
173	91		Grants and Aids - School Recognition Program	135,000,000	135,000,000	0	0.00%
174	92		Grants and Aids - Assistance to Low Performing Schools	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	0.00%
175	93		Grants and Aids - Take Stock In Children	6,125,000	6,125,000	0	0.00%
176	94		Grants and Aids - Mentoring/Student Assistance Initiatives	12,397,988	10,497,988	(1,900,000)	-15.33%
177			Best Buddies	700,000	700,000	0	0.00%
178			Best Buddies Jobs Project (SF 2379) (HF 1236)	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
179			Best Buddies Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative (SF 2051) (HF 3031)	350,000	350,000	0	0.00%
180			Big Brothers Big Sisters	2,980,248	2,980,248	0	0.00%
181			Big Brothers Big Sisters Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success (BISS) Project (SF 2698) (HF 2043)	1,750,000	1,750,000	0	0.00%
182			Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	3,652,768	3,652,768	0	0.00%
183			Teen Trendsetters	300,000	300,000	0	0.00%
184			YMCA State Alliance/YMCA Reads	764,972	764,972	0	0.00%
185			Youth Matters Mentorship Program (SF 2296) (HF 2620)	1,500,000	0	(1,500,000)	-100.00%
186	95		Grants and Aids - College Reach Out Program	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0.00%
187	96		Grants and Aids - Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers	8,700,000	8,700,000	0	0.00%
188			University of Florida	1,450,000	1,450,000	0	0.00%
189			University of Miami	1,450,000	1,450,000	0	0.00%
190			Florida State University	1,450,000	1,450,000	0	0.00%
191			University of South Florida	1,450,000	1,450,000	0	0.00%
192			University of Florida - Health Science Center at Jacksonville	1,450,000	1,450,000	0	0.00%
193			Keiser University	1,450,000	1,450,000	0	0.00%
194	97		Grants and Aids - School District Education Foundation Matching Grants Program	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	0.00%
195	98		Grants and Aids - Public School Transportation Stipend	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.00%
196	99		Educator Professional Liability Insurance	1,021,560	1,021,560	0	0.00%
197	100		Teacher and School Administrator Death Benefits	41,321	45,521	4,200	10.16%
198	101		Risk Management Insurance (FSDB)	479,316	479,316	0	0.00%
199	102		Grants and Aids - Autism Program	12,000,000	12,000,000	0	0.00%
200			Florida Atlantic University	1,386,508	1,386,508	0	0.00%
201			Florida State University (College of Medicine)	1,483,072	1,483,072	0	0.00%
202			University of Central Florida	2,467,195	2,467,195	0	0.00%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
203			University of Florida (College of Medicine)	1,431,006	1,431,006	0	0.00%
204			University of Florida (Jacksonville)	1,276,630	1,276,630	0	0.00%
205			University of Miami (Department of Psychology) including \$499,979 for activities in Broward County through Nova	2,218,340	2,218,340	0	0.00%
206			University of South Florida/Florida Mental Health Institute	1,737,249	1,737,249	0	0.00%
207	103		Grants and Aids - Articulated Health Care Programs	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0.00%
208	104		Grants and Aids - Regional Education Consortium Services	1,750,000	1,750,000	0	0.00%
209	105		Teacher Professional Development	12,246,153	11,779,426	(466,727)	-3.81%
210			Computer Science Certification and Teacher Bonuses	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
211			Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training	5,500,000	5,500,000	0	0.00%
212			Principal of the Year	29,426	29,426	0	0.00%
213			School Related Personnel of the Year	370,000	370,000	0	0.00%
214			Teacher Apprenticeship Program (SF 2106) (HF 1066)	496,727	0	(496,727)	-100.00%
215			Teacher of the Year	850,000	880,000	30,000	3.53%
216	106		Grants and Aids - Strategic Statewide Initiatives	43,842,011	52,132,532	8,290,521	18.91%
217			All Pro Dad/Mom Fatherhood Literacy and Family Engagement Campaign (SF 2453) (HF 1496)	1,300,000	1,300,000	0	0.00%
218			Bureau of School Improvement Regional Team Staffing	0	1,700,000	1,700,000	100.00%
219			Charity for Change Program	4,702,500	4,702,500	0	0.00%
220			Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches	1,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	200.00%
221			Civics Professional Learning (Development)	500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	200.00%
222			Early Childhood Music Education Program	400,000	400,000	0	0.00%
223			Florida Civics Seal of Excellence	3,500,000	10,000,000	6,500,000	185.71%
224			Florida Civics and Debate Initiative	0	1,500,000	1,500,000	100.00%
225			Florida Debate Initiative (SF 3519) (HF 2715)	2,400,000	1,600,000	(800,000)	-33.33%
226			Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation - Miami-Dade College	2,000,000	2,750,000	750,000	37.50%
227			Florida Rural Digital Literacy Program (FRDLP) (SF 1561) (HF 3346)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
228			Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)	845,000	1,073,911	228,911	27.09%
229			Florida Safe Schools Canine Program	3,306,121	3,306,121	0	0.00%
230			Florida School Safety Portal	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.00%
231			High Quality Instruction and Leadership Professional Learning	0	1,650,000	1,650,000	100.00%
232			Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics: Professional Learning	0	650,000	650,000	100.00%
233			Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics: State Regional Mathematics Directors and Coaches	1,000,000	1,500,000	500,000	50.00%
234			Maritime Workforce Development Instruction (SF 1486) (HF 2263)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
235			Mobile Museums of Tolerance - Florida (SF 2941) (HF 2700)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
236			Nicklaus Children's Project Adam - Lifesaving Training for Cardiac Events in Schools (SF 1935) (HF 3575)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
237			Orlando Science Center Rural Education Outreach (SF 1926) (HF 3236)	368,167	0	(368,167)	-100.00%
238			Preparing Florida's Workforce Through Agricultural Education (SF 2788) (HF 2512)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
239			Regional Literacy Teams	5,000,000	6,000,000	1,000,000	20.00%
240			Resiliency Florida Program	500,000	1,000,000	500,000	100.00%
241			School Bond Issuance Database (SF 1472) (HF 2711)	670,223	0	(670,223)	-100.00%
242			School District Threat Management Coordinators	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
243			Special Olympics Florida - Unified Champions Schools (SF 3534) (HF 2983)	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
244			STEM, Computer Science and CTE Career Awareness for Middle Schools (SF 2294) (HF 2979)	1,150,000	0	(1,150,000)	-100.00%
245			Virtual College Tours for Every Florida High School Student (SF 3520)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
246			Vision Is Priceless - Sight in Schools Program (SF 1427) (HF 2179)	150,000	0	(150,000)	-100.00%
247			Workforce Development in High School Classrooms with 3DE by Junior Achievement (SF 2393) (HF 3060)	1,700,000	0	(1,700,000)	-100.00%
248			Youth Agriculture and Aquaponics Program (Green Jean Foundation) (SF 2082) (HF 3536)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
249	107		Schools of Hope	6,000,000	20,000,000	14,000,000	233.33%
250			Restore Nonrecurring	0	6,000,000	6,000,000	100.00%
251			Workload	0	14,000,000	14,000,000	100.00%
252	109		Grants and Aids - New World School of the Arts	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
253	110		Grants and Aids - Seed School of Miami	12,189,942	12,932,320	742,378	6.09%
254			Workload	0	742,378	742,378	100.00%
255	111		Grants and Aids - School and Instructional Enhancements	52,825,943	19,306,168	(33,519,775)	-63.45%
256			ACT: Accelerating High School Graduation & Workforce Readiness (SF 2108) (HF 2518)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
257			African American Task Force	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
258			After-School All-Stars (SF 1477) (HF 2911)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
259			Alpert Jewish Family Service, Rales JFS & inSIGHT Through Education Traveling Holocaust Classroom (SF 1599) (HF 2267)	165,000	0	(165,000)	-100.00%
260			AMI Kids	1,100,000	1,100,000	0	0.00%
261			ARI/Big Bend Historical and Archaeological Education Project (SF 2206) (HF 1317)	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
262			Busch Wildlife Sanctuary's Environmental Education Program (SF 1066) (HF 1002)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
263			Campus Guardian Angel Pilot Program (SF 2169) (HF 2969)	557,000	0	(557,000)	-100.00%
264			Career Pathways - Building Florida's Workforce (SF 3345) (HF 2634)	205,000	0	(205,000)	-100.00%
265			Cathedral Arts Project Education Programs (SF 1435) (HF 2943)	723,984	0	(723,984)	-100.00%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
266			Childcare Network Agricultural Education for Military Communities: Crestview (SF 2650) (HF 1156)	40,000	0	(40,000)	-100.00%
267			City of Fort Lauderdale Education Enrichment Program (SF 1256) (HF 1198)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
268			Construction Drawings and Ground Breaking for an Education and Social Service Center (SF 3221)	45,000	0	(45,000)	-100.00%
269			C.R.E.A.T.E. West Pasco Program for Children (SF 3239) (HF 1116)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
270			CrossTown After School Program and SIE (SF 2701) (HF 3132)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
271			Dan Marino Foundation FloridaReady AI (SF 2446) (HF 3532)	1,500,000	0	(1,500,000)	-100.00%
272			Duval County Public Schools - Expanding Elementary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Opportunities (SF 1991) (HF 1486)	850,000	0	(850,000)	-100.00%
273			Economic Job Growth: Cleared for takeoff: Rural Aviation STEM Program for High Schools (SF 2564) (HF 2176)	337,200	0	(337,200)	-100.00%
274			Empowered of Central Florida Expansion of the Rock Program into Lake, Citrus and Sumter Counties (SF 1351) (HF 1911)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
275			Financial Literacy for Teens (FLFT) (SF 1181) (HF 1210)	75,000	0	(75,000)	-100.00%
276			Florida Holocaust Museum	600,000	600,000	0	0.00%
277			Future Career Academy Pathways to Quality Careers - Workforce Development (SF 1734) (HF 2548)	800,000	0	(800,000)	-100.00%
278			Girl Scouts of Florida	267,635	267,635	0	0.00%
279			Greater Miami Jewish Federation's Holocaust Memorial Education Student Initiative (SF 2798) (HF 1221)	1,500,000	0	(1,500,000)	-100.00%
280			Gulf District Schools Math and Reading Enhancement Program (SF 2575) (HF 3437)	305,000	0	(305,000)	-100.00%
281			Hands of Mercy Everywhere Teen Moms and At-Risk Youth Prep Vocational Training (SF 1723) (HF 1918)	594,810	0	(594,810)	-100.00%
282			Helping Advance and Nurture the Development of Youth (Handy) (SF 2434) (HF 1819)	950,000	0	(950,000)	-100.00%
283			High School Math Oncology Internship Program (SF 2135) (HF 3463)	100,000	0	(100,000)	-100.00%
284			Holmes County Education Foundation: Distance Learning Initiative (SF 2628) (HF 2069)	493,700	0	(493,700)	-100.00%
285			Holocaust Learning Experience Education Platform Expansion (SF 2401) (HF 1608)	1,114,000	0	(1,114,000)	-100.00%
286			Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach	66,501	66,501	0	0.00%
287			Holocaust Task Force	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
288			HSU Educational Foundation - Proposal for Non-public CTE Certification Program (HF 2499)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
289			Jewish Day School Student Transportation Safety Initiative (SF 1202) (HF 2931)	3,500,000	0	(3,500,000)	-100.00%
290			Jewish Federation Multicultural Campus: Lodge & Holocaust Education Center (SF 1032) (HF 1173)	225,000	0	(225,000)	-100.00%
291			K-12 Student Engagement at the Kennedy Space Center (SF 3290) (HF 2351)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
292			Liberty County School District Bus Replacement (SF 2540) (HF 3460)	155,000	0	(155,000)	-100.00%
293			Links to Success (SF 3087) (HF 2203)	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
294			Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Classical Education Model (SF 2743) (HF 1642)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
295			Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer (SF 2756) (HF 2022)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
296			Miami-Dade County Public Schools - SpaceHUB @ Booker T. Washington High School (SF 2751) (HF 3335)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
297			More Than a Game: First Tee Tallahassee Learning & Activity Programming for Youth Development (SF 2502) (HF 1541)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
298			MUSE: Florida Grand Opera's Music & Civics Education Initiative (SF 1797) (HF 1139)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
299			National Flight Academy (SF 2995) (HF 2709)	650,000	0	(650,000)	-100.00%
300			North Florida After School Agriculture and Arts Program (SF 2147) (HF 1772)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
301			Okaloosa County Schools Classroom Technology (SF 2712) (HF 1567)	330,000	0	(330,000)	-100.00%
302			Overtown Youth Center - College and Career Readiness (SF 1588) (HF 2572)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
303			Planned to A.T. Financial Literacy Curriculum Implementation in Duval County Public Schools (SF 2854) (HF 2959)	50,000	0	(50,000)	-100.00%
304			Roosevelt Elementary School Program Enhancements (SF 2771) (HF 1507)	874,999	0	(874,999)	-100.00%
305			Safer, Smarter Schools	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0.00%
306			Securing the Continuation of the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida: Project Year 3 of 5 (SF 2162) (HF 1866)	139,082	0	(139,082)	-100.00%
307			Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools	15,000,000	15,000,000	0	0.00%
308			Seminole County Public Schools - Academy of Engineering Modernization & Expansion (SF 1476) (HF 2274)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
309			South Florida Autism Charter Schools - Expansion (HF 3574)	1,160,000	0	(1,160,000)	-100.00%
310			South Walton High School - Career Academy (SF 2683) (HF 2660)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
311			St. Augustine Airport Student Maintenance Training Program (SF 2543) (HF 1722)	250,000	0	(250,000)	-100.00%
312			State Academic Tournament (SF 1649) (HF 3123)	250,000	0	(250,000)	-100.00%
313			State Science Fair	72,032	72,032	0	0.00%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
314			Taylor County Schools Hurricane Recovery Funds (SF 3489)	3,000,000	0	(3,000,000)	-100.00%
315			The Cuban Museum, Inc. Operations (SF 1242) (HF 1981)	200,000	0	(200,000)	-100.00%
316			The Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools - School Supply Vehicle (SF 1458) (HF 1014)	75,000	0	(75,000)	-100.00%
317			Torah Together: A Parent-Child Learning Initiative (HF 1137)	450,000	0	(450,000)	-100.00%
318			Victory High Schools (SF 2094) (HF 3580)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
319			Washington County School District - Operational Assistance (SF 3545)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
320			Workforce Development for Martin County Teens (SF 1138) (HF 1202)	895,000	0	(895,000)	-100.00%
321			YMCA of Arcadia Speer Center Renovations (SF 2752) (HF 1714)	160,000	0	(160,000)	-100.00%
322	112		Grants and Aids - Exceptional Education	12,292,421	8,152,816	(4,139,605)	-33.68%
323			Auditory-Oral Education Grant Funding	750,000	750,000	0	0.00%
324			Branching Out to Break the Bottleneck: Strengthening ESE Support with Early Interventions (SF 3497) (HF 2693)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
325			First Tee Comprehensive Health and Mentoring Program (CHAMP) for At Risk and Developmentally Disabled Students and Young Adults (SF 2413) (HF 1274)	450,000	0	(450,000)	-100.00%
326			Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers	577,758	577,758	0	0.00%
327			Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired	270,987	270,987	0	0.00%
328			Learning Through Listening/Dyslexia Awareness Professional Learning (SF 3461) (HF 2980)	1,391,704	1,141,704	(250,000)	-17.96%
329			Love Serving Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program (SF 1145) (HF 2273)	450,000	0	(450,000)	-100.00%
330			Miami Lighthouse Academy (SF 1843) (HF 2934)	200,000	0	(200,000)	-100.00%
331			Multi-Agency Service Network for Students with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Disturbance	750,322	750,322	0	0.00%
332			Personalized Learning Initiative for K-12 Education (SF 2700) (HF 1279)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
333			Portal to Exceptional Education Resources (PEER)	786,217	786,217	0	0.00%
334			Resource Materials Technology Center for Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing	191,828	191,828	0	0.00%
335			School District Exceptional Student Evaluation Grant Program	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0.00%
336			Special Olympics Florida	250,000	250,000	0	0.00%
337			The Bridge to Speech	1,750,000	1,750,000	0	0.00%
338			The Family Café (SF 1196) (HF 3213)	1,350,000	350,000	(1,000,000)	-74.07%
339			Tree of Knowledge: Chabad/Jewish Students with Autism and Special Needs Learning Center (SF 1452) (HF 1275)	373,605	0	(373,605)	-100.00%
340			Very Special Arts (SF 2142) (HF 2675)	500,000	334,000	(166,000)	-33.20%
341	113		Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind	80,273,729	81,216,918	943,189	1.17%
342			Vehicle Replacement - Workload	0	943,189	943,189	100.00%
343	113A		Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	247,678	247,678	0	0.00%
344	113B		FCO Public Schools Special Projects	10,136,090	0	(10,136,090)	-100.00%
345			ARK Innovation Center at Pinellas County Schools (SF 2380) (HF 1357)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
346			Citrus County Schools -- Crystal River High School Health Academy Expansion (SF 2732) (HF 2822)	1,046,090	0	(1,046,090)	-100.00%
347			Duval County Schools - Jacksonville Classical Academy Expansion (SF 2587) (HF 1596)	3,000,000	0	(3,000,000)	-100.00%
348			Miami-Dade County Public Schools SpaceHUB @ Booker T. Washington High School (SF 2751) (HF 3335)	150,000	0	(150,000)	-100.00%
349			School District of Lee County - Critical School Safety and Security Enhancement (SF 2439) (HF 2826)	2,900,000	0	(2,900,000)	-100.00%
350			South Florida Autism Charter Schools - Expansion (HF 3574)	2,040,000	0	(2,040,000)	-100.00%
351	113C		FCO Public School Hardening	20,000,000	42,000,000	22,000,000	110.00%
352	114		FCO Facility Repairs/Maintenance/Construction - Nonpublic Entities	14,021,350	5,000,000	(9,021,350)	-64.34%
353			Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida - June Family Branch Capital Campaign (SF 1925) (HF 1891)	800,000	0	(800,000)	-100.00%
354			Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast: Tarpon Springs Club Learning Center Expansion (SF 2381) (HF 3106)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
355			Centro Mater Infant & Toddlers Facility (SF 1828) (HF 2033)	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
356			Construction Drawings and Ground Breaking for an Education and Social Service Center (SF 3221)	900,000	0	(900,000)	-100.00%
357			Florence A. De George Teen Center/Facility Improvements (SF 1631) (HF 1141)	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
358			Florida Dyslexia Literacy Center (SF 2845) (HF 1893)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
359			Jewish Federation Multicultural Campus: Lodge & Holocaust Education Center (SF 1032) (HF 1173)	845,350	0	(845,350)	-100.00%
360			Links to Success (SF 3087) (HF 2203)	150,000	0	(150,000)	-100.00%
361			MOSI's Digital Dome Theatre Classroom Expansion (SF 1234) (HF 3299)	476,000	0	(476,000)	-100.00%
362			Newtown Boys & Girls Club Construction (SF 1686) (HF 2574)	2,000,000	0	(2,000,000)	-100.00%
363			Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
364			Stranahan House Center of the Community Initiative (SF 1251) (HF 1762)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
365			The Arc Gateway - Pearl Nelson Center (SF 3001) (HF 2712)	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
366			YMCA of Arcadia Speer Center Renovations (SF 2752) (HF 1714)	250,000	0	(250,000)	-100.00%
367			Youth Center Gold-Seal Programming (SF 1854) (HF 2756)	450,000	0	(450,000)	-100.00%
368			<b>Total: STATE GRANTS/K12-NON FEFP</b>	<b>465,590,502</b>	<b>452,387,243</b>	<b>(13,203,259)</b>	<b>-2.84%</b>
369			<b>FEDERAL GRANTS K-12 PROGRAM</b>				
370	115		Grants and Aids - Projects, Contracts and Grants	3,999,420	3,999,420	0	0.00%
371	116		Grants and Aids - Federal Grants and Aids	2,546,421,313	2,546,421,313	0	0.00%
372	117		Domestic Security	5,409,971	5,409,971	0	0.00%
373			<b>Total: FEDERAL GRANTS K-12 PROGRAM</b>	<b>2,555,830,704</b>	<b>2,555,830,704</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
374			<b>EDUCATIONAL MEDIA &amp; TECHNOLOGY SERVICES</b>				
375	118		Capitol Technical Center	224,624	224,624	0	0.00%
376	119		Grants and Aids - Public Broadcasting	5,068,721	5,068,721	0	0.00%
377			Florida Channel	4,812,451	4,812,451	0	0.00%
378			Florida Public Radio Emergency Network Storm Center	256,270	256,270	0	0.00%
379			<b>Total: EDUCATIONAL MEDIA &amp; TECHNOLOGY SERVICES</b>	<b>5,293,345</b>	<b>5,293,345</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
380			<b>CAREER AND ADULT EDUCATION (WORKFORCE)</b>				
381	120		Performance Based Incentives (Also in Colleges)	8,500,000	12,500,000	4,000,000	47.06%
382			Workload	0	4,000,000	4,000,000	100.00%
383	121		Grants and Aids - Adult Basic Education Federal Flow-Through Funds	63,288,749	63,288,749	0	0.00%
384			Restore Nonrecurring Funds	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	100.00%
385	7, 122		Workforce Development	467,346,826	487,214,167	19,867,341	4.25%
386			Workload	0	23,367,341	23,367,341	100.00%
387	123		Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program	40,000,000	100,000,000	60,000,000	150.00%
388			Restore Nonrecurring Funds	0	40,000,000	40,000,000	100.00%
389			Workload	0	60,000,000	60,000,000	100.00%
390	124		Grants and Aids - Pathways to Career Opportunities	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0.00%
391			Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program	15,000,000	15,000,000	0	0.00%
392			Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program Expansion	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
393	125		Grants and Aids - Vocational Formula Funds	94,363,333	94,363,333	0	0.00%
394			Restore Nonrecurring Funds	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	100.00%
395	126		Grants and Aids - Nursing Education (PIPELINE) (Also in Colleges)	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0.00%
396	127		Grants and Aids - Strategic Statewide Initiatives	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
397			Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) - Startup Grant	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	0.00%
398			Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) - Program Performance Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0.00%
399	127A		Grants and Aids - School and Instructional Enhancements	5,675,192	0	(5,675,192)	-100.00%
400			Achieve Miami - Teacher Accelerator Program (SF 1185) (HF 1739)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
401			CodeBoxx Technology Academy: A Pathway to a Better Future/Building Florida's Technology Workforce (SF 1270) (HF 3006)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
402			First Coast Technical College - Industrial Agriculture Program Enhancements (SF 2551) (HF 1847)	307,692	0	(307,692)	-100.00%
403			Florida Farm Bureau - Agricultural Business Associate Pathway (SF 1507) (HF 2497)	92,500	0	(92,500)	-100.00%
404			Learn To Read of St. Lucie County (SF 2885) (HF 3374)	50,000	0	(50,000)	-100.00%
405			ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative (SF 1425) (HF 2138)	1,300,000	0	(1,300,000)	-100.00%
406			School District of Manatee County - Aviation Maintenance Technician School at SRQ Airport (SF 1666) (HF 1927)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
407			Southwest Florida Manufacturing Training Center (Charlotte County) (SF 3084) (HF 3029)	1,750,000	0	(1,750,000)	-100.00%
408			The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative (SF 1423) (HF 1263)	175,000	0	(175,000)	-100.00%
409	127B		Facility Repairs/Maintenance/Construction	2,750,000	0	(2,750,000)	-100.00%
410			Citrus County - Public Safety Training Annex to Include an Indoor Range (HF 2856) (SF 2974)	250,000	0	(250,000)	-100.00%
411			Heights CareerTech Institute (HF 1985) (SF 1985)	2,500,000	0	(2,500,000)	-100.00%
412			<b>Total: CAREER AND ADULT EDUCATION (WORKFORCE)</b>	<b>726,924,100</b>	<b>802,366,249</b>	<b>75,442,149</b>	<b>10.38%</b>
413			<b>FLORIDA COLLEGES</b>				
414	128		Performance Based Incentives (Also in Workforce)	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0.00%
415	129		Student Success Incentive Funds	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	0.00%
416			2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund	17,000,000	17,000,000	0	0.00%
417			Workforce Florida Student Success Incentive Funds	13,000,000	13,000,000	0	0.00%
418	8, 130		Grants and Aids - Florida College System Program Fund	1,678,420,508	1,730,810,108	52,389,600	3.12%
419			Base Operating Funds in the Florida College System Program	1,633,303,837	1,703,303,837	70,000,000	4.29%
420			Base Operational Support - Florida Gateway College	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0.00%
421			Base Operational Support - Miami Dade College	15,000,000	10,000,000	(5,000,000)	-33.33%
422			Base Operational Support - Pensacola State College	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
423			Base Operational Support - St. Johns River College	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.00%
424			Base Operational Support - Valencia College	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.00%
425			Base Operational Support - Chipola College Civil and Industrial Engineering Program	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
426			Base Operational Support - Daytona State College Advanced Technology Center	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
427			Base Operational Support - Hillsborough Community College Regional Transportation Training Center	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	0.00%
428			Base Operational Support - Pasco-Hernando State College STEM Stackable	2,306,271	2,306,271	0	0.00%
429			Florida SouthWestern State College - Institute of Innovation and Emerging Technologies (SF 3102) (HF2040)	1,750,000	0	(1,750,000)	-100.00%
430			Florida SouthWestern State College Charlotte Campus - Nursing Simulation Lab Equipment (SF 3188) (HF2042)	460,400	0	(460,400)	-100.00%
431			Hillsborough Community College - Artificial Intelligence Program (HF 2817) (SF1997)	850,000	0	(850,000)	-100.00%
432			Miami Dade College - Institute for Freedom in the Americas (HF1728) (SF2802)	2,500,000	0	(2,500,000)	-100.00%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
433			Pasco-Hernando State College Porter Campus Nursing and Allied Health Advancement Institute (HF 2575) (SF2427)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
434			South Florida State College - Enduring Impact (HF2469) (SF2067)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
435			St. Petersburg College - Advancing Biomedical Education (HF3019) (SF2378)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
436			St. Petersburg College - Teacher Apprenticeship Program (HF 1270) (SF2107)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
437			State College CDL Consortium (SF2081) (HF1833)	4,000,000	0	(4,000,000)	-100.00%
438	131		Grants and Aids - Nursing Education (Also in Workforce)	64,000,000	64,000,000	0	0.00%
439			Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners Through Incentives for Nursing education (PIPELINE) Fund	40,000,000	40,000,000	0	0.00%
440			Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE)	24,000,000	24,000,000	0	0.00%
441	132		Grants and Aids - Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network	11,024,746	10,903,169	(121,577)	-1.10%
442			Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP) and Reverse Transfer Portal	0	(121,577)	(121,577)	-100.00%
443	133		Commission on Community Service	1,483,749	1,483,749	0	0.00%
444	133A		Facility Repairs/Maintenance/Construction	650,000	0	(650,000)	-100.00%
445			Miami Dade College - Jewish Student Center (HF1224) (SF 1807)	650,000	0	(650,000)	-100.00%
446			<b>Total: FLORIDA COLLEGES</b>	<b>1,805,579,003</b>	<b>1,857,197,026</b>	<b>51,618,023</b>	<b>2.86%</b>
447			<b>STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>				
448	134		<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>914.00</b>	<b>914.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
449	134		Salaries and Benefits	81,763,987	81,763,987	0	0.00%
450			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Add	0	2,108,984	2,108,984	100.00%
451			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Deduct	0	(2,108,984)	(2,108,984)	-100.00%
452	135		Other Personal Services	1,459,527	1,459,527	0	0.00%
453	136		Expenses	11,117,403	11,117,403	0	0.00%
454			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Add	0	231,921	231,921	100.00%
455			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Deduct	0	(231,921)	(231,921)	-100.00%
456			Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children	45,187	45,187	0	0.00%
457			Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact	46,623	46,623	0	0.00%
458	137		Operating Capital Outlay	589,000	589,000	0	0.00%
459	138		Assessment and Evaluation	132,202,019	133,192,922	990,903	0.75%
460			Assessment and Evaluation	119,202,019	119,202,019	0	0.00%
461			College Entrance Assessments	8,000,000	8,000,000	0	0.00%
462			Articulated Acceleration - Advanced Assessments	5,000,000	2,000,000	(3,000,000)	-60.00%
463			Florida Teacher Excellence Exam (FTEE) Assessment	0	628,928	628,928	100.00%
464			Teacher Certification Exam Assessments - Fund Shift - Deduct	0	(2,962,924)	(2,962,924)	-100.00%
465			Teacher Certification Exam Assessments - Fund Shift - Add	0	2,962,924	2,962,924	100.00%
466			Teacher Certification Exam Assessments - Workload	0	3,361,975	3,361,975	100.00%
467	138A		Transfer to Division of Administrative Hearings	480,627	480,627	0	0.00%
468	139		Contracted Services	58,589,912	66,124,682	7,534,770	12.86%
469			Articulated Acceleration - Advanced Courses - Workload	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	100.00%
470			Career Planning and Work-Based Learning Coordination System	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	0.00%
471			CPALMS/FLIM (District Tools)	5,455,000	6,225,270	770,270	14.12%
472			Early Learning Customer Service Survey Implementation	300,000	300,000	0	0.00%
473			Florida Charter School Review Commission	455,000	455,000	0	0.00%
474			Florida Empowerment Scholarship	150,000	250,000	100,000	66.67%
475			Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	250,000	250,000	0	0.00%
476			FL WINS System Integration	0	942,250	942,250	100.00%
477			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Add	0	6,127	6,127	100.00%
478			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Deduct	0	(6,127)	(6,127)	-100.00%
479			Funding for Statutorily Required District Plans with Public Viewing Rights	0	300,000	300,000	100.00%
480			Grant Management Application System	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
481			Litigation Costs	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
482			Online Hosting for Required Training Programs	0	200,000	200,000	100.00%
483			Open Educational Resource	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.00%
484			Professional Learning Marketplace	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	100.00%
485			School Choice Online Portal	1,800,000	1,800,000	0	0.00%
486			School Choice Web Applications & Database Update	845,250	845,250	0	0.00%
487			School Safety - Active Shooter Training	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
488			School Safety - Alarm Systems / Alyssa's Alert	6,400,000	6,400,000	0	0.00%
489			School Safety - Alarm Systems / Alyssa's Alert - Centralization	450,000	450,000	0	0.00%
490			School Safety - Training	825,000	825,000	0	0.00%
491			Statewide Educator Recruitment Tool	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	100.00%
492			Workforce Development Information System Dashboard (EMOP)	1,045,000	1,045,000	0	0.00%
493			Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program	500,000	1,000,000	500,000	100.00%
494			Technology and Innovation - Feasibility Study for Modernization of Department Mainframe Application Systems and Processes	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
495			Transparency Tool	2,177,750	3,500,000	1,322,250	60.72%
496	139A		Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) Readiness	850,000	850,000	0	0.00%
497			Restore Nonrecurring Funds	0	850,000	850,000	100.00%
498	140		Cloud Computing Services	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	0.00%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
499			School Safety - Statewide Information Sharing System	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	0.00%
500			School Safety - School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	0.00%
501	140A		Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency	116,057	116,057	0	0.00%
502	141		Educational Facilities Research and Development Projects	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
503	142		Risk Management Insurance	449,266	449,266	0	0.00%
504			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Add	0	35,727	35,727	100.00%
505			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Deduct	0	(35,727)	(35,727)	-100.00%
506	142A		Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	337,716	337,716	0	0.00%
507			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Add	0	6,337	6,337	100.00%
508			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Deduct	0	(6,337)	(6,337)	-100.00%
509	143		Education Technology and Information Services	16,678,532	16,678,532	0	0.00%
510			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Add	0	198,794	198,794	100.00%
511			Fund Shift the Office of Professional Practices from Ed Cert to GR - Deduct	0	(198,794)	(198,794)	-100.00%
512	144		Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	11,124,250	11,124,250	0	0.00%
513			Technology and Innovation - Risk Assessment Mitigation Program	1,140,000	1,140,000	0	0.00%
514			<b>Total: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	<b>322,458,296</b>	<b>330,983,969</b>	<b>8,525,673</b>	<b>2.64%</b>
515			<b>Total Department of Education - Operating</b>	<b>24,973,388,288</b>	<b>25,571,770,274</b>	<b>598,381,986</b>	<b>2.40%</b>
516			<b>FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>				
517	14		State University System Capital Improvement Fee Projects	50,384,000	53,789,000	3,405,000	6.76%
518	15		Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, and Remodeling	248,623,329	480,740,447	232,117,118	93.36%
519			Charter Schools	248,623,329	259,338,337	10,715,008	4.31%
520			Public Schools	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
521			Florida College System	0	123,962,366	123,962,366	100.00%
522			State University System Projects	0	97,439,744	97,439,744	100.00%
523	16		Survey Recommended Needs - Public Schools	10,044,628	10,735,858	691,230	6.88%
524			Lab Schools and Charters Sponsored by State University or Florida College System	10,044,628	10,735,858	691,230	6.88%
525	16A		Florida College System Projects	107,915,327	55,925,660	(51,989,667)	-48.18%
526			Broward College - North Campus Building 56 & Building 57 Remodel into STEM and Nursing Expansion (HF 3141) (SF 2431)	7,702,219	0	(7,702,219)	-100.00%
527			Chipola College - Modernize Chemistry Laboratories for Safety and Integrated Technology (HF 2121) (SF 2633)	475,000	0	(475,000)	-100.00%
528			College of Central Florida - Agricultural Sciences Classroom Building (HF 2048) (SF 1307)	4,929,497	0	(4,929,497)	-100.00%
529			Daytona State College - Airframe/Power Plant, Daytona Beach (HF 1449) (SF 2517)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
530			Daytona State College - College-wide Building Access Control (HF 2096) (SF 2516)	700,000	0	(700,000)	-100.00%
531			Florida Gateway College - HVAC Replacement for Building 56, Automotive Technology (HF 2986) (SF 2020)	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
532			Florida Gateway College - HVAC Replacement for Howard Conference Center (HF 2987) (SF 2021)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
533			Florida Southwestern College - Charlotte Bldg E Health Professions Remodel (HF 2697) (SF 3158)	2,464,530	0	(2,464,530)	-100.00%
534			Florida State College of Jacksonville - Fire Academy of the South Burn Building (HF 1524) (SF 1987)	2,000,000	0	(2,000,000)	-100.00%
535			Gulf Coast State College - Construct Multi-Purpose Teaching Lab Facility (HF 1271) (SF 2605)	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
536			Indian River State College - Deferred Maintenance College Wide (HF 1103) (SF 1070)	3,089,975	0	(3,089,975)	-100.00%
537			Indian River State College - Ren Facility No. 34, Main Campus (HF 1102) (SF 1069)	7,426,794	0	(7,426,794)	-100.00%
538			Miami Dade College - Hialeah Campus Expansion (HF 1979) (SF 2801)	3,000,000	0	(3,000,000)	-100.00%
539			Miami Dade College - STEM Center for Excellence (HF 1472) (SF 1775)	11,176,064	0	(11,176,064)	-100.00%
540			Northwest Florida State College - Workforce Innovation Center (HF 2495) (SF 3062)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
541			Palm Beach State College - Emergency Response Training Center (ERTC) (HF 2607) (SF 1536)	2,050,000	0	(2,050,000)	-100.00%
542			Polk State College - Northeast Ridge Phase 1 (SF 1003) (HF 1594)	10,000,000	0	(10,000,000)	-100.00%
543			Polk State College - Renovate Building 1 Lakeland (HF 1862) (SF 1004)	6,141,785	0	(6,141,785)	-100.00%
544			Seminole State College (Workforce Building B (HF 1157) (SF 1484)	10,000,000	0	(10,000,000)	-100.00%
545			St Johns River State College - Renovation of Classroom Building and Workforce Training Center Addition (HF 2177) (SF 2562)	9,386,963	0	(9,386,963)	-100.00%
546			State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota - Collegiate School - Venice (HF 3545) (SF 1148)	3,500,000	0	(3,500,000)	-100.00%
547			State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota - Parrish Center Phase I (HF 1063) (SF 1016)	9,000,000	0	(9,000,000)	-100.00%
548			Tallahassee State College - Gadsden County Expansion (HF 1923) (3531)	2,822,500	0	(2,822,500)	-100.00%
549	17		State University System Projects	421,069,045	320,952,255	(100,116,790)	-23.78%
550			Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University - Campus Security Hardening (HF 3082) (SF 2935)	2,500,000	0	(2,500,000)	-100.00%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
551			Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Brooksville Agriculture and Research Station (HF 3081) (SF 3074)	2,000,000	0	(2,000,000)	-100.00%
552			Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University - College of Law Infrastructure Upgrades (HF 3487) (SF 2934)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
553			Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University - Florida State University College of Engineering Bldg. C 1 (HF 2119) (SF 2926)	40,000,000	0	(40,000,000)	-100.00%
554			Florida Atlantic University - Health Professions Clinical Training and Research Facility (HF 1849) (SF 2905)	10,000,000	0	(10,000,000)	-100.00%
555			Florida Gulf Coast University - Babcock Ranch Learning, Research and Outreach Facility (HF 2127) (SF 3298)	21,732,277	0	(21,732,277)	-100.00%
556			Florida International University - Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Academic Health Sciences/ Clinical Facility (HF 1451) (SF 1782)	53,691,594	0	(53,691,594)	-100.00%
557			Florida Polytechnic University - Student Achievement Center (HF 3513)	12,000,001	0	(12,000,001)	-100.00%
558			Florida State University - Academic Support Building (Maintenance Complex) (HF 3453) (SF 1123)	25,000,000	0	(25,000,000)	-100.00%
559			Florida State University - College of Nursing (HF 3159) (SF 1768)	10,000,000	0	(10,000,000)	-100.00%
560			Florida State University - Health Panama City Academic Research Center (ARC) (HF 1258) (SF 2610)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
561			Florida State University - Kellogg Research Building Remodel (HF 2502) (SF 2153)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
562			Florida State University - Middleton Center Planning (HF 3399) (SF 1183)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
563			Florida State University - Moore Auditorium Remodel (HF 2186) (SF 2696)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
564			Florida State University - Rovetta Business Building Renovation (HF 1465) (SF 2571)	12,500,000	0	(12,500,000)	-100.00%
565			Florida State University - Veterans Legacy Complex (HF 2264) (SF 2824)	20,000,000	0	(20,000,000)	-100.00%
566			New College of Florida - Dormitory Remediation (HF 1324) (SF 3551)	5,882,388	0	(5,882,388)	-100.00%
567			New College of Florida - Rice Multi-Purpose Building (HF 3530) (SF 1086)	5,051,785	0	(5,051,785)	-100.00%
568			University of Central Florida - Discovery and Innovation Hub - Daytona Campus (HF 1801) (SF 2505)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
569			University of Central Florida - Howard Phillips Hall Renovation (HF 2468) (SF 1503)	8,500,000	0	(8,500,000)	-100.00%
570			University of Florida - Dental Science Building (HF 3285)	47,500,000	0	(47,500,000)	-100.00%
571			University of Florida - Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education (HF 1471) (SF 3276)	8,000,000	0	(8,000,000)	-100.00%
572			University of Florida - IFAS - Animal Sciences Expansion and Renovation (HF 2991) (SF 2945)	2,275,000	0	(2,275,000)	-100.00%
573			University of Florida - IFAS - Florida 4-H Camp Cherry Lake Renovation and Expansion (HF 2207)	5,600,000	0	(5,600,000)	-100.00%
574			University of Florida - IFAS - Microbiology Teaching Lab Expansion (HF 1065)	3,500,000	0	(3,500,000)	-100.00%
575			University of Florida - IFAS - Renovation & Expansion Marianna REC (HF 1933) (SF 2632)	2,000,000	0	(2,000,000)	-100.00%
576			University of Florida - Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases (HF 1634) (SF 1819)	25,000,000	0	(25,000,000)	-100.00%
577			University of Florida - School of Music Addition (HF 2828) (SF 1184)	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)	-100.00%
578			University of Florida - Utility Infrastructure (HF 2719) (SF 2057)	10,000,000	0	(10,000,000)	-100.00%
579			University of North Florida - Hicks Honors College Academic Building (HF 1614) (SF 2852)	14,836,000	0	(14,836,000)	-100.00%
580			University of South Florida - College of AI, Cybersecurity and Computing Facility (HF 2531) (SF 3009)	10,000,000	0	(10,000,000)	-100.00%
581			University of South Florida - Health Translational Research Institute Facility (HF 3528) (SF 3282)	8,000,000	0	(8,000,000)	-100.00%
582			University of South Florida - St. Petersburg Campus - Environmental & Oceanographic Sciences Research & Teaching Facility (HF 2297) (SF 3051)	10,000,000	0	(10,000,000)	-100.00%
583			University of South Florida - Veterans, Military Families & First Responder Service Complexes (HF 2403) (SF 2014)	8,500,000	0	(8,500,000)	-100.00%
584			University of West Florida - Next Gen Innovators with Northwest Florida State College (HF 1748) (SF 2986)	2,000,000	0	(2,000,000)	-100.00%
585	18		Special Facility Construction Account	144,669,602	342,956,021	198,286,419	137.06%
586			Gadsden - PreK-8 (Year 2 of 2 funding)	13,006,709	0	(13,006,709)	-100.00%
587			Gilchrist - Gilchrist Elementary (Year 3 of 3 funding)	13,426,376	13,426,376	0	0.00%
588			Hendry - LaBelle High (Year 3 of 3 funding)	30,210,268	30,210,267	(1)	0.00%
589			Wakulla - Wakulla High (Year 3 of 3 funding)	21,949,527	21,949,526	(1)	0.00%
590			Baker - Baker Middle (Year 2 of 3 funding)	250,000	51,939,586	51,689,586	20675.83%
591			DeSoto - DeSoto High (Year 2 of 3 funding)	36,307,690	36,307,690	0	0.00%
592			Bradford - Bradford Junior/Senior High School (Year 1 of 3 funding)	0	43,899,450	43,899,450	100.00%
593			Hardee - Hardee Senior High School - Replacement (Year 1 of 3 funding)	0	45,866,853	45,866,853	100.00%
594			Holmes - PK-12 Ponce de Leon School (Year 1 of 3 funding)	0	25,662,737	25,662,737	100.00%
595			Lafayette - PK-12 Combination School (Year 1 of 3 funding)	0	44,174,504	44,174,504	100.00%
596			Union - Lake Butler Elementary (Year 2 of 3 funding)	29,519,032	29,519,032	0	0.00%
597	19		Debt Service	523,809,503	483,745,709	(40,063,794)	-7.65%
598	20		Grants and Aids - School District and Community College	128,000,000	128,000,000	0	0.00%
599	1		Debt Service - Class Size Reduction Lottery Capital Outlay Program	86,823,158	72,559,186	(14,263,972)	-16.43%
600	2		Educational Facilities	6,334,412	6,328,962	(5,450)	-0.09%
601	21		Florida School for the Deaf and Blind - Capital Projects	13,707,311	11,882,154	(1,825,157)	-13.32%

Department of Education Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management 2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/18/25				2025-26 Ch. 2025-198 LOF 07/01/25	2026-27 Legislative Budget Request 08/16/25	2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation	% 2026-27 LBR over/(under) 2025-26 Appropriation
Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
602			<i>Maintenance Projects (Also in Line 113B)</i>	13,707,311	0	(13,707,311)	-100.00%
603	22		Division of Blind Services - Capital Projects	1,474,000	820,000	(654,000)	-44.37%
604			Public Broadcasting Projects	0	7,566,202	7,566,202	100.00%
605			WFIT-FM, Melbourne - Replace Satellite Dish	0	98,962	98,962	100.00%
606			WFSU-TV/FM, Tallahassee - Repaint Studio to Transmitter Link Tower	0	64,000	64,000	100.00%
607			WJCT-TV/FM, Jacksonville - Replace HVAC Chiller - Phase I	0	758,750	758,750	100.00%
608			WJCT-TV/FM - Jacksonville - Renovate Restrooms - Phase II	0	311,110	311,110	100.00%
609			WMFE-FM, Orlando - Replace Roof - Phase II	0	4,286,435	4,286,435	100.00%
610			WMNF-FM, Tampa - Replace HVAC System - Phase II	0	847,246	847,246	100.00%
611			WQCS-FM, Ft. Pierce - Replace Tower	0	733,600	733,600	100.00%
612			WUFT-TV/FM, Gainesville - Replace Tower Lights	0	218,599	218,599	100.00%
613			WUSF-FM, Tampa/St. Petersburg - Replace Backup Tower	0	79,500	79,500	100.00%
614			WUSF-FM Tampa/St. Petersburg - Replace Roof	0	168,000	168,000	100.00%
615	23A		Public School Projects	10,536,509	0	(10,536,509)	-100.00%
616			Citrus - Academy of Environmental Science Building Safety Enhancements and Stabilization (HF 2819) (SF 2734)	120,000	0	(120,000)	-100.00%
617			Citrus - Hurricane and Coastal Mitigation (HF 2859) (SF 2975)	641,841	0	(641,841)	-100.00%
618			Dixie - Ruth Rains and Old Town Schools Flooring Replacement (HF 3475) (SF 3364)	570,000	0	(570,000)	-100.00%
619			Dixie District Schools - Unused Building Inventory Reduction (HF 3472) (SF 3363)	830,000	0	(830,000)	-100.00%
620			Duval - Cornerstone Classical Academy Athletic Turf Field (HF 3180) (SF 1440)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
621			Hernando County School District - Hurricane Shelter Generator (HF 1588) (SF 2977)	967,168	0	(967,168)	-100.00%
622			Levy - Infrastructure Improvements for Emergency Sheltering (HF 1344) (SF 1106)	487,500	0	(487,500)	-100.00%
623			Liberty - Liberty County High School Track Restoration (HF 3461) (SF 2504)	370,000	0	(370,000)	-100.00%
624			Martin - Hurricane Milton Damage at Murray Middle School (HF 3138) (SF 3034)	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
625			Miami-Dade - Visual and Performing Arts Programs (HF 2810) (SF 3285)	450,000	0	(450,000)	-100.00%
626			Monroe - Renovation of Historic Bruce Hall and Historic Reynolds School (HF 2247) (SF 1247)	3,500,000	0	(3,500,000)	-100.00%
627			Walton - Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment & Workforce Center Expansion (HF 1957) (SF 2687)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
628			Washington - Vernon High School Tennis Complex (SF 3434)	600,000	0	(600,000)	-100.00%
629	23B		Vocational-Technical Facilities	5,650,000	0	(5,650,000)	-100.00%
630			Lake Technical College Workforce Education Center South (HF 1515) (SF 1901)	4,900,000	0	(4,900,000)	-100.00%
631			Sarasota - Suncoast Technical College - North Port Branch Expansion (HF 3531) (SF 1035)	750,000	0	(750,000)	-100.00%
632			<b>Total: FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>1,759,040,824</b>	<b>1,976,001,454</b>	<b>216,960,630</b>	<b>12.33%</b>
633			<b>Grand Total: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>	<b>26,732,429,112</b>	<b>27,547,771,728</b>	<b>815,342,616</b>	<b>3.05%</b>
634			<b>FTE Positions (Includes VR, DBS, DEL, and SBOE)</b>	<b>2,168.75</b>	<b>2,168.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

<b>25</b>	Salaries and Benefits.....	3
<b>26</b>	Other Personal Services.....	5
<b>27</b>	Expenses.....	7
<b>28</b>	Adults with Disabilities Funds.....	9
<b>29</b>	Operating Capital Outlay .....	13
<b>30</b>	Contracted Services.....	15
<b>31</b>	Independent Living Services.....	17
<b>32</b>	Purchased Client Services.....	19
<b>33</b>	Risk Management Insurance.....	23
<b>34</b>	Tenant Broker Commissions.....	25
<b>34A</b>	Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract.....	27
<b>35</b>	Other Data Processing Services.....	29
<b>36</b>	Education Technology and Information Services.....	31
<b>37</b>	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).....	33
<b>37A</b>	FCO Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction.....	35

**Blind Services**

<b>38</b>	Salaries and Benefits.....	39
<b>39</b>	Other Personal Services.....	41
<b>40</b>	Expenses.....	43
<b>41</b>	Community Rehabilitation Facilities.....	45
<b>42</b>	Operating Capital Outlay.....	47
<b>43</b>	Food Products.....	49
<b>44</b>	Acquisition of Motor Vehicles.....	51
<b>45</b>	Client Services.....	53
<b>46</b>	Contracted Services.....	57
<b>47</b>	Independent Living Services.....	59
<b>48</b>	Risk Management Insurance.....	61
<b>49</b>	Library Services.....	63
<b>50</b>	Vending Stands - Equipment and Supplies.....	65
<b>51</b>	Tenant Broker Commissions.....	69
<b>51A</b>	Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract.....	71
<b>52</b>	Other Data Processing Services.....	73

Item #	Florida Department of Education	Page
	<b><u>Blind Services (cont.)</u></b>	
53	Education Technology and Information Services.....	75
54	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).....	79
	<b><u>Private Colleges &amp; Universities</u></b>	
55	Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory.....	83
56	Historically Black Private Colleges.....	85
57	Private Colleges and Universities.....	87
58	Effective Access Grant (EASE).....	89
58A	Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction.....	93
	<b><u>Student Financial Aid Program (State)</u></b>	
58B	Open Door Grant Program.....	97
3	Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program.....	99
59	Benacquisto Scholarship Program.....	101
60	First Generation in College Matching Grant Program.....	103
61	Prepaid Tuition Scholarships.....	105
62	Florida ABLE, Incorporated.....	107
64	Nursing Student Loan Reimbursement/Scholarships.....	109
65	Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship.....	111
4, 66	Student Financial Aid .....	113
67	Out of State Law Enforcement Office Equivalency & Licensing.....	117
68	Florida First Responder Scholarship Program.....	119
70	Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program.....	121
71	Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship Program.....	123
	<b><u>Student Financial Aid Program (Federal)</u></b>	
73	Student Financial Aid .....	127
74	Transfer Default Fees to the Student Loan Guaranty Reserve TF.....	129
	<b><u>Division of Early Learning</u></b>	
75	Salaries and Benefits.....	133
76	Other Personnel Services.....	135
77	Expenses.....	137
78	Operating Capital Outlay.....	139
79A	Contracted Services.....	141
80	Partnership for School Readiness.....	145
81	School Readiness .....	149

### **Division of Early Learning (cont.)**

<b>81A</b>	School Readiness Plus Program.....	153
<b>83</b>	Early Learning Standards and Accountability.....	155
<b>84</b>	Risk Management Insurance.....	159
<b>85</b>	Voluntary Prekindergarten Program.....	161
<b>85A</b>	Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract.....	165
<b>86</b>	Education Technology and Information Services.....	167
<b>87</b>	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).....	169

### **State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP**

<b>5, 88</b>	Florida Education Finance Program.....	173
<b>6, 89</b>	Class Size Reduction.....	177

### **State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP**

<b>90</b>	The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Prgm.....	183
<b>91</b>	School Recognition Program.....	185
<b>92</b>	Assistance to Low Performing Schools.....	187
<b>93</b>	Take Stock In Children.....	189
<b>94</b>	Mentoring - Student Assistance Initiatives.....	191
<b>95</b>	College Reach Out Program.....	195
<b>96</b>	Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers.....	199
<b>97</b>	School District Matching Grants Program.....	201
<b>98</b>	Public School Transportation Stipend.....	203
<b>99</b>	Educator Professional Liability Insurance.....	205
<b>100</b>	Teacher and School Administrator Death Benefits.....	207
<b>101</b>	Risk Management Insurance.....	209
<b>102</b>	Autism Program.....	211
<b>103</b>	Articulated Health Care Programs.....	213
<b>104</b>	Regional Education Consortium Services.....	215
<b>105</b>	Teacher Professional Development.....	217
<b>106</b>	Strategic Statewide Initiatives.....	221
<b>107</b>	Schools of Hope.....	237
<b>109</b>	New World School of the Arts.....	239
<b>110</b>	Seed School of Miami.....	241
<b>111</b>	School and Instructional Enhancements.....	243
<b>112</b>	Exceptional Education.....	249
<b>113</b>	Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.....	253
<b>113A</b>	Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract.....	255
<b>113B</b>	(FCO) Public Schools Special Projects.....	257
<b>113C</b>	(FCO) Public School Hardening.....	259
<b>114</b>	(FCO) Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction.....	261

Item #	Florida Department of Education	Page
<b><u>Federal Grants K-12 Program</u></b>		
115	Projects, Contracts and Grants.....	265
116	Federal Grants and Aids.....	267
117	Domestic Security.....	271
<b><u>Educational Media &amp; Technology Services</u></b>		
118	Capitol Technical Center.....	275
119	Public Broadcasting.....	277
<b><u>Career and Adult Education (Workforce)</u></b>		
120	Performance Based Incentives.....	281
121	Adult Basic Education Federal Flow Through Funds.....	283
7, 122	Workforce Development.....	285
123	Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.....	287
124	Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant.....	291
125	Vocational Formula Funds.....	295
126	Nursing Education (PIPELINE) (See Colleges also).....	297
127	Strategic Statewide Initiatives.....	299
127A	School and Instructional Enhancements.....	301
127B	Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction.....	303
<b><u>Florida Colleges</u></b>		
128	Performance Based Incentives.....	307
129	Student Success Incentive Funds.....	309
8, 130	Florida College System Program Fund.....	311
131	Nursing Education (See WF also) .....	315
132	Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network.....	317
133	Commission on Community Service.....	319
133A	Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction.....	321
<b><u>State Board of Education</u></b>		
134	Salaries and Benefits.....	327
135	Other Personal Services.....	329
136	Expenses.....	331
137	Operating Capital Outlay.....	335
138	Assessment and Evaluation.....	337
138A	Transfer to Division of Administrative Hearings.....	343
139	Contracted Services.....	345
139A	Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) System Replacement.....	357
140	Cloud Computing Services.....	359
140A	Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency.....	361
141	Educational Facilities Research and Development Projects.....	363

### **State Board of Education (cont.)**

<b>142</b>	Risk Management Insurance.....	365
<b>142A</b>	Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/StateContract.....	367
<b>143</b>	Education Technology and Information Services.....	369
<b>144</b>	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).....	373

### **Fixed Capital Outlay**

	<i>Fixed Capital Outlay Overviews and Revenue Estimates.....</i>	379
<b>14</b>	State University System Capital Improvement Fee Projects.....	383
<b>15</b>	Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, and Remodeling.....	385
<b>16</b>	Survey Recommended Needs - Public Schools.....	389
<b>16A</b>	Florida College Systems Projects.....	393
<b>17</b>	State University System Projects.....	397
<b>18</b>	Special Facility Construction Account.....	399
<b>19</b>	Debt Service.....	403
<b>20</b>	School District and Community College.....	405
<b>1</b>	Debt Service - Class Size Reduction Lottery Capital Outlay Program.....	407
<b>2</b>	Educational Facilities.....	409
<b>21</b>	Florida School for the Deaf and Blind - Capital Projects.....	411
<b>22</b>	Division of Blind Services - Capital Projects.....	413
<b>22A</b>	Public Broadcasting Projects.....	415
<b>23A</b>	Public School Projects.....	419
<b>23B</b>	Vocational-Technical Facilities.....	421

# **Vocational Rehabilitation**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 25 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Salaries and Benefits

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	13,244,553	0	0	13,244,553	13,244,553	0	13,244,553	0	0.00%
Admin TF	281,217	0	0	281,217	281,217	0	281,217	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	51,940,795	0	0	51,940,795	51,940,795	0	51,940,795	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	65,466,565	0	0	65,466,565	65,466,565	0	65,466,565	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$65,466,565 is requested to continue funding for 878 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide support for 96 offices for general vocational rehabilitation services and the division's central office.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation - General Program (ACT1625)  
Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is comprised of 878 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, of whom an estimated 86 percent provide direct services to customers with disabilities. The Basic Support Program is administered through 96 offices statewide.

Salaries and Benefits is a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$64,930,214
- 2023-24 - \$62,308,620
- 2022-23 - \$56,591,731

## Item 26 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Other Personal Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	1,614,259	0	0	1,614,259	1,614,259	0	1,614,259	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	1,614,259	0	0	1,614,259	1,614,259	0	1,614,259	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,614,259 is requested to continue funding to hire temporary employees, such as undergraduate students, graduate assistants, and other professional employees to provide support for the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Other Personal Services is not a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,609,170
- 2023-24 - \$1,602,046
- 2022-23 - \$1,602,046

## Item 27 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Expenses

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,686	0	0	6,686	6,686	0	6,686	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	12,764,837	0	0	12,764,837	12,764,837	0	12,764,837	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	12,771,523	0	0	12,771,523	12,771,523	0	12,771,523	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$12,771,523 is requested to continue funding administrative expenses that support the operational functions of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)  
Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Approximately 79 percent of these funds are used for the payment of fixed costs such as office rent, communications, postage, equipment rental, etc., which are necessary for the field offices to carry out the functions of providing vocational services to customers.

Expenses is not a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$12,771,523
- 2023-24 - \$12,715,537
- 2022-23 - \$12,715,537

## Item 28 - Vocational Rehabilitation - G/A - Adults with Disabilities Funds

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,076,853	0	0	5,076,853	8,126,853	3,050,000	5,076,853	(3,050,000)	(37.53%)
<b>Total</b>	5,076,853	0	0	5,076,853	8,126,853	3,050,000	5,076,853	(3,050,000)	(37.53%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$5,076,853 is requested to continue funding grants to 14 Adults with Disabilities Programs for approximately 1,926 adults with disabilities.

- \$109,006 - Adults with Disabilities - Helping People Succeed
- \$800,000 - Broward County Public Schools Adults with Disabilities
- \$535,892 - Flagler Adults with Disabilities Program.
- \$100,000 - Gadsden Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$35,000 - Gulf Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$1,019,247 - Jackson Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$225,000 - Leon Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$1,125,208 - Miami-Dade Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$225,000 - Arc of Palm Beach County
- \$42,500 - Sumter Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$25,000 - Tallahassee State College Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$42,500 - Taylor Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$42,500 - Wakulla Adults with Disabilities Program
- \$750,000 - Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM)

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$3,050,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds is not requested for restoration for the following programs:

- \$400,000 - Arc Broward Skills Training - Adults with Disabilities
- \$300,000 - Brevard Adults with Disabilities
- \$600,000 - Bridging the Gap in Employment of Young Adults with Unique Abilities
- \$300,000 - Jacksonville School for Autism Supportive Transition & Employment Placement (STEP)
- \$750,000 - Jonathan's Landing
- \$400,000 - NextStep Autism Transition Program
- \$300,000 - Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$3,050,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the following programs:

- \$400,000 - Arc Broward Skills Training - Adults with Disabilities
- \$300,000 - Brevard Adults with Disabilities
- \$600,000 - Bridging the Gap in Employment of Young Adults with Unique Abilities
- \$300,000 - Jacksonville School for Autism Supportive Transition & Employment Placement (STEP)
- \$750,000 - Jonathan's Landing
- \$400,000 - NextStep Autism Transition Program
- \$300,000 - Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1004.93-98, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities education services, community partnerships, and training for future workforce success. The program is designed to help the adults with disabilities population lead meaningful and productive lives, explore their potential, develop a sense of community, and pursue independence and employment.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The mission of the program is to support and enhance the educational and recreational opportunities for Floridians with disabilities who may (or may not) have employment as a goal and/or senior citizens by providing programs that enhance the individual's quality of life, health and well-being, or lifelong learning.

To achieve this mission, grants are awarded to school districts and state colleges. The Adults with Disabilities Grant Program provides the opportunity for individualized instruction and educational services to improve participants' skills and assist adults in acquiring the level of self-sufficiency needed to become more productive citizens. The shared mission of the Adults with Disabilities Grant Program and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is to assist those individuals with disabilities to enhance their independence.

Adults with Disabilities is a match category for federal funds; with the exception of any program that does not have an employment component. Currently, Tallahassee State College Adults with Disabilities Program does not have an employment component and as such cannot be used for match.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$9,391,853
- 2023-24 - \$8,307,953
- 2022-23 - \$9,342,518

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 29 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Operating Capital Outlay

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	25,000	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	25,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	25,000	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	25,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$25,000 is requested to continue funding to provide staff with replacement information technology and adaptive equipment.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and

Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation implements an information technology replacement plan on a yearly basis for equipment that cost at least \$5,000 with a minimum life expectancy of one year.

Operating Capital Outlay is not a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$25,000
- 2023-24 - \$80,986
- 2022-23 - \$80,986

### Item 30 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Contracted Services

#### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,636,015	0	0	1,636,015	1,936,015	300,000	1,636,015	(300,000)	(15.50%)
Fed Rehab TF	16,608,886	0	0	16,608,886	16,608,886	0	16,608,886	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	1,500,000	0	0	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	19,744,901	0	0	19,744,901	20,044,901	300,000	19,744,901	(300,000)	(1.50%)

#### REQUEST NARRATIVE

##### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

###### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$19,744,901 is requested to continue funding for contracted services, which include direct client services, consultations, advertising, maintenance, accounting, security, and other services acquired from individuals and firms that are independent contractors.

###### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$300,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the Futures in Focus program (formerly High School High Tech 2.0) is not requested to be restored.

##### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

##### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

###### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$300,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the Futures in Focus program (formerly High School High Tech 2.0).

#### **GOALS**

##### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

#### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

##### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)  
Florida Alliance for Assistive Service and Technology (ACT1610)  
Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

**PURPOSE:**

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

General Revenue funds are used to support the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST), Disability Jobs Portal, and High School High Tech program. Federal funds are used to support contracts addressing rehabilitation engineering, self-employment, evaluation of customer satisfaction, direct service outsourcing, and assistive services and technology.

Contracted Services is a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$21,144,901
- 2023-24 - \$20,050,486
- 2022-23 - \$19,582,309

### Item 31 - Vocational Rehabilitation - G/A - Independent Living Services

#### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,232,004	0	0	1,232,004	1,982,004	750,000	1,232,004	(750,000)	(37.84%)
Fed Rehab TF	5,087,789	0	0	5,087,789	5,087,789	0	5,087,789	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,319,793</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,319,793</b>	<b>7,069,793</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>6,319,793</b>	<b>(750,000)</b>	<b>(10.61%)</b>

#### REQUEST NARRATIVE

##### SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$6,319,793 is requested to continue funding services provided to 54,835 individuals statewide by the 16 independent living centers for individuals with disabilities.

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$750,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the Community Transition Services for Adults with Disabilities program is not requested to be restored.

##### KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

##### ISSUE NARRATIVE:

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$750,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the Community Transition Services for Adults with Disabilities program.

#### GOALS

##### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

#### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

##### LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

**PURPOSE:**

Promote independent living, including consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy; maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities; and promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into society.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds allow the state's 16 Centers for Independent Living to provide services to individuals with significant disabilities, as prescribed by state and federal law.

At a minimum, the centers provide four core services: information and referral services, independent living skills training, advocacy services, and peer counseling. In addition to the four core services, the centers are authorized to provide a wide range of services that assist people with disabilities to live more independently. The additional services provided are based on the needs of the local communities served by the centers.

The Rehabilitation Act Subchapter B Independent Living Services Grants through the Department of Health and Human Services require 10 percent state funding to 90 percent federal funding. Per proviso, up to \$3,472,193 shall be funded from Social Security reimbursements (program income), if available.

Independent Living Services is not a match category for the Vocational Rehabilitation program but has its own match requirements as noted above.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$7,219,793
- 2023-24 - \$7,294,793
- 2022-23 - \$7,219,793

## Item 32 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Purchased Client Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	33,158,559	0	0	33,158,559	33,158,559	0	33,158,559	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	113,424,062	0	16,200,000	129,624,062	113,424,062	0	113,424,062	16,200,000	14.28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,582,621</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,200,000</b>	<b>162,782,621</b>	<b>146,582,621</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>146,582,621</b>	<b>16,200,000</b>	<b>11.05%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$146,582,621 is requested to continue funding services that make it possible for Vocational Rehabilitation clients to obtain or keep a job, including, but not limited to, assessments, vocational counseling, on-the-job training, job coaching, employment readiness services, supported employment services, education and training, support services, medical services, mental health services, equipment, transportation, assistive technology services, prosthetics and orthotics, and job placement services.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$16,200,000 is requested in nonrecurring Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund budget authority to not only accommodate current spending levels in the Purchased Client Services category but also continue serving current level of clients.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

An increase of \$16,200,000 in nonrecurring Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund budget authority is requested, for total federal funding of \$129,624,062, to accommodate current spending levels in the Purchased Client Services category and to continue serving the current level of clients.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR) is a state/federal one-to-four match program that supports a wide range of services to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and get or keep gainful employment. Eligible individuals are those who have a physical or mental disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment, who can benefit from VR services for employment and who require VR services.

The increased number of eligible individuals requesting VR services has shown a sustained increase over the past couple of years and so has the cost to provide these necessary services. The current client demand and cost to provide services is at an all-time high, especially Pre-Employment Transition Services, which has shown an increase of 35 percent in the number of cases since Fiscal Year 2022-23. The requested funding will enable the department to continue its effort in providing services to all adults and students with disabilities including, but not limited to, employment services, work readiness training, job exploration counseling, education and training, mental health services, supported employment services, etc.

Section 49, Chapter 2025-198, Laws of Florida, provided an appropriation in the amount of \$16.2 million. This funding became effective in Fiscal Year 2024-25, with the balance reverting and then reappropriated in Fiscal Year 2025-26. Being nonrecurring, this budget authority is only available for one year. Maintaining a sufficient level of budget authority is critical to the department's ability to address the current client demand and projected spending for services, which is at an all-time high. At an average cost of \$7,153 per closed case, funding this request will enable the department to continue serving an estimated additional 2,265 clients in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

According to the latest available Return on Investment (ROI) estimate for Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), for every \$1 invested in helping VR customers get or keep a job, \$7.61 was returned to the Florida economy.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The career goals and required goods and services are outlined in an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) developed with each client. Goods and services provided include, but are not limited to, assessments, vocational counseling, on-the-job training, job coaching, employment readiness services, supported employment services, education and training, support services, medical services, mental health services, equipment, transportation, assistive technology services, prosthetics and orthotics, and job placement services. The program prioritizes employment for individuals who have the most significant disabilities and, therefore, the most significant barriers to obtaining or keeping a job.

Purchased Client Services is a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$137,514,203
- 2023-24 - \$153,423,416
- 2022-23 - \$137,514,203

**This page is intentionally left blank**

### Item 33 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Risk Management Insurance

#### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	625,126	0	0	625,126	625,126	0	625,126	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	625,126	0	0	625,126	625,126	0	625,126	0	0.00%

#### REQUEST NARRATIVE

##### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$625,126 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

##### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

#### GOALS

##### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

#### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

##### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

##### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

##### **PURPOSE:**

Provides business insurance to cover the state's potential liability for workers and property.

##### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the

Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

These funds provide for Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Federal Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriations are recommended by the state's Division of Risk Management.

Risk Management Insurance is not a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$625,126
- 2023-24 - \$525,643
- 2022-23 - \$444,246

## Item 34 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Tenant Broker Commissions

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	97,655	0	0	97,655	97,655	0	97,655	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	97,655	0	0	97,655	97,655	0	97,655	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$97,655 is requested to continue funding for tenant broker fees, as required by statute.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation - General Program (ACT1625)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 255.25(3)(h)5, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split

between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, is required to pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space. The Department of Management Services (DMS) has negotiated a contract to provide tenant broker and real estate consulting services. State agencies acquiring services under this contract are required to collect a commission fee from the landlord on behalf of the contractor. The contractor is then compensated for services provided. The commission fee is stated in the contract at an amount up to 4 percent of the lease amount for new leases and up to 2 percent of the lease amount for lease renewals. The fees are due to the contractor in two installments: (i) 50 percent upon execution of the lease documents by the landlord and the agency; and (ii) 50 percent upon occupancy by the agency of the leased premises.

Tenant Broker Commissions is not a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$97,655
- 2023-24 - \$97,655
- 2022-23 - \$97,655

**Item 34A - Vocational Rehabilitation - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	57,476	0	0	57,476	57,476	0	57,476	0	0.00%
Admin TF	1,068	0	0	1,068	1,068	0	1,068	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	255,609	0	0	255,609	255,609	0	255,609	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	314,153	0	0	314,153	314,153	0	314,153	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$314,153 is requested to continue funding to support the current level of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

**GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

**PURPOSE:**

Provide human resource management services for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (PeopleFirst) to manage agency human resources.

Transfer to the Department of Management Services - Human Resource Services Purchased per Statewide Contract is a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$314,153
- 2023-24 - \$313,524
- 2022-23 - \$295,066

## Item 35 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Other Data Processing Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	154,316	0	0	154,316	154,316	0	154,316	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	515,762	0	0	515,762	515,762	0	515,762	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	670,078	0	0	670,078	670,078	0	670,078	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$670,078 is requested to continue funding IT support for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's Aware case management system.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The division's Aware case management system is an integral part of providing services to clients. Aware is a statewide management information system that allows for valid and reliable collection of data on customers served, duration of service, clients rehabilitated, and cost per client served. The division uses this system to obtain data used to analyze day-to-day operations and to complete state and federal performance reports.

Other Data Processing Services is a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$670,078
- 2023-24 - \$670,078
- 2022-23 - \$670,078

## Item 36 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Education Technology and Information Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	249,579	0	0	249,579	249,579	0	249,579	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	249,579	0	0	249,579	249,579	0	249,579	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$249,579 is requested to continue funding the current level of services to meet the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's critical technology needs and programs.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 216.272 and 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide the technology resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the division.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the

Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

These funds are used to pay for services provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS). These services are paid in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes, for the cost recovery of information technology resources.

Below is a list of services provided:

- Telecommunications Support
- Network Support
- Help Desk and Desktop Support
- Disaster Recovery and Department-wide Data Center Services
- Department-wide Software, Software Maintenance, and Information Security Services
- Enterprise and Web Applications Development for Department-wide Applications
- Mainframe Support for Comptroller Functions

Education Technology and Information Services is not a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$248,994
- 2023-24 - \$246,053
- 2022-23 - \$241,972

## Item 37 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	373,772	0	0	373,772	373,772	0	373,772	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	373,772	0	0	373,772	373,772	0	373,772	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$373,772 is requested to continue funding data center and computer facilities services provided by the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kelly Rogers (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1004.649, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide funds for a statutorily designated data center and computer facility services to the department through a Primary Data Center.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

## **Primary Data Center -**

The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

## **Mainframe Environment –**

The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of Mainframe Disaster Recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The major mainframe application and process hosted at the NWRDC that is used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part is Comptroller/Accounting processes.

## **Open Systems Environment -**

The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- Aware Case Management System
- ARTS Budget Tracking System - LBR Greenbook
- Florida Grants System (FLAGS)
- Rehabilitation Information Management System (RIMS)

Northwest Regional Data Center is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

## **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$373,772
- 2023-24 - \$278,290
- 2022-23 - \$278,290

**Item 37A - Vocational Rehabilitation - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	850,000	850,000	0	(850,000)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	850,000	850,000	0	(850,000)	(100.00%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$850,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds is not requested for facility repairs, maintenance, and construction of the following facilities:

- \$750,000 - Learning Independence for Tomorrow (Lift) Campus
- \$100,000 - Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$850,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for facility repairs, maintenance, and construction of the following facilities:

- \$750,000 - Learning Independence for Tomorrow (Lift) Campus
- \$100,000 - Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

N/A

**PURPOSE:**

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$3,067,000
- 2023-24 - \$2,176,000
- 2022-23 - \$1,500,000

# **Blind Services**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 38 - Blind Services - Salaries and Benefits

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,277,302	0	0	6,277,302	6,277,302	0	6,277,302	0	0.00%
Admin TF	489,980	0	0	489,980	489,980	0	489,980	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	13,072,336	0	0	13,072,336	13,072,336	0	13,072,336	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	19,839,618	0	0	19,839,618	19,839,618	0	19,839,618	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$19,839,618 is requested to continue funding for 279.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees who provide direct services to clients in ten district offices and executive guidance and administrative support for the effective delivery of services.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Ensure people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults and early intervention education for children and their families.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Proposed funding for Fiscal Year 2025-26 provides for the salaries and benefits of 279.75 FTE employees who provide executive guidance, administrative services, and technical services to clients. The Bureau of Business Enterprise provides job opportunities in the food service sector for eligible blind individuals under the Randolph-Sheppard Act. The division administers federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements. The division is responsible for ensuring people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, Braille and Talking Book Library, and the residential Career, Technology, and Training Center and Dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Salaries and Benefits is an eligible match category for the two grants.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$19,665,055
- 2023-24 - \$18,865,863
- 2022-23 - \$17,419,354

## Item 39 - Blind Services - Other Personal Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	161,282	0	0	161,282	161,282	0	161,282	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	326,329	0	0	326,329	326,329	0	326,329	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	11,079	0	0	11,079	11,079	0	11,079	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	498,690	0	0	498,690	498,690	0	498,690	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$498,690 is requested to continue funding non-salaried, Other Personal Services (OPS) staff for the Braille and Talking Book Library and to provide statewide personal assistance for reading of print information and transportation for Division of Blind Services employees who require accommodations.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide administrative and operational support to ensure blind or visually impaired Floridians have the tools, support, and opportunity to achieve success.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Temporary employees provide administrative and operational support at the Braille and Talking Book Library and provide support services for the division's employees who are blind or visually impaired and require accommodations.

The division administers federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements. The division is responsible for ensuring people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, the Braille and Talking Book Library, and residential Career, Technology, and Training Center and Dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Other Personal Services is an eligible match category for the two grants.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$497,876
- 2023-24 - \$496,736
- 2022-23 - \$496,736

## Item 40 - Blind Services - Expenses

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	415,191	0	0	415,191	415,191	0	415,191	0	0.00%
Admin TF	40,774	0	0	40,774	40,774	0	40,774	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	2,473,307	0	0	2,473,307	2,473,307	0	2,473,307	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	44,395	0	0	44,395	44,395	0	44,395	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,973,667</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,973,667</b>	<b>2,973,667</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,973,667</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

#### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$2,973,667 is requested to continue funding administrative expenses to support the operations of the Division of Blind Services.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

**PURPOSE:**

Support for administrative activities in achieving the division's overall mission to serve blind or visually impaired individuals in ten district offices, the residential Career, Technology, and Training Center, and the Braille and Talking Book Library.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Funds are provided for administrative expenses that allow the division to administer federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements. The division is responsible for ensuring people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, the Braille and Talking Book Library, and residential Career, Technology, and Training Center and Dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Expenses is an eligible match category for the two grants.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$2,973,667
- 2023-24 - \$2,973,667
- 2022-23 - \$2,973,667

## Item 41 - Blind Services - G/A - Community Rehabilitation Facilities

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	847,347	0	0	847,347	847,347	0	847,347	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	4,100,913	0	0	4,100,913	4,100,913	0	4,100,913	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	4,948,260	0	0	4,948,260	4,948,260	0	4,948,260	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$4,948,260 is requested to continue funding established community rehabilitation facilities. The Community Rehabilitation Programs provide statewide services to approximately 12,000 individuals with blindness or visual impairments.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Enable community rehabilitation facilities to provide local resources and education to visually impaired Floridians aimed at fostering and promoting independence and self-sufficiency.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Through agreements and collaboration, the division's ten district offices and a statewide network of established community rehabilitation facilities provide the following services to qualifying visually impaired Floridians: (a) assessment to determine participant needs; (b) service plan to address needs; (c) rehabilitation technology; (d) job development, placement, coaching and retention services; (e) extended employment services; (f) orientation and mobility; (g) counseling and adjustment to blindness; (h) Braille and other communication skills; (i) training and resources for limited-vision participants to maximize remaining vision; and (j) adaptive skills that support independent living and self-sufficiency.

To participate in these services, individuals are referred to a community rehabilitation program service provider by the division's district staff. The provider conducts a needs assessment and develops a service plan to address the participant's needs. Services may be provided in small group sessions or on an individual basis, depending on the needs of the participant. The goal is to foster and promote independence and self-sufficiency for individuals with visual impairments within their community.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Community Rehabilitation Facilities is an eligible match category for the two grants.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$4,948,260
- 2023-24 - \$4,948,260
- 2022-23 - \$4,948,260

## Item 42 - Blind Services - Operating Capital Outlay

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	54,294	0	0	54,294	54,294	0	54,294	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	235,198	0	0	235,198	235,198	0	235,198	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>289,492</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>289,492</b>	<b>289,492</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>289,492</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$289,492 is requested to continue funding the purchase equipment and adaptive technology costing more than \$5,000 per item with a minimum life expectancy of one year to support the functions of the Division of Blind Services.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 273 and Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide funds to purchase and/or replace adaptive technology, office equipment and furniture necessary to carry out the division's administrative activities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The division administers federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements. The division is responsible for ensuring that people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, the Braille and Talking Book Library, and the Residential Rehabilitation Center and Dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Operating Capital Outlay is not a match category for federal funds.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$289,492
- 2023-24 - \$289,492
- 2022-23 - \$289,492

## Item 43 - Blind Services - Food Products

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$200,000 is requested to continue funding to purchase food products for the independent living training in the food preparation program and to provide meals for students attending the residential Career, Technology, and Training Center in Daytona.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide instructional services to individuals with disabilities to maximize independence and self-sufficiency.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The funds are used to provide approximately 8,940 meals per year to clients. Meal preparation is a requirement for graduation whereby each graduate is required to prepare a meal for four individuals. Additionally, food

products are used in adaptive cooking classes designed to teach safe adaptive cooking techniques to clients attending the residential Career, Technology, and Training Center.

Food Products is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$200,000
- 2023-24 - \$200,000
- 2022-23 - \$200,000

## Item 44 - Blind Services - Acquisition of Motor Vehicles

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	120,000	0	0	120,000	165,000	45,000	120,000	(45,000)	(27.27%)
<b>Total</b>	120,000	0	0	120,000	165,000	45,000	120,000	(45,000)	(27.27%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$120,000 is requested to continue funding the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Division of Blind Services' fleet.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide vehicles for use by division employees for state business purposes, which include meeting with clients, employers, and community partners, as well as providing transportation of clients to the division's residential Career, Technology, and Training Center.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The division maintains a fleet of 39 vehicles to provide safe and adequate transportation for clients at the division's residential rehabilitation center located in Daytona. Additionally, the vehicles are used to transport

counselors to the homes of clients with visual impairments when transportation is a barrier to receiving services. The availability of transportation is critical to clients receiving training and education provided by the division.

The vehicles are located throughout the state in each of the ten district offices and five satellite offices. The use of a state vehicle reduces the costs of personal travel mileage reimbursements for division staff who are required to travel frequently. The division follows a vehicle replacement schedule in accordance with the Department of Management Services rules to ensure safe and adequate transportation is available for both clients and employees.

Acquisition of Motor Vehicles is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$100,000
- 2023-24 - \$100,000
- 2022-23 - \$100,000

## Item 45 - Blind Services - G/A - Client Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	15,206,159	0	0	15,206,159	17,481,159	2,275,000	15,206,159	(2,275,000)	(13.01%)
Fed Rehab TF	21,762,812	0	0	21,762,812	21,762,812	0	21,762,812	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	252,746	0	0	252,746	252,746	0	252,746	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,221,717</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37,221,717</b>	<b>39,496,717</b>	<b>2,275,000</b>	<b>37,221,717</b>	<b>(2,275,000)</b>	<b>(5.76%)</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$37,221,717 is requested to continue funding to provide rehabilitation services to the blind and visually impaired for the following programs:

- \$24,833,100 - Vocational Rehabilitation
- \$ 5,914,872 - Independence Living Older Blind
- \$ 1,146,802 - Adult Program
- \$ 4,426,943 - Blind Babies Successful Transition from Preschool to School
- \$ 200,000 - Blind Children's Program
- \$ 500,000 - Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind
- \$ 150,000 - Lighthouse for the Blind - Miami
- \$ 50,000 - Lighthouse for the Blind - Pasco/Hernando

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested is \$2,275,000 of nonrecurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- \$1,700,000 - Florida Association of Agencies Servicing the Blind
- \$ 500,000 - Independent Living Program with Supported Employment for Blind Individual with Additional Disabilities
- \$ 75,000 - Lighthouse for the Blind - Collier Maintaining Independence for the Blind

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested is \$2,275,000 of nonrecurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- \$1,700,000 - Florida Association of Agencies Servicing the Blind
- \$ 500,000 - Independent Living Program with Supported Employment for Blind Individual with Additional Disabilities
- \$ 75,000 - Lighthouse for the Blind - Collier Maintaining Independence for the Blind

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide training in foundational skills, independent living skills and career development to assist individuals with visual impairments to become self-sufficient in their homes and communities while progressing toward their individual goals.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Client Services Program serves individuals who are blind or have a severe bilateral visual impairment making it difficult to read regular print or function independently. These individuals are served through one or more of the following programs, depending on their needs:

- Vocational Rehabilitation - 78.7% Federal Funded and 21.3% General Revenue Match Funded - Provides services to young adults (ages 14 to 22) and adults who are blind or visually impaired and who desire to work or transition from school to work. The program provides vocational rehabilitation services that will enable individuals who are blind or visually impaired to reach their agreed-upon outcome by reducing barriers to employment.
- Independent Living - Older Blind - 90% Federal Funded and 10% General Revenue Match Funded - Provides rehabilitation instruction and guidance to help individuals who are age 55 years of age and older who do not have employment as a goal acquire the skills and knowledge to manage their daily lives. Independent Living enables blind and visually impaired adults to live more independently in their homes and communities.
- Adult Program - 100% General Revenue Funded - Provides rehabilitation instruction and guidance to help individuals who are under 55 years of age who do not have employment as a goal acquire the skills and knowledge to manage their daily lives. Adult Program enables blind and visually impaired adults to live more independently in their homes and communities.
- Blind Babies - 100% General Revenue Funded - Provides community-based early intervention education to blind or visually impaired children, ranging in age from birth through five years old, and their families. The program provides direct educational services within the child's home or natural environment and links the children and their families with other available resources that can assist them in achieving developmental milestones and meaningful inclusion in the community.
- Children's Program - 100% General Revenue Funded - Serves blind and visually impaired children ages five to 13, or older, to promote their fullest participation within their families, communities, and educational settings. The program provides services such as information and referral, support in navigating educational and community resources, and counseling.

Services under these programs are provided through ten district offices and community rehabilitation programs serving the blind. Services may include: assessment, advocacy training, adjustment to blindness counseling, personal and home management, adaptive aids and devices training, safe travel within their environment, career exploration, job development and job training.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter two grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Client Services is an eligible match category for the two grants.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$31,602,688
- 2023-24 - \$24,824,309
- 2022-23 - \$23,087,144

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 46 - Blind Services - Contracted Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	56,140	0	0	56,140	56,140	0	56,140	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	875,000	0	0	875,000	875,000	0	875,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>931,140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>931,140</b>	<b>931,140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>931,140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$931,140 is requested to continue funding independent contractors for courier services, technical support, information systems, security, lawn care, computer science training program and minor repairs and maintenance for building services.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Procurement of contracted expertise to ensure staff has adequate tools, knowledge, and information to carry out the services provided by the division.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds are used to provide services required to carry out both operational and programmatic functions of the division. Contracted services include maintenance of the division's properties, connectivity and technical support of information systems, research and development studies, and professional and technical services from subject matter experts.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter two grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Contracted Services is an eligible match category for these two grants.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$931,140
- 2023-24 - \$931,140
- 2022-23 - \$931,140

## Item 47 - Blind Services - G/A - Independent Living Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	35,000	0	0	35,000	35,000	0	35,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	35,000	0	0	35,000	35,000	0	35,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$35,000 is requested to continue funding the Florida Independent Living Council (FILC), a nonprofit organization created to assist in developing a state plan for independent living.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 413.395, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Promote independent living, including consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities; and promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida Independent Living Council (FILC) is a nonprofit organization created to assist in developing a state plan for independent living that addresses the needs of specific disability populations under federal laws.

Independent Living Services is not an eligible match for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$35,000
- 2023-24 - \$35,000
- 2022-23 - \$35,000

## Item 48 - Blind Services - Risk Management Insurance

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	70,768	0	0	70,768	70,768	0	70,768	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	141,456	0	0	141,456	141,456	0	141,456	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	212,224	0	0	212,224	212,224	0	212,224	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

#### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$212,224 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the Division of Blind Services.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provides business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds provide for Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Federal Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriations are recommended by the State's Division of Risk Management.

Risk Management Insurance is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$212,224
- 2023-24 - \$184,717
- 2022-23 - \$173,837

## Item 49 - Blind Services - Library Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	89,735	0	0	89,735	89,735	0	89,735	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	100,000	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>189,735</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>189,735</b>	<b>189,735</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>189,735</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$189,735 is requested to continue funding Library Services that serve an estimated 21,332 customers through the circulation of more than one million items.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Braille and Recorded Publications Services (ACT0770)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide information and reading materials needed by Floridians who are unable to use standard print due to a visual, physical, or reading disability.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services is designated by the National Library Service of the Library of Congress as the regional library for the state of Florida. There are also ten sub-regional libraries that serve the large metropolitan areas.

The regional library is responsible for maintaining and circulating materials and equipment needed by clients who qualify due to visual, physical and/or learning disabilities. The National Library Service provides most materials and all the equipment that is available to the clients. The library provides descriptive video, digital video formats, Braille transcription services and Braille publications. Reading materials are sent to and from clients via postage-free mail, and all services are provided at no charge to the client.

Library Services is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$189,735
- 2023-24 - \$189,735
- 2022-23 - \$189,735

## Item 50 - Blind Services - Vending Stands - Equipment and Supplies

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	100.00%
Fed Rehab TF	7,977,345	0	1,662,000	9,639,345	7,977,345	0	7,977,345	1,662,000	20.83%
Grants & Donations TF	595,000	0	449,821	1,044,821	595,000	0	595,000	449,821	75.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,572,345</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,311,821</b>	<b>10,884,166</b>	<b>8,572,345</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,572,345</b>	<b>2,311,821</b>	<b>26.97%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$8,572,345 is requested to continue funding for the management of vending facilities employing blind and visually impaired vendors as independent contractors.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$2,311,821 of additional funding is requested for the Business Enterprise Program (BEP).

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$2,311,821 in the Vending Stands and Equipment Category for the Business Enterprise Program (BEP). This will provide total funding for the program of \$10,884,166. Florida's BEP is one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind in the United States. It currently supports approximately 104 blind vendors who manage more than 130 food service and vending operations statewide. These operations are in diverse settings; including snack bars, cafeterias, vending routes, micro markets, and rest areas along the interstate. This additional budget will support essential program activities which are directly aligned with the mission of the Business Enterprise Program: to provide legally blind individuals with meaningful and profitable entrepreneurial opportunities, broaden their economic independence, and demonstrate the capacity of blind individuals to operate successful businesses.

The request is being made by the licensed operators themselves, through their elected Committee of Blind Vendors, to strengthen the program's long-term viability and to update aging equipment and infrastructure critical to their operations. Specifically requested, is \$200,000 in General Revenue, \$449,821 in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, and \$1,662,000 in the Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund for a total requested increase of \$2,311,821. Appropriations have not increased while equipment costs for new locations and repairs or replacement of older equipment have increased. The current vending machines contract is going to expire in one year and prices are anticipated to increase with any new contract that is executed. Prices for vending machines have increased by 50% since 2015. In order to remain relevant, BEP must stay current with the latest equipment in the vending and food service industry. This requires updating old equipment at existing locations and expanding into new ones. Additionally, beverage companies (i.e., Coke and Pepsi) have discontinued replacing

old machines for free. This places additional pressure on BEP to purchase more vending machines than it has had to do in the past.

The various fund sources requested are based upon federal guidance and statutory requirements. General Revenue funds are requested because federal dollars may not be used for certain items under \$1,000. This directive has come from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and has been communicated through Technical Assistance Circulars and trainings conducted by the RSA. The Grants and Donations budget authority requested will align budget with current funds available that are generated directly from the set-aside revenues contributed by blind entrepreneurs licensed through the Florida BEP. These legally blind business operators pay a percentage of their net proceeds into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, which supports the ongoing needs and sustainability of the program. The Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund budget authority requested will be funded by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant award.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Food Service Vending Training, Work Experience and Licensing (ACT0750)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Part 395)

### **PURPOSE:**

Create and provide job opportunities in the food service sector for eligible blind persons under the Randolph-Sheppard Act and the Little Randolph-Sheppard Act.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida Business Enterprise Program provides job opportunities in food service for eligible blind persons under the Randolph-Sheppard Act. Specifically, the program provides persons who are legally blind with business ownership and self-sufficiency through the operation of vending facilities on federal and other properties. The program is one of the largest vending and food services programs operated by people who are legally blind in the United States. Currently, it has 134 operating vending facilities around the state of Florida, which include six cafeterias, eight snack bars, 16 micro-markets, 44 non-highway vending facilities, 55 interstate rest areas, one highway rest area, and four military dining facilities. In Fiscal Year 2024-25, gross sales in these facilities totaled \$26,370,303. The facilities generated state and local sales tax, as required by law, and provided 190 jobs for Florida citizens in the food and vending machine service industry.

The initial 18-week training for this program is offered at the division's residential rehabilitation center located in Daytona and is followed by up to six to ten weeks of on-the-job training in an operational business enterprise program facility.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and

Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The vending stands category consist of \$1,500,000 which is eligible for match because it is expended from the VR grant award. However, of the \$7,977,345 in federal VR funds, \$6,477,345 is not eligible for match since it is pass through from the military contract's funds. The division has contractual agreements with federal vendors to pass through the funds to make payments to the contracted blind vendors.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$8,572,345
- 2023-24 - \$6,772,345
- 2022-23 - \$6,772,345

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 51 - Blind Services - Tenant Broker Commissions

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	18,158	0	0	18,158	18,158	0	18,158	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	18,158	0	0	18,158	18,158	0	18,158	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$18,158 is requested to continue funding for the management of tenant broker fees and real estate consulting services.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 255.25(3)(h)5, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space for the Division of Blind Services.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The division is required to pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space. The Department of Management Services (DMS) negotiated a contract with Vertical Integration, Inc., to provide tenant broker and real estate consulting services. State agencies acquiring services

under this contract are required to collect a commission fee from the landlord on behalf of the contractor. The contractor is then compensated for services provided. The commission fee is stated in the contract at an amount of up to 4 percent of the lease amount for new leases and up to 2 percent of the lease amount for lease renewals. The fees are due to the contractor in two installments: (i) 50 percent upon execution of the lease documents by the landlord and the agency; and (ii) 50 percent upon occupancy by the agency of the leased premises.

Tenant Broker Commissions is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$18,158
- 2023-24 - \$18,158
- 2022-23 - \$18,158

**Item 51A - Blind Services - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	3,321	0	0	3,321	3,321	0	3,321	0	0.00%
Admin TF	3,062	0	0	3,062	3,062	0	3,062	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	98,152	0	0	98,152	98,152	0	98,152	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	104,535	0	0	104,535	104,535	0	104,535	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$104,535 is requested to continue funding human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services for the Division of Blind Services.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

**PURPOSE:**

Provide for human resource management services for the Division of Blind Services.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (PeopleFirst) to manage agency human resources.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Human Resource Services/State Contract is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$104,535
- 2023-24 - \$104,134
- 2022-23 - \$98,668

## Item 52 - Blind Services - Other Data Processing Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	686,842	0	0	686,842	686,842	0	686,842	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	686,842	0	0	686,842	686,842	0	686,842	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$686,842 is requested to continue funding the Automated Web-Based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE), a statewide client management system provided by non-state entities.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Information Technology - Application Development/Support (ACT0320)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Maintain the division's Automated Web-Based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE) system, a statewide client case management system, to provide accurate data necessary to meet federal reporting requirements.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Automated Web-Based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE) system is the division's statewide client case management system. The AWARE system provides reliable, accurate case management information that is required to meet state and federal reporting requirements. Additionally, the system supports case

management of individual clients by providing counselors with pertinent information, including application and eligibility status, activities due, plan development and documentation of progress toward the client's goal. This category provides funds for technology services provided by non-state entities.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The Other Data Processing Services category is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$686,842
- 2023-24 - \$686,842
- 2022-23 - \$686,842

## Item 53 - Blind Services - Education Technology and Information Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	246,785	0	0	246,785	246,785	0	246,785	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	246,785	0	0	246,785	246,785	0	246,785	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$246,785 is requested to continue funding technology services to meet some critical technology needs and programs related to Information Technology Services.

These funds are used to pay for services provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS). These services are paid in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes, for the cost recovery of information technology resources.

Below is a list of services provided:

- Telecommunications Support
- Network Support
- Help Desk and Desktop Support
- Disaster Recovery and Department-wide Data Center Services
- Department-wide Software, Software Maintenance, and Information Security Services
- Enterprise and Web Applications Development for Department-wide Applications
- Mainframe Support for Comptroller Functions

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Information Technology - Computer Operation (ACT0330)  
Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 216.272, and 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

**PURPOSE:**

Provide the technology resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the division.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Technology services used by the division are acquired from the internal service provider as required by statute. Below is a description of the technology and information services acquired by the division:

**TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

The Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) provides these services to employees and specific program areas for which the department is charged in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes.

**Education Technology Services:**

Provides vision and leadership for developing and implementing information technology initiatives that support the strategic initiatives of the department, as well as overall management of the department's technology and information systems and services.

**Infrastructure and Support Services, Direct and Indirect Support:**

Provides direct services that interface with and support technology end users. End users utilize a help desk to receive desktop and laptop hardware and software support, as well as batch and production report assistance. Additionally, end users have access to a broad range of media web conferencing services.

Provides indirect services that support and maintain the internal network infrastructure necessary for internal and external connectivity for the end users, the centralized telephone system, disaster recovery processes and information security accesses.

**Enterprise Strategic Project Delivery Management:**

Provides industry-standard project management and governance services for information technology (IT) capital projects, IT projects with high visibility and IT projects with high risk due to a broad impact. These services are provided to ensure technology solutions are delivered on time and within budget, and that they meet or exceed the expectations as defined by the department.

**Applications Development Support:**

Provides development and maintenance of software products to support the business of the department, including legacy mainframe applications, web applications, data base administration, and the Intranet and Internet web sites.

The division's primary application system, Automated Web-based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE) is used for case management. Applications Development Support processes monthly mainframe jobs related to the division's FLAIR transactions.

**DEPARTMENT-WIDE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

OTIS makes technology purchases that are needed on a department-wide scale. These purchases are charged back to the department, as required in section 216.272, Florida Statutes. The department-wide purchases include, but are not limited to, hardware maintenance, software license renewals, software maintenance, data center and computer facilities services, disaster recovery and continuity of operations planning.

Education Technology and Information Services is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$246,207
- 2023-24 - \$243,299
- 2022-23 - \$239,264

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 54 - Blind Services - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	430,327	0	0	430,327	430,327	0	430,327	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	430,327	0	0	430,327	430,327	0	430,327	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$430,327 is requested to continue funding data processing services provided by the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Robert Lee Doyle, III (850) 245-0331; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)  
Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1004.649, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide funds for a statutorily designated data center and computer facility services to the department through a Primary Data Center.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

### **Primary Data Center -**

The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

### **Mainframe Environment –**

The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of Mainframe Disaster Recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The following is a list of the major mainframe applications and processes hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- Comptroller/Accounting processes

### **Open Systems Environment -**

The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a list of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- AWARE Case Management System
- ARTS Budget Tracking System – LBR Greenbook

Northwest Regional Data Center is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

## **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$430,327
- 2023-24 - \$320,398
- 2022-23 - \$320,398

# **Private Colleges and Universities**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**Item 55 - Private Colleges & Universities - G/A - Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	3,500,000	0	0	3,500,000	6,000,000	2,500,000	3,500,000	(2,500,000)	(41.67%)
<b>Total</b>	3,500,000	0	0	3,500,000	6,000,000	2,500,000	3,500,000	(2,500,000)	(41.67%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$3,500,000 is requested to continue funding for training first responders of Pre-hospital Emergency Health Care and internal medicine and surgery for medical, nursing, allied healthcare, and first responders.

**RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,500,000 is not requested for restoration of nonrecurring funds provided to the University of Miami Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$2,500,000 of nonrecurring funds provided to the University of Miami Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory.

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory (ACT1904)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1011.521, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Create, sustain, update, and disseminate life-saving programs to train thousands of individuals at medical centers, agencies, universities, and colleges throughout Florida.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory program at the Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education provides services that have allowed advanced pre-hospital and emergency training programs for Florida first responders; patient simulation training scenarios to improve hands-on advance lifesaving skills; improved response for natural disasters response training and community paramedicine for public health and primary health care. This is accomplished using web-based and mobile multimedia and simulation technology, and to develop and deliver a greater range of educational modalities to train healthcare providers.

The program focuses on advanced lifesaving, critical skills for first responders and recommended best practices for the pre-hospital management of active shooter/assailant events, natural disasters and public health and preventive health services for all populations.

The Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education at the University of Miami also uses the funds toward project-related salaries for faculty and staff. Additionally, funds are used for a variety of expenses, including consultant fees, purchasing temporary services, repair and maintenance of equipment, technical supplies, printing, and travel.

The broad goals of the project are to:

- Develop materials, educational systems and assessment instruments based on best-evidence protocols for the training of fire fighters, law enforcement and military medics, paramedics and emergency medical technicians, medical students, physicians, physician assistant students, physician assistants, nursing students, nurses, and nurse practitioners.
- Serve as a laboratory for research and development in the application, dissemination, and evaluation of advanced simulation technology to healthcare education.
- Serve as a resource for programs and instructors from other healthcare training and emergency response centers in the state of Florida.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$6,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$4,500,000
- 2022-23 - \$4,000,000

## Item 56 - Private Colleges & Universities - Historically Black Private Colleges

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	31,421,685	0	0	31,421,685	31,921,685	500,000	31,421,685	(500,000)	(1.57%)
<b>Total</b>	31,421,685	0	0	31,421,685	31,921,685	500,000	31,421,685	(500,000)	(1.57%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$31,421,685 is requested to continue funding special project programs, student access and retention efforts at historically black private universities in Florida.

- \$16,960,111 - Bethune-Cookman University
- \$ 6,429,526 - Edward Waters University
- \$ 1,000,000 - Edward Waters University - Institute on Criminal Justice
- \$ 7,032,048 - Florida Memorial University

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$500,000 is not requested for restoration of nonrecurring funds provided to Edward Waters University - Campus Security Grants Enhancement.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$500,000 of nonrecurring funds provided to Edward Waters University - Campus Security Grants Enhancement.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Bethune-Cookman (ACT1936)  
Edward Waters College (ACT1938)  
Florida Memorial College (ACT1940)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1011.521, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Promote increased access, retention, and graduation rates at Florida's three private historically black universities, which provide opportunities to educationally and economically disadvantaged students who are primarily Florida residents.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The state's three private historically black universities use these funds to boost their access, retention, and graduation efforts. Specifically, the three historically black private universities use the funds for the following purposes:

- Bethune-Cookman University - Funds are used toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits; student scholarships; student wages and stipends; purchase of equipment and maintenance; office operations; travel (including conference registrations, lodging, and mileage); professional services/honorariums; workshops/seminars; cultural activities.
- Edward Waters University - Funds are used toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits; contracted services; travel; supplies; scholarships.
- Edward Waters University - Institute on Criminal Justice funds are used to implement core courses and the Police Academy certification training as a Law Enforcement concentration; establish an articulation agreement with the Northeast Florida Criminal Justice Training and Education Center, Florida State College at Jacksonville; prepare students to be academically prepared to gain admission to the Police Academy; teach essentials to prepare students to successfully pass the Florida State Law Enforcement Certification examination; develop private partnerships to hire students in the Law Enforcement within Florida.
- Florida Memorial University - Funds are used toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits; student stipends; supplies; consulting; honorariums; recruitment materials; subscriptions; contracted services; repair and maintenance; automobile rental; space rental; staff and student travel; workshops; awards; cultural activities; scholarships; and miscellaneous expenses.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$31,421,685
- 2023-24 - \$31,921,685
- 2022-23 - \$31,471,685

## Item 57 - Private Colleges & Universities - G/A - Private Colleges and Universities

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000	7,265,000	2,265,000	5,000,000	(2,265,000)	(31.18%)
<b>Total</b>	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000	7,265,000	2,265,000	5,000,000	(2,265,000)	(31.18%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$5,000,000 is requested to continue funding the following projects:

- \$3,000,000 - Embry-Riddle - Aerospace Academy
- \$2,000,000 - Jacksonville University - Entrepreneurism, Policy, Innovation, and Commerce (EPIC) program

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,265,000 is not requested for restoration for the following projects:

- \$1,500,000 - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Hypersonic Equipment
- \$500,000 - Florida Southern College - Planetarium Equipment for Educational Programming
- \$265,000 - Warner University - Agriculture Education Expansion

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$2,265,000 for the following projects:

- \$1,500,000 - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Hypersonic Equipment
- \$500,000 - Florida Southern College - Planetarium Equipment for Educational Programming
- \$265,000 - Warner University - Agriculture Education Expansion

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Private Colleges and Universities (ACT1941)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1011.521, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide funds to Florida residents enrolled in high-priority disciplines in an effort to encourage residents to remain in the state of Florida and pursue careers in crucial fields.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Aerospace Career Academy at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) is a collaborative effort between ERAU and the state of Florida to broaden the participation of Florida's secondary school students in Aerospace STEM-related degrees. The program provides rigorous aerospace-based STEM-related courses that prepare secondary school students for college and the workforce, while providing them a clear pathway to college graduation and high-paying jobs in a thrilling and dynamic industry in the state of Florida. Funding allocations will:

- Increase dual enrollment programming in Aerospace Science through the state of Florida.
- Increase student participation in accelerated aerospace STEM course options.
- Increase career and technical education opportunities and internships.
- Increase aerospace STEM-related educational opportunities.
- Increase the STEM proficiency of Florida's teachers and expand the number of faculty credentialed under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) credentialing criteria.

Jacksonville University (JU)- Entrepreneurism, Policy, Innovation, and Commerce (EPIC) program provides academic training that is aligned with Florida's workforce needs, bridges the gap between higher education and the marketplace, addresses the gap in the skills and competencies expected by employers, and retains JU graduates in Florida to help the state meet its workforce needs.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$36,974,411
- 2023-24 - \$23,506,260
- 2022-23 - \$12,921,500

## Item 58 - Private Colleges & Universities - Effective Access Grant (EASE)

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	135,903,100	0	1,766,050	137,669,150	135,903,100	0	135,903,100	1,766,050	1.30%
<b>Total</b>	135,903,100	0	1,766,050	137,669,150	135,903,100	0	135,903,100	1,766,050	1.30%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$135,903,100 is requested to fund the following:

- \$132,685,000 - EASE - funds 37,910 students at an average award amount of \$3,500.
- \$ 3,218,100 - EASE Plus - funds 3,786 EASE students at an additional award amount of \$850.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$1,766,050 is requested to align with the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference amount as follows:

- \$1,806,000 - EASE - an additional 516 awards at \$3,500 each.
- (\$ 39,950) - EASE Plus - a reduction of 47 awards at \$850 each.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$1,766,050 in recurring General Revenue for the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) grant for total funding of \$137,669,150. This request aligns with the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference and reflects an increase for EASE and a decrease for EASE Plus.

The estimating conference amounts are as follows:

##### EASE

516 - Additional students  
38,426 - Total students  
\$ 1,806,000 - Additional funds  
\$134,491,000 - Total funds

##### EASE Plus

(47) - Fewer students  
3,739 - Total students  
\$ (39,950) - Reduced funds  
\$3,178,050 - Total funds

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Effective Access to Student Education Program (ACT1963)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.89, Section 1009.521, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide tuition assistance to full-time Florida students who have chosen to attend an eligible private institution.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) grant provides tuition assistance to Florida full-time students who are attending an eligible private Florida institution. The Florida Legislature considers private schools an integral part of higher education in the state and seeks to reduce the tax burden for the residents of the state. All eligible students are afforded the maximum award to the extent of the program funding.

The EASE Plus stipend provides an additional award to support qualified EASE students enrolled in upper-level courses in quality, high-demand programs. These programs include Agriculture/Veterinary Science, Allied Health, Cyber Security, Digital Arts/Computer Graphics, Nursing, and Teaching.

The following is a list of the eligible institutions for the current fiscal year:

Advent Health University  
Ave Maria University  
Barry University  
Beacon College  
Bethune-Cookman University  
Eckerd College  
Edward Waters University  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Everglades University  
Flagler College  
Florida College  
Florida Institute of Technology  
Florida Memorial University  
Florida Southern College  
Herzing University  
Jacksonville University  
Keiser University

Lynn University  
Nova Southeastern University  
Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Ringling School of Art and Design  
Rollins College  
Saint Leo University  
South College  
South University  
Southeastern University  
St. Thomas University  
Stetson University  
The Baptist University of Florida  
University of Miami  
University of Tampa  
Warner University  
Webber International University

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$134,848,000
- 2023-24 - \$134,848,000
- 2022-23 - \$75,410,000

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**Item 58A - Private Colleges & Universities - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	5,833,333	5,833,333	0	(5,833,333)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	5,833,333	5,833,333	0	(5,833,333)	(100.00%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$5,833,333 is not requested for restoration for the following projects:

- \$2,500,000 - Florida Southern College - Florida Agribusiness Focus: Horticultural Sciences Learning Laboratory/Greenhouses
- \$1,333,333 - Jacksonville University - GROW Florida Nurses Program
- \$2,000,000 - Palm Beach Atlantic University - LeMieux Center for Public Policy

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Sandra Sidwell (850) 245-9245

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$5,833,333 for the following projects:

- \$2,500,000 - Florida Southern College - Florida Agribusiness Focus: Horticultural Sciences Learning Laboratory/Greenhouses
- \$1,333,333 - Jacksonville University - GROW Florida Nurses Program
- \$2,000,000 - Palm Beach Atlantic University - LeMieux Center for Public Policy

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement  
☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1011.521 Florida Statute

**PURPOSE:**

Provide capital improvements for private colleges and universities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provide capital improvements for private colleges and universities.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$26,885,714
- 2023-24 - \$25,943,082
- 2022-23 - \$25,000,000

# **Student Financial Aid Program (State)**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 58B - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Open Door Grant Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	35,000,000	0	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	0	35,000,000	0	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	0	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$35,000,000 is requested to restore nonrecurring General Revenue to continue to serve 23,403 students at \$1,495.53 each.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$35,000,000 for the Open Door Grant Program in nonrecurring General Revenue. This request maintains the Fiscal Year 2025-26 funding and allows the department to continue to serve 23,403 students at \$1,495.53 each.

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Open Door Grant Program (ACT2049)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.895, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Create and incentivize current and future workers to enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) that leads to a credential certificate or degree and provide grants to Florida College System (FCS) institutions and eligible public technical centers to cover the cost of integrated education and training programs as well as workforce education programs for eligible students. This program expands the affordability of workforce training and credentialing and increases the interest of current and future workers in high-demand career and technical education fields.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Open Door Grant Program, established in 2021, was converted to a financial aid program in 2023 to assist students of a Florida College System institution or technical center to incentivize current and future workers to enroll in a career and technical education program that leads to a credential, certificate, or degree. Grants are provided to qualified students who must be a Florida resident for tuition purposes, be enrolled in a workforce education program, and be enrolled at a school district postsecondary technical career center, a state college, or a charter technical career center. A student is eligible to receive an award equal to the amount needed to cover 100 percent of the cost for the eligible workforce education program after all other federal and state financial aid and any other private or public financial assistance is applied. These costs may include tuition and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, or related materials. Additionally, a student is eligible to receive a stipend up to \$1,500 per academic year to cover other educational expenses related to cost of attendance.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$35,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$35,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$35,000,000

### Item 3 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program

#### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Lottery (EETF)	637,661,624	0	54,806,813	692,468,437	637,661,624	0	637,661,624	54,806,813	8.59%
<b>Total</b>	637,661,624	0	54,806,813	692,468,437	637,661,624	0	637,661,624	54,806,813	8.59%

#### REQUEST NARRATIVE

##### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$637,661,624 is requested to fund 131,292 awards at an average award amount of \$4,856.82.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$54,806,813 is requested to fund an additional 11,851 students at an average award amount of \$4,624.66 to align with the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference.

##### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

##### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$54,806,813 in recurring Educational Enhancement Trust Fund budget authority for the Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship program for total funding of \$692,468,437. This request aligns with the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference projecting 11,851 students at an award amount of \$4,624.66 each. The estimating conference is projecting a need of \$692,468,437 for 143,143 students at an average amount of \$4,837.59.

#### **GOALS**

##### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

#### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

##### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship (ACT 2014)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1009.53-1009.538, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Reward Florida high school students for their high academic achievement and encourage them to continue and maintain their pursuit of high standards of academic achievement at a Florida institution of higher education.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program was created in 1997 to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement. Funded by the Florida Lottery, the program rewards Florida high school students for their high academic achievement and encourages them to continue their postsecondary education at a Florida institution of higher education. There are four types of Bright Futures Scholarships: Florida Academic Scholarship (also includes the academic top scholars auxiliary award to a few Florida Academic Scholars), Florida Medallion Scholarship, Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship. For all four scholarship types, eligible institutions include Florida state universities; state/community colleges; public technical centers; and eligible private colleges, universities and technical schools that meet licensure, accreditation and operation standards.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$616,908,961
- 2023-24 - \$607,192,051
- 2022-23 - \$620,881,057

**Item 59 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Benacquisto Scholarship Program****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	38,101,648	0	(1,692,532)	36,409,116	38,101,648	0	38,101,648	(1,692,532)	(4.44%)
<b>Total</b>	38,101,648	0	(1,692,532)	36,409,116	38,101,648	0	38,101,648	(1,692,532)	(4.44%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$38,101,648 is requested to continue funding 1,993 students at an average award amount of \$19,117.74.

**WORKLOAD**

(\$1,692,532) reduction is requested to provide 59 fewer students awards at an award amount of \$28,686.98 each based on the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting a decrease of (\$1,692,532) in recurring General Revenue for the Benacquisto Scholarship Program for total funding of \$36,409,116. This request aligns with the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference projecting 59 fewer students at an award amount of \$28,686.98 each. The estimating conference is projecting a need of \$36,409,116 for 1,934 students at an average award amount of \$18,825.81.

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Benacquisto Scholarship Program (ACT2036)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.893, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Reward Florida high school graduates (including non-Florida high school graduates) who receive recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement Scholar and encourage them to pursue higher education at an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institution.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida National Merit Scholarship was created in 2014 to establish a program to reward a Florida high school graduate who receives recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement Scholar. In Fiscal Year 2016-17 the award is equal to the public institution's cost of attendance (including tuition and fees, room and board, and other expenses), minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National Achievement Scholarship. Regionally accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institutions are deemed eligible to participate in the program. The Florida National Merit Scholarship Program was renamed to the Benacquisto Scholarship Program, pursuant to Chapter 2016-237, Laws of Florida (HB 7029). The Benacquisto Scholarship Program in Fiscal Year 2018-19 was expanded to include non-Florida high school graduates as award recipients, pursuant to Chapter 2018-4, Laws of Florida (SB 4); however, Chapter 2021-232, Laws of Florida, (HB 1261), was passed to no longer allow non-Florida high school graduates to qualify for a Benacquisto award for the 2022-23 fiscal and beyond.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$39,028,698
- 2023-24 - \$37,652,713
- 2022-23 - \$36,412,615

## Item 60 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - First Generation in College Matching Grant Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	10,617,326	0	0	10,617,326	10,617,326	0	10,617,326	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	10,617,326	0	0	10,617,326	10,617,326	0	10,617,326	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$10,617,326 is requested to continue funding to provide 10,775 students with scholarships at the current level, as follows:

- \$7,962,994 - 4,752 state university student scholarships at an average award amount of \$1,675.71.
- \$2,654,332 - 6,023 state/community college student scholarships at an average award amount of \$440.70.

The First Generation in College Matching Grant Program is a two-to-one matching program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

First Generation in College Matching Grant Program (ACT2062)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.701, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide need-based scholarships, in partnership with private donors, to students who are the first generation in their family to attend college and who may not otherwise have the resources to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The First Generation in College Matching Grant Program (FGMG) was established to provide need-based scholarships, in partnership with private donors, to students who are the first generation in their family to attend college and who may not otherwise have the resources to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities. The program enables each public state university and public state/community college to provide donors with a matching grant incentive for contributions that will create need-based scholarships at each institution. Each year, the General Appropriations Act delineates the total amount of funding to be distributed among the universities and colleges. The institutions, through their institutional foundations, are responsible for generating private donations for the purpose of this program. Each institution's allocation is a proration based on a sector-driven formula that includes, but is not limited to, the institution's percentage of first-generation students exhibiting financial need.

Florida law requires that, to receive funds, students must:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen,
- Be accepted at a Florida public state university or Florida public state college,
- Enroll in a minimum of six credit hours per term as a degree-seeking undergraduate student,
- Be a first-generation college student, where neither of the student's parents earned a college degree at the baccalaureate level or higher, and
- Submit a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) and meet all other requirements under section 1009.50, Florida Statutes, for demonstrated financial need, as also required for the Florida Student Assistance Grant Program.

The program offers a maximum award based on a student's need, which is calculated from the student's cost of attendance less the student's student aid index and any other aid, not including loans.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$10,617,326
- 2023-24 - \$10,617,326
- 2022-23 - \$10,617,326

## Item 61 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Prepaid Tuition Scholarships

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$7,000,000 is requested to continue funding 3,092 Prepaid Tuition Scholarships, at an average cost of \$2,263.90 per scholarship which are matched one-to-one by private donations.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Prepaid Tuition Scholarships (ACT2040)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.984, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarships to economically disadvantaged youth who otherwise may not have the financial resources to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Prepaid Tuition Scholarship program is administered by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation and serves Florida's youth who are economically disadvantaged by offering prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarships, also known as Project STARS – Secondary Tuition for At-Risk-Students. Project STARS is the largest foundation initiative, specifically targeting children from low-income families who are at risk of dropping out of school. Many of these children are the first in their families to have the opportunity to go to college. Project STARS scholarships are funded from an annual legislative appropriation and matching contributions from partners, including Take Stock in Children, local education foundations, school districts and other community-based organizations.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$7,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$7,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$7,000,000

## Item 62 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Florida ABLE, Incorporated

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,770,000	0	0	1,770,000	1,770,000	0	1,770,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	1,770,000	0	0	1,770,000	1,770,000	0	1,770,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,770,000 is requested to continue funding the Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program to manage 13,616 active accounts for individuals with disabilities at an average management cost of \$130.00 per account.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Florida ABLE, Incorporated (ACT2041)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1009.985 and 1009.986, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Encourages and assists with the saving of private funds in tax-exempt accounts for qualified disability expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida ABLE, Incorporated, is a special needs trust that manages tax-free savings and investment accounts for disabled persons and their families as part of the state's ABLE program. This program is the result of the federal Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act that began in 2014. Most states have an ABLE program and Florida was one of the first. The Florida Legislature passed the Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, into law in 2015.

When people with special needs apply for disability benefits, they must show that they do not have enough money to support themselves independently. Any money a person has in a traditional bank account count against that person's ability to qualify for disability benefits. As a result, people with special needs are not able to build savings with the money they earn or receive through inheritance or gifts. On a day-to-day basis, this means that people with special needs must live with very little money if they want to receive government aid. ABLE accounts fill this gap by giving people with special needs the opportunity to manage a modest bank account without penalty against their eligibility for SSI, Medicaid, or other government benefits.

An individual may have only one ABLE Account and the amount donated into the account is capped at \$15,000 per year. Recipients may withdraw funds to use for quality disability expenses including: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology services, personal support services, and other expenses to enhance the account owner's quality of life.

As of June 30, 2025, Floridians have opened 16,573 ABLE United Accounts of which, only 13,616 are considered active. There were 2,665 new accounts opened between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,770,000
- 2023-24 - \$1,770,000
- 2022-23 - \$1,770,000

**Item 64 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Nursing Student Loan  
Reimbursement/Scholarships**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	1,233,006	0	0	1,233,006	1,233,006	0	1,233,006	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	1,233,006	0	0	1,233,006	1,233,006	0	1,233,006	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,233,006 is requested to continue funding the Nursing Student Loan Reimbursement/Scholarships, providing a maximum award amount of \$4,000 to 308 eligible nurses.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

**GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program (ACT2500)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1009.66 and 1009.67, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Increase employment and retention of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The program offers loan forgiveness to eligible nurses to increase employment and retention of registered and licensed practical nurses in nursing homes, in-state hospitals, state-operated medical facilities, health care facilities, public schools, birth centers, federally sponsored community health centers, family practice teaching hospitals and specialty children's hospitals. Loans received by nurses from federal programs, state programs or commercial lending institutions may be reduced in return for the recipient working in approved facilities after graduation.

Funds in the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by contributions from employing institutions, not including state-operated facilities. All money collected from the private health care industry and other private sources shall be deposited into the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund. There is a levied fee of \$5 that is collected at the time of licensure or renewal that funds this program.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,233,006
- 2023-24 - \$1,233,006
- 2022-23 - \$1,233,006

## Item 65 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	160,500	0	0	160,500	160,500	0	160,500	0	0.00%
St St Fin Assist TF	160,500	0	0	160,500	160,500	0	160,500	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	321,000	0	0	321,000	321,000	0	321,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$321,000 is requested to continue funding the Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program at a maximum annual award amount of \$3,000 to 107 students with state funds and private contributions at a one-to-one match.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship (ACT2026)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.73, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Increase postsecondary access for need-based students to one of Florida's four historically black colleges and universities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program provides scholarships to need-based students attending one of Florida's historically black postsecondary institutions:

- Bethune-Cookman University
- Edward Waters University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- Florida Memorial University

The scholarships are funded through state funds and private contributions on a one-to-one match ratio at a maximum award amount of \$3,000 annually, as provided in Florida Statutes. Any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year will carry forward and be available for implementing the program. Based on the general eligibility framework established by the department, each institution will then rank eligible students according to individual financial need and report relevant data to the department. This is a decentralized program, which means each participating institution determines application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility. Participating institutions may choose to prorate awards to accommodate all eligible students.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$321,000
- 2023-24 - \$321,000
- 2022-23 - \$321,000

## Item 4 and 66 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Student Financial Aid

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	192,516,508	0	5,577,053	198,093,561	193,366,508	850,000	192,516,508	4,727,053	2.44%
Lottery (EETF)	109,407,353	0	0	109,407,353	109,407,353	0	109,407,353	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>301,923,861</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,577,053</b>	<b>307,500,914</b>	<b>302,773,861</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>301,923,861</b>	<b>4,727,053</b>	<b>1.56%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$301,923,861 is requested to continue funding 173,565 students at the current average award level (see chart for the number of students and the amount per student funding per program).

\$236,044,017 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Public Full & Part - Time  
 \$ 23,612,502 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Private  
 \$ 6,430,443 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Postsecondary  
 \$ 3,309,050 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Career Education  
 \$ 29,124,029 - Children and Spouses of Deceased and Disabled Veterans  
 \$ 1,569,922 - Florida Work Experience Program  
 \$ 256,747 - Rosewood Family Scholarship  
 \$ 1,000,000 - Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program  
 \$ 272,151 - Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship  
 \$ 305,000 - Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$850,000 is not requested for restoration in nonrecurring funds provided to Take Stock in College and Career.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$5,577,053 is requested to fund 1,160 additional students at an average award amount of \$4,807.80 for the Children and Spouses of Deceased and Disabled Veterans scholarship program to align with the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$5,577,053 in recurring General Revenue to fund 1,160 additional students at an average award amount of \$4,807.80 for the Children and Spouses of Deceased and Disabled Veterans scholarship program (CSDDV). This request aligns with the August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference which projects a need of \$34,701,082 for a total of 7,809 students at an average award amount of \$4,443.73.

## **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration is \$850,000 in nonrecurring funds provided to Take Stock in College and Career.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Children and Spouses of Deceased/Disabled Veterans (ACT2006)  
Florida Work Experience Program (ACT2020)  
Florida Farmworker Scholarships (ACT2021)  
Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant (ACT2038)  
Private Student Assistance Grant (ACT2042)  
Florida Student Assistance Grants for Public Full and Part-Time Students (ACT2044)  
Rosewood Family Scholarship (ACT2046)  
Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program (ACT2050)  
Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Grant (ACT2064)  
Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program (ACT2023)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 295.01-05, 1009.50, 1009.505, 1009.51-52, 1009.55, 1009.77, and 1009.894, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Increase postsecondary access and educational opportunities for students with financial needs.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

##### **FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS (FSAG)**

The Public, Private, Postsecondary, and Career Education FSAG Program, created in 1972, is Florida's largest need-based grant program. FSAG includes separately funded student financial aid programs available to undergraduate Florida residents who demonstrate substantial financial need; are enrolled in participating postsecondary institutions; and are degree-seeking in the public, private and postsecondary grants; or are enrolled in a participating state college or career center, and are certificate-seeking in the Career Education grant. The FSAG is available to students who attend Florida public state universities, public state colleges and eligible private postsecondary institutions. The FSAG is administered as a decentralized program, which means that each participating institution determines application deadlines, student eligibility and award amounts. Eligibility criteria and maximum award amounts are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

**CHILDREN AND SPOUSES OF DECEASED AND DISABLED VETERANS (CSDDV)**

The CSDDV scholarship program has been in effect since 1941. This program provides educational opportunities to dependent children and spouses of Florida veterans who have died or have been determined to be 100 percent disabled as a result of specified military actions. Students who are enrolled in public postsecondary education institutions are eligible for an award equal to the cost of tuition and fees. Students enrolled in a private postsecondary institution are eligible for an award equal to the average cost of tuition and fees at a comparable public institution. Eligible institutions include Florida public state universities, public state/community colleges, public career centers and eligible private postsecondary institutions. Current Florida Statutes require that CSDDV students receive 100 percent of tuition and fees.

**FLORIDA WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (FWEP)**

The FWEP, created in 1993, is a self-help, need-based student financial assistance program intended to facilitate student employment in occupations complementary to students' educational endeavors and career goals. The FWEP provides employment opportunities for students at a reduced cost to the employer and represents a partnership between state and private employers. The FWEP is offered at participating Florida public state universities; public state/community colleges; and eligible private, non-profit postsecondary institutions. The FWEP is administered as a decentralized program, and each participating institution determines application deadlines, student eligibility criteria and award amounts. Eligibility criteria and award amounts are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

**ROSEWOOD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP (RFS)**

The RFS Program was created in 1994 for the purpose of funding direct descendants of Rosewood families affected by the incidents of January 1923. This need-based program provides student financial assistance for eligible degree-seeking or certificate-seeking students who attend public state universities, public state/community colleges or public postsecondary career centers. The 2014 Florida Legislature expanded the program by increasing the number of scholarships from 25 to 50 per year and increased the authorized maximum annual award to be equal to the cost of tuition and fees, from \$4,000 to \$6,100 per student, but not to exceed the new maximum award.

**FLORIDA FARMWORKER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

The Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship, created in 2018, provides a need-based scholarship to degree-seeking or career certificate-seeking undergraduate residents who are farmworkers or are the children of such farmworkers, as defined in section 420.503, Florida Statutes.

**HONORABLY DISCHARGED GRADUATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program was created to provide supplemental need-based veteran education benefits to eligible students across the state. Funds are used to assist in the payment of living expenses during holiday breaks for active-duty and honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001.

**RANDOLPH BRACY OCOEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program, created in 2021, funds students who are either a direct descendant of victims of the Ocoee Election Day Riots of November 1920, or current African-American residents of Ocoee, Florida. This need-based program provides financial assistance for eligible degree-seeking or certificate-seeking students who attend public state universities, public Florida colleges, public postsecondary career centers, or a Historically Black College or University in Florida.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$295,149,815
- 2023-24 - \$291,132,244
- 2022-23 - \$287,053,304

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID 2026-27 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST								
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	2025 SESSION PROJECTED DATA FOR 2025-26 STUDENTS			CURRENT PROJECTED DATA 2026-27 STUDENTS				
	2025-26 APPROPRIATION	2025-26 PROJECTED STUDENTS AS OF 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION (See Notes)	2025-26 AVERAGE AWARD AMOUNT	2026-27 WORKLOAD REQUEST	2026-27 PROJECTED ADDITIONAL STUDENTS	2026-27 AVERAGE AWARD AMOUNT	2026-27 TOTAL PROJECTED STUDENTS	2026-27 TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDS
FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT-PUBLIC	\$ 236,044,017	142,872	\$ 1,652			\$ 1,652	142,872	236,044,017
FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PRIVATE	\$ 23,612,502	14,348	\$ 1,646			\$ 1,646	14,348	23,612,502
FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT-POSTSECONDARY	\$ 6,430,443	4,358	\$ 1,476			\$ 1,476	4,358	6,430,443
FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT CAREER EDUCATION	\$ 3,309,050	4,018	\$ 824			\$ 824	4,018	3,309,050
CHILDREN/SPOUSES OF DECEASED AND DISABLED VETERANS *	\$ 29,124,029	6,649	\$ 4,380	\$ 5,577,053	1,160	\$ 4,444	7,809	34,701,082
FLORIDA WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM	\$ 1,569,922	690	\$ 2,275	\$ -	-	\$ 2,275	792	1,569,922
ROSEWOOD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP	\$ 256,747	50	\$ 5,135	\$ -	-	\$ 5,135	50	256,747
HONORABLY DISCHARGED GRADUATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 1,000,000	1,422	\$ 703	\$ -	-	\$ 703	587	1,000,000
FLORIDA FARMWORKER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP	\$ 272,151	50	\$ 5,443	\$ -		\$ 5,443	50	272,151
RANDOLPH BRACY OCOEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	\$ 305,000	50	\$ 6,100	\$ -	-	\$ 6,100	50	305,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 301,923,861</b>	<b>174,457</b>		<b>\$ 5,577,053</b>	<b>1,160</b>		<b>174,884</b>	<b>307,500,914</b>

**NOTE:** The August 6, 2025, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference projection was used for CSDDV.

FFSS, Ocoee, and RFS are capped in statute at 50 students.

The Estimating Conference does not estimate any of the other scholarship programs. Prior Year actuals are maintained.

## Item 67 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$500,000 is requested to continue reimbursing up to \$1,000 of equivalency training costs for certified law enforcement officers who relocate to Florida or members of the special operations forces who become full-time law enforcement officers in Florida.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement Program (ACT 2605)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Financial incentives to recruit law enforcement officers who relocate from outside the State of Florida or who transition from service in the special operations forces.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, the department, in consultation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, will reimburse eligible applicants who relocate to Florida or who transition from service in the special operations forces to become a full-time law enforcement officer within Florida. The scholarships reimburse eligible expenses incurred while obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification.

To be eligible for such reimbursement, an applicant's employing agency must certify that he or she: qualifies for an exemption from the basic recruit training program and is not sponsored by the employing agency to cover the cost of equivalency training.

Eligible applicants may be reimbursed for eligible costs and fees up to \$1,000, which include any cost or fee incurred for:

- any equivalency assessment administered to determine required equivalency training,
- any equivalency training required by the commission, and
- the law enforcement officer certification examination.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$1,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$1,000,000

**Item 68 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Florida First Responder Scholarship Program****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	10,000,000	0	0	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	10,000,000	0	0	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$10,000,000 is requested to continue funding scholarships for tuition, applicable fees, and up to \$1,000 for eligible expenses to trainees enrolled in an approved training program at a Florida College System institution or school district technical center.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Florida First Responder Scholarship Program (ACT 2601)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1000.896, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Assist in the recruitment of first responders within Florida through the increase of postsecondary access and education opportunities to state student financial assistance.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, the Florida Law Enforcement Scholarship Program was renamed the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program and was expanded to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters within the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who enroll in an approved training program.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$10,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$5,000,000 (Formerly the Florida Law Enforcement Scholarship Program)
- 2022-23 - \$5,000,000 (Formerly the Florida Law Enforcement Scholarship Program)

**Item 70 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	18,050,000	0	0	18,050,000	18,050,000	0	18,050,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	18,050,000	0	0	18,050,000	18,050,000	0	18,050,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$18,050,000 is requested to continue funding postsecondary institutions in support of approximately 37,000 students enrolled in a dual enrollment program at an average award amount of \$487.84.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program (ACT 2047)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.30, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Increase postsecondary access and educational opportunities for secondary students.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The 2021 legislature established the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program due to the importance of dual enrollment being an integral part of the education system in this state and should be available for all eligible secondary students without cost to the student. The scholarship provides postsecondary institutions with a reimbursement for expenses associated with providing dual enrollment courses to private, home education, and personalized education program secondary students in the fall and spring terms, and to public, private, home education, and personalized education program secondary students in the summer term. In Fiscal Year 2024-25 the program was expanded to allow eligible independent postsecondary institutions to be reimbursed through the program. An eligible independent college or university includes those that are not for profit, accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, and confers degrees as defined in section 1005.02, Florida Statutes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$18,050,000
- 2023-24 - \$18,050,000
- 2022-23 - \$27,786,642

**Item 71 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship Program**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$7,000,000 is requested to continue funding an alternative pathway to education and workforce opportunities for students.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

**GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship Program (ACT2045)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1009.711 and 1004.933, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

The GATE Scholarship Program supports institutions participating in the GATE Program to create an alternative pathway to education and workforce opportunities for students who have withdrawn from high school prior to graduation. This alternative pathway program waives tuition and fees for participating students who have not earned a standard high school diploma.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 7032 to create the GATE program, in addition to, the GATE Scholarship Program. The GATE Scholarship Program (s. 1009.711, F.S.) supports institutions participating in the GATE Program (s. 1004.933, F.S.) with the reimbursement of registration, tuition, laboratory, and examination fees and related instructional materials costs for students enrolled in the GATE Program.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$7,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$0
- 2022-23 - \$0

# **Student Financial Aid Program (Federal)**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 73 - Student Financial Aid Program (Federal) - Student Financial Aid

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	100,000	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	100,000	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$100,000 is requested to continue funding loan repayment assistance to approximately 13 recipients at an average award amount of \$7,692.31 under the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program (ACT2048)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

42 U.S.C. 3797cc-21

#### **PURPOSE:**

To encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as prosecutors and public defenders for the state of Florida.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program is to assist funding of loan repayment for local, state and federal public defenders and prosecutors within the state of Florida. The purpose of the program is to encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as prosecutors and public defenders. Funding for the program is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$100,000
- 2023-24 - \$185,548
- 2022-23 - \$100,000

**Item 74 - Student Financial Aid Program (Federal) - Transfer Default Fees to the Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Student Loan Oper TF	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$5,000 is requested to continue funding the payment of the one percent default fee on behalf of students acquiring student loans from the U.S. Department of Education, administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

**GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Transfer Default Fees To Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund (ACT 2055)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1010.731, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Ease the financial burden of postsecondary education access for students and generate revenues that can support scholarships for Florida students.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) operates the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) within regulations established by the U.S. Department of Education. Earnings from this program support the operations of the student loan program and provide scholarships to Florida students.

The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 eliminated the bank-based guaranteed student loan program (Federal Family Education Loan Program) administered by OSFA and moved all colleges to the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan Program as of July 1, 2010.

Federal regulations require guarantee agencies to charge a one percent default fee on each student loan that is guaranteed on July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2010. The payment of the fee is transferred from the Student Loan Operating Trust Fund to the Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund upon notification of the student loan disbursement. Federal regulations require guarantee agencies to maintain a Federal Fund (Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund), which is the property of the U.S. Department of Education and can only be used for default aversion fees, claims submitted by lenders for defaulted student loans and deposits of the default fee.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$5,000
- 2023-24 - \$5,000
- 2022-23 - \$5,000

# **Early Learning**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 75 - Early Learning Services - Salaries and Benefits

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,372,118	0	0	5,372,118	5,372,118	0	5,372,118	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	4,419,954	0	0	4,419,954	4,419,954	0	4,419,954	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	9,792,072	0	0	9,792,072	9,792,072	0	9,792,072	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$9,792,072 is requested to continue funding salaries and benefits for 97 employees of the Division of Early Learning.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT0940)  
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide executive direction and management of School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education programs and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Funding provides for the salaries and benefits of the Division of Early Learning employees.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$9,784,348
- 2023-24 - \$9,454,864
- 2022-23 - \$8,968,718

## Item 76 - Early Learning Services - Other Personal Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	118,840	0	0	118,840	118,840	0	118,840	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	220,160	0	0	220,160	220,160	0	220,160	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>339,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>339,000</b>	<b>339,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>339,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$339,000 is requested to continue funding for temporary services and time-limited projects in the Division of Early Learning.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
 Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
 Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Funding provides assistance to meet deadlines for critical projects and time-limited work products for a variety of School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education programs, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provides funding for temporary hourly employees.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$338,084
- 2023-24 - \$336,802
- 2022-23 - \$336,802

## Item 77 - Early Learning Services - Expenses

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	455,745	0	0	455,745	455,745	0	455,745	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	658,048	0	0	658,048	658,048	0	658,048	0	0.00%
Welfare Transition TF	265,163	0	0	265,163	265,163	0	265,163	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,378,956</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,378,956</b>	<b>1,378,956</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,378,956</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,378,956 is requested to continue funding for administrative expenses that support the Division of Early Learning.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provides funds for operational expenses for the Division of Early Learning programs.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This budget supports the administrative functions of the Division of Early Learning by providing for operational expenditures such as rent, travel, printing, telephones, educational materials, office supplies, non-capitalized equipment, technology supplies, and annual software license renewals.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,378,956
- 2023-24 - \$1,378,956
- 2022-23 - \$1,378,956

## Item 78 - Early Learning Services - Operating Capital Outlay

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	15,000	0	0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	20,000	0	0	20,000	20,000	0	20,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$20,000 is requested to continue funding for Operating Capital Outlay in support of the administrative functions of the Division of Early Learning.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provides for the replacement of appropriate office equipment and technical equipment.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Funds the replacement of furniture, computers, servers, and other office equipment exceeding a cost of \$5,000 and with a life expectancy of at least one year to support the administrative functions of the Division of Early Learning.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$20,000
- 2023-24 - \$20,000
- 2022-23 - \$20,000

## Item 79A - Early Learning Services - G/A - Contracted Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,150,211	0	0	1,150,211	1,150,211	0	1,150,211	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	2,092,064	0	26,148,109	28,240,173	2,092,064	0	2,092,064	26,148,109	1249.87%
Federal Grants TF	1,320,264	0	0	1,320,264	1,320,264	0	1,320,264	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,562,539</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,148,109</b>	<b>30,710,648</b>	<b>4,562,539</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,562,539</b>	<b>26,148,109</b>	<b>573.10%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$4,562,539 is requested to continue funding contracted services for the Division of Early Learning.

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

\$26,148,109 is requested in nonrecurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority for the following:

- \$15,720,109 in CCDF budget authority for the American Relief Act, 2025 Supplemental CCDF Non-Disaster Discretionary grant funds awarded to the department for child care.
- \$10,428,000 in CCDF budget authority for implementation of phase two of the CCDF Supplemental Disaster Recovery Grant addressing the impact of Hurricane Ian on child care in Florida.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

The department is requesting \$26,148,109 in nonrecurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority for the following:

##### **CCDF Supplemental Non-Disaster Discretionary — \$15,720,109**

The department is requesting \$15,720,109 in nonrecurring CCDF budget authority for the American Relief Act, 2025 (ARA) Supplemental CCDF Non-Disaster Discretionary grant funds awarded to the department on December 21, 2024, for child care. These funds will be available until September 30, 2028.

The ARA supplemental CCDF Non-Disaster Discretionary grant funding is in addition to the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations and is meant to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local public funds expended to provide child care services for eligible individuals. Per ARA guidelines, the recommended uses include upgrading systems to align provider payments with private pay practices, implementing grants or contracts for direct services, paying child care providers based on cost of providing care, lowering and waiving family co-payments, and reducing bureaucracy for families. The department's proposed initiatives include items to assess, update, and enhance Information technology security, enhanced field system - modernization, quality performance

system, and online curriculum submission and review site for the School Readiness Program and Voluntary Kindergarten Program.

#### **CCDF Supplemental Disaster Hurricane Ian - Phase 2 — \$10,428,000**

The department is requesting \$10,428,000 in nonrecurring CCDF budget authority for phase two of the CCDF Supplemental Disaster Recovery Grant funds. The department does not have sufficient budget authority to implement this program.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans federal distribution of two phases of supplemental funds for child care disaster recovery implementation grants to address the impact of Hurricane Ian on child care. The department was awarded \$2,250,000 for phase one from the CCDF Trust Fund to plan for implementation of disaster recovery activities. Additional funding was awarded in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 for implementation of the activities and plans developed in phase one. The department's request for phase two funds includes a preliminary budget based on the department's experience with a previous disaster recovery grant (Hurricane Michael). This budget outlines activities/categories that Florida will likely implement with the phase two award that includes materials, supplies, furnishings and equipment or other child care supply building; mental health consultation or services; quality improvement activities; and direct services for eligible children.

The department was awarded \$21,428,000 on September 25, 2024, for phase two to implement the activities and plans that will be developed in phase one of the CCDF Supplemental Disaster Recovery Grant addressing the impact of Hurricane Ian on child care in Florida. Of this, \$11,000,000 was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2024-25 and reverted and reappropriated in Fiscal Year 2025-26. The department is requesting the balance of \$10,428,000 to continue the implementation of phase two in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Funds financial monitoring services, fraud investigations, observation-based program for teacher assessment, plans to implement quality initiatives throughout the state based on the needs assessment for children birth to five, and other services necessary for the Division of Early Learning.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This budget supports multiple statewide contracts to support the services provided by the Division of Early Learning.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$18,467,275
- 2023-24 - \$18,467,275
- 2022-23 - \$18,967,275

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 80 - Early Learning Services - G/A - Partnership for School Readiness

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,808,957	0	0	1,808,957	3,508,957	1,700,000	1,808,957	(1,700,000)	(48.45%)
Child Care and Dev TF	13,500,000	2,691,043	0	16,191,043	26,191,043	12,691,043	13,500,000	(10,000,000)	(38.18%)
Welfare Transition TF	1,400,000	2,500,000	0	3,900,000	3,900,000	2,500,000	1,400,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,708,957</b>	<b>5,191,043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,900,000</b>	<b>33,600,000</b>	<b>16,891,043</b>	<b>16,708,957</b>	<b>(11,700,000)</b>	<b>(34.82%)</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$16,708,957 is requested to continue funding for the following programs:

- \$1,808,957 in General Revenue (GR) funds for Help Me Grow Florida Network.
- \$1,400,000 in Welfare Transition Trust Fund (TANF) funds for Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY).
- \$3,500,000 in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) funds for Quality Differential Payment Program.
- \$10,000,000 in CCDF funds for the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Program (T.E.A.C.H.).

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$5,191,043 is requested to restore nonrecurring funds for the following programs:

- \$2,500,000 in TANF funds for continuation of HIPPY projects.
- \$2,691,043 in CCDF funds to continue the expansion of the Help Me Grow Florida Network to all 67 counties.

\$11,700,000 is not requested to be restored in nonrecurring funds for the following programs:

- \$975,000 in GR funds for the Growing Greatness for Florida's Youngest Children: Empowering Teachers to Improve School Readiness.
- \$375,000 in GR funds for the Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System.
- \$350,000 in GR funds for the Tiny Talkers Preschool Initiative.
- \$10,000,000 in CCDF funds for the T.E.A.C.H. program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting \$5,191,043 to restore nonrecurring funds for the following programs:

##### **Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) — \$2,500,000**

The department is requesting \$2,500,000 in nonrecurring Welfare Transition Trust Fund (TANF) funds for the HIPPY program. The funding will continue serving sites to deliver high-quality early learning curriculum directly to

parents, so they can strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children. Early learning coalitions in these counties refer families to HIPPY, based on their poverty level, limited education, and willingness to participate actively in all aspects of the program. HIPPY is known worldwide and has a presence in 19 of Florida's counties.

#### **Help Me Grow Florida — \$2,691,043**

The department is requesting \$2,691,043 in nonrecurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) funds to continue expansion of the Help Me Grow Florida Network to all 67 counties. Through partnerships with the early learning coalitions, this funding will support the Help Me Grow Florida Program's ability to locate, identify, and assist families to obtain services for children 3 to 5 years who have developmental delays, suspected delays, and/or special learning needs. In Fiscal Year 2024-25, Help Me Grow Florida served 43 counties through 15 affiliate sites, two of which are funded through other sources. Of the 13 affiliates funded through the department, 9,523 developmental and behavioral screenings were completed, 44 percent of which required further follow-up and supports. 90 percent of children were successfully connected to at least one needed resource.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide for multiple programs supporting school readiness programs including the Help Me Grow, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.), and the Quality Differential Payment Program administered by the Division of Early Learning.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

##### **HELP ME GROW**

This program assists states in identifying children birth through age five at risk for developmental or behavioral challenges and connects their families with community-based services and programs. Help Me Grow promotes early identification of developmental, behavioral, or educational concerns, then links children and families to community-based services and supports at no cost to parents and caregivers. The Help Me Grow system is designed to leverage existing resources to ensure communities identify vulnerable children, link families to community-based services, and empower families to support their children's healthy development through the implementation of four Core Components. These components include a centralized access point, family and community outreach, child health provider outreach, and data collection and analysis.

### **HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (HIPPY)**

The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is an evidence-based, home-visiting program that partners with parents and guardians of children ages two through five to help prepare children for school success. The HIPPY program is delivered by home visitors who are members of the community served and many were once parents in the program. Parents are provided with an evidence-based curriculum, materials, and books related to the activities that parents and children do together. Group meetings allow parents to come together and share their experiences.

### **QUALITY DIFFERENTIAL PAYMENT PROGRAM**

Section 1002.82(2)(o), Florida Statutes, directs the Division of Early Learning to develop a differential payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the department. This funding provides training and system supports to maintain statewide capacity to implement quality measures used for determining quality differential payments.

### **TEACHER EDUCATION AND COMPENSATION HELPS (T.E.A.C.H.)**

Early Childhood Scholarship Program licensed by the Children's Forum in Tallahassee, Florida.

The goal of the program is to increase the education and training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood education. (Section 1002.95, F.S.)

The program provides professional learning scholarships to improve the skill level of early childhood workers and center directors, as well as:

- Links training, compensation, and commitment to improving the quality of early care and education experiences for young children and families.
- Provides scholarships for early childhood teachers and center directors to work toward earning an AS or BS degree in early childhood education, a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, a Florida Staff Credential, or a Director Credential.
- Involves a partnership for sharing expenses by the educator receiving the scholarship, the sponsor child care center or family child care home, and the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$33,921,000
- 2023-24 - \$56,493,000
- 2022-23 - \$52,548,957

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 81 - Early Learning Services - G/A - School Readiness

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	155,995,939	0	0	155,995,939	155,995,939	0	155,995,939	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	728,709,466	142,500,000	20,000,000	891,209,466	871,209,466	142,500,000	728,709,466	20,000,000	2.30%
Federal Grants TF	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%
Welfare Transition TF	94,112,427	0	0	94,112,427	94,112,427	0	94,112,427	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>979,317,832</b>	<b>142,500,000</b>	<b>20,000,000</b>	<b>1,141,817,832</b>	<b>1,121,817,832</b>	<b>142,500,000</b>	<b>979,317,832</b>	<b>20,000,000</b>	<b>1.78%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$937,317,832 is requested to continue funding for the School Readiness Program child care services.

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$142,500,000 is requested to be restored in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority based on the following:

- \$70,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program;
- \$40,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program;
- \$2,500,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of the School Readiness Special Needs Differentials; and
- \$30,000,000 in recurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Match Program.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$20,000,000 is requested in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority based on the following:

- \$5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program;
- \$5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program; and
- \$10,000,000 in recurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Match Program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

## **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$142,500,000 in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority for the School Readiness Program, based on the following:

### **Gold Seal Quality Care — \$70,000,000**

The department is requesting \$70,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(1)(d), F.S., and targeted federal requirements for improving the quality of infant and toddler child care to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

### **Quality Differential Payment Program — \$40,000,000**

The department is requesting \$40,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program and enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.82(2)(o), F.S.

### **Special Needs Differentials — \$2,500,000**

The department is requesting \$2,500,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of the School Readiness Special Needs Differentials, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(1)(b), F.S.

### **School Readiness Match Program — \$30,000,000**

The department is requesting \$30,000,000 in recurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Match Program, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(3), F. S. and CCDF match requirements.

## **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$20,000,000 in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority for the School Readiness Program, based on the following:

### **Gold Seal Quality Care — \$5,000,000**

The department is requesting \$5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(1)(d), F.S., and targeted federal requirements for improving the quality of infant and toddler child care to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

### **Quality Differential Payment Program — \$5,000,000**

The department is requesting \$5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program and enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.82(2)(o), F.S.

### **School Readiness Match Program — \$10,000,000**

The department is requesting \$10,000,000 in recurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Match Program, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(3), F. S. and CCDF match requirements.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide School Readiness Services (ACT 0920)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Part VI, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide school readiness programs to enable parents to access high-quality early learning programs for their children allowing the parent to work and achieve self-sufficiency.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

In 1999, the Florida Legislature established a statewide school readiness program to ensure children of low-income working families receive high-quality care. The School Readiness Program is a financial assistance program for working families with children at-risk of school failure, including children from families with low incomes, families receiving temporary cash assistance or transitional child care, migrant farm workers and those with children at risk of abuse, neglect, homelessness or being victims of domestic violence.

The School Readiness Program:

- Supports families in accessing and affording quality early learning services;
- Enables eligible parents to participate in workforce training, pursue higher education, and remain in the workforce so they may achieve economic self-sufficiency;
- Involves parents as their child's first teacher;
- Provides parents with information on child development, family well-being, and other topics related to early learning and community resources;
- Prepares children to enter kindergarten ready to learn, which builds a foundation for success in life;
- Serves as a preventive measure for children at risk of future school failure and enhances the educational readiness of eligible children; and
- Assists parents in preparing their at-risk children for educational success, including, as appropriate, health screening and referral services.

The School Readiness Program has eligibility requirements based on state and federal laws and rules that include the following:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be working or participating in an educational activity such as attending college or trade school at least 20 hours per week or a total of 40 hours per week for a two-parent household, if applicable for their eligibility group;
- The family must meet the income guidelines based on the federal poverty level per family size and most recent gross income; and
- Families pay a copayment based on their income and family unit size unless waived on a case-by-case basis.

This category funds the School Readiness Program via the 30 early learning coalitions and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association that administer early childhood education and child care programs provided for targeted populations of children based on need.

- 2024-25 more than 210,635 children served through 6,910 child care service providers
- 2023-24 more than 212,014 children served through 6,850 child care service providers
- 2022-23 more than 209,986 children served through 6,790 child care service providers

**Gold Seal Quality Care Program**

Beginning in 1998, the Florida Legislature authorized the payment of a rate differential or stipend to child care providers who achieved Florida "Gold Seal" quality status through accreditation. Since then, this has evolved into the Gold Seal Quality Care Program designation that providers can obtain if they are accredited by an approved

Gold Seal Quality Care Accrediting Association as outlined in Rule 6M-10.001. Providers must maintain accreditation and continuously meet the standards established by their Gold Seal Quality Care Accrediting Association in order to retain their designation. This program was transferred to the department from the Department of Children and Families via Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida, section 1002.945, Florida Statutes.

### **Quality Differential Payment Program**

The Quality Performance Incentive (QPI) differential is paid to School Readiness providers based upon their program assessment composite score for zero to five classrooms and range from seven to ten percent above the established early learning coalition (ELC) reimbursement rate for each care level and unit of care. School Readiness providers on Quality Improvement Plans are ineligible for such payment.

School Readiness providers may also qualify for child assessment differential payments. This differential is paid to School Readiness providers based on the completion of child assessments for children age birth to five years and for whom providers submit valid and reliable data on language and executive functioning domains into the department's data system. Again, School Readiness providers on Quality Improvement Plans are ineligible for such payment.

### **Special Needs Differentials**

Special needs children are a priority eligibility category for the School Readiness Program. To qualify for special needs, a child must be aged between three and five years old, have been determined eligible as a student with a disability, and have a current individual education plan or family support plan with a Florida school district. A School Readiness provider that serves a special needs child may receive a higher reimbursement rate, up to 20 percent above the established coalition reimbursement rate for infant care, from the early learning coalition if caring for a School Readiness child with special needs requires additional care beyond services required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The provider must submit a list of the additional services it provides to the child and request the special needs rate from the early learning coalition. A special needs rate shall be reimbursed for a School Readiness child that has a documented physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral condition and must be validated by a licensed health, mental health, education, or social service professional other than the child's parent or person employed by the child care provider. The early learning coalition may approve the higher reimbursement rate for the higher level of care required in the child care setting.

### **School Readiness Match Program**

These funds are provided from the General Appropriations Act to expand the provision of services to low-income families at or below 70 percent of the state median income as long as it does not exceed 85 percent of the state median income. Local matching funds can be derived from local governments, employers, charitable foundations, and other sources so that Florida communities can create local partnerships focused on using the state and local funds for direct services and expanding the number of School Readiness slots.

To be eligible for funding, an early learning coalition must match its portion of the state funds with a dollar-for-dollar match of local funds. The Division of Early Learning shall establish procedures for the match program which shall include giving priority to early learning coalitions whose local match complies with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant matching requirements.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,202,314,283
- 2023-24 - \$1,113,347,242
- 2022-23 - \$1,079,034,998

## Item 81a - Early Learning Services - G/A - School Readiness Plus Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	5,356,803	5,356,803	0	0	0	5,356,803	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	0	0	5,356,803	5,356,803	0	0	0	5,356,803	100.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$5,356,803 is requested in recurring General Revenue funds to continue implementation of the School Readiness (SR) Plus Program in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and annually thereafter.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting \$5,356,803 in recurring General Revenue (GR) funds to continue implementation of the School Readiness (SR) Plus Program in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and annually thereafter. This budget request will allow the department to comply with s. 1002.935, F.S.

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the department was appropriated \$23,076,259 in nonrecurring GR funds to implement the SR Plus Program. The funds were placed in reserve, pending budget amendments, a budget amendment for \$12,392,762 allocated to each early learning coalition (ELC) was submitted and approved. This was determined based on the number of children (FTE, full-time equivalent) projected to be eligible for the subsidy in Fiscal Year 2024-25, the projected base SR Plus rate per FTE by ELC, the projected differential rates per FTE, the projected administrative cost at five percent by ELC, and the projected SR provider reimbursement rate increase. The projected amounts were calculated using actual payment data from Fiscal Year 2022-23 and the provider reimbursement rates from Fiscal Year 2023-24 and adjusted to consider the increased rates approved in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 General Appropriations Act. The department used this methodology, updated with actual payment data from Fiscal Year 2023-24, to derive this request.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Part VI, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

The School Readiness (SR) Plus Program established in s. 1002.935, F.S., is for currently working SR families transitioning off SR services to assist in economic self-sufficiency and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible families.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The School Readiness (SR) Plus Program established in s. 1002.935, F.S., is for currently working SR families transitioning off SR services to assist in economic self-sufficiency and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible families. The early learning coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for administering the program and may not use more than five percent of program funds for administrative costs per fiscal year. SR Plus Providers are reimbursed the same rates as the approved reimbursement rates for the SR Program, including quality differentials. SR Plus families are authorized for care in 12-month increments and are redetermined annually. If the family loses purpose of care during their 12-month authorization period, a 3-month re-establishment period is granted to the family. If the family does not re-establish a new purpose of care during the 3-month period, the family will no longer be eligible for the SR Plus Program. The family's copayment amount in SR Plus will increase as their income increases and will be set at a percent higher than what is allowable in the SR Program.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$23,076,259
- 2023-24 - \$0
- 2022-23 - \$0

## Item 83 - Early Learning Services - G/A - Early Learning Standards and Accountability

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	2,095,525	224,247	2,319,772	2,095,525	2,095,525	0	224,247	10.70%
Child Care and Dev TF	2,847,075	0	304,673	3,151,748	2,847,075	0	2,847,075	304,673	10.70%
<b>Total</b>	2,847,075	2,095,525	528,920	5,471,520	4,942,600	2,095,525	2,847,075	528,920	10.70%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$2,847,075 is requested to continue implementation of the required Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program accountability system.

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,095,525 is requested to be restored in recurring General Revenue (GR) funds.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$528,920 is requested for increased costs to support the VPK program and the projected increase in the number of VPK classrooms receiving these supports of approximately 550 classrooms:

- \$224,247 in recurring GR; and
- \$304,673 in recurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund budget authority.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting \$2,095,525 to be restored as recurring General Revenue to continue implementation of the required Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program accountability system, including the VPK Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) program assessments for Fiscal Year 2026-27, enabling the division to comply with proviso and Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida.

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting \$528,920 to continue implementation of the required Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program accountability system, including the VPK Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) program assessments for Fiscal Year 2026-27, enabling the division to comply with proviso and

Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida. The department is requesting \$224,247 in recurring General Revenue funds and \$304,673 in recurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund budget authority. This increase in recurring budget is based on increased costs supporting the program from Fiscal Year 2025-26 to Fiscal Year 2026-27, including the number of VPK classrooms receiving these supports, which are estimated to increase from 5,031 to 5,573 from Fiscal Year 2024-25 to 2025-26.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT 0930)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002, Part V, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Maintain the quality of the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program through enhanced standards-related support for VPK instructors, providers, and parents, and continued implementation of the required VPK accountability system.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The VPK Program is constitutionally mandated to be available to all eligible prekindergartners. Children who complete the VPK Program consistently outperformed non-VPK participants on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). These results are due, in part, to the department's development and delivery of high-quality professional development to Florida's VPK instructors and directors, funded by the VPK Standards and Accountability appropriation.

Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida (HB 419), passed in the 2021 Regular Session, revised the entire accountability system for the VPK program. VPK no longer uses kindergarten readiness as a measure based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener. The new assessment is Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy and new outcomes have been developed based on this assessment and policies established under HB 419.

Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida requires each Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program provider (private and public) to participate in a program assessment beginning with the 2022-23 program year. The program assessment measures the quality of teacher-child interactions, including emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support for children ages 3 to 5 years. Each VPK provider receives the results of the program assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the observation. Each early learning coalition is responsible for the administration of the program assessments, which must be conducted by qualified individuals.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation-based program assessment instrument that measures teacher-child interactions in three broad areas — emotional support, classroom organization, and

instructional support. The CLASS assessment describes multiple teaching components linked to student achievement and social development. Given that program assessments/CLASS is also required for most School Readiness programs, more than 750 CLASS observers (assessors) statewide have received training, which includes — Pre-K Observer Training, Pre-K Observer Train-the-Trainer, Making the Most of Classroom Interactions Train-the-Trainer, Toddler Observer Training, and Toddler Observer Train-the-Trainer.

Each VPK program provider (private and public) is required to participate in the CLASS program assessment. This appropriation will provide for CLASS program assessment support for the VPK program to provide costs associated with conducting the observations including the training of observers and teacher training and support. These mirror those supports already provided to school readiness providers and will allow the continued implementation of the CLASS program assessment requirement in the VPK program, per Ch. 2021-10, L.O.F., including VPK regional facilitators to assist early learning coalitions in the implementation of these assessments.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$4,942,600
- 2023-24 - \$4,942,600
- 2022-23 - \$4,942,600

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 84 - Early Learning Services - Risk Management Insurance

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	7,046	0	0	7,046	7,046	0	7,046	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	19,973	0	0	19,973	19,973	0	19,973	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	27,019	0	0	27,019	27,019	0	27,019	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$27,019 is requested to continue funding for risk management insurance premiums for the Division of Early Learning.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

These funds provide business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds provide for workers' compensation insurance, general liability insurance, federal civil rights insurance, and auto liability insurance premiums. The state's Division of Risk Management recommends annual appropriations amounts.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$27,019
- 2023-24 - \$26,130
- 2022-23 - \$24,669

## Item 85 - Early Learning Services - Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	434,199,644	0	51,960,477	486,160,121	434,199,644	0	434,199,644	51,960,477	11.97%
<b>Total</b>	434,199,644	0	51,960,477	486,160,121	434,199,644	0	434,199,644	51,960,477	11.97%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$434,199,644 is requested for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program based on the following:

- \$431,425,753 is requested to continue funding for the constitutionally established VPK Education Program.
- \$2,773,891 is requested to continue implementation of the VPK Summer Bridge program.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$29,007,069 in General Revenue is requested for the projected VPK student enrollment increase of 7,140 FTEs (full-time equivalent/students).

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

\$22,953,408 in recurring General Revenue to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for the VPK program from \$3,029/FTE to \$3,180/FTE for School Year students, a 5 percent increase of \$151/FTE - and from \$2,586/FTE to \$2,715/FTE for Summer Program students, a 5 percent increase of \$129/FTE.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting \$29,007,069 in General Revenue for the projected student enrollment increase of 7,140 FTEs (full-time equivalent/students), based on the August 7, 2025, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program Estimating Conference.

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

The department is requesting \$22,953,408 in General Revenue to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for the VPK program from \$3,029/FTE to \$3,180/FTE (FTE - full-time equivalent/students) for School Year students a 5 percent increase of \$151/FTE - and from \$2,586/FTE to \$2,715/FTE for Summer Program students, a 5

percent increase of \$129/FTE. This increase in the VPK BSA is needed for VPK providers to keep up with the increasing minimum wage schedule as it reaches \$15 per hour by September 2026, as well as continue to provide the competitive salaries necessary to recruit and retain qualified VPK instructors.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Part V, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide leadership and support to administer Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program is constitutionally mandated and available free-of-charge to all eligible four-year-olds (and young five-year-olds). The VPK program provides funding for students using a full-time equivalent (FTE) and base student allocation methodology. Funds are distributed through early learning coalitions to public and private providers.

The base student allocation (BSA) for Florida's VPK is determined annually by the Florida Legislature and prescribed in the current year's General Appropriations Act. There is a separate base student allocation per FTE for the school-year prekindergarten program and for the summer prekindergarten program.

The VPK Summer Bridge Program is for the established Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program students who score below the 10th percentile on the final administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) and will enable these children to receive additional services and supports from the local school district, with strong emphasis on emergent literacy skills, to support kindergarten readiness. This is a separate allocation methodology, and the funds are provided directly to the school districts.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$438,137,258
- 2023-24 - \$427,003,731
- 2022-23 - \$538,417,542

## Early Learning Voluntary PreKindergarten

**Base Student Allocation**

Fiscal Year	School Year	Summer
2025-26	\$3,029	\$2,586
2024-25	\$3,029	\$2,586
2023-24	\$2,941	\$2,511
2022-23	\$2,803	\$2,393
2021-22	\$2,486	\$2,122
2020-21	\$2,486	\$2,122
2019-20	\$2,437	\$2,080
2018-19	\$2,437	\$2,080
2017-18	\$2,437	\$2,080
2016-17	\$2,437	\$2,080
2015-16	\$2,437	\$2,080
2014-15	\$2,437	\$2,080
2013-14	\$2,383	\$2,026
2012-13	\$2,383	\$2,026
2011-12	\$2,383	\$2,026
2010-11	\$2,562	\$2,179
2009-10	\$2,575	\$2,190
2008-09	\$2,628	\$2,190
2007-08	\$2,677	*
2006-07	\$2,560	*

**FTE Enrollment**

Fiscal Year	Total FTE
2026-27**	144,874
2025-26**	137,734
2024-25**	138,391
2023-24	139,235
2022-23	141,382
2021-22	138,155
2020-21	117,002
2019-20	159,063
2018-19	155,813
2017-18	153,782

---

\*No separate BSA for Summer

\*\*Based on August 2025 VPK Estimating Conference

**Early Learning  
Sector Sheet  
FY 2026-27**

	<b>2025-26 Appropriation</b>	<b>2026-27 LBR</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percentage Difference</b>
<hr/>				
<b><u>Operating Budget</u></b>				
Salaries and Benefits	\$9,792,072	\$9,792,072	\$0	0.00%
Other Personnel Services	\$339,000	\$339,000	\$0	0.00%
Expenses	\$1,378,956	\$1,378,956	\$0	0.00%
Operating Capital Outlay	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
Grants and Aids - Contracted Services	\$4,562,539	\$30,710,648	\$26,148,109	573.10%
Risk Management Insurance	\$27,019	\$27,019	\$0	0.00%
Transfer to Department of Management Services	\$33,594	\$33,594	\$0	0.00%
Education and Technology and Information Services	\$3,516,587	\$3,516,587	\$0	0.00%
Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	\$596,975	\$596,975	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$20,266,742</b>	<b>\$46,414,851</b>	<b>\$26,148,109</b>	<b>129.02%</b>
<hr/>				
<b><u>Grants and Aids</u></b>				
Partnership for School Readiness	\$33,600,000	\$21,900,000	(\$11,700,000)	-34.82%
School Readiness Services	\$1,121,817,832	\$1,141,817,832	\$20,000,000	1.78%
School Readiness Plus Program	\$0	\$5,356,803	\$5,356,803	100.00%
Early Learning Standards and Accountability	\$4,942,600	\$5,471,520	\$528,920	10.70%
Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)	\$434,199,644	\$486,160,121	\$51,960,477	11.97%
<b>Total Grants and Aids</b>	<b>\$1,594,560,076</b>	<b>\$1,660,706,276</b>	<b>\$66,146,200</b>	<b>89.63%</b>
<hr/>				
VPK Base Student Allocation:				
School Year	\$3,029	\$3,180	\$151	5.00%
Summer	\$2,586	\$2,715	\$129	5.00%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,614,826,818</b>	<b>\$1,707,121,127</b>	<b>\$92,294,309</b>	<b>5.72%</b>

**Item 85A - Early Learning Services - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	23,186	0	0	23,186	23,186	0	23,186	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	10,408	0	0	10,408	10,408	0	10,408	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,594</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,594</b>	<b>33,594</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,594</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$33,594 is requested to continue funding the current level of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
 Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
 Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

To provide for human resource management services for the Division of Early Learning.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (People First) to manage agency human resources.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$33,594
- 2023-24 - \$32,003
- 2022-23 - \$30,790

## Item 86 - Early Learning Services - Education Technology and Information Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,232,809	0	0	1,232,809	1,232,809	0	1,232,809	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	2,283,778	0	0	2,283,778	2,283,778	0	2,283,778	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	3,516,587	0	0	3,516,587	3,516,587	0	3,516,587	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$3,516,587 is requested to continue the current level of funding to provide critical technology and information support and services for the Division of Early Learning.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide the technological resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the Division of Early Learning.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:****INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES COST RECOVERY**

These funds are used to pay for services provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS). These services are paid in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes, for the cost recovery of information technology resources.

Below is a list of services provided:

- Telecommunications Support
- Network Support
- Help Desk and Desktop Support
- Disaster Recovery and Department-wide Data Center Services
- Department-wide Software, Software Maintenance, and Information Security Services
- Enterprise and Web Applications Development for Department-wide Applications
- Mainframe Support for Comptroller Functions

**ENHANCED FIELD SYSTEM - MODERNIZATION**

These funds also provide the information technology staff augmentation services for the maintenance of the Division of Early Learning's Enhanced Field System - Modernization. This system establishes a single statewide information system that each early learning coalition must use for the purposes of managing the single point of entry, tracking children's progress, coordinating services among stakeholders, determining eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and streamlining administrative processes for providers and early learning coalitions.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$3,508,347
- 2023-24 - \$3,467,150
- 2022-23 - \$3,409,640

## Item 87 - Early Learning Services - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	254,026	0	0	254,026	254,026	0	254,026	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	342,949	0	0	342,949	342,949	0	342,949	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	596,975	0	0	596,975	596,975	0	596,975	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$596,975 is requested to continue funding for data center and computer facilities services provided by Northwest Regional Data Center.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Cari Miller (850) 717-8554; James Finch (850) 717-8638

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)  
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)  
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

### **Primary Data Center -**

The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

### **Mainframe Environment –**

The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of Mainframe Disaster Recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The following is a list of the major mainframe applications and processes hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- Comptroller/Accounting processes

### **Open Systems Environment -**

The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- ARTS Budget Tracking System – LBR Greenbook
- PreK-20 Education Data Warehouse
- Enhanced Field System – Modernization

## **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$596,975
- 2023-24 - \$447,291
- 2022-23 - \$493,901

# **State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 5 and 88 - State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP - G/A - Florida Education Finance Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	12,421,983,912	0	351,151,612	12,773,135,524	12,292,574,943	(129,408,969)	12,421,983,912	480,560,581	3.91%
Lottery (EETF)	495,507,351	0	(108,000,000)	387,507,351	525,181,320	29,673,969	495,507,351	(137,673,969)	(26.21%)
State Sch TF	224,638,902	0	108,000,000	332,638,902	324,373,902	99,735,000	224,638,902	8,265,000	2.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,142,130,165</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>351,151,612</b>	<b>13,493,281,777</b>	<b>13,142,130,165</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,142,130,165</b>	<b>351,151,612</b>	<b>2.67%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:** **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$13,142,130,165 is requested to continue funding 3,234,902.49 full-time equivalent (FTE) students in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

#### **WORKLOAD**

\$701,935,668 overall increase is necessary to provide a workload increase for an additional 18,602.08 full-time equivalent (FTE). Scholarship FTE is projected to increase by 46,210.56 FTE, while district FTE is projected to decrease by (27,608.48). \$351,178,415 is requested to be paid from state funds and the remaining \$350,757,253 funded from additional required local effort (RLE) revenue.

#### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$108,000,000 is requested to be shifted from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the State School Trust Fund based on the August 15, 2025, Financial Outlook Statement, for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF).

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an overall increase of \$701,935,668. Of this amount, \$351,178,415 is requested from state funds and \$350,757,253 from the additional required local effort (RLE) revenue. This increase will provide total state funds of \$13,493,281,777. The total full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment is projected to increase by 18,602.08 FTE students, or 0.58 percent, from 3,234,902.49 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 to 3,253,504.57 in Fiscal Year 2026-27. Of this projected FTE increase, 46,210.56 is attributed to Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) students, and a decrease of (27,608.48) FTE is attributed to district students.

The workload is distributed as follows:

##### **ADJUSTMENT TO BASE FUNDING - \$16,263,660,838**

The total base Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding amount requested for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is \$16,263,660,838, which includes \$1,501,135,901 for the Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation. This request represents a decrease of (\$2,551,583,361) from the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation. This decrease is because of removing Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) students from the main calculation of FEFP funds and moving them to a state funded allocation. Of this decrease, an estimated (\$2,848,938,771) is due to the shift of FES students out of the main FEFP.

**CLASSROOM TEACHER AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL SALARY INCREASE ALLOCATION - \$1,501,135,901**

The Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation (formerly the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation) provides school districts and charter schools with funds to provide salary increases to full-time classroom teachers with at least two years of full-time teaching experience in Florida public schools or other full-time instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(b)-(d), F.S.. These funds are not a separate component of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and instead represent 9.23 percent of the total Base Funding allocation, increasing the Fiscal Year 2025-26 percentage of 8.66 percent by 0.57 percent. The request increases the allocation by \$144,556,794 over the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation.

**STATE-FUNDED DISCRETIONARY CONTRIBUTION - \$56,002,735**

The state provides each state university laboratory school and the Florida Virtual School with funds that, on a per-full-time equivalent (FTE) basis, are equivalent to the discretionary taxes the school districts in which they are located may collect. The increase in funds for university lab schools is due to enrollment and tax roll increases. For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the total amount requested is \$56,002,735, an increase of \$9,412,555 over the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation.

**DISCRETIONARY MILLAGE COMPRESSION FOR 0.748 OF A MILL - \$492,366,868**

If any school district levies the full 0.748 mill and it generates an amount of funds per unweighted full-time equivalent (FTE) that is less than the state average amount per unweighted FTE, the school district shall receive a discretionary millage compression supplement that, when added to the funds generated by the district's 0.748 mill levy, shall be equal to the state average as provided in section 1011.62(5), Florida Statutes. The state average levy per FTE for 0.748 mills is \$11,053.47. For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the total amount requested is \$492,366,868, an increase of \$35,933,260 over the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation as a result of raising districts to the state average FTE funding.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (DJJ) SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATION - \$2,511,239**

The supplemental allocation provides class size reduction funds for students in juvenile justice education programs in each school district, pursuant to the formula provided in section 1011.62(9), Florida Statutes. For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the total amount requested is \$2,511,239, a decrease of (\$59,875) from the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation is because of declining DJJ student population.

**EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE) GUARANTEED ALLOCATION - \$1,105,429,066**

The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Guaranteed Allocation provides exceptional student services for students formerly reported in ESE Support Levels I, II and III, pursuant to section 1011.62(1)(c)2, Florida Statutes. These funds are in addition to the funds appropriated based on full-time equivalent (FTE) student membership. For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the total amount requested is \$1,105,429,066, a decrease of (\$260,830,054) from the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation to cover workload. This overall decrease is because of removing Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) FTE from the main calculation of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds. The shift of scholarship students to their own funding line resulted in an estimated \$330,364,187 in ESE Guaranteed Allocation funds are being removed from this line item.

**EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT ALLOCATION - \$727,019,902**

The Educational Enrichment (formerly the Supplemental Academic Instruction Allocation) funds provide flexible resources to schools for supplemental academic instruction at appropriate times throughout the school year, pursuant to section 1011.62(7), Florida Statutes, as well as funds for Turnaround schools. For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the total amount requested for Educational Enrichment is \$727,019,902, a decrease of (\$121,203,749) from the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation. This overall decrease is because of removing Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) full-time equivalent (FTE) from the main calculation of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds. The shift of scholarship students to their own funding line resulted in an estimated \$126,511,66 in Educational Enrichment Allocation funds being removed from this line item.

#### FEDERALLY CONNECTED STUDENT SUPPLEMENT - \$16,253,321

The Federally Connected Student Supplement provides supplemental funding for school districts to support the education of students connected with federally owned military installations, National Aeronautics and Space Administration property and Indian Lands. There is a student allocation and an exempt property allocation for districts with students receiving Federal Impact Aid who meet the specific criteria described in section 1011.62(10), Florida Statutes. For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the total amount requested is \$16,253,321, which is an increase of \$69,341 over the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation is because of the increase to the Base Student Allocation.

#### SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ALLOCATION - \$4,427,435,144

The Scholarship Funding Allocation funds all Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) students outside of the main Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) calculation.

#### FUND SHIFT(S)

A fund shift of \$108,000,000 is requested from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to State School Trust Fund based on the August 15, 2025, Financial Outlook Statement for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF).

### GOALS

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0660)

#### STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1000.04, 1006.28, 1006.40, 1011.60-621, 1011.66-68, Florida Statutes  
Section 1, Article IX of the State Constitution

#### PURPOSE:

In 1973, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and established the state policy on equalized funding to guarantee each student in the Florida public education system the availability of programs and services appropriate to his or her educational needs that are substantially equal to those available to any similar student notwithstanding geographic differences and varying local economic factors.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

To provide equalization of educational opportunity, the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) formula recognizes varying: (1) local property tax bases; (2) education program costs; (3) costs of living; and (4) costs for equivalent educational programs due to scarcity and dispersion of the student population. The FEFP is the primary mechanism for funding the operating costs of Florida school districts and is the foundation for financing Florida's K-12 education programs. A key feature of the FEFP is that it bases financial support for education upon the individual student participating in a particular education program rather than upon the number of teachers or classrooms. FEFP funds are primarily generated by multiplying the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students in each of the funded education programs by cost factors to obtain weighted FTE amounts. Weighted FTE amounts are then multiplied by a base student allocation and by a comparable wage factor and a small district factor to determine the base funding from state and local FEFP funds. Program cost factors are determined by the Legislature and represent relative cost differences among the FEFP programs.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$12,720,432,199
- 2023-24 - \$12,080,861,480
- 2022-23 - \$10,657,600,560

## Item 6 and 89 - State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP - G/A - Class Size Reduction

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,543,040,905	0	0	2,543,040,905	2,543,040,905	0	2,543,040,905	0	0.00%
Lottery (EETF)	103,776,356	0	(27,197,393)	76,578,963	103,776,356	0	103,776,356	(27,197,393)	(26.21%)
State Sch TF	86,161,098	0	0	86,161,098	86,161,098	0	86,161,098	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,732,978,359</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(27,197,393)</b>	<b>2,705,780,966</b>	<b>2,732,978,359</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,732,978,359</b>	<b>(27,197,393)</b>	<b>(1.00%)</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$2,732,978,359 is requested to continue funding 2,719,636.84 full-time equivalent (FTE) students for Class Size Reduction (virtual education FTE, Department of Juvenile Justice FTE and Family Empowerment Scholarship FTE are not included in this FTE count).

##### **WORKLOAD**

A decrease of (\$27,197,393) is requested to provide for the estimated full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment decrease of (26,357.20) and to provide sufficient funding for school districts to meet the constitutional class size maximums in grades PreK-3, 4-8 and 9-12.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting a decrease of (\$27,197,393) in recurring Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to continue the implementation of policy to meet the constitutional class size maximums in grades PreK-3, 4-8 and 9-12. This is due to a projected decrease of (26,357.20) full-time equivalent (FTE) students, as determined by the April 11, 2025, Public Schools PreK-12 Enrollment Estimating Conference. The total funds requested will fund 2,693,279.64 FTE for a total of \$2,705,780,966.

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0660)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1002.31(5), 1002.33(16)(b)3., 1003.03, and 1011.685, Florida Statutes  
Section 1, Article IX, Florida Constitution

#### **PURPOSE:**

To ensure the maximum number of students per classroom does not exceed the constitutional requirements of 18 students in grades PreK-3, 22 students in grades 4-8, and 25 students in grades 9-12.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds are used to carry out Florida's Constitutional Amendment to Reduce Class Size, approved by the electorate on November 5, 2002. The full text of the amendment to Section 1, Article IX of the Florida Constitution is cited below:

(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high-quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high-quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. To ensure children attending public schools obtain a high-quality education, the legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

1. The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for pre-kindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;
2. The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and
3. The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with reducing class size to meet these requirements is the responsibility of the state and not of local school districts. Compliance with class size reduction requirements is calculated at the classroom level for traditional public schools as required by section 1003.03(1), Florida Statutes, at the school level for charter schools as required by section 1002.33(16)(b)3., Florida Statutes, and at the school level for district-operated schools of choice as required by section 1002.31(5), Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to section 1011.685(2), Florida Statutes, class size reduction operating categorical funds shall be used by school districts to reduce class size as required in section 1003.03, Florida Statutes, and to ensure school districts that meet the maximum class size requirement use the funds for any lawful operating expenditure, giving priority to increasing salaries of classroom teachers.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$2,771,299,363
- 2023-24 - \$2,784,578,812
- 2022-23 - \$2,896,071,526

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
2026-27 FEFP LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST  
STATEWIDE SUMMARY  
COMPARISON TO 2025-26 SECOND CALCULATION

	2025-26 FEFP Second Calculation	2026-27 FEFP LBR Run A	Difference	Percentage Difference
<b>MAJOR FEFP FORMULA COMPONENTS</b>				
Unweighted FTE	3,234,902.49	3,253,504.57	18,602.08	0.58%
<i>District Unweighted FTE</i>	<i>2,805,298.49</i>	<i>2,777,690.01</i>	<i>(27,608.48)</i>	<i>-0.98%</i>
<i>Scholarship Unweighted FTE</i>	<i>429,604.00</i>	<i>475,814.56</i>	<i>46,210.56</i>	<i>10.76%</i>
Weighted FTE	3,457,442.84	3,479,904.57	22,461.73	0.65%
<i>District Weighted FTE</i>	<i>2,991,239.52</i>	<i>2,961,711.27</i>	<i>(29,528.25)</i>	<i>-0.99%</i>
<i>Scholarship Weighted FTE</i>	<i>466,203.32</i>	<i>518,193.30</i>	<i>51,989.98</i>	<i>11.15%</i>
School Taxable Value	3,827,738,074,700	3,997,063,828,315	169,325,753,615	4.42%
Required Local Effort Millage	3.092	3.092	0.000	0.00%
Discretionary Millage	0.748	0.748	0.000	0.00%
Total Millage	3.840	3.840	0.000	0.00%
Base Student Allocation	5,372.60	5,422.60	50.00	0.93%
<b>FEFP DETAIL</b>				
WFTE x BSA x CWF x SDF (Base FEFP Funding)	18,815,244,199	16,263,660,838	(2,551,583,361)	-13.56%
<i>Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase (included in Base Funding)</i>	<i>1,356,579,107</i>	<i>1,501,135,901</i>	<i>144,556,794</i>	<i>10.66%</i>
State-Funded Discretionary Contribution	46,590,180	56,002,735	9,412,555	20.20%
0.748 Mills Discretionary Compression	456,433,608	492,366,868	35,933,260	7.87%
DJJ Supplemental Allocation	2,571,114	2,511,239	(59,875)	-2.33%
Safe Schools Allocation	290,000,000	300,000,000	10,000,000	3.45%
ESE Guaranteed Allocation	1,366,259,120	1,105,429,066	(260,830,054)	-19.09%
Educational Enrichment Allocation	848,223,651	727,019,902	(121,203,749)	-14.29%
Student Transportation	565,994,313	575,994,313	10,000,000	1.77%
Federally Connected Student Supplement	16,183,980	16,253,321	69,341	0.43%
Mental Health Assistance Allocation	180,000,000	190,000,000	10,000,000	5.56%
Academic Acceleration Options Supplement	596,771,896	596,771,896	0	0.00%
TOTAL FEFP	23,184,272,061	20,326,010,178	(2,858,261,883)	-12.33%
Less: Required Local Effort	10,909,379,489	11,260,163,545	350,784,056	3.22%
GROSS STATE FEFP	12,274,892,572	9,065,846,633	(3,209,045,939)	-26.14%
Proration to Appropriation	0	0	0	0.00%
Educational Enrollment Stabilization Allocation	0	0	0	0.00%
NET STATE FEFP	12,274,892,572	9,065,846,633	(3,209,045,939)	-26.14%
<b>STATE CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS</b>				
Class Size Reduction Allocation	2,732,978,359	2,705,780,966	(27,197,393)	-1.00%
State-Funded Discretionary Supplement	858,566,695	0	(858,566,695)	-100.00%
Scholarship Funding Allocation	0	4,427,435,144	4,427,435,144	0.00%
TOTAL STATE CATEGORICAL FUNDING	3,591,545,054	7,133,216,110	3,541,671,056	98.61%
TOTAL STATE FUNDING	15,866,437,626	16,199,062,743	332,625,117	2.10%
<b>LOCAL FUNDING</b>				
Total Required Local Effort	10,909,379,489	11,260,163,545	350,784,056	3.22%
Total Discretionary Taxes from 0.748 Mills	2,748,622,155	2,870,211,597	121,589,442	4.42%
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDING	13,658,001,644	14,130,375,142	472,373,498	3.46%
TOTAL FUNDING	29,524,439,270	30,329,437,885	804,998,615	2.73%
Total Funds per UFTE	9,126.84	9,322.08	195.24	2.14%

**This page is intentionally left blank**

# **State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**Item 90 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,500,000	0	0	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	6,500,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	6,500,000	0	0	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	6,500,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$6,500,000 is requested to continue funding The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Darren Norris (850) 245-9328; Tim Hay (850) 245-5172

**GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 30.15(1)(k), Florida Statutes  
Section 1006.12(3), Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide funds to Sheriff offices for screening-related and training-related costs and provide a one-time stipend of \$500 to district and charter school employees who participate in the school guardian program.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Chapter 2018-003, LOF, (Senate Bill 7026), created the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program through the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. In its initial report, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission found that having school guardians in schools is the best way to ensure highly trained personnel are in place to respond immediately in the event of a school shooting. The 2023 Legislature passed House Bill 543, which amended the name to the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program. Guardians are armed personnel who aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises. They are either school employees who volunteer to serve in addition to official job duties or personnel hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian. School guardians must pass psychological and drug screenings and successfully complete a minimum of 144 hours of training.

Sheriff's offices that opt to participate in this program can apply for funding through this grant. In order to be considered for funding, the sheriff's office must provide certification and supporting documents on file with the department that the sheriff's office has elected to implement the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, that the sheriff's office program is consistent with the requirements of section 30.15, Florida Statutes, and has provided the following required information:

- Whether participation in the program has been approved by the local school board and, if not, when it is scheduled to be considered.
- The number of potential school guardians expected to participate in the program.
- Identification of the school guardian program contact person.
- Certification that the district has agreed to implement the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, established in section 30.15, Florida Statutes, and per section 1006.12(3), Florida Statutes.
- Identification of measurable screening and training goals for participants who elect to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.
- A brief summary of the sheriff's office's screening protocols, training plan and other anticipated expenditures related to the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.
- An outline of the sheriff's office's plan to maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection and qualification records of each school guardian to be certified by the sheriff.

Project deliverables may include: the number of school guardian candidates screened, trained and certified by the sheriff's office; training courses, course dates and participant logs; a list of trained school guardians, with their assigned school; and verification of each school guardian's concealed weapon license issued under section 790.06, Florida Statutes, and school guardian certificate issued under section 30.15(1)(k), Florida Statutes. For Fiscal Year 2024-25, 49 sheriff's offices utilized grant funds for the Guardian Program. Currently, Guardian Programs are being implemented in 53 school districts.

## **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$6,500,000
- 2023-24 - \$6,500,000 (Formerly the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, category 050550)
- 2022-23 - \$6,500,000 (Formerly the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, category 050550)

**Item 91 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - School Recognition Program****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	135,000,000	0	0	135,000,000	135,000,000	0	135,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	135,000,000	0	0	135,000,000	135,000,000	0	135,000,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$135,000,000 is requested to continue funding eligible schools through the School Recognition Program.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0660)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1008.36, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Reward and recognize schools, faculty, and staff for the academic performance of their students.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Pursuant to section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, the purpose of the School Recognition Program provides awards as performance-based incentives to public schools that receive a school grade of "A," or improve more than one letter grade compared to the previous fiscal year. School Recognition Program funds are to be used for nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff, nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials, or temporary personnel to assist the school in maintaining or improving student performance. The school's staff and Student Advisory Council (SAC) must agree on how to spend these funds by February 1, or the awards will be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Florida Department of Education is required to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by June 30 of each year that details how the funds were spent by each eligible school and school district.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$200,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$200,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$200,000,000

**Item 92 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Assistance to Low Performing Schools****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	4,000,000	0	0	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	4,000,000	0	0	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$4,000,000 is requested to continue funding for low-performing schools, including professional learning, community outreach and program evaluation, provided through the Florida Partnership.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1007.35, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this funding is to prepare, inspire, and connect all students to postsecondary success. This is accomplished through the delivery of teacher training and professional learning to increase the number of students enrolled in advanced courses, increase of the number of students who successfully complete and pass advanced course examinations and college preparatory assessments, and improve the skill level and ability of students to prepare them for admission to and completion of a postsecondary education.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

As authorized by section 1007.35, F.S., the Florida Partnership provides a coordinated series of services and activities through various opportunities in Florida's secondary schools to expand access to advance courses, improve exam success rates and prepare students for postsecondary education. The Florida Partnership delivers teacher training and professional learning to achieve student success.

Awarded to Palm Beach State College in 2023-24, the Florida Partnership fostered collaboration with ten school districts (Bay, Escambia, Gilchrist, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Levy, Marion, Suwannee and University of Florida-PK Yonge) and six educational community partners. In 2024-25, Palm Beach State College launched the Florida Partnership Achieve website, kicking off the Florida Partnership communication plan focused on securing feedback from FLP stakeholders. Outreach efforts by Regional Managers ensured access and participation across all regions. Regional Managers visited school districts across the state and hosted numerous virtual meetings, increasing awareness of FLP goals and providing direct support to teachers and district leaders.

The Palm Beach State College team has secured an external evaluator and developed performance indicators to monitor program impact. Surveys of Florida Partnership districts, consortia and community partners established a baseline to guide future planning.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$4,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$4,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$4,000,000

## Item 93 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Take Stock In Children

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,125,000	0	0	6,125,000	6,125,000	0	6,125,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	6,125,000	0	0	6,125,000	6,125,000	0	6,125,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$6,125,000 is requested to continue funding for Take Stock in Children, which serves approximately 8,000 students.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this funding is to enhance and improve student performance of eligible students from low-income families and to increase graduation rates by providing additional learning opportunities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Take Stock in Children program enrolls approximately 8,000 students annually. The program promotes personal growth, personal responsibility, and academic success for eligible students from low-income families. Take Stock in Children provides a unique early intervention innovative model. Students in grades 6-9 enroll in the program and agree to a contract wherein they promise to fulfill academic and personal objectives. Partnering with community education foundations, state colleges, community nonprofits, and school districts throughout the state of Florida, Take Stock in Children delivers their program in nearly 780 Florida schools. Student services include mentoring, coaching, college readiness workshops and educational opportunities, scholarships, student advocacy, and long-term support.

Take Stock in Children program outcomes in 2024-25:

- 99% of Take Stock in Children program graduates completed high school compared to 72% of their peers from low-income households.
- 91% of Take Stock in Children program graduates enrolled in college compared to 52% of their peers from low-income households.
- 73% of Take Stock in Children program scholars graduated college compared to 29% of their peers from low-income households.

(\*Source: Take Stock Accountability Report 2024-2025)

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$6,125,000
- 2023-24 - \$6,125,000
- 2022-23 - \$6,125,000

**Item 94 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Mentoring - Student Assistance Initiatives****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	8,397,988	2,100,000	0	10,497,988	12,397,988	4,000,000	8,397,988	(1,900,000)	(15.33%)
<b>Total</b>	8,397,988	2,100,000	0	10,497,988	12,397,988	4,000,000	8,397,988	(1,900,000)	(15.33%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$8,397,988 is requested to continue funding for the following mentoring programs:

- \$2,980,248 - Big Brothers Big Sisters
- \$3,652,768 - Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
- \$ 764,972 - YMCA State Alliance/YMCA Reads
- \$ 700,000 - Best Buddies
- \$ 300,000 - Teen Trendsetters

**RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,100,000 is requested to restore nonrecurring General Revenue for the following mentoring programs:

- \$ 350,000 - Best Buddies Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative
- \$1,750,000 - Big Brothers Big Sisters Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success

\$1,900,000 is not requested to be restored for the following programs:

- \$ 400,000 - Best Buddies Jobs Project
- \$1,500,000 - Youth Matter Mentorship Program

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509; Lindsey Brown (850) 245-0509

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING****BEST BUDDIES MENTORING AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$350,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Best Buddies Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative. This request, along with the prior year recurring funding, will provide total funding of \$1,050,000. Best Buddies Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative helps students acquire skills needed to be college and career ready. This is accomplished by providing on-campus and off-campus activities that promote socialization between students with disabilities and their peers. Best Buddies Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative also offers programs for students with and without intellectual disabilities to help develop leadership and social skills through activities and training.

## **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS BIGS INSPIRING SCHOLASTIC SUCCESS**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$1,750,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida's Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success (BISS) program. BISS is focused on achieving academic improvement for low-performing youth in schools throughout Florida. BISS helps youth reach their potential through professionally supported mentoring relationships with measurable impact, with a primary focus on improving the child's ability to achieve academically through the positive influence of their volunteer mentor. By maintaining an academic focus around core subjects (reading, math, history/social studies, science), behavior, and attendance, with input from the teacher, BISS mentors create an atmosphere for the student to realize significant improvement.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

#### **PURPOSE:**

These programs support the efforts of community-based organizations and school districts to improve achievement for identified students and reduce dropout rates by providing additional learning opportunities.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

##### **BEST BUDDIES**

The Best Buddies organization is dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. Currently, there are over 150 active Best Buddies middle and high school chapters throughout the state. The Best Buddies program matches students with intellectual disabilities with high school and college students to foster one-to-one friendships between them. Often, individuals with intellectual disabilities do not have the opportunity to have friends outside of their isolated environments. By becoming a Best Buddy, volunteers offer students the chance to explore life in a new way.

The funds assist Best Buddies' efforts to:

- Target middle school and high school students.
- Provide mentoring activities to students with intellectual disabilities.
- Pair students with and without intellectual disabilities in one-to-one friendships.
- Help students with intellectual disabilities learn social skills and develop self-confidence.

### **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS**

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with mentors. The Big Brothers Big Sisters program provides mentoring activities for low-performing students, addresses unmet needs at low-performing schools, and provides training and support to the mentors. Mentors work in low-performing schools to provide academic assistance to students who are identified as low-performing in at least one academic area. Students are assigned a mentor, as well as a case manager, who tracks the students' success. Activities include one-on-one mentoring, homework support, extended classroom learning, and identifying and addressing individual skill gaps.

### **FLORIDA ALLIANCE OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**

Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs provide after-school tutoring and mentoring services for low-performing students by offering a range of academic enrichment activities. Clubs are open each day after school - usually from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The programs and activities provided include: Power Hour (homework help and tutoring), Power Learn (reinforces and enhances skills and knowledge learned at school), Goals for Graduation (teaches students the concept of academic goal-setting), as well as other academic activities, parental involvement opportunities, and collaboration opportunities with schools. These programs engage young people in activities with adults, peers, and family members. During last fiscal year, the funds assisted clubs with:

- 81,053 one-to-one mentoring sessions
- 121,270 group mentoring sessions
- 33,016 peer mentoring sessions
- 156,713 club members (unduplicated students served) participated in student assistance initiatives.

### **TEEN TRENDSETTERS**

Teen Trendsetters, a program of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, formerly the Volunteer USA Foundation, serves academically at-risk youth and provides mentoring activities through the ReadSquad mentoring program to improve student performance. High school students are recruited and trained to mentor students in grades 1-3 in one-to-one reading sessions. These sessions may occur before, during, or after school. The mentoring and reading materials for TTRM are designed to meet the different learning styles of students at different reading levels. The mentor training provides the high school students with practical hands-on approaches to working with the mentee and the reading materials. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the funds assisted TTRM by:

- Serving 666 students at 31 sites
- Providing 4,569 mentoring/tutoring sessions by middle and high school mentors

TTRM declined funds for the Fiscal Year 2025-26.

### **YMCA STATE ALLIANCE/YMCA READS**

The Florida State Alliance of YMCAs implements the YMCA Reads! program. This program targets students from low-performing K-3 schools as well as schools in which high rates of students read below grade level. Each student enrolled in YMCA Reads! receives a minimum of two one-hour sessions per week with a trained mentor. Each student's reading level is assessed and monitored by periodic mastery tests and analysis of Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) scores. Using the Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words Program (SIPPS), the volunteer mentors assist students in their reading mechanics and work to instill a love of reading and literature in the students. Site coordinators and volunteer mentors work with the students in small groups, on a one-to-one or one-to-two basis, mentoring the referred students in reading, character development, and building self-esteem. Florida YMCAs are volunteer-founded, volunteer-based, and volunteer-led. Data from Fiscal Year 2024-25 indicates that the program:

- Served 806 students at 18 elementary schools.
- Provided a total of 13,791 hours of mentoring sessions and tutoring assistance in reading through YMCA Reads! Program.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$11,947,988
- 2023-24 - \$13,180,988
- 2022-23 - \$11,097,988

**Item 95 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - College Reach Out Program****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,000,000 is requested to continue funding activities and services provided by the College Reach-Out Program (CROP), which aims to increase the college and career readiness and access of identified students in grades 6-12, helping them pursue and successfully complete a postsecondary education.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1007.34, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

CROP aims to increase the college and career readiness and access of identified students in grades 6-12, helping them pursue and successfully complete a postsecondary education.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Students identified as needing academic improvement who participate in CROP must meet both academic and economic eligibility criteria, as outlined in Rule 6A-6.05282, Florida Administrative Code. Since its establishment by the Legislature in 1983, CROP has served an estimated 203,000 students.

The department currently funds nine projects (two consortiums and seven individual institutions) consisting of twelve postsecondary educational institutions. Postsecondary institutions apply for funding through a competitive statewide grant solicitation and selection process. Approved institutions selected to administer a CROP project are required to match the state appropriation with funds and in-kind services. Funded institutions work with over 180 middle and high schools in 20 school districts to provide tutoring, mentoring, preparation for standardized assessments, educational field trips, academic advising, college tours, and summer residential programs to academically struggling students throughout the state of Florida.

The department conducts an annual statewide evaluation of CROP students' performance outcomes including academic promotion, graduation, standardized test scores, and postsecondary enrollment. CROP projects consistently demonstrate a positive return on the state's investment in the program. The program's quality services drive high student achievement, supporting the department's mission.

District data is available each February for the fiscal year two years prior. The data below represents the 2022-23 performance outcomes of CROP students compared to a random sample of non-CROP students. The results are provided below:

- A total of 1,300 students, with 539 new students joining the program, were served by CROP projects. The approximate cost per student was \$762 for the project year.
- Over 66% of CROP students were determined eligible for the Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program.
- 98% of CROP students in grades 6-11 were academically promoted to the next grade, while the promotion rate for the non-CROP sample decreased by 3% (87% in 2022-23).
- Eighth-grade CROP and non-CROP students who completed the new FAST progress monitoring scored in the Level 2 range on the B.E.S.T. scale, highlighting the important role of the CROP program in providing the substantial support needed to improve student performance.
- Tenth-grade CROP and non-CROP students who completed the new FAST English Language Arts (ELA) progress monitoring scored in the Level 2 range on the B.E.S.T. scale, with CROP students averaging 238 and non-CROP students averaging 235.
- 36% of CROP students who took the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 end-of-course (EOC) exam scored at a Level 3 or higher (on grade level), compared to 31% of the non-CROP sample.
- 36% of CROP students who took the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC scored at a Level 3 or higher (on grade level), compared to 31% of the non-CROP sample.
- 51% of CROP students who took the Biology 1 EOC scored at a Level 3 or higher (on grade level), compared to 48% of the non-CROP sample.
- 98% of CROP students in grades 6-11 were academically promoted to the next grade, compared to 87% of the non-CROP sample.
- 96% of all CROP seniors graduated with a standard high school diploma, compared to 76% of seniors in the non-CROP sample.

*(\*Source: Academic Outcomes of the 2022-23 Cohort, February 2025)*

Based on the most recent postsecondary data (2022-23), the performance outcomes of CROP high school graduates show that:

- 75% enrolled in postsecondary education, compared to 56% of graduates in the non-CROP sample.
- Of these, 58% attended a public college, 23% attended a public university, 9% attended a private institution, and 10% enrolled in a district career and technical center.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$1,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$1,000,000

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**Item 96 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	8,700,000	0	0	8,700,000	8,700,000	0	8,700,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	8,700,000	0	0	8,700,000	8,700,000	0	8,700,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$8,700,000 is requested to continue the provision of medical, physiological, psychological, and educational testing and other services designed to evaluate and identify exceptionalities of students with known or suspected disabilities, to make referrals for necessary instruction and services, and to facilitate the provision of instruction and services to students with disabilities.

\$1,450,000 is provided to each of the state's six Multidisciplinary Educational Service Centers (MDC) located at the following institutions:

- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- Florida State University
- University of South Florida
- University of Florida Health Science Center at Jacksonville
- Keiser University

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

**GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement  
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1006.03, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

To support a network of six regional centers that provide a range of services for children and youth at-risk for or identified as having complex problems and other risk factors for educational/academic outcomes. The centers also provide consultation, technical assistance, and pre-service and in-service training for educators, families, and others.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Pursuant to section 1006.03, F.S., the FDLRS MDCs are a network of six centers established around the state to provide diagnostic evaluation services for children and youth at-risk for, or identified as having, complex medical, educational, emotional, or behavioral problems and other risk factors for educational/academic outcomes. The centers also provide consultation, technical assistance, and pre-service and in-service trainings for families, teachers, school district personnel, university students, and community providers working with students, children, and youth with complex medical, emotional or behavior problems. The six Multidisciplinary Educational Service Centers are located at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida State University, University of South Florida, University of Florida Health Science Center at Jacksonville, and Keiser University.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$8,700,000
- 2023-24 - \$8,700,000
- 2022-23 - \$8,700,000

**Item 97 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - School District Matching Grants Program****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$7,000,000 is requested to continue providing matching funds to local education foundations for programs that strengthen academic achievement for low-performing students, strengthen teacher recruitment and retention efforts, and support career and technical education and other literacy initiatives.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1011.765, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Strengthen academic programs for low-performing students and teacher recruitment and retention efforts and support technical career education and other literacy initiatives.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The School District Education Foundation Matching Grants Program provides school district local education foundations a dollar-for-dollar match in state funds to private funds to address strengthening academic programs for low-performing students, improvement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, teacher recruitment and retention efforts, enhancements to career and technical education, and enhanced literacy initiatives in public school districts. Subgrants are solicited from all eligible foundations via email, and all application materials are available online at the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations' website: [educationfoundationsfl.org](http://educationfoundationsfl.org).

The criteria used to evaluate subgrants are as follows:

- Funds match private cash contributions made to local education foundations for activities or programs designed to improve academic achievement of low-performing public school students.
- Report of measurable results is required and will include baseline data, expected outcomes, tangible and intangible evidence of objectives, and the academic increase (or decrease) for the students involved in the project.
- Certification of contributions from private sources must be submitted with the application. Funds cannot be expended for the construction or purchase of facilities or for the support of interscholastic athletics.

Subgrants are awarded based on the following:

- APPLICATION PACKET - Each education foundation submits an application packet to the consortium that consists of a project narrative, a budget narrative, certification of the cash pledged for the match from private business partners, and confirmation that the foundation is the designated school district local education foundation.
- DISBURSEMENT FORMULA - Matching grants shall be allocated on the basis of matching each dollar of state funds with one dollar of private funds.
- FINAL EVALUATION REPORT - Each participating foundation is required to submit a final evaluation. The evaluation includes an assessment of all project objectives in terms of measurable student achievement outcomes and tangible and intangible evidence that the objectives have been met, an explanation of the skills and knowledge that the students gained through the academic program, how the program is linked to the enriched learning of low-performing students, and a report on how the funds were spent.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$7,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$6,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$6,000,000

**Item 98 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Public School Transportation Stipend****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$3,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested to be restored to maintain the current funding level for the Public School Transportation Stipend.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$3,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to provide a \$750 Public School Transportation Stipend to 4,000 households. This stipend provides funds to families to transport public school students enrolled in a school that is different than the one the student was assigned or to a developmental research (university laboratory) school. To qualify for this scholarship, the school district must not have provided the student with transportation to the school. This request will maintain the Fiscal Year 2025-26 funding level.

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.31, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

The Public School Transportation Stipend provides \$750 per household for the purpose of transporting students in kindergarten through grade 8 to a Florida nonvirtual public school that is different from the school to which the student is assigned or to a developmental research school authorized under section 1002.32, Florida Statutes.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This stipend was first funded in Fiscal Year 2021-22 as a new component to the Family Empowerment Scholarship. The funding allowed families to receive a \$750 scholarship to transport public school students enrolled in a school that was different than the one the student was assigned or to a developmental research (university laboratory) school. To qualify for this scholarship, the school district must not have provided the student with transportation to the school. This component was funded by the Student Transportation Allocation within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

This option was maintained for Fiscal Years 2022-23 and 2023-24. However, the scholarship award amount was adjusted in Fiscal Year 2023-24 to be the greater of the previous \$750 amount or the school district's expenditure per student riding a school bus, as determined by the department.

Since school district transportation costs per-student far exceeded the \$750 award, the Florida Legislature removed the funding source for this scholarship option from the FEFP and funded it through a separate appropriation, named the Public School Transportation Stipend.

The Public School Transportation Stipend continues to provide funds to transport public school students that attend a school different than the one to which they were assigned, provided the school district does not offer transportation to that school. The program was limited in Fiscal Year 2024-25 to allow the stipend to be used only for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 8.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$14,030,250
- 2023-24 - \$0
- 2022-23 - \$0

## Item 99 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Educator Professional Liability Insurance

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,021,560	0	0	1,021,560	1,021,560	0	1,021,560	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	1,021,560	0	0	1,021,560	1,021,560	0	1,021,560	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,021,560 is requested to continue funding the educator professional liability insurance program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1012.75, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide full-time instructional personnel with liability insurance benefits for potential monetary damages and costs of defending actions resulting from claims made against the instructional personnel arising out of occurrences in the course of activities within the instructional personnel's professional capacity.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds provide for liability insurance coverage of at least \$2,000,000 to all full-time instructional personnel and at cost to part-time instructional personnel, administrative personnel and students enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation program pursuant to s.1012.39(3), Florida Statutes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,021,560
- 2023-24 - \$1,021,560
- 2022-23 - \$1,021,560

## Item 100 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Teacher and School Administrator Death Benefits

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	41,321	0	4,200	45,521	41,321	0	41,321	4,200	10.16%
<b>Total</b>	41,321	0	4,200	45,521	41,321	0	41,321	4,200	10.16%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$41,321 is requested to continue funding death benefits for current recipients.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$4,200 is requested to address projected cost increase for health insurance benefits provided to eligible survivors in Broward and Palm Beach School Districts.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$4,200 for projected cost increases for health insurance benefits provided to eligible survivors for total funding of \$45,521. Currently funds are provided to Broward County to pay Health Insurance for two widows and one eligible child. Funds are also provided to Palm Beach County for one surviving spouse. The funds are provided in accordance with s. 112.1915, F.S. As health insurance costs increase so does the amount needed to reimburse the districts.

The projected costs have been determined by increasing the cost of the prior year by 5.2 percent which is the increase that occurred for the Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Palm Beach - Projected Fiscal Year 2026-27 Cost - \$12,963

Barry Grunow, Deceased - Eligible survivors, one spouse.

Broward - Projected Fiscal Year 2026-27 Cost - \$32,558

Christopher Hixon and Aaron Feis, deceased - Eligible survivors, two spouses and one child.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 112.1915, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide each teacher and school administrator with special death benefits for surviving spouses and dependents if he/she is killed or dies while in the performance of his/her teaching/administrative duties.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Benefits are provided when a teacher or school administrator is killed or injured and dies as a result of an unlawful and intentional act while he/she is engaged in the performance of teaching duties or school administrator duties. Currently, funds are provided to the School District of Palm Beach County to pay health insurance premium for a spouse of a teacher who lost his life in 2000, as well as the School District of Broward County for one child and two spouses for two Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School staff members who lost their lives on February 14, 2018.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$41,321
- 2023-24 - \$41,321
- 2022-23 - \$36,321

**Item 101 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Risk Management Insurance****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	429,831	0	0	429,831	429,831	0	429,831	0	0.00%
Admin TF	49,485	0	0	49,485	49,485	0	49,485	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>479,316</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>479,316</b>	<b>479,316</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>479,316</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$479,316 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

DOE: Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; FSDB: Tracie Snow, President (904) 827-2211

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provides business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds provide for Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriation amounts are recommended by the state's Division of Risk Management.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$479,316
- 2023-24 - \$421,317
- 2022-23 - \$299,770

## Item 102 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Autism Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	12,000,000	0	0	12,000,000	12,000,000	0	12,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	12,000,000	0	0	12,000,000	12,000,000	0	12,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$12,000,000 is requested to continue funding nonresidential resources and training services provided by the state's seven Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARDs). The centers and their allocations are as follows:

- \$1,386,508 - Florida Atlantic University
- \$1,483,072 - Florida State University (College of Medicine)
- \$2,467,195 - University of Central Florida
- \$1,431,006 - University of Florida (College of Medicine)
- \$1,276,630 - University of Florida (Jacksonville)
- \$2,218,340 - University of Miami (Department of Psychology), including \$499,979 for Nova Southeastern University in Broward County
- \$1,737,249 - University of South Florida/Florida Mental Health Institute

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement  
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1004.55, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

The Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARDS) have seven regional autism centers that provide nonresidential resource and training services for persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and related disabilities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

In accordance with section 1004.55, Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-7.0335, Florida Administrative Code, the seven regional autism centers provide nonresidential resource and training services for persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism spectrum disorder, a pervasive developmental disorder, a dual sensory impairment, or a sensory impairment with other disabling conditions. Each center provides services within its geographical region of the state and service delivery shall be consistent for all centers. Each center is expected to coordinate services within and between state and local agencies and local educational agencies, but may not duplicate services provided by those agencies or school districts.

There are seven CARD centers that provide services within assigned geographic regions of the state. Funds are provided to the following universities for this purpose:

- Florida Atlantic University (FAU)
- Florida State University (FSU)
- University of Central Florida (UCF)
- University of Florida Gainesville (UF-GVL)
- University of Florida Jacksonville (UF-JAX)
- University of Miami (UM)/Nova Southeastern University
- University of South Florida (USF)

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$12,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$12,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$12,000,000

**Item 103 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Articulated Health Care Programs****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$2,000,000 in General Revenue is requested to continue the lab school articulated health care programs.

\$500,000 will go to each of the following universities with lab schools:

- University of Florida
- Florida State University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement  
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.32, F.S.

**PURPOSE:**

Each lab school is required to develop programs that accelerate the entry of enrolled lab school students into articulated health care programs at its affiliated university or at any public or private postsecondary institution, with the approval of the university president.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This program is part of the Live Healthy initiative meant to increase Florida's healthcare workforce, increase access to training, and incentivize innovation. Each lab school will develop and implement a plan aligned with each university's strategic mission and/or priorities to increase their students' access to study health care occupations through articulated pathways. As a result, each lab school's articulated health care program will differ from the others, reflecting programmatic strength and unique availability to each university. Each lab school is charged with sharing these innovative practices and providing technical assistance to districts around the state.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$2,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$0
- 2022-23 - \$0

**Item 104 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Regional Education Consortium Services****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,750,000	0	0	1,750,000	1,750,000	0	1,750,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	1,750,000	0	0	1,750,000	1,750,000	0	1,750,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,750,000 is requested to continue funding cooperative efforts to provide educational services to small and rural districts, two lab schools and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind to improve student achievement.

Funds are provided to the following Consortiums and their allocations are as follows:

- \$700,000 - Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
- \$750,000 - North East Florida Educational Consortium
- \$300,000 - Heartland Educational Consortium

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement  
 [ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
 [ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
 [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1001.451, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Conduct regional delivery of educational services to small and rural districts in order to improve student achievement through technical assistance and school improvement strategies.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida Legislature recognizes the impact of a school district being small and rural on the quality of education available for its citizens. The consortia service organizations were an outcome of the early recognition by small and rural school superintendents and school boards in Florida that consortia are a way to take advantage of cooperative efforts. Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) was Florida's first regional educational service consortium, created in 1967. Since its inception and proven successes, two more educational consortia have been established, the North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC) and the Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC).

Small and rural districts face similar problems. Transportation costs have increased because students are dispersed throughout sparsely populated districts. Grants are harder to obtain because funding agencies want to sponsor programs that impact the greatest number of students and small districts do not always have grant writers. The low tax base of small and rural districts negatively impacts the funds available for competitive teacher and principal salaries or state-of-the-art facilities. Access to technology and other educational resources is limited due to multiple demands being placed on limited funds. Teacher training in specific subject areas is especially challenging because there may be only one or two educators teaching within the district in that curriculum subject. Implementation of state and federal initiatives is extremely challenging because of the few district-level staff available to manage the tasks required.

Recognizing the returns on investment consortia provide, the Florida Legislature established direct funding based on the number of districts that agree to participate annually. If a school district, including developmental research schools (DRS) and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, has 20,000 or fewer unweighted full-time equivalent students, it may enter into cooperative agreements to form a regional consortium service organization. Each regional consortium service organization shall provide, at a minimum, three of the following services:

- Exceptional student education
- Teacher education centers
- Environmental education
- Federal grant procurement and coordination
- Data processing
- Health insurance
- Risk management insurance
- Staff development
- Purchasing
- Planning
- Accountability

The consortia serve the following districts:

North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC): Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, Suwannee, Union, P.K. Yonge DRS, and Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC): Calhoun, FAMU DRS., Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC): DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee.

## **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,750,000
- 2023-24 - \$1,750,000
- 2022-23 - \$1,750,000

## Item 105 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Teacher Professional Development

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	11,749,426	0	30,000	11,779,426	12,246,153	496,727	11,749,426	(466,727)	(3.81%)
<b>Total</b>	11,749,426	0	30,000	11,779,426	12,246,153	496,727	11,749,426	(466,727)	(3.81%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$11,749,426 is requested to continue funding training, recognition opportunities, and programs as follows:

- \$5,000,000 - Computer Science Certification and Teacher Bonuses
- \$5,500,000 - Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training
- \$ 29,426 - Principal of the Year/Assistant Principal of the Year
- \$ 370,000 - School-Related Employee of the Year
- \$ 850,000 - Teacher of the Year

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$496,727 is not requested to be restored for the Teacher Apprenticeship Program.

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

\$30,000 is requested in recurring General Revenue for the Teacher of the Year program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Computer Science Certification and Teacher Bonuses, Principal of the Year/Assistant Principal of the Year, School-Related Employee of the Year, Teacher of the Year: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509

Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested.

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

The department is requesting an increase of \$30,000 in recurring General Revenue for the Teacher of the Year program. Each of the 76 district Teachers of the Year receives \$10,000. Finalists receive \$20,000, and the overall winner gets \$50,000. With changes to Section (s.) 1012.77, Florida Statutes (F.S.), allowing more nominees, the department is requesting \$30,000 in recurring funds to support the increased participation.

The requested increase of \$30,000 is to increase the number of eligible recipients from 77 to 80 at an amount of \$10,000 each.

The requested funds will provide for the following potential number of eligible recipients:

67 - School Districts

6 - Lab Schools

1 - FSDB

1 - Florida Virtual School

1 - Dept of Corrections

4 - Charter Schools

80 - Total Potential Recipients at \$10,000 each

\$800,000 - 80 Potential Eligible Recipients (\$10,000 each)

\$ 50,000 - 5 Finalists (An additional \$10,000 each for a total of \$20,000 each)

\$ 30,000 - Teacher of the Year (An additional \$30,000 for a total of \$50,000)

\$880,000 - Total Funds Requested

There are insufficient funds to meet the specific requirements in the General Appropriations Act line item 105 if all eligible districts and charter schools participate. District participants receive a minimum total award amount of \$10,000; the selected finalists receive a minimum total award of \$20,000; and the Teacher of the Year receives a minimum total award amount of \$50,000.

The addition of new eligibility criteria for participation in the Florida Teacher of the Year program in Florida Statutes may result in additional school districts/local educational associations and charter schools participating in the program, resulting in a need for additional funding for program financial awards.

Each district teacher of the year receives \$10,000, while the four finalists receive a total of \$20,000 each and the winner receives a total of \$50,000. During the 2025 legislative session, House Bill 1255 amended s. 1012.77, F.S., to include charter school consortia who meet specified eligibility requirements. It is anticipated that three anticipated additional nominees will be submitted to the program for a total of 80 district and charter consortia teachers of the year. Eligible entities which submit to the department a nominee for the Teacher of the Year are: (a) Florida school districts, including lab schools as defined in s. 1002.32, F.S. (76 in 2025); and (b) Charter school consortia with at least 30 member schools and an approved professional learning system on file with the department.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1012.05, Florida Statutes – Specific programs and activities in recruitment and retention

Section 1012.21(5), Florida Statutes – School-Related Employee of the Year Program

Section 1012.584, Florida Statutes – Continuing education and in-service training for youth mental health awareness and assistance

Section 1012.77, Florida Statutes – Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education (Teacher of the Year)

Section 1012.98, Florida Statutes – The School Community Professional Development Act

Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes – Statewide system of in-service professional development

Based upon a formula, a small percentage of the Title II-A (Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund Program) federal funds are directed to the states for activities specified in both the federal Title II-A grant and Florida Statutes for teacher and principal recruitment and professional development.

### **PURPOSE:**

This funding will:

- Deliver and implement programs for the recruitment, recognition, and professional learning of high-quality educators.
- Deliver youth mental health awareness and assistance training to all school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE CERTIFICATION AND TEACHER BONUSES**

The majority of this funding goes to districts to continue to enhance the capacity of schools to provide trained and certified staff as appropriate to meet the requirements of s. 1007.2616, F.S. Specifically, the funding will be used to deliver or facilitate training for classroom teachers to earn an educator certificate in computer science or for training that leads to an industry certification associated with a course identified in the Course Code Directory, to pay fees for examinations that lead to a relevant credential, or to deliver professional development that provides classroom teachers instruction in computer science courses and content. The allocation is based on student population as per statute. A smaller portion of the funds are to be used to reward appropriately certified teachers by providing a bonus after each year the individual completes teaching a general education computer science course or identified career and technical education course at a public middle or high school (for up to 3 years).

#### **PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

Provides recognition and communication opportunities for high-performing principals and assistant principals across Florida. Individual principals, along with their associated schools, are recognized and honored through this program. Funds are used to provide cash awards to these recognized leaders, with an average award for the state winner of \$3,000, finalists receive approximately \$1,000, and district winners approximately \$225. The award amounts vary dependent on the number of district-submitted nominees.

#### **SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

Provides recognition opportunities for high-performing school-related support personnel. High-performing school-related personnel who are nominated by their school districts are recognized by the department. Funds are used to provide cash awards to these recognized support personnel. The state winner receives \$10,000, finalists receive a total award of up to \$6,500, and district winners receive an award of up to \$5,000. Award amounts for district and state-level finalists vary dependent on the number of district-submitted nominees.

#### **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Provides recognition and communication opportunities for high-performing teachers, with one teacher being recognized as the Florida Teacher of the Year/Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education. The recurring funds provide financial awards resulting in district winners receiving a minimum total award amount of \$10,000; the selected finalists receiving a minimum total award of \$20,000; and the Florida Teacher of the Year receiving a minimum total award of \$50,000.

#### **YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE TRAINING**

The health, safety, and welfare of each student and employee at every school is of utmost importance. The department has established an evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training program to assist school personnel to identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, and substance use disorders, and provide such personnel with the skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing an emotional disturbance, mental health or substance use problem.

The department selected a national authority on youth mental health awareness and assistance to facilitate providing youth mental health awareness and assistance training, using a trainer certification model, to all school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools. Each school safety specialist shall earn, or designate one or

more individuals to earn, certification as a youth mental health awareness and assistance trainer. The school safety specialist shall ensure that all school personnel within his or her school district receive youth mental health awareness and assistance training.

The training program shall include but is not limited to:

- An overview of mental illnesses and substance use disorders and the need to reduce the stigma of mental illness.
- Information on the potential risk factors and warning signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, or substance use disorders, including, but not limited to, depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating disorders and self-injury, as well as common treatments for those conditions and how to assess those risks.
- Information on how to engage at-risk students with the skills, resources and knowledge required to assess the situation, and how to identify and encourage the student to use appropriate professional help and other support strategies including, but not limited to, peer, social, or self-help care.

Each school district shall notify all school personnel who have received training pursuant to this section of mental health services that are available in the school district, and the individual to contact if a student needs services. The term "mental health services" includes, but is not limited to, community mental health services, health care providers, and services provided under ss. 1006.04 and 1011.62, F.S. Each school district shall certify to the department that at least 80 percent of school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools have received the required training by July 1 each year per s. 1012.584, F.S.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$17,121,426
- 2023-24 - \$26,969,426
- 2022-23 - \$16,669,426

## Item 106 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Strategic Statewide Initiatives

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	24,253,621	9,900,000	17,978,911	52,132,532	43,842,011	19,588,390	24,253,621	8,290,521	18.91%
<b>Total</b>	24,253,621	9,900,000	17,978,911	52,132,532	43,842,011	19,588,390	24,253,621	8,290,521	18.91%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$24,253,621 is requested to continue funding the following projects:

- \$3,000,000 - Florida School Safety Portal / Centralized Integrated Data Repository and Data Analytics Resources
- \$4,702,500 - Charity for Change Program
- \$ 400,000 - Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program
- \$2,000,000 - Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation
- \$ 845,000 - Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)
- \$3,306,121 - Florida Safe Schools Canine Program
- \$5,000,000 - Regional Literacy Teams
- \$5,000,000 - School District Threat Management Coordinators

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$6,500,000 is requested to be restored as recurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- \$1,000,000 - Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains and Coaches
- \$ 500,000 - Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative (CLEI) - Professional Learning
- \$3,500,000 - Florida Civics Seal of Excellence
- \$1,000,000 - Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics: State Regional Mathematics Directors and Coaches
- \$ 500,000 - Resiliency Florida Program

\$3,400,000 is requested to be restored as nonrecurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- \$1,300,000 - All Pro Dad/iMom Fatherhood Literacy and Family Engagement Campaign
- \$1,600,000 - Florida Debate Initiative
- \$ 500,000 - Special Olympics Florida - Unified Champions Schools

\$9,688,390 is not requested to be restored for the following programs:

- \$ 800,000 - Florida Debate Initiative
- \$1,000,000 - Florida Rural Digital Literacy Program (FRDLP)
- \$ 750,000 - Maritime Workforce Development Instruction
- \$ 500,000 - Mobile Museums of Tolerance - Florida
- \$ 500,000 - Nicklaus Children's Project Adam – Lifesaving Training for Cardiac Events in Schools
- \$ 368,167 - Orlando Science Center Rural Education Outreach
- \$1,000,000 - Preparing Florida's Workforce Through Agricultural Education
- \$ 670,223 - School Bond Issuance Database
- \$1,150,000 - STEM, Computer Science and CTE Career Awareness for Middle Schools

- \$ 750,000 - Virtual College Tours for Every Florida High School Student
- \$ 150,000 - Vision Is Priceless - Sight in Schools Program
- \$1,700,000 - Workforce Development in High School Classrooms with 3DE by Junior Achievement
- \$ 350,000 - Youth Agriculture and Aquaponics Program (Green Jean Foundation)

## **WORKLOAD**

\$10,841,790 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- \$2,000,000 - Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains and Coaches
- \$1,000,000 - Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative (CLEI) - Professional Learning
- \$6,500,000 - Florida Civics Seal of Excellence
- \$ 750,000 - Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation
- \$ 91,790 - Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
- \$ 500,000 - Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics: State Regional Mathematics Directors and Coaches

## **ENHANCEMENT**

\$5,637,121 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- \$1,700,000 - Bureau of School Improvement Regional Team Staffing
- \$1,650,000 - High Quality Instruction and Leadership Professional Learning
- \$ 137,121 - Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
- \$ 650,000 - Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics: Professional Learning
- \$1,000,000 - Regional Literacy Teams
- \$ 500,000 - Resiliency Florida Program

## **NEW PROGRAM**

\$1,500,000 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative.

## **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Florida School Safety Portal / Centralized Integrated Data Repository and Data Analytics Resources: Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

Charity for Change Program, Civics Literacy Directors/Captains and Coaches, Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative (CLEI) - Professional Learning, Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program, High Quality Instruction and Leadership Professional Learning, Florida Civics Seal of Excellence, Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics: State Regional Mathematics Directors and Coaches, Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics: Professional Learning: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509

Florida Civics and Debate Initiative/Florida Debate Initiative: Lindsey Zander (850) 245-7878

Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation: Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631

School District Threat Management Coordinators, Florida Safe School Assessment Tool, Florida Safe Schools Canine Program: Darren Norris (850) 245-9328; Tim Hay (850) 245-5173

Regional Literacy Teams: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Lindsey Brown (850) 245-0509

All Pro Dad/iMom, Bureau of School Improvement Regional Team Staffing, Resiliency Florida, Special Olympics: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

## **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

#### **ALL PRO DAD/IMOM FATHERHOOD LITERACY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$1,300,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for All Pro Dad/iMom Fatherhood Literacy and Family Engagement Campaign for Fiscal Year 2026-27 to maintain the current year funding level. This campaign supports dads, moms, and families with the goal of closing achievement gaps for students. The organization develops professional media content, including blogs, social posts, daily tips, newsletters, website content, and chapter resources, for teaching and encouraging parents to read to and regularly engage with their children. The organization further supports students and families through more than 300 in-school chapters throughout Florida, through large-market experience events in NFL/NCAA stadiums, and through online literacy campaigns for both moms and dads.

#### **CIVICS LITERACY REGIONAL DIRECTORS/CAPTAINS AND COACHES**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring to continue the instructional support provided by the Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains and Coaches. The Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains (2) and Coaches (7) team provides civics and government instructional support to Florida's teachers and instructional leaders. This request will continue funding for 2 directors/captains and 7 coaches.

\$ 170,000 - Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains 2 positions @ \$85,000 each

\$ 490,000 - Civics Literacy Regional Coaches 7 positions @ \$70,000 each

\$ 288,219 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits

\$ 4,162 - Travel

\$ 952,381 - Total Project Costs

\$ 47,619 - Administrative Costs (5% of Project Costs)

\$1,000,000 - Total Funds Requested to be Restored

#### **CIVICS LITERACY EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE (CLEI) - PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$500,000 of nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring for the Civics Professional Learning Initiative designed to strengthen civic literacy by preparing students to become engaged and informed citizens. Aligned with Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, the initiative supports required instruction in foundational topics such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Federalist Papers, the structure and functions of government, U.S. history, and civic participation.

Throughout the 2024-25 school year, Civics Literacy Regional Directors and Coaches implemented a targeted professional learning plan informed by both qualitative and quantitative data. Their work directly supported teachers and instructional leaders statewide, with the goal of improving student outcomes in civics and government.

Professional learning opportunities included eight regional workshops for grades 6-8, drawing over 250 participants, and four Capitol Complex events during the legislative session, which engaged more than 155 middle and high school educators in immersive, collaborative experiences. Additionally, two large-scale summer trainings in Duval and Polk counties were planned to serve up to 600 participants.

As a result of these efforts, 53 school districts experienced gains in civics and government achievement. Statewide, there was a three-point increase in Civics End-of-Course (EOC) scores, with 70 percent of students scoring at level 3 or above.

Looking ahead to the 2025-26 school year, the initiative will expand to include strategic support for kindergarten through grade 5 teachers, helping to build a strong foundation in civics education. It will also provide tools and resources to help educators commemorate the 250th anniversary of American history. Targeted assistance will be directed to 16 districts showing declining achievement and 32 districts where fewer than 70 percent of students scored at or above level 3 on the Civics EOC exam.

\$187,500 - Regional Professional Learning Events (Facility Rental, Participant Travel Allowance, Staff Rooms and Travel Costs)  
 \$ 86,000 - Capitol Complex Workshops (Staff Rooms and Travel Costs, Participant Rooms, Charter Bus, Participant Travel Allowance)  
 \$ 64,700 - Travel for Civics Regional Directors and Coaches  
 \$ 80,000 - Event planner  
 \$ 22,000 - Event materials  
 \$ 21,990 - Event Website, Registration and Related Expenses  
\$ 14,000 - Facility Rentals  
 \$476,190 - Total Project Costs  
\$ 23,810 - Costs associated with administration (5% of project costs)  
 \$500,000 - Total Restoration Requested

### **FLORIDA CIVICS SEAL OF EXCELLENCE**

The department is requesting restoration of funds in the amount of \$3,500,000 as recurring funds to provide \$3,000 stipends to 950 educators and fund related activity costs.

The Florida Civics Seal of Excellence initiative is intended to incentivize educators to enroll and complete coursework related to earning a Florida Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement. In Fiscal Year 2021-22, ESSER II funds were used to develop a five-module, interactive online professional learning system with the capacity to accommodate at minimum 20,000 educators at a given time. The online course emphasizes the study of primary source documents with a particular focus on the American founding, American form of government, and U.S. History. Educators will also learn related instructional strategies and evidence-based best practices. Every educator who successfully completes the requirements to receive their Florida Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement is also eligible to receive a \$3,000 stipend. ESSER II funds were allocated for these stipends beginning in Fiscal Year 2022-23, with the capacity to provide a \$3,000 stipend to up to 20,000 educators. To date, 21,341 Florida educators have successfully completed the Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement course. During the 2025 legislative session, \$3.5 million was appropriated for the continuation of this program in Fiscal Year 2025-26. It is projected that at least 950 Florida educators will successfully complete the course earning both the endorsement and the \$3,000 stipend.

\$2,850,000 - \$3,000 Stipends provided to 950 participants  
\$ 483,333 - Facilitation Activities  
 \$3,333,333 - Total Project Costs  
\$ 166,667 - Administrative Costs (5% of project costs)  
 \$3,500,000 - Total Funds to be Restored

### **FLORIDA DEBATE INITIATIVE**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$1,600,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Florida Debate Initiative (FDI) for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The FDI is an educational non-profit designed to support the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI) meet the following goals: assist schools without existing programs to develop speech and debate; support schools with existing programs; provide affordable academic competition opportunities for all and, most importantly, to increase civic literacy by fostering civic engagement through participation in competitive speech and debate activities. The FDI serves as the educational support organization tasked with educating and training coaches and students, training judges, and helping facilitate educational competition opportunities. Competitive speech and debate can address the need for civil discourse in a free society by instilling higher-level critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills in Florida students.

### **IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN MATHEMATICS: STATE REGIONAL MATHEMATICS DIRECTORS AND COACHES**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring funding to continue the work of the Mathematics Regional Directors and Coaches that began in the 2025-26 school year.

These funds will be used to:

- support and reinforce standards implementation and Florida's Formula for Success for High-Quality Mathematics Instruction;

- provide coaching to educators and maintain detailed coaching logs;
- develop and provide mathematics professional learning; and
- collect, analyze, and report data to be used for program effectiveness and to ensure financial resources are aligned with the intents and purposes of the program.

\$ 82,000 - Mathematics Regional Director (1)  
 \$ 402,000 - Mathematics Regional Coaches (6)  
 \$ 315,011 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits  
 \$ 67,456 - Travel  
 \$ 17,181 - Office expenses  
\$ 68,462 - Mathematics Practice Profile Trainings  
 \$ 952,381 - Total Project Costs  
\$ 47,619 - Administrative Costs (5% of project costs)  
 \$1,000,000 - Total Restoration Requested

### **RESILIENCY FLORIDA PROGRAM**

The department is requesting restoration of \$500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring to maintain the current Resiliency Coach volunteer program which is a volunteer training for moms, dads, volunteers and mentors. Resiliency Coaches are trusted adults who are trained to provide one of the first levels of support for children as they build resiliency to face day-to-day challenges. Eligible volunteers may elect to receive a \$150 stipend upon completion of an online training, a 4-hour volunteer practicum and final survey. The funds will be used to pay the stipends, maintain the website, create new instructional and home resources, conduct Resiliency Education professional learning, and continue and enhance outreach efforts.

First Lady DeSantis launched the Resiliency Florida initiative in February of 2021 to equip Florida's youth with the skills to overcome life's challenges. In March of 2023, the State Board of Education adopted Resiliency Education Standards designed to impart essential skills in early grades and to support students as they demonstrate those concepts in later grades. Resiliency Florida is a first-in-the-nation initiative focused on reframing mental health education to focus on building resiliency skills. The Resiliency Education Standards embed concepts of civic responsibility through citizenship and mentorship to not only help students understand the value of these ideas, but to actively engage in activities and exercises that will prepare them to be upstanding, responsible citizens. When children build resiliency, they have better academic achievement, better attendance and a greater ability to set short- and long-term goals.

All students in grades 6-12 receive annual, required instruction for Resiliency Education, Civic and Character Education, and Life Skills Education. K-12 Resiliency Education Standards, part of the Health Education Standards, are foundational to this instruction. Florida developed and defined 11 Resiliency Characteristics to assist over 2.9 million students in Florida to be successful. These skills can be applied in a variety of situations, whether a student is improving a course grade, participating on a team, or recovering from a natural disaster. The department has also developed a Resiliency Florida Website ([buildresiliency.org](http://buildresiliency.org)) that houses all resources and materials that support Resiliency Education. Website materials include Parent Resources, posters and handouts with definitions for the Resiliency Characteristics, a Resiliency Reading List, Family Reading Guides and Teacher Resources, among other materials.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLORIDA - UNIFIED CHAMPIONS SCHOOLS**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Special Olympics of Florida Project UNIFY Program. The Unified Champion Schools Program brings young people with and without disabilities together to compete in athletic competitions, engage in youth leadership and advocacy activities, and promote whole-school engagement. These activities further the acceptance of students with disabilities and encourage sports/play programs and opportunities for younger children with disabilities to improve physical, cognitive, and social skills through the Young Athletes Program. The program's effectiveness is supported by both anecdotal and quantitative evidence, showing a significant impact on promoting students with disabilities in school activities. Importantly, the program also contributes to a reduction in harmful behavior such as bullying, demonstrating its positive social outcomes.

## **WORKLOAD**

### **CIVICS LITERACY REGIONAL DIRECTORS/CAPTAINS AND COACHES**

The department is requesting an additional \$2,000,000 in recurring General Revenue to fund two (2) additional directors/captains for a total of four (4) and eight (8) additional coaches for a total of fifteen (15), plus related operating costs. Along with the restoration issue, this will provide total funding of \$3,000,000.

Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains support and reinforce benchmarks-aligned, high-quality instruction, provide sustained professional learning, lead and manage Civics Literacy Regional Coaches, and contribute to the success of Florida's students. Each director will work in an identified region in the state to provide targeted services and support to schools, districts and consortia.

Civics Literacy Regional Coaches support and reinforce benchmarks-aligned, high-quality instruction, provide sustained professional learning, and contribute to the success of Florida's students. Civics Literacy Regional Coaches support department civics initiatives and serve under the leadership of the Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains.

\$ 170,000 - Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains 2 positions @ \$85,000 each  
\$ 560,000 - Civics Literacy Regional Coaches 8 positions @ 70,000 each  
\$ 328,064 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits  
\$ 564,300 - Professional Development and Materials  
\$ 202,398 - Capacity Building  
\$ 80,000 - Travel (includes increase for existing 9 FTE)  
\$1,904,762 - Total Project Costs  
\$ 95,238 - Administrative Costs (5% of Project Costs)  
\$2,000,000 - Total Funds Requested for Workload

### **CIVICS LITERACY EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE (CLEI) - PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

The department is requesting an increase of \$1,000,000, which along with the restoration request of \$500,000, will provide total recurring funding of \$1,500,000 for the Civics Professional Learning Initiative designed to strengthen civic literacy by preparing students to become engaged and informed citizens. The 2026-27 school year will build on existing efforts, further expanding the work of the regional teams and continuing to strengthen student outcomes through data-informed support. Aligned with Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, the initiative supports required instruction in foundational topics such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Federalist Papers, the structure and functions of government, U.S. history, and civic participation.

\$ 375,000 - Regional Professional Learning Events (Facility Rental, Participant Travel Allowance, Staff Rooms and Travel Costs)  
\$ 172,000 - Capitol Complex Workshops (Staff Rooms and Travel Costs, Participant Rooms, Charter Bus, Participant Travel Allowance)  
\$ 129,400 - Travel for Civics Regional Directors and Coaches  
\$ 100,000 - Event planner  
\$ 100,000 - Event materials  
\$ 47,980 - Event Website, Registration and Related Expenses  
\$ 28,000 - Facility Rentals  
\$ 952,380 - Total Project Costs  
\$ 47,620 - Costs associated with administration (5% of project costs)  
\$1,000,000 - Total Workload Requested

### **FLORIDA CIVICS SEAL OF EXCELLENCE**

The department is requesting \$6,500,000 in recurring General revenue to provide \$3,000 stipends to an additional 1,764 educators and fund related activity costs. This request along with the restoration request will restore this initiative to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 state appropriation level of \$10,000,000. The Florida Civics Seal of Excellence initiative is intended to incentivize educators to enroll and complete coursework related to earning a Florida Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement. In Fiscal Year 2021-22, ESSER II funds were used to develop a five-module, interactive online professional learning system with the capacity to accommodate at minimum 20,000 educators at a given time. The online course emphasizes the study of primary source documents with a particular focus on the American founding, American form of government, and U.S. History. Educators will also

learn related instructional strategies and evidence-based best practices. Every educator who successfully completes the requirements to receive their Florida Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement is also eligible to receive a \$3,000 stipend. ESSER II funds were allocated for these stipends beginning in Fiscal Year 2022-23, with the capacity to provide a \$3,000 stipend to up to 20,000 educators. To date, 21,341 Florida educators have successfully completed the Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement course. During the 2025 legislative session, \$3.5 million was appropriated for the continuation of this program in Fiscal Year 2025-26. It is projected that at least 950 Florida educators will successfully complete the course earning both the endorsement and the \$3,000 stipend. This new funding request for Fiscal Year 2026-27 would allot for additional Florida educators.

\$5,292,000 - \$3,000 Stipends provided to 1,764 participants

\$ 898,476 - Facilitation Activities

\$6,190,476 - Total Project Costs

\$ 309,524 - Administrative Costs (5% of project costs)

\$6,500,000 - Total Workload Request

#### **FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR CHARTER SCHOOL INNOVATION**

The department is requesting \$750,000 in recurring General Revenue to support the Institute's efforts to provide support for new charter school sponsors (state colleges and universities) as well as the Institute's own efforts to sponsor charter schools in Miami-Dade County.

#### **FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT TOOL**

The department is requesting \$91,790 in recurring General Revenue to bolster ongoing FSSAT system maintenance, ensuring continued reliability, security, and performance. The FSSAT is the state's primary platform for school safety assessments, enabling districts to identify vulnerabilities, track corrective actions, and coordinate with first responders. Maintaining this system is critical to safeguarding Florida's students and educators, supporting compliance with state law, and providing decision-makers with accurate, timely data to strengthen campus security statewide.

#### **IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN MATHEMATICS: STATE REGIONAL MATHEMATICS DIRECTORS AND COACHES**

The department is requesting \$500,000 in recurring General Revenue to expand the work of the Mathematics Regional Directors and Coaches that began in the 2025-26 school year.

These funds will be used to:

- support and reinforce standards implementation and Florida's Formula for Success for High-Quality Mathematics Instruction;
- provide coaching to educators and maintain detailed coaching logs;
- develop and provide mathematics professional learning; and
- collect, analyze, and report data to be used for program effectiveness and to ensure financial resources are aligned with the intents and purposes of the program.

The funds requested will provide another Mathematics Regional Director (1, for a total of 2) and additional Mathematics Regional Coaches (3, for a total of 9) to expand these efforts.

\$ 82,000 - Mathematics Regional Director (1)

\$201,000 - Mathematics Regional Coaches (3)

\$181,374 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits

\$ 326 - Travel

\$ 11,490 - Office expenses

\$476,190 - Total Project Costs

\$ 23,810 - Administrative Costs (5% of project costs)

\$500,000 - Total Workload Requested

## NEW PROGRAM

### FLORIDA CIVICS AND DEBATE INITIATIVE

The department is requesting \$1,500,000 in recurring General Revenue to fund the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI), which will be pivotal in expanding access to competitive civics and debate programs for all Florida students. Although this is an existing program, this is a request for new funding in the department. The primary goal of this requested allocation is to broaden the reach and impact of FCDI civics and debate programs and create more opportunities for students to develop essential skills and engage in meaningful civil discourse.

The requested funds will also allow FCDI to expand its reach, deepen student engagement, and strengthen operational capacity across the state—ensuring all Florida students, regardless of geographic location or socio-economic status, have access to competitive speech and debate. This investment will allow FCDI to grow strategically and sustainably—ensuring all Florida students, regardless of geographic location or socio-economic status, have the opportunity to build civic knowledge, communication skills, and confidence through competitive speech and debate.

The request to expand the program consists of several key components:

Addition of two (2) full-time Program Managers, with a total compensation package of \$301,918 for salary, benefits and travel. The Program Managers' primary responsibility will be recruiting and establishing new speech and debate teams, with a particular focus on underserved schools and regions. This role is essential to advancing FCDI's mission to provide meaningful civic learning opportunities to students in all 67 Florida counties.

- Invest \$400,000 to expand the National Civics and Debate Championship. These funds will support increased student participation through enhanced travel assistance, venue and lodging costs, educational programming, and overall production value—ensuring the championship continues to serve as a capstone event that celebrates student achievement in civic discourse.

- To further develop student leadership and civic identity, \$150,000 will be dedicated to launching a Civic Leadership Summer Camp for 200 high school students. This immersive, residential experience will provide workshops, simulations, and mentorship designed to empower students as thoughtful, informed leaders.

- Florida Civics and Debate Initiative Day at the Capitol will be expanded with a \$90,000 investment, allowing more students to travel to Tallahassee and engage directly with state government. This funding will cover transportation, meals, event logistics, materials, and enhanced programming to create a powerful real-world civics experience.

- To directly support program growth, FCDI will provide \$3,000 stipends to 100 new speech and debate teams, totaling \$300,000. These stipends will help cover coaching, travel, tournament fees, and materials—removing financial barriers that often prevent schools from launching competitive teams.

- Finally, 186,653 will be used to expand statewide tournament operations. This includes funding for venue rentals, judge stipends, technology, awards, and logistical support to ensure FCDI can continue to deliver high-quality, student centered competitions throughout Florida.

The budget request is outlined below:

\$ 141,278 - Program Managers 2 @ \$70,639 each

\$ 90,640 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits

\$ 70,000 - Travel

\$ 300,000 - Stipends for Teams (100 teams x \$3,000 stipend)

\$ 400,000 - National Civics and Debate Championship Expansion

\$ 150,000 - Civic leadership summer camp

\$ 90,000 - FCDI Day at the Capitol expansion

\$ 186,653 - Tournament operations

\$1,428,571 - Total Project Costs

\$ 71,429 - Administrative Costs (5% of Project Costs)

\$1,500,000 - Total Request Recommend Strategic Statewide Initiatives line item.

The performance of this program will be measured through the following key outcomes: the establishment of at least 100 additional speech and debate teams, the inclusion of 1,000 additional students in regular FCDI programs, and the participation of 200 additional students in the National Civics and Debate Championship.

## **ENHANCEMENT**

### **BUREAU OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REGIONAL TEAM STAFFING**

The department is requesting \$1,700,000 in recurring General Revenue to continue the work of the Bureau of School Improvement's (BSI) Regional Teams. This funding will allow the four regional field teams to continue the work they started with temporary federal funding sources (ARP/ESSER), which have since expired. Florida's focused investment in supporting low-performing schools is yielding results. Since 2015, BSI has supported a significant reduction in the number of 'D' and 'F' schools, from 573 schools in 2015 to 71 schools in 2025. Continued funding is critical to sustain the BSI team's capacity to support, monitor and drive improvement in Florida's most underperforming schools and districts. Without this investment, the state risks losing the momentum gained over the last decade and falling short of federal and state accountability expectations. In accordance with section (s.) 1008.33(3)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the department annually identifies schools in need of intervention and support to improve student academic performance. All schools earning a school grade of 'D' or 'F' or graduation rate of 67% or less pursuant to s. 1008.34, F.S., are schools in need of intervention and support.

Rule 6A-1.099811, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), defines the roles of the department and school districts in supporting these schools. To fulfill these responsibilities, BSI provides direct support to teachers, school leaders and district staff to improve student academic performance in Florida's lowest-performing schools. Four regional teams provide direct support to schools and districts with improvement planning, leadership and educator quality improvement, professional learning, curriculum review and alignment and continuous monitoring. These efforts align with s. 1008.33(3)(a), F.S., which emphasizes the importance of student performance across the state school system and authorizes the State Board of Education to enforce accountability in accordance with Florida law and the federally approved Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan.

Florida has been augmenting the recurring federal funding for school improvement (Title I, Part A section 1003) with temporary funding sources (ARP/ESSER), which have since expired.

Sustained investment in the BSI team is essential to ensure Florida's most underperforming schools continue making measurable progress. Without state funding, the team will be unable to provide critical support, monitor improvement efforts or drive meaningful change where it's needed most. Florida risks reversing a decade of gains and falling short of state and federal accountability requirements. A lack of funding would lead to a reduction in staffing, limiting the ability to support the state's most vulnerable schools. In addition to supporting the state's most vulnerable schools, BSI also supports 888 schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) (federal designation) when subgroups of students perform below the state-defined threshold for six consecutive years. Furthermore, BSI supports a state-designated group of schools identified as persistently low-performing (PLPS). Section 1002.333(1)(c)3., F.S., expanded the definition of PLPS to include those in the bottom 10% statewide on early literacy and math assessments in at least two of the prior three years. As a result, the number of PLPS identified increased from 51 in 2024 to 267 in 2025. To support this increase in the number of schools supported by BSI, the department is seeking these additional funds.

The requested recurring funds will be used as follows:

- \$ 950,000 - Administrative Positions
- \$ 350,000 - Administrative Positions Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits
- \$ 25,000 - Staff Positions
- \$ 12,000 - Staff Positions Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits
- \$ 1,574 - Faculty Positions
- \$ 500 - Faculty Positions Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits
- \$ 215,000 - Program Related Expenditures
- \$ 20,000 - Technology and Supplies
- \$1,574,074 - Total Project Costs
- \$ 125,926 - Administrative Costs (8% of project costs)
- \$1,700,000 - Total Funds Requested

### **HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTION AND LEADERSHIP PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

The department is requesting \$1,650,000 of new recurring General Revenue to continue funding professional learning opportunities that have previously been funded by federal Title IV funds. Given the competing demands on statewide initiatives and professional learning projects, a recurring appropriation will ensure the seamless and continued offering of statewide professional learning aimed to improve instruction and increase student

achievement in Florida. Without additional funding, BSIS cannot continue offering these essential, Florida-specific statewide learning events. The Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS) Professional Learning Event Series is a professional learning opportunity aligned to Florida's state academic standards. The foundation of this series is Florida's Formula for Success which details the 5 characteristics of high-quality instruction, the types of assessments that inform instruction as well as strategies to support tiered instruction. The goal of this event series is to enhance content knowledge through benchmarks-aligned, high-quality professional learning for Florida teachers in kindergarten through grade 12 from any public, private or charter school. This professional learning series will begin each fall with content development of session materials for specific content area tracks including mathematics, computer science, civics and social studies, health and physical education and a kindergarten through grade 12 leadership track that encompasses all content areas. Content development teams comprised of Florida teachers and instructional leaders are established to collaborate and learn from each other as they develop the content sessions that will be used throughout the summer professional learning event series. To ensure that the needs of all students are reflected within the content, each track will embed strategies to support English Language Learners and students who exhibit the need for exceptional education strategies. Additionally, department initiatives, such as Resiliency Florida, are included in context with content area instruction.

Since summer 2021, BSIS has provided annual professional learning to prepare teachers for the implementation of the B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics, expanding over time to include additional subjects, agency initiatives, inter-bureau collaboration, and an instructional support expo. Math-focused sessions have contributed to a 7 percentage point increase in student achievement over three years: 2022-23: 51%, 2023-24: 55%, 2024-25: 58%. In civics for 2024-25, 53 districts saw gains in student achievement and statewide scores rose 3%, with 70% of middle school students earning a Level 3 or higher on the Civics EOC. Despite this progress, the rate of improvement remains insufficient to meet urgent student needs. Participant feedback confirms a strong demand for high-quality professional learning. Professional learning has been previously funded by Title IV. Given the competing demands on statewide initiatives and professional learning projects, a recurring appropriation will ensure the seamless and continued offering of statewide professional learning aimed to improve instruction and increase student achievement in Florida. Without additional funding, BSIS cannot continue offering these essential, Florida-specific statewide learning events.

The requested funds will be used as follows:

\$	150,000	- Content Developer Stipends
\$	50,000	- Content Developer Travel Allowance
\$	56,000	- Facilitator Travel Allowance
\$	448,000	- Facilitator Stipends
\$	350,000	- Facility Rentals
\$	168,000	- Event Planner
\$	167,500	- Event Materials
\$	181,929	- Event Printing
\$	1,571,429	- Total Project Costs
\$	78,571	- Costs associated with the administration of the project (5% of project costs)
\$	1,650,000	- Total Amount Requested

#### **FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT TOOL**

The department is requesting \$137,121 in recurring General Revenue to improve FSSAT functionality, data reporting, and coordination through an enhanced Points-of-Contact capability. This upgrade will establish a centralized, role-secured directory of school, district, and first-responder personnel with real-time synchronization across all modules, improving communication, accuracy, and readiness while enabling future integrations.

#### **IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN MATHEMATICS: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

The department is requesting \$650,000 in recurring General Revenue to provide professional learning on new content created by regional mathematics team in Fiscal Year 2025-26. House Bill 1105 (2025) called for the development of kindergarten through grade 12 competencies for a mathematics endorsement aligned with evidence-based mathematics instruction and intervention strategies. These competencies must include numbers and operations, fractions, algebraic reasoning, measurement, geometric reasoning, and data analysis and probabilities at the elementary and secondary level. In order to meet these statutory requirements, Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS) is requesting funds for additional mathematics professional learning to ensure all teachers are adequately prepared to provide benchmarks-aligned, high-quality instruction.

This work has previously been supported through Title IV federal funding. However, with growing national demand for federal dollars, a state appropriation would provide the stable financial support needed to sustain and expand this work—ensuring continued instructional improvements and gains in student achievement. A state investment would allow BSIS to expand its strategic plan to include year-round, region-specific training. Without this appropriation, Florida risks stagnation in mathematics outcomes.

The goal of this initiative is to expand statewide mathematics professional learning. This will include regional professional learning during the 2026-27 school year based on the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for Mathematics and will be focused on supporting mathematics interventions as well as the new mathematics endorsement competencies. BSIS will facilitate benchmarks-aligned, high-quality professional learning that will be grounded in Florida's Formula for Success.

Evidence-based mathematics interventions will be provided based upon student need through daily targeted small group instruction provided by a high-quality teacher. Additionally, students may receive supplemental, evidence-based interventions before or after school by a high-quality teacher of mathematics or a trained tutor. The progress of a student receiving mathematics interventions must be monitored and instruction must be adjusted based on the performance of the student. Interventions must be given and monitored until a student exhibits grade level proficiency. In addition, teachers must provide consistent communication with parents to notify them of the students' specific mathematics deficiency, their progress with instructional interventions and achievement of grade-level proficiency.

Since 2021, the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support has offered annual summer professional learning to prepare teachers for implementing the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for Mathematics. This K-12 aligned support has contributed to a 7 percentage point increase in student achievement over three years: 2022-23: 51%, 2023-24: 55%, 2024-25: 58%. Despite this progress, the pace of improvement is not sufficient to meet the urgent need for all students to succeed in math. Without dedicated funding, BSIS may be unable to continue offering targeted, statewide professional learning aligned to student needs.

Pursuant to section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, students in kindergarten through grade 4 who are exhibiting a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia based upon screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or assessment data; statewide assessments; or teacher observations must receive systematic and explicit mathematics interventions.

While statute requires intervention for students in kindergarten through grade 4, best practice in mathematics instruction is to provide student-centered instruction in kindergarten through grade 12. Therefore, professional learning to support mathematics instruction and interventions should not be limited to kindergarten through grade 4, but should be focused on kindergarten through grade 12.

The requested funds will be for used for eight events, two days each, for 100 participants, as follows:

\$ 80,000 - Facility Rental  
\$370,000 - Travel for Participants and Staff  
\$100,000 - Event Planner  
\$ 49,000 - Even Materials  
\$ 20,048 - Other Related Expenses  
\$619,048 - Total Project Costs  
\$ 30,952 - Administrative Costs (5% of project costs)  
\$650,000 - Total Funds Requested

### **REGIONAL LITERACY TEAMS**

The department is requesting \$1,000,000 in recurring General Revenue, for a total of \$6,000,000, to enhance the professional learning provided by Regional Literacy Teams to provide high-quality professional learning that will impact students, teachers, literacy coaches, and school administrators in schools with the largest reading achievement gaps. The additional funds requested will provide professional learning for 2,000 teachers, literacy coaches, school administrators, and district leaders to participate in a Summer Literacy Institute (1 elementary event and 1 secondary event) and/or Literacy Coach Endorsement Boot Camp (3 events).

Elementary Summer Literacy Institute (1,300 educators) - 2 days - State Regional Literacy Directors and Just, Read, Florida! facilitate 78 sessions for educators to choose from. Sessions focus on B.E.S.T. ELA Standards,

science of reading, and evidence-based literacy instruction. Participants receive the training materials to deliver professional learning in their districts so that more students, teachers, literacy coaches, and school administrators can be impacted.

Secondary Summer Literacy Institute (600 educators) - 2 days - State Regional Literacy Directors and Just Read, Florida! facilitate 51 sessions for educators to choose from. Sessions focus on B.E.S.T. ELA Standards, science of reading, and evidence-based literacy instructions. Participants receive the training materials to deliver professional learning in their districts so that more students, teachers, literacy coaches, and school administrators can be impacted.

Literacy Coach Endorsement Boot Camp (100 educators) - 8 days - State Regional Literacy Directors facilitate 5 modules for literacy coaches and coach candidates to earn the Literacy Coach Endorsement over a 7-month timeframe. Modules equip literacy coaches to provide professional learning and ongoing support for teachers and school leaders to improve literacy instruction and student achievement. Participants can attend a train-the-trainer to receive training materials to deliver professional learning in their districts so that more literacy coaches can earn the Literacy Coach Endorsement.

Adding \$1,000,000 to the state appropriation for Regional Literacy Teams would allow the State Regional Literacy Directors, in collaboration with the Just Read, Florida! Office, to continue providing statewide professional learning that prioritizes teachers, literacy coaches, and administrators from RAISE schools and districts. In 2021, the Just Read, Florida! Office and State Regional Literacy Directors started providing face-to-face, multi-day literacy conferences each summer that have impacted thousands of K-12 educators and students. In 2022, State Regional Literacy Directors started facilitating Literacy Coach Endorsement Boot Camps for hundreds of K-12 literacy coaches and coach candidates to support teachers with delivering high-quality instruction.

Over the last few years, these professional learning opportunities have contributed to the 8% increase in Florida's 3rd-10th grade students scoring Level 3 or above on the FAST ELA Reading (from 49% in 2023 to 57% in 2025). Significant growth is still needed and without the additional funding, these impactful opportunities will not be accessible for Florida educators since federal funds that were utilized for the events are no longer available.

For these multi-day events, the requested funds will be used as follows:

- \$ 250,000 - Room rental
- \$ 430,000 - Audio-visual/power/internet
- \$ 120,000 - Event coordination (\$120,000)
- \$ 100,000 - Staff hotel rooms and travel
- \$ 30,000 - Keynote speakers
- \$ 50,000 - Printing
- \$ 10,000 - Registration system/conference app
- \$ 10,000 - Training supplies
- \$1,000,000 - Total Additional Funds Requested

## **RESILIENCY FLORIDA PROGRAM**

The department is requesting an additional \$500,000 in recurring General Revenue, which along with the restoration request of \$500,000, will provide total recurring funding of \$1,000,000 to develop, create, release, support and promote Resiliency Florida trainings for educators, including a Resiliency endorsement for certified teachers. These trainings will equip educators with the tools and strategies needed to promote resilience in students. The Resiliency Florida initiative has been supported since 2021 with federal grant funds that are no longer available (ARP/ESSER). The Department would receive the funds with some of the funds going to contracted vendors for services. However, in Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Revenue funds became available for the first time.

First Lady DeSantis launched the Resiliency Florida initiative in February of 2021 to equip Florida's youth with the skills to overcome life's challenges. In March of 2023, the State Board of Education adopted Resiliency Education Standards designed to impart essential skills in early grades and to support students as they demonstrate those concepts in later grades. Resiliency Florida is a first-in-the-nation initiative focused on reframing mental health education to focus on building resiliency skills. The Resiliency Education Standards embed concepts of civic responsibility through citizenship and mentorship to not only help students understand the value of these ideas, but to actively engage in activities and exercises that will prepare them to be upstanding, responsible

citizens. When children build resiliency, they have better academic achievement, better attendance and a greater ability to set short- and long-term goals.

All students in grades 6-12 receive annual, required instruction for Resiliency Education, Civic and Character Education, and Life Skills Education. K-12 Resiliency Education Standards, part of the Health Education Standards, are foundational to this instruction. Florida developed and defined 11 Resiliency Characteristics to assist over 2.9 million students in Florida to be successful. These skills can be applied in a variety of situations, whether a student is improving a course grade, participating on a team, or recovering from a natural disaster. The department has also developed a Resiliency Florida Website ([buildresiliency.org](http://buildresiliency.org)) that houses all resources and materials that support Resiliency Education. Website materials include Parent Resources, posters and handouts with definitions for the Resiliency Characteristics, a Resiliency Reading List, Family Reading Guides and Teacher Resources, among other materials.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Bureau of School Improvement Regional Team Staffing - section 1008.33, Florida Statutes  
Florida School Safety Portal/Centralized Integrated Data Repository and Data Analytics Resources - section 1001.212, Florida Statutes  
Charity for Change Program - section 1003.4206, Florida Statutes  
School District Threat Management Coordinators - section 1006.07, Florida Statutes  
Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool - section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes  
Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program - section 1003.481, Florida Statutes  
Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation - section 1004.88, Florida Statutes  
Regional Literacy Teams - section 1008.365, Florida Statutes  
Resiliency Florida Program - section 1003.42, Florida Statutes  
Florida Safe Schools Canine Program - section 1006.121, Florida Statutes  
State Academic Standards/Required Instruction (Civics, Mathematics, Related Professional Learning) - sections 1003.41 and 1003.42, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of these programs is to target resources for strategic initiatives to improve student safety and student achievement and enhance educator capacity.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

### **FLORIDA SCHOOL SAFETY PORTAL / CENTRALIZED INTEGRATED DATA REPOSITORY AND DATA ANALYTICS RESOURCES**

The centralized integrated data repository known as the Florida School Safety Portal (FSSP) and data analytics resource are two separate tools. The first tool, centralized system, is similar to the State Courts Judicial Inquiry System, which is a system that allows authorized users to search across multiple criminal justice databases through a single-entry application. The FSSP provides a web-based system that enables users to access multiple data sources through one point of entry. The second tool, data analytics resource, is a monitoring tool that is intended to aid districts with social media monitoring services.

### **CHARITY FOR CHANGE PROGRAM**

The capacity of the Charity for Change Program will be increased by further development of the infrastructure, including staff, curriculum platform updates, equipment, marketing and occupancy expenses. Ultimately, the goal is to serve every child in the state of Florida through Charity for Change in-school, after-school, or summer school programs building resiliency, character, civic and charitable engagement, and life skills critical to developing successful learners in school, future careers, and life.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

This program assists participating school districts in implementing comprehensive music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade two. A school district is eligible for participation in the program if the superintendent certifies to the department, in a format prescribed by the department, that specified elementary schools within the district have established a comprehensive music education program that:

- Includes all students at the school enrolled in kindergarten through grade two.
- Is staffed by certified music educators.
- Provides music instruction for at least 30 consecutive minutes two days a week.
- Complies with class size requirements under section (s.) 1003.03, Florida Statutes (F.S.).
- Complies with the department's standards for early childhood music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade two.

### **FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR CHARTER SCHOOL INNOVATION**

The Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation is authorized in s. 1004.88, F.S. The institute is located at Miami Dade College with the purpose of analyzing charter applications to identify charter school best practices and provide training and assistance to charter school sponsors. The institute serves as an asset to charter schools, sponsors, operators, new applicants, the Florida department, and the State of Florida. The institute researches and provides insight on best practices and policies of charter schools and serves as support in reviewing charter applications and renewals. Additionally, the institute conducts research on charter school authorization and charter school performance statewide. Specific activities of the institute are to:

- Analyze charter school applications, identify best practices, and create a state resource for developing and reviewing charter school applications.
- Provide charter school sponsors with training, technical assistance, and support in reviewing initial and renewal charter applications.
- Conduct applied research on policy and practices related to charter schools.
- Conduct or compile basic research on the status of educational choice, charter authorizing, and charter school performance in this state and other topics related to charter schools.
- Collaborate with the department in developing the sponsor evaluation framework under s. 1002.33(5)(c), F.S.
- Disseminate information regarding research-based charter school teaching practices to teacher educators in this state.
- Host research workshops and conferences that allow charter school sponsors, charter school operators, students, and parents to engage in topics related to charter schools.

### **FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT TOOL (FSSAT)**

The Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) is the primary physical site security assessment tool required by the Office of Safe Schools, which is used by school officials at each school district and public school site in the state in conducting security assessments. The FSSAT helps school officials identify threats, vulnerabilities, and appropriate safety controls for the schools that they supervise, pursuant to the security risk assessment requirements of s. 1006.07(6), F.S.

### **FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS CANINE PROGRAM**

The Florida Safe Schools Canine Program was established to provide startup funds for the school districts located within the 29 fiscally constrained counties. Any appropriated funds that have not been designated for fiscally constrained districts by December 15, 2025, may be awarded to other school districts who apply to participate in the program. The school districts may use their allocated funds to purchase a canine, train the canine and the handler, provide veterinary care, as well as other costs associated with participating in the program. The canine must be trained to interact with children and must complete behavior and temperament training. A firearm detection canine may also be trained as an animal-assisted therapy canine. The school districts will partner with a local law enforcement agency to employ the canine for use in K-12 schools for the primary purpose of aiding in the detection of firearms and ammunition.

### **REGIONAL LITERACY TEAMS**

State Regional Literacy Directors (SRLDs) engage with cross-divisional experts (Reading, Exceptional Student Education, English language learners, etc.) to provide professional learning and support evidence-based literacy coaching models and evidence-based reading practices, identified pursuant to s. 1001.215, F.S. SRLDs provide targeted services and supports to schools and LEAs with the largest reading achievement gaps, emphasizing services and supports for identified schools serving kindergarten through grade five students.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT THREAT MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS**

These coordinators are part of the department's statewide behavioral threat management operational process. The threat management process is designed to identify, assess, manage, and monitor threats to schools, school staff, and students. The aim of threat management is to intervene at the earliest stage to assist students and alter or disrupt behavior for the benefit of the student and school. As identified within Florida's Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model, each district must establish a District Threat Management Coordinator (DTMC), designated by the superintendent, to oversee the district's threat management program. The DTMC is the direct liaison between the school district and the department's Statewide Threat Management Coordinator. The DTMC is responsible for ensuring the fidelity of the district's threat management program and ensuring that all district and school staff are appropriately trained. Currently, each district receives an amount based on its size: \$55,000 (small), \$60,000 (medium), \$75,000 (large), or \$115,000 (very large) as determined by the department. These funds are to be used for the salary and benefits of the DTMC.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$ 63,168,099
- 2023-24 - \$251,749,538
- 2022-23 - \$ 26,195,868

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 107 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Schools of Hope

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	6,000,000	14,000,000	20,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	0	14,000,000	233.33%
<b>Total</b>	0	6,000,000	14,000,000	20,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	0	14,000,000	233.33%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$6,000,000 is requested to be restored in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Schools of Hope Program.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$14,000,000 is requested in additional nonrecurring General Revenue for the Schools of Hope Program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an additional \$14,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue, which along with the restore request, will provide total funding of \$20,000,000 for the Schools of Hope Program. The Schools of Hope Program provides critical start-up funding for proven high-performing public charter school operators to establish, open and operate high-quality public charter schools within the neighborhoods of Florida's chronically struggling public schools. Funds will be used to recruit and prepare teachers and staff; hire and compensate teachers, school leaders and specialized instructional support personnel; acquire supplies, training, equipment and educational materials; and provide one-time start-up costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the school. There are five active Hope Operators that currently operate more than 12 schools, with more planned for the 2026-27 school year. The department will obligate funds for schools that will open by August 2026.

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$6,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue the Schools of Hope Program. The Schools of Hope Program provides critical start-up funding for proven high-performing public charter school operators to establish, open and operate high-quality public charter schools within the neighborhoods of Florida's chronically struggling public schools. Funds will be used to recruit and prepare teachers and staff; hire and compensate teachers, school leaders and specialized instructional support personnel; acquire supplies, training, equipment and educational materials; and provide one-time start-up costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the school. There are five active Hope Operators that currently operate more than 12 schools, with more planned for the 2026-27 school year. The department will obligate funds for schools that will open by August 2026.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.333, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

To encourage and support the establishment of new high-quality public charter schools in the attendance areas of persistently low-performing public schools and Florida Opportunity Zones.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Under the Schools of Hope Program, the department may award funds to newly established Schools of Hope. The Schools of Hope are public charter schools established by an entity that has been designated by the State Board of Education as a Hope Operator. A School of Hope may receive funding if it opens a school in the attendance area of a persistently low-performing public school, or within a five-mile radius of such a school, or if it opens within a Florida Opportunity Zone. A School of Hope may be located outside of a Florida Opportunity Zone or persistently low-performing school attendance zone if the school district does not have underused, vacant or surplus property available for the Hope Operator to use within a Florida Opportunity Zone or persistently low-performing school attendance zone.

Schools of Hope funds may be used for preparing teachers, school leaders and specialized instructional support personnel; for acquiring supplies, training, equipment and educational materials; or for one-time start-up costs associated with providing transportation and community engagement activities. The funds may also be used to cover the non-voted ad valorem millage that would otherwise be required for the school, or to provide funds for the initial leasing costs of a school facility in the event the department determines that a suitable district-owned facility is unavailable or not leased in a timely manner.

The Schools of Hope Program also provides a revolving loan fund to meet the school building construction needs and expenses related to the start-up of a new charter school. Funds provided through this program may not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project, which shall be calculated based on 80 percent of the cost per student station.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$6,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$0
- 2022-23 - \$0

**Item 109 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - New World School of the Arts****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$500,000 is requested to continue funding for the New World School of the Arts (NWSA).

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement  
☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.35, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

To provide students with focused professional arts training in dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The NWSA offers a high-quality and extensive academic and arts curriculum encompassing high school, college, and university level programs in four major arts forms: visual arts, dance, music, and theater. The NWSA partners with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami Dade College to offer high school diplomas, Associate of Arts degrees, Bachelor of Music degrees, and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$500,000
- 2023-24 - \$500,000
- 2022-23 - \$0

**Item 110 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Seed School of Miami****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	12,189,942	0	742,378	12,932,320	12,189,942	0	12,189,942	742,378	6.09%
<b>Total</b>	12,189,942	0	742,378	12,932,320	12,189,942	0	12,189,942	742,378	6.09%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$12,189,942 is requested to continue funding 400 students at an annual rate of \$30,474.85.

**WORKLOAD**

\$742,378 is requested in recurring General Revenue for the SEED School of Miami, pursuant to the contract the State Board of Education has with the school, to increase the annual rate per student by \$1,855.95 to address increased costs.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$742,378 in recurring General Revenue for the SEED School of Miami, for total funding of \$12,189,942. This request allows SEED School to serve a maximum of 400 at-risk students during the 2026-27 school year at an annual per-student rate of \$32,330.80. This rate aligns with the current contract the State Board of Education has with the school.

The additional funds requested will address increased costs related to personnel, transportation and student services. Additionally funds, are will be used for increased costs related to the boarding program and the full-time faculty that also reside on campus. Without this funding, not only is the operational capability of the SEED school at-risk, so are the students that it serves.

The SEED School of Miami wrapped up its eleventh year of operation during the 2024-25 school year serving students in grades 6-12. The school's primary mission is to provide an outstanding, intensive, educational program that empowers students both academically and socially, for success in college and beyond.

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.3305, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

To improve student performance and promote excellence in education through student learning opportunities and teacher professional development.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

In 2011, the Florida Legislature directed the State Board of Education to establish the state's first College Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program (program) for at-risk students. Section 1002.3305, F.S. defines the program's academic and boarding components, funding model and governance structure, and outlines student eligibility requirements. The SEED School of Miami serves students in grades 6-12. The school's primary mission is to provide an outstanding, intensive, educational program that empowers students both academically and socially, for success in college and beyond.

The SEED School provides five days a week, 24-hour a day wrap-around services, which include mentors, counseling, academic supports, and exposure to enrichment activities for students who are most likely to be parented by a single parent, live in subsidized housing, have an immediate family member who is incarcerated, and/or live in communities with high rates of detentions and incarceration. For many of these children, a public boarding school, such as SEED School of Miami, is the solution to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. A boarding school provides a nurturing and supportive environment and simultaneously emphasizes rigorous educational standards and academic achievement as a pathway to college and career success. The unique, non-academic components of a boarding school, such as life skills training, mentoring, interpersonal and intrapersonal development, creative arts, and service-learning activities have a lasting impact on a student's academic performance and personal success.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$12,189,942
- 2023-24 - \$11,950,924
- 2022-23 - \$11,716,592

## Item 111 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - School and Instructional Enhancements

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	4,306,168	15,000,000	0	19,306,168	52,825,943	48,519,775	4,306,168	(33,519,775)	(63.45%)
<b>Total</b>	4,306,168	15,000,000	0	19,306,168	52,825,943	48,519,775	4,306,168	(33,519,775)	(63.45%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$4,306,168 is requested to continue funding for the following projects:

- \$1,100,000 - AMI Kids
- \$ 100,000 - Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force
- \$ 100,000 - Commissioner of Education's Holocaust Education Task Force
- \$ 600,000 - Florida Holocaust Museum
- \$ 267,635 - Girl Scouts of Florida
- \$ 66,501 - Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach
- \$2,000,000 - Safer, Smarter Schools
- \$ 72,032 - State Science Fair

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$15,000,000 is requested to be restored for the Jewish Day School Security Guard and Transportation Grant Program.

\$33,519,775 is not requested to be restored for the following programs:

- \$ 350,000 - ACT: Accelerating High School Graduation & Workforce Readiness
- \$ 1,000,000 - After-School All-Stars
- \$ 165,000 - Alpert Jewish Family Service, Rales JFS & inSIGHT Through Education Traveling Holocaust Classroom
- \$ 400,000 - ARI/Big Bend Historical and Archaeological Education Project
- \$ 500,000 - Busch Wildlife Sanctuary's Environmental Education Program
- \$ 557,000 - Campus Guardian Angel Pilot Program
- \$ 205,000 - Career Pathways - Building Florida's Workforce
- \$ 723,984 - Cathedral Arts Project Education Programs
- \$ 40,000 - Childcare Network Agricultural Education for Military Communities: Crestview
- \$ 350,000 - City of Fort Lauderdale Education Enrichment Program
- \$ 45,000 - Construction Drawings and Ground Breaking for an Education and Social Service Center
- \$ 500,000 - C.R.E.A.T.E. West Pasco Program for Children
- \$ 500,000 - CrossTown After School Program and SIE
- \$1,500,000 - Dan Marino Foundation FloridaReady AI
- \$ 850,000 - Duval County Public Schools - Expanding Elementary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Opportunities
- \$ 337,200 - Economic Job Growth: Cleared for takeoff: Rural Aviation STEM Program for High Schools
- \$ 350,000 - Empowered of Central Florida Expansion of the Rock Program into Lake, Citrus and Sumter Counties
- \$ 75,000 - Financial Literacy for Teens (FLFT)

- \$ 800,000 - Future Career Academy Pathways to Quality Careers - Workforce Development
- \$1,500,000 - Greater Miami Jewish Federation's Holocaust Memorial Education Student Initiative
- \$ 305,000 - Gulf District Schools Math and Reading Enhancement Program
- \$ 594,810 - Hands of Mercy Everywhere Teen Moms and At-Risk Youth Prep Vocational Training
- \$ 950,000 - Helping Advance and Nurture the Development of Youth (Handy)
- \$ 100,000 - High School Math Oncology Internship Program
- \$ 493,700 - Holmes County Education Foundation: Distance Learning Initiative
- \$1,114,000 - Holocaust Learning Experience Education Platform Expansion
- \$ 300,000 - HSU Educational Foundation - Proposal for Non-public CTE Certification Program
- \$3,500,000 - Jewish Day School Student Transportation Safety Initiative
- \$ 225,000 - Jewish Federation Multicultural Campus: Lodge & Holocaust Education Center
- \$ 350,000 - K-12 Student Engagement at the Kennedy Space Center
- \$ 155,000 - Liberty County School District Bus Replacement
- \$ 400,000 - Links to Success
- \$ 500,000 - Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Classical Education Model
- \$ 500,000 - Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer
- \$ 350,000 - Miami-Dade County Public Schools - SpaceHUB @ Booker T. Washington High School
- \$ 300,000 - More Than a Game: First Tee Tallahassee Learning & Activity Programming for Youth Development
- \$ 500,000 - MUSE: Florida Grand Opera's Music & Civics Education Initiative
- \$ 650,000 - National Flight Academy
- \$ 350,000 - North Florida After School Agriculture and Arts Program
- \$ 330,000 - Okaloosa County Schools Classroom Technology
- \$1,000,000 - Overtown Youth Center - College and Career Readiness
- \$ 50,000 - Planned to A.T. Financial Literacy Curriculum Implementation in Duval County Public Schools
- \$ 874,999 - Roosevelt Elementary School Program Enhancements
- \$ 139,082 - Securing the Continuation of the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida: Project Year 3 of 5
- \$ 500,000 - Seminole County Public Schools - Academy of Engineering Modernization & Expansion
- \$1,160,000 - South Florida Autism Charter Schools - Expansion
- \$ 500,000 - South Walton High School - Career Academy
- \$ 250,000 - St. Augustine Airport Student Maintenance Training Program
- \$ 250,000 - State Academic Tournament
- \$3,000,000 - Taylor County Schools Hurricane Recovery Funds
- \$ 200,000 - The Cuban Museum, Inc. Operations
- \$ 75,000 - The Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools - School Supply Vehicle
- \$ 450,000 - Torah Together: A Parent-Child Learning Initiative
- \$ 300,000 - Victory High Schools
- \$1,000,000 - Washington County School District - Operational Assistance
- \$ 895,000 - Workforce Development for Martin County Teens
- \$ 160,000 - YMCA of Arcadia Speer Center Renovations

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

AMI Kids, Girl Scouts of Florida: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509  
 Task Forces, Florida Holocaust Museum, Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, Safer, Smarter Schools, State Science Fair: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509  
 Jewish Day School Security Guard and Transportation Grant Program: Darren Norris (850) 245-9328; Tim Hay (850) 245-5173

## **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$15,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue funding the Jewish Day School Security Guard Grant Program at the Fiscal Year 2025-26 level. Fiscal Year 2021-22 was the first year the department provided grants to full-time Jewish day schools and Jewish preschools for nonhardening security measures, specifically the hiring of security personnel. The Jewish Day School Security Guard Grant Program has been funded as a nonrecurring grant every year since. The need for these funds has not diminished; with the ongoing unrest in the Middle East, Jewish day schools continue to face security risks.

While House Bill 1109 (2024) addresses the ongoing needs by providing funds to secure full-time Jewish day schools and preschools in the state through professional security hardening, there is currently no recurring funding for the Jewish Day School Security Guard Grant Program. These security guards serve as the first line of defense for schools that are at risk from anti-Semitic individuals and groups. The U.S. Department of State's terrorist watch list found at <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/list/index.htm> has identified groups for which Jewish Day Schools have a legitimate concern.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of these programs is to improve student performance and promote excellence in education through student learning opportunities and educator professional learning opportunities.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

#### **AMIKIDS**

The AMIkids Workforce Development and Job Placement program provides comprehensive programming to help students determine and develop career pathways through career technical education and training, job placement, and follow up services. The program's goals are to improve academic outcomes and increase job readiness skills. Students who are disruptive in school or in the community are provided an opportunity to find vocational options to prepare them to make better choices. Workforce development, career readiness, and job placement opportunities are provided at sites in the following counties: Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Clay, Duval, Escambia, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, and Pinellas.

### **COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TASK FORCE**

The mission of the Commissioner's African American History Task Force is to support the teaching and learning of African American history throughout Florida according to required instruction per section (s.) 1003.42(2)(h), Florida Statutes (F.S.). The Task Force builds partnerships, provides educator professional learning, supports Florida's school districts, makes recommendations to the Commissioner, and raises awareness on the history of African Americans. The Task Force also helps identify and recommend state leadership action in the adoption of instructional resources on African American History to enhance educator preparation, improve student performance, and supports annual African American History initiatives.

### **COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S HOLOCAUST EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

The mission of the Commissioner's Holocaust Education Task Force is to support the teaching and learning of the history of the Holocaust throughout Florida according to required instruction per s. 1003.42(2)(g), F.S. The Task Force builds partnerships, provides educator professional learning, supports Florida's school districts, makes recommendations to the Commissioner, and raises awareness on the history of the Holocaust. The Task Force also helps identify and recommend state leadership action in the adoption of instructional resources on Holocaust education to enhance educator preparation and improve student performance. Funding assists Holocaust education centers and school districts to provide a wide variety of programming to support the implementation of Florida's Holocaust Education standards and annual Holocaust Education initiatives.

### **FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**

The primary purpose of this project is to improve student achievement by providing teaching and learning opportunities to students, teachers, administrators, and community members by supporting required instruction in the Holocaust in compliance with s. 1003.42(2)(g), F.S. Priorities include enhancing instruction and providing activities to improve student performance, increase student knowledge, and address unmet student needs, especially for at-risk students. The Florida Holocaust Museum will:

- Assist school districts in their implementation of state academic standards that can be applied to fulfilling the state mandate on Holocaust education.
- Develop, implement, and continue innovative training designed to assist with student academic achievement, and to provide models for potential replication which support and are based on state academic standards.
- Provide meaningful involvement and collaboration with external partners/service providers in the development and implementation of project goals designed to support initiatives designed to assist with Holocaust and genocide education.
- Provide meaningful educational experiences for the community.

### **GIRL SCOUTS OF FLORIDA**

The Girl Scouts of Florida "Get Real!" program connects identified middle school girls with community members that serve as mentors. The main goal of the program is to help the girls maintain or increase significant life skills. The program aims to increase school attendance and decrease the referral/suspension of the participating girls. The 30-week program stresses reading and writing skills by having the girls read and write in their journals each week. The "Get Real!" mentoring program takes place during the school day or after school and seeks to increase participating girls' motivation and ability to make positive life choices.

- Served 404 students through four Girl Scout Councils.
- Targeted identified middle school girls.
- Provided 619 Get Real! Mentoring program sessions.
- Provided reading and writing opportunities.
- Provided interactive activities to teach life skills.

### **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MIAMI BEACH**

The purpose of the Holocaust Memorial of Miami Beach Project is to support local educational agencies through programs and activities that offer well-rounded educational experiences for students and teachers. The project illuminates the history of the Holocaust and lessons learned through personal testimonies of survivors. The project provides resources and educational opportunities that align to s. 1003.42(2)(g), F.S.

## **SAFER, SMARTER SCHOOLS**

The purpose of the Safer, Smarter Schools program is to increase students' health education skills through awareness and education related to the prevention of childhood sexual abuse, the prevention of child trafficking, and information regarding mental health. The project distributes curriculum modules for grades prekindergarten through 12 to Florida educators and create resources to help children and parents cope with the aftermath of child sexual abuse.

## **STATE SCIENCE FAIR**

The goal of the project is to improve student achievement by providing opportunities for students in grades kindergarten through 12 to pursue research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Created more than 50 years ago, the State Science Fair (officially entitled the State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF)) provides an exciting opportunity to challenge, encourage, and reward the state's brightest and most creative secondary students. The primary purpose of the SSEF is to improve student performance by providing opportunities for students in grades six through 12 to pursue research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The SSEF is a three-day display of science project exhibits prepared by aspiring scientists and engineers. The Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (FFFS) is a non-profit organization authorized by the State of Florida in 1957 to promote and facilitate the SSEF of Florida. Nearly 950 finalists display their projects and illustrate their research in competition for awards annually.

The main objectives of the FFFS and the SSEF are to:

- Recognize scientific talent in young people and introduce students to organized research.
- Provide teachers a forum for the exchange of ideas.
- Focus attention on science, mathematics, and engineering, thereby stimulating students, their teachers and the general public's interest.
- Establish guidelines, rules, and procedures for local, regional, and statewide competitions.
- Reward scholarships, internships, and awards in science, engineering, and leadership youth programs.
- Coordinate industrial, professional, and educational activities related to careers in science and engineering.

All schools in Florida, public and private, are eligible to host school science fairs and send representatives to the regional competitions. Regional winners are eligible to compete at the SSEF, and state winners are eligible to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). The Intel ISEF is the premier global science competition for students in grades 9-12.

## **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$44,789,759
- 2023-24 - \$45,470,079
- 2022-23 - \$32,207,950

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 112 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Exceptional Education

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,819,462	0	0	5,819,462	9,793,067	3,973,605	5,819,462	(3,973,605)	(40.58%)
Federal Grants TF	2,333,354	0	0	2,333,354	2,499,354	166,000	2,333,354	(166,000)	(6.64%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,152,816</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,152,816</b>	<b>12,292,421</b>	<b>4,139,605</b>	<b>8,152,816</b>	<b>(4,139,605)</b>	<b>(33.68%)</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$8,152,816 is requested to continue funding the current level of services for multiple projects serving students, as follows:

\$5,819,462 from General Revenue is requested to continue the current level of services for the following programs:

- \$ 750,000 - Auditory-Oral Education Grants
- \$1,750,000 - Bridge to Speech Program
- \$ 350,000 - Family Cafe
- \$ 577,758 - Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Associate Centers
- \$1,141,704 - Learning through Listening
- \$1,000,000 - School District Exceptional Student Evaluation grant program
- \$ 250,000 - Special Olympics

\$2,333,354 from the Federal Grants Trust Fund is requested to continue the current level of services for the following programs:

- \$ 270,987 - Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired
- \$ 750,322 - Multi-Agency Network for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities
- \$ 786,217 - Portal to Exceptional Education Resources
- \$ 191,828 - Resource Materials and Technology Center for Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing
- \$ 334,000 - Very Special Arts of Florida (now Arts4All Florida)

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$3,973,605 is not requested to be restored in nonrecurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- \$ 500,000 - Branching Out to Break the Bottleneck: Strengthening ESE Support with Early Interventions
- \$ 450,000 - First Tee (CHAMP) for At-Risk & Developmentally Disabled Students and Young Adults
- \$ 250,000 - Learning Through Listening/Dyslexia Awareness Professional Learning
- \$ 450,000 - Love Serving Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program
- \$ 200,000 - Miami Lighthouse Academy, LLC
- \$ 750,000 - Personalized Learning Initiative for K-12 Education
- \$1,000,000 - The Family Cafe
- \$ 373,605 - Tree of Knowledge: Chabad/Jewish Students with Autism and Special Needs Learning Center

\$166,000 is not requested to be restored in nonrecurring funds from the Federal Grants Trust Fund for the Very Special Arts Program.

## **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

#### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1001.451, 1002.391, 1003.55, 1003.57, 1003.576, 1006.28(1), 1006.03, 1006.04, and 1011.75, Florida Statutes

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 300.172, 300.5, and 300.6

### **PURPOSE:**

These programs provide an array of specific services to students with intellectual disabilities and students who are gifted.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

#### **AUDITORY-ORAL EDUCATION GRANTS**

These funds are awarded to Florida public or private nonprofit school programs serving deaf children from birth to age 7 in multiple counties, including rural areas. These schools must solely offer auditory-oral education programs, as defined in section (s.) 1002.391, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and have a supervisor and faculty members who are credentialed as Certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialists. The amounts of the grants are based on the specific needs of each eligible student. Each eligible school that has insufficient public funds to provide the educational and related services specified in the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) of eligible students may submit grant applications to the department. Applications must include an itemized list of total costs, the amount of public funds available for those students without the grant, and the additional amount needed for the services identified in each student's respective IEP or IFSP.

#### **BRIDGE TO SPEECH PROGRAM**

The Bridge to Speech Program will provide opportunities for families of students who are deaf or hard of hearing ages 3-6 to choose a private auditory oral program with faculty members who are credentialed as certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialists. Both center-based and virtual services will be available. The Bridge to Speech funding will include audiology services, evaluations, listening and spoken language therapy, family education, consultation, and technical assistance for students throughout Florida. Highly qualified educational specialists will address goals to create the foundation for lifelong success for students with hearing loss.

## **FAMILY CAFE**

The Family Cafe is the leading source of information, resources, and networking for Floridians with disabilities. It hosts the largest statewide cross-disability event in the nation. The annual Family Cafe event connects attendees with resources and strategies they need to thrive in their communities. It also provides a platform for state agencies and policy makers to connect with the citizens they serve. The Family Cafe promotes leadership among youth with disabilities through its Florida Youth Council and supports the development of local family organizations through a Family-Run Organization Movement initiative, so Floridians can access the connections, resources, and natural supports that the annual Family Cafe offers on a local level throughout the year.

## **FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM ASSOCIATE CENTERS**

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers (FACs) provide services to support exceptional student education in school districts statewide. The four central functions of each FAC are Child Find, Parent and Family Services, Human Resources Development, and Technology. The 18 FACs serve Florida's school districts, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Florida's university laboratory/developmental research schools, and charter schools. FACs collaborate with school districts, agency and support personnel, communities, families, and other educational personnel providing support services for educators, parents, school administrators, and students with exceptionalities.

## **FLORIDA INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

In accordance with s. 1003.55, F.S., the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) provides staff and resources for the coordination, cataloging, standardizing, producing, procuring, storing, and distribution of braille, large print, tangible apparatus, and other specialized educational materials needed by these students. The purpose of FIMC-VI is to serve as a statewide centralized collection of specialized accessible instructional materials including large print and braille textbooks and materials for students with visual impairments from birth through grade 12. It also serves as a resource center providing coordination and training in the selection and use of materials, equipment, and technological applications as well as appropriate instructional strategies. This project also assists in addressing the critical need for assistance in small and rural districts by the provision of technical assistance for these school districts.

## **LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING**

Learning through Listening facilitates support services and training to administrators, teachers, and students on the use of digital audiobooks provided by Learning Ally. Learning Ally is an accessible media producer and is registered with the National Instructional Materials Access Center. The project will coordinate with Florida's appointed National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards authorized user to provide digital audio textbooks, playback software and mobile device applications to eligible students with reading deficits and print disabilities.

## **MULTI-AGENCY NETWORK FOR STUDENTS WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES**

Pursuant to s. 1006.04, F.S., the Multi-Agency Network for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET) project assists students with severe emotional disturbance to learn appropriate behaviors, reduce dependency, and fully participate in all aspects of school and community living. This includes developing individual programs for students with severe emotional disturbance, including necessary educational, residential, and mental health treatment services; providing programs and services as close as possible to the student's home in the least restrictive manner consistent with the student's needs; and integrating a wide range of services necessary to support students with severe emotional disturbance and their families.

## **PORTAL TO EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION RESOURCES AND MEDICAID TRACKING SYSTEM**

The Portal to Exceptional Education Resources (PEER) and Medicaid Tracking System (MTS) is a web-based system that is made available to school districts to use when implementing federal and state requirements related to exceptional student education. Current functionality includes the development of Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities, Educational Plans (EPs) for students who are gifted, Service Plans (SPs) for parentally placed private school students with disabilities, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Plans for students with disabilities, amendments to an existing plan, parent notifications, progress reports, transportation documentation requirements, matrix of services documents, conference notes, prior written notices, consent notices for evaluation and reevaluation, consents for provision of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services, eligibility determination forms, and written summaries of groups' analyses. The system includes internal compliance checks and allows for state- or district-level monitoring of ESE compliance. MTS 3.0 is an online application free to Florida school districts that enables them to document and submit reimbursement requests for

Medicaid-reimbursable services provided to eligible students. Students eligible under the Medicaid Certified School Match Program (MCSMP) are those who have an IEP or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) through Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who are Medicaid recipients.

### **RESOURCE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING**

Section 1003.55, F.S., established a coordinating unit and instructional materials center for deaf and hard of hearing students, the Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (RMTC-DHH). The center provides staff and resources for the coordination, cataloging, standardizing, producing, procuring, storing, and distributing of captioned media and other specialized educational materials needed by these students. The center's major purpose is the improvement of instructional programs for deaf or hard of hearing students.

In addition to meeting these requirements, this project provides as training and technical assistance to educators and parents of students who are sensory impaired in accordance with Rules 6A-6.03013, 6A-6.03014, or 6A-6.03022, Florida Administrative Code, as well as statewide coordination for the delivery of specialized technology and instructional materials to students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EVALUATION GRANT PROGRAM**

This program assists districts in complying with s. 1002.394(7)(b), F.S. School districts that wish to participate in the grant program must report the number of Individual Educational Plans and matrix of services developed, or in the process of being developed, for students with a Family Empowerment Scholarship. The department shall provide funding of no more than \$2,000 per each Individual Educational Plan reported by a district. If the appropriation is not sufficient, funding must be prorated based on the number of plans reported by districts.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Special Olympics Florida provides a year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people with intellectual disabilities who wish to participate, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. The ultimate objective of Special Olympics Florida is to help people with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large by offering them the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition and by increasing the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.

### **VERY SPECIAL ARTS OF FLORIDA - NOW ARTS4ALL FLORIDA**

Arts4All Florida supports the development of programs and activities in the arts for students with disabilities from prekindergarten to age 21. These programs and activities provide opportunities for students to learn through the arts. Funding is utilized for direct service to students, technical assistance, professional learning, and coaching for program partners.

Note: All entitlement formula funds for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are appropriated in the Federal Grants and Aids budget entity and category.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$8,750,795
- 2023-24 - \$9,007,816
- 2022-23 - \$7,345,860

## Item 113 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	74,659,956	0	943,189	75,603,145	74,659,956	0	74,659,956	943,189	1.26%
Admin TF	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	2,843,303	0	0	2,843,303	2,843,303	0	2,843,303	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	2,765,470	0	0	2,765,470	2,765,470	0	2,765,470	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,273,729</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>943,189</b>	<b>81,216,918</b>	<b>80,273,729</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,273,729</b>	<b>943,189</b>	<b>1.17%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$80,273,729 is requested to continue funding education, support services, residential activities, and outreach services for deaf/hard-of-hearing, blind/visually impaired, deafblind, and career education programs for an estimated 1,856 children served by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB).

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$943,189 is requested in nonrecurring General Revenue funds to support the purchase of four buses that meet the criteria established by the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) for replacement and disposal.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

DOE: Paul Burns (850) 245-0509; FSDB: Tracie Snow, President (904) 827-2211

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$943,189 is requested in nonrecurring General Revenue funds to support the purchase of four buses that meet the criteria established by the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) for replacement and disposal. The DMS replacement criteria for buses is 110,000 miles/10 years old. FSDB vehicles are well maintained and utilized for the life of the vehicle, provided they meet all safety and operational requirements. Maintaining safe, secure, and reliable vehicles in the FSDB Fleet enables the school to transport students in a safe and secure manner. Estimated pricing is attached and based on DOE ITB 2025-02. Also, the DMS Minimum Equipment Replacement Criteria is attached and located on the following website, pdf page 5:  
[dms-media.ccplatform.net/content/download/96061/file/DMS\\_Minimum\\_Equipment\\_Replacement\\_Criteria.pdf](https://dms-media.ccplatform.net/content/download/96061/file/DMS_Minimum_Equipment_Replacement_Criteria.pdf)

Mileage	Year	Service Years	Estimated Replacement
104,758	2012	13	\$209,833
103,264	2012	13	\$197,150
126,308	2015	10	\$268,103
142,534	2017	8	\$268,103
			<b>\$943,189 Total</b>

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

To use all available talent, energy, and resources to provide free appropriate public education for eligible students who are sensory impaired.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported residential public school for students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, and deafblind in preschool through grade 12. The school is a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's EL-20 education system and is funded through the department's budget. The school shall provide educational programs and support services appropriate to meet the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired and deafblind in the state who meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach basis for children up to 5 years old who are sensory impaired and to district school boards, upon request. As a school of academic excellence, the school strives to provide students an opportunity to access education services in a caring, safe, and unique learning environment and to prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent lifelong learners. The school provides outreach services that include collaboration with district school boards and encourages input from students, staff, parents, and the community.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$70,085,112
- 2023-24 - \$65,280,930
- 2022-23 - \$59,321,890

**Item 113A - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	198,518	0	0	198,518	198,518	0	198,518	0	0.00%
Admin TF	49,160	0	0	49,160	49,160	0	49,160	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,678</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>247,678</b>	<b>247,678</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>247,678</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$247,678 is requested to continue funding required payment of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services to the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

DOE: Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; FSDB: Tracie Snow, President (904) 827-2211

**GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide for human resource management services for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (PeopleFirst) to manage the school's human resources.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$247,678
- 2023-24 - \$231,764
- 2022-23 - \$227,743

**Item 113B - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A (FCO) - Public Schools Special Projects****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	10,136,090	10,136,090	0	(10,136,090)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	10,136,090	10,136,090	0	(10,136,090)	(100.00%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$10,136,090 is not requested to be restored for the following projects:

- \$1,000,000 - ARK Innovation Center at Pinellas County Schools
- \$1,046,090 - Citrus County Schools -- Crystal River High School Health Academy Expansion
- \$3,000,000 - Duval County Schools - Jacksonville Classical Academy Expansion
- \$ 150,000 - Miami-Dade County Public Schools SpaceHUB @ Booker T. Washington High School
- \$2,900,000 - School District of Lee County - Critical School Safety and Security Enhancement
- \$2,040,000 - South Florida Autism Charter Schools - Expansion

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested.

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

N/A

**PURPOSE:**

To assist education agencies with improving the physical safety and security of school buildings; Secured entries, security systems, metal detectors, access control systems, bullet-resistant film and glass, steel doors and automatic locks are items that help schools improve safety and security.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Funds may only be used for capital purchases. Allocations are assigned initially based on each district's capital outlay and charter school full-time equivalent student membership.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$10,795,207 (Excluding Public School Hardening, reference category 140053)
- 2023-24 - \$47,860,300 (Excluding Public School Hardening, reference category 140053)
- 2022-23 - \$ 1,580,000 (Excluding Public School Hardening, reference category 140053)

## Item 113C - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Public School Hardening

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	20,000,000	22,000,000	42,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	22,000,000	110.00%
<b>Total</b>	0	20,000,000	22,000,000	42,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	22,000,000	110.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$20,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested for the School Hardening Grant program to improve the physical security of school buildings based on the security risk assessment required by section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$22,000,000 in additional nonrecurring General Revenue is requested for the School Hardening Grant program to improve the physical security of school buildings based on the security risk assessment required by section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$20,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue, to at least maintain the Fiscal Year 2025-26 funding level.

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an additional \$22,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue, which would provide, along with the prior year nonrecurring funding of \$20,000,000, total funding of \$42,000,000 to reestablish funds to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 funding level.

Without the workload increase of \$22,000,000, the reduction in funding will disproportionately impact medium and large school districts. While all districts receive a base grant of \$100,000 for hardening projects, under the current \$20,000,000 appropriation, 42 of the 75 eligible districts will see a reduction in funding; some by nearly 60 percent. These districts typically serve densely populated, urban areas, which are often considered higher-risk targets for violence and are also prioritized under federal domestic security funding programs such as the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI).

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

N/A

### **PURPOSE:**

Funds are provided for the School Hardening Grant program to improve the physical security of school buildings based on the security risk assessment required by section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The School Hardening Grant is used to improve the physical safety and security of school buildings.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$42,000,000 (Formerly in Public Schools Special Projects, reference category 140006)
- 2023-24 - \$42,000,000 (Formerly in Public Schools Special Projects, reference category 140006)
- 2022-23 - \$20,000,000 (Formerly in Public Schools Special Projects, reference category 140006)

## Item 114 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	14,021,350	14,021,350	0	(9,021,350)	(64.34%)
<b>Total</b>	0	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	14,021,350	14,021,350	0	(9,021,350)	(64.34%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

#### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$5,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested to be restored for Security of Jewish Day Schools.

\$9,021,350 is not requested to be restored for the following projects:

- \$ 800,000 - Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida - June Family Branch Capital Campaign
- \$1,000,000 - Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast: Tarpon Springs Club Learning Center Expansion
- \$ 350,000 - Centro Mater Infant & Toddlers Facility
- \$ 900,000 - Construction Drawings and Ground Breaking for an Education and Social Service Center
- \$ 400,000 - Florence A. De George Teen Center/Facility Improvements
- \$ 500,000 - Florida Dyslexia Literacy Center
- \$ 845,350 - Jewish Federation Multicultural Campus: Lodge & Holocaust Education Center
- \$ 150,000 - Links to Success
- \$ 476,000 - MOSI's Digital Dome Theatre Classroom Expansion
- \$2,000,000 - Newtown Boys & Girls Club Construction
- \$ 500,000 - Stranahan House Center of the Community Initiative
- \$ 400,000 - The Arc Gateway - Pearl Nelson Center
- \$ 250,000 - YMCA of Arcadia Speer Center Renovations
- \$ 450,000 - Youth Center Gold-Seal Programming

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

#### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$5,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue providing the Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools at the Fiscal Year 2025-26 level. These funds will be used to provide security and counter-terrorism upgrades at Florida Jewish day schools.

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

N/A

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$10,106,318
- 2023-24 - \$30,181,250
- 2022-23 - \$16,200,000

# **Federal Grants K-12 Program**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 115 - Federal Grants K-12 Program - G/A - Projects, Contracts and Grants

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Grants & Donations TF	3,999,420	0	0	3,999,420	3,999,420	0	3,999,420	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	3,999,420	0	0	3,999,420	3,999,420	0	3,999,420	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$3,999,420 is requested to continue funding for potential grant awards received by the department from private entities and non-federal funds from other state entities.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Projects, Contracts, and Grants (ACT0950)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 561.025 and 569.11, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide budget authority for grant awards and other receipts from private entities and other state agencies. These awards and receipts are to be distributed as projects, contracts or grants.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This category provides a method for the distribution of projects, contracts or grants funded by private entities and non-federal funds from other state agencies. Currently this budget authority is only used for the distribution of grants to provide teacher training to reduce and prevent the use of tobacco and tobacco related (vape) products

by children. These funds are received from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation as penalties collected from the sale of tobacco and tobacco-related products (vape) to minors.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$3,999,420
- 2023-24 - \$3,999,420
- 2022-23 - \$3,999,420

## Item 116 - Federal Grants K-12 Program - G/A - Federal Grants and Aids

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Admin TF	353,962	0	0	353,962	353,962	0	353,962	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	2,546,067,351	0	0	2,546,067,351	2,546,067,351	0	2,546,067,351	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,546,421,313</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,546,421,313</b>	<b>2,546,421,313</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,546,421,313</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$2,546,421,313 is requested to continue funding as follows:

- \$2,546,067,351 for federal grants awarded for K-12 programs aimed at improving student academic performance.
- \$353,962 from federal indirect cost earnings for programs such as the salary for Teacher of the Year and Superintendents Supplements/Training.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Federal Funds for School Districts (ACT0865)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1010.05 and 1011.01, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide budget authority for the disbursement of federal grant awards to school districts, other local education agencies and other eligible sub-recipients, as well as the disbursement of grants and aids for special projects funded from indirect cost earnings on federal grant awards. The priorities of this category are to enhance and increase instruction opportunities to improve student academic performance.

These programs are established by federal law and appropriations. In order to receive federal funds, the state must sub-award the funds to various project recipients, such as school districts, universities, state colleges and community-based organizations, for the purposes specified in the authorizing federal statutes and rules. In addition, pursuant to section 1010.05, Florida Statutes, the department shall maximize the available federal indirect cost allowed on all federal grants.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Federal grant awards consist of two main types: entitlement and discretionary. There are two major programs included in the entitlement category: programs authorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), as well as programs authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The discretionary category includes smaller programs primarily authorized under ESSA. The following list provides a brief explanation of the federal grants received by the department that are expected to continue.

### **ENTITLEMENT GRANTS**

#### **Title I, Part A, Basic Grants for Disadvantaged Children - Assistance Listing Number (ALN) # 84.010**

To provide all children a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. These funds provide financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. School Improvement grants and College and Career Ready grants are part of this funding.

#### **Title I, Part C, Migrant Education - ALN # 84.011A**

To ensure that migratory children have the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and performance standards that all children are expected to meet.

#### **Title I, Part D, Subpart I, Grants for Neglected and Delinquent Children - ALN # 84.013**

To meet the special educational needs of adjudicated youth confined as a result of a criminal offense, including youth under 21 years of age who have experienced numerous disruptions in their education. Also, to meet the educational needs of children in local institutions or community day programs for neglected or delinquent children. The program provides supplemental funds in addition to the Title I Basic Entitlement program to local educational agencies to support children ages 5-17 who face unique educational barriers.

#### **Title II, Part A, Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund - ALN # 84.367**

To provide for increased student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher and principal quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom and highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools.

#### **Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students - ALN # 84.365**

To provide funds for English language acquisition and language enhancement to ensure children with limited English proficiency achieve higher levels of academic attainment in English and meet the same challenging state academic standards as all children are expected to meet. To improve language instruction programs by promoting increased accountability for programs serving children with limited English proficiency and developing programs that improve professional training of educational personnel.

#### **Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants - ALN # 84.424**

To improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, local educational agencies, schools, and local communities to: (1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education; (2) improve school conditions for student learning; and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. The Stronger Connections grant is part of this funding.

#### **Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers - ALN # 84.287**

To provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers for academic enrichment; and to offer families of participants opportunities for literacy and related educational development. Includes After School Learning Centers grants.

**Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) - ALN # 84.358A**

To provide additional personnel and resources for small and rural school districts to meet the objectives of the No Child Left Behind Program in any or all of the following areas: teacher recruitment and retention, teacher professional development, educational technology, parental involvement activities or other activities authorized under the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, the Title I Basic Program or the Language Instruction Program for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students.

**Title IX, Part A, Education of Homeless Children and Youth - ALN # 84.196A**

To ensure that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. This program provides educational support in terms of teachers, programs, materials and supplies to eligible children through local school districts.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B - ALN # 84.027A**

To ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living. To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected. To assess and ensure the effectiveness of educational delivery systems for children with disabilities.

**IDEA, Part B, Section 619 - Preschool - ALN # 84.027A**

The purpose is the same as Part B; however, funds must be directed to students with disabilities between ages 3 and 5.

**DISCRETIONARY GRANTS****Florida AWARE Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (US Department of Health) - ALN # 93.243**

Awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for addressing mental health needs of students in elementary and secondary schools.

**Florida Charter Schools Program - ALN # 84.282**

To increase the national understanding of the charter school model by (1) expanding the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools, and (2) by evaluating the effects of charter schools, including their effects on students, student academic achievement, staff and parents.

**Florida Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program - ALN # 84.371**

To improve language and emergent literacy skills of birth to age 5 children and significantly increase the percentage of elementary and secondary students mastering the state's language and literacy standards.

**Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program (US Department of Labor) - ALN # 17.264**

To help farmworkers and their dependents acquire necessary skills to either stabilize or advance in their agricultural jobs or obtain employment in new industries. To support better economic outcomes for farmworkers, housing grant recipients work to meet a critical need for safe and sanitary permanent and temporary housing.

**Stronger Connections ALN #84.424F**

To establish and support safer and healthier learning environments in school communities through the implementation of programs to support safe and healthy students under section 4108 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Specifically, programs must prioritize the provision of safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for only English Language Learners (ELLs) and/or Students with Disabilities (SWD) to improve their academic achievement and resiliency and/or reduce absenteeism.

**PROGRAMS FUNDED FROM INDIRECT COST EARNINGS****Teacher of the Year/Christa McAuliffe Ambassador of Education**

To provide salary, travel and other related expenses annually for an outstanding Florida teacher to promote the positive aspects of teaching as a career. The Florida Teacher of the Year serves as the Christa McAuliffe

Ambassador for Education. In this role, the appointed teacher serves as a goodwill ambassador representing the department and teachers throughout the state. The Teacher of the Year may conduct workshops; address fellow teachers, parents, and business and community leaders at conferences and meetings; and talk to student groups about careers in education.

**Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development Program**

To provide a leadership development and performance compensation program for elected district school superintendents. Eligible elected district school superintendents shall be issued a Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development Certificate, and the department shall pay an annual performance salary incentive of not less than \$3,000 and no more than \$7,500, based upon his or her performance evaluation.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$2,832,619,171
- 2023-24 - \$2,622,937,941
- 2022-23 - \$2,286,824,518

## Item 117 - Federal Grants K-12 Program - Domestic Security

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	5,409,971	0	0	5,409,971	5,409,971	0	5,409,971	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	5,409,971	0	0	5,409,971	5,409,971	0	5,409,971	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$5,409,971 is requested to continue providing budget authority for potential federal grant awards related to domestic security enhancements for Florida's school districts and higher education institutions.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Domestic Security (ACT0710)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 943.0313 and 1011.01, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide federal budget authority for potential federal grant awards for school districts and higher education institutions. In the past, funds have been received for initiatives such as the acquisition of mass notification and/or communications equipment to provide a continuous flow of critical information that will maximize effective and swift communication with Florida citizens, visitors and the campus community.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Federal Domestic Security projects are funded based on the recommendation of the Domestic Security Oversight Board. This recommendation becomes part of the state's application. After the funds are awarded to the state and allocated to each agency, the department enters into a subgrant agreement with the Division of Emergency Management to administer its allocation of the grant. Before the funds are awarded to the department's subrecipients, each subrecipient must complete and submit a detailed plan. Funding is provided to the department for K-12 Target Hardening and Higher Education Emergency Communications projects. An award has not been given to the department since Fiscal Year 2017-18.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$5,409,971
- 2023-24 - \$5,409,971
- 2022-23 - \$5,409,971

# **Educational Media and Technology Services**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 118 - Educational Media & Technology Services - Capitol Technical Center

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	224,624	0	0	224,624	224,624	0	224,624	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	224,624	0	0	224,624	224,624	0	224,624	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$224,624 is requested to continue funding the Capitol Technical Center's space and equipment needs for the production of the Florida Channel.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Capitol Technical Center (ACT0885)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1001.26, and 1013.18, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Keep Floridians abreast of the daily activities of Florida state government.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Capitol Technical Center is located in room 901 of the Capitol Building and houses the facilities for the production of public television programming, televised coverage of the Florida Legislature, and production assistance for the department. This facility provides coverage of the State Board of Education meetings, as well as year-round coverage for House and Senate meetings, Florida Supreme Court hearings, Public Service Commission hearings and statewide emergencies. The center also produces the Florida Channel and Florida Crossroads programs, which are appropriated through the department's Public Broadcasting budget. Funds are used to acquire and maintain digital audio/video capture, processing and distribution equipment.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$224,624
- 2023-24 - \$224,624
- 2022-23 - \$504,146

## Item 119 - Educational Media & Technology Services - G/A - Public Broadcasting

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,068,721	0	0	5,068,721	5,068,721	0	5,068,721	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	5,068,721	0	0	5,068,721	5,068,721	0	5,068,721	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$5,068,721 is requested to continue funding the broadcast of statewide governmental and cultural affairs programming on the Florida Channel and statewide educational broadcasting as follows:

- \$ 497,522 - Florida Channel Statewide Governmental and Cultural Affairs Programming (Florida Crossroads and Capitol Report)
- \$ 390,862 - Florida Channel Closed Captioning
- \$3,124,067 - Florida Channel Year-Round Coverage
- \$ 800,000 - Florida Channel Satellite Transponder Operations
- \$ 256,270 - Florida Public Radio Emergency Network Storm Center

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Public Broadcasting (ACT0910)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1001.26, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide free educational and governmental resources to the citizens of Florida.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:****FLORIDA CHANNEL STATEWIDE GOVERNMENTAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING**

Supports the production of the Florida Crossroads television program, which is an award-winning, half-hour documentary series that looks at the people, places and events shaping Florida. The series explores a wide variety of environmental, political and social issues across the state. Funding also supports the Capitol Report, a radio broadcast providing timely news and information from around Florida on legislative issues, the economy, environmental issues, tourism, business and the arts affecting the lives of Floridians.

**FLORIDA CHANNEL CLOSED CAPTIONING**

Provides closed captioning of broadcasted programs as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission. Closed captioning provides access to citizens, teachers and students with hearing impairments.

**FLORIDA CHANNEL YEAR-ROUND COVERAGE**

Supports the production of a daily 12-hour block of programming covering the Legislature, Governor's Office, Supreme Court, education, statewide emergencies and other programming of statewide interest.

**FLORIDA CHANNEL SATELLITE TRANSPONDER OPERATIONS**

Provides statewide delivery of governmental and educational broadcast services. These services include the Florida Channel, the Florida Lottery and emergency management information.

**FLORIDA PUBLIC RADIO EMERGENCY NETWORK STORM CENTER (FPREN)**

Florida's public radio stations have created the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) to communicate emergency information statewide through a seamless system of free over-the-air FM radio and multiple mobile applications. The FPREN Storm Center provides localized hurricane, tropical storm and other severe weather information and serves the visually impaired. The FPREN Storm Center is operated by the University of Florida's WUFT - FM providing local 24/7 weather, data and storm updates.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$11,366,913
- 2023-24 - \$11,030,852
- 2022-23 - \$10,525,852

# **Workforce Education (Career and Adult Education)**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 120 - Workforce Education - Performance Based Incentives

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	8,500,000	0	4,000,000	12,500,000	8,500,000	0	8,500,000	4,000,000	47.06%
<b>Total</b>	8,500,000	0	4,000,000	12,500,000	8,500,000	0	8,500,000	4,000,000	47.06%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$8,500,000 is requested to continue funding performance incentives of \$1,000 per certification for 8,500 certifications to school district technical centers for eligible industry certifications.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$4,000,000 is requested in recurring General Revenue to meet the increased workload of school districts by fully funding the statutory \$1,000 per industry certification without proration for 4,000 certifications.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$4,000,000 in recurring General Revenue for Performance-Based Incentives for total funds of \$12,500,000. This increase will fund 4,000 additional certifications for a total of 12,500 certifications at the statutory amount of \$1,000 each. For the past three fiscal years, the total number of fundable certifications has exceeded the appropriation. As a result, awards have been prorated, as authorized in proviso, to a lesser amount. For Fiscal Year 2024-25 the award was reduced to \$809; for Fiscal Year 2023-24 the award was reduced to \$928; and for Fiscal Year 2022-23 the award was reduced to \$821. It is projected that for Fiscal Year 2025-26, the award will be prorated to \$675. With the creation of other related initiatives such as the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant, programs leading to industry certifications are expected to expand.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

**LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1011.80 and 1008.44, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Reward program outputs and outcomes in district workforce education programs by providing performance-based incentive funding for industry certifications.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Since Fiscal Year 2018-19, all performance-based incentive allocations must be made based on student attainment of industry certifications from the Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List in section 1008.44, Florida Statutes, and approved by the State Board of Education. The eligible industry certifications are identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List adopted annually by the State Board of Education. If the number of eligible certifications exceeded the total funds provided, then the awards are pro-rated. Beginning with the Fiscal Year 2024-25 fiscal year, the awards were pro-rated based upon funding tiers. Priority in the distribution of funds must be given to certifications earned in the highest tier, based upon the anticipated average wages of all occupations to which each certification is linked on the Master Credentials List, as reported annually to the Legislature pursuant to section 1011.80, Florida Statutes.

Recent, and projected, disbursements of funds for industry certifications and adult general education performance are as follows:

- 2025-26: 12,596 projected industry certifications funded at \$675 per certification
- 2024-25: 10,501 industry certifications funded at \$809 per certification
- 2023-24: 9,152 industry certifications funded at \$928 per certification
- 2022-23: 7,918 industry certifications funded at \$821 per certification
- 2021-22: 6,273 industry certifications funded at \$1,000 per certification
- 2020-21: 5,073 industry certifications funded at \$1,000 per certification
- 2019-20: 6,278 industry certifications funded at \$1,000 per certification
- 2018-19: 5,951 industry certifications funded; awards were pro-rated to \$756 per certification

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$8,500,000
- 2023-24 - \$8,500,000
- 2022-23 - \$6,500,000

## Item 121 - Workforce Education - G/A - Adult Basic Education

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	61,288,749	2,000,000	0	63,288,749	63,288,749	2,000,000	61,288,749	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	61,288,749	2,000,000	0	63,288,749	63,288,749	2,000,000	61,288,749	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$61,288,749 is requested to continue funding to school districts, Florida College System institutions and community-based organizations for Adult Basic Education and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education programs provided by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy.

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,000,000 is requested for the restoration in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for funds received from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$2,000,000 in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for the Workforce Adult Basic Education Program for total funding of \$63,288,749. This request allows the agency to fully obligate the federal Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II projected award for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Without additional budget authority, the department may not be able to fully utilize these funds for the benefit of adult learners.

Although the exact federal grant award is not known at this time, the award has increased in recent years and is anticipated to remain stable or continue to grow. Federal funds are available for a 27-month period, allowing the carry forward of funds from one fiscal year to the next as authorized under the federal Tydings Amendment (Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b)).

The funds are distributed to secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at school districts, Florida College System institutions, and community-based organizations. The remaining funds are retained by the department for state leadership and administration costs.

### **GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act – Title II Adult Education and Literacy (Federal)  
Sections 1004.93 – 1004.98, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Assist adults in becoming literate and obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency; assist parents in obtaining the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and assist adults in the completion of a secondary education.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Each year, Florida receives an allocation of federal funds for two programs: Adult Basic Education and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education. For each program, about 85 percent of funds are distributed to school districts, the Florida College System, and community-based organizations on a competitive basis to support the purposes of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Grants are awarded in a geographic competition for a three-year funding cycle.

The remaining funds are held at the department for state leadership and state administration costs. Remaining budget beyond the annual grant award amounts carries over as provided under the federal Tydings Amendment, Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b). It states any funds not obligated at the end of the federal funding period specified on the award shall remain available for obligation for an additional period of 12 months.

For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the federal award funding of \$51,418,967 included the following programs:

- \$41,402,441 Adult Basic Education
- \$10,016,526 English Literacy and Civics Education

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$61,288,749
- 2023-24 - \$61,288,749
- 2022-23 - \$49,301,709

## Item 7 and 122 - Workforce Education - Workforce Development

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	325,881,025	0	23,367,341	349,248,366	329,381,025	3,500,000	325,881,025	19,867,341	6.03%
Lottery (EETF)	137,965,801	0	0	137,965,801	137,965,801	0	137,965,801	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>463,846,826</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,367,341</b>	<b>487,214,167</b>	<b>467,346,826</b>	<b>3,500,000</b>	<b>463,846,826</b>	<b>19,867,341</b>	<b>4.25%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$463,846,826 is requested to continue funding for 82,062.74 preliminary Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) in school district workforce students at the state funds current average of \$5,652 per FTE student.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$23,367,341 in additional recurring General Revenue is requested to address cost increases and unmet needs.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an additional \$23,367,341 in recurring General Revenue for total funds of \$487,214,167 for Workforce Development programs. This request is based on the most recent district workforce funding model that demonstrates the need for additional funding to support the current enrollment activity. Inflationary increases require additional funds just to maintain the current level of service. Funds are allocated to 56 school districts for operating costs associated with career, technical, and adult education programs.

The additional funds requested will be used to support the following:

- \$13,100,000 - Unmet need as demonstrated by the district workload funding model.
- \$ 9,200,000 - Inflationary cost increase of 2% over the current appropriation level.
- \$ 1,100,000 - Rural school district increase to support adult and postsecondary career and technical education.

The additional funding will allow school districts to meet the needs in their communities for Adult General Education programs, Career Certificate and Applied Technology Diploma programs, and Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

### **GOALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 446 and Sections 1004.02, 1004.92, 1004.93 and 1011.80, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Enables students to attain and sustain employment while maintaining economic self-sufficiency.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Workforce Education Program provides for the basic operation of the school district adult programs, including instruction (teachers' salaries), student services and school-level administration. Adult programs include postsecondary career and technical education and adult general education. Career Certificate, Applied Technology Diploma and Registered Apprenticeship programs are offered by school districts. School district workforce education programs include the following program types:

- Adult General Education programs: Assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment, self-sufficiency and the completion of a secondary education diploma (adult high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma based upon the GED test). Adult general education programs are provided by 56 districts.
- Career Certificate and Applied Technology Diploma programs: Provide a course of study leading to occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an occupation. Certificate career-technical training programs are provided by 39 districts.
- Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs: Provide course instruction with an industry sponsor and program standards approved and registered with the Department of Education's Office of Apprenticeship. Apprenticeship certificate career-technical training programs are provided by 20 districts.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$451,201,797
- 2023-24 - \$426,584,919
- 2022-23 - \$390,356,891

## Item 123 - Workforce Education - G/A - Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	40,000,000	60,000,000	100,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	0	60,000,000	150.00%
<b>Total</b>	0	40,000,000	60,000,000	100,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	0	60,000,000	150.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$40,000,000 is requested in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue funding for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$60,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested for total funds of \$100,000,00.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$40,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program. This request along with the workload request will provide total funding of \$100,000,000. These funds are used to provide grants to school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to fund some or all the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education workforce development programs that serve secondary students and lead to industry certifications included on the Career and Professional Education Act list. School districts and FCS institutions need resources to create, expand and upgrade to industry standards. These funds will allow for the expansion of these programs in high demand areas.

##### **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting an increase of \$60,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program. This request along with the restoration of nonrecurring request will provide total funding of \$100,000,000. This request will provide grants to school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to fund some or all the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education workforce development programs that serve secondary students and lead to industry certifications included on the Career and Professional Education Act list. School districts and FCS institutions need resources to create, expand, and upgrade to industry standards. These funds will allow for the expansion of these programs in high demand areas.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1011.801, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Expand opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Florida's population and fill the demand for skilled workers for Florida's economy. Funds must be used to implement a program expansion or new program development, which increases the number of CTE training opportunities in Florida.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program was funded during the 2023 legislative session after not being funded for more than twenty years. The original statutory language was amended to provide grants to school districts and Florida College System institutions to fund some or all the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education that led to industry certifications included on the Career and Professional Education Act Industry Certification Funding List. Funds can be used for expenses associated with the creation or expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs which serve secondary students. The allowable expenses include instructional equipment, laboratory equipment, supplies, personnel, student services, or other expenses associated with the creation or expansion of the programs.

In the Fiscal Year 2024-25, the department solicited concept proposals from eligible agencies and awarded the following grants:

- Career Dual Enrollment to Florida College System institutions: 12 for \$16.2 million
- Career Dual Enrollment to District Technical Colleges: 6 for \$16.4 million
- 9-12 CTE Enrollment Expansion to School Districts: 42 for \$67.3 million

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the department solicited concept proposals from eligible agencies and awarded the following types of grants:

- Career Dual Enrollment to Florida College System institutions: 14 for \$24.7 million
- Career Dual Enrollment to District Technical Colleges: 17 for \$17.0 million
- 9-12 CTE Enrollment Expansion to School Districts: 48 for \$58.3 million

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

2025-26 - \$40,000,000  
2024-25 - \$100,000,000  
2023-24 - \$100,000,000

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 124 - Workforce Education - G/A - Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$20,000,000 is requested to continue funding for the following Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program (PCOG) programs:

- \$15,000,000 – Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program
- \$ 5,000,000 – Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program Expansion

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1011.802, Florida Statutes  
Section 446.021, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Expand opportunities for apprenticeship training for Florida's population and fill the demand for skilled workers for Florida's economy. Funds must be used to implement a program expansion or new program development, which increases the number of apprenticeship training opportunities in Florida.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The department is required to administer all grants and to conduct a discretionary procurement for the grant selection. Eligible applicants for grants are the following: high schools, school district career centers, school district charter technical career centers, Florida College System institutions, or other entities authorized to sponsor an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program, as defined in section 446.021, Florida Statutes. The department must give priority to apprenticeship programs with demonstrated regional demand.

Grant funds may be used for instructional equipment, supplies, personnel, student services, and other expenses associated with the creation, operation, or expansion of an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program. Grant funds may not be used for administrative costs or for indirect costs. Grant recipients must submit quarterly reports to the department.

During the Fiscal Year 2024-25 program year, two grant funding opportunities were held, a general release and a Grow Your Own Teacher Apprenticeship Program opportunity. The general release resulted in the award of 61 grants as follows:

- 35 grants for expansions to existing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs
- 14 grants for new program development
- 12 grants for operating funds

Awards ranged from \$15,000 to \$850,000.

Three new Grow Your Own awards were made with amounts ranging from \$281,023 to \$491,826. In addition, awardees for Grow Your Own were awarded second year funds to continue their projects.

During the Fiscal Year 2023-24 program year, two grant funding opportunities were held, a general release opportunity and a Grow Your Own Teacher Apprenticeship Program opportunity. The general release opportunity resulted in the award of 56 grants:

- 35 were for expansion to existing apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.
- 11 were for new program development.
- 10 were for operating funds.

The grants included 40 registered apprenticeship programs and 16 pre-apprenticeship programs with grant awards ranging from \$8,000 to \$1,300,000.

During the Fiscal Year 2022-23 program year, two grant competitions were held resulting in the award of 51 grants. Of the 51 grants awarded:

- 32 were for expansion of existing apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs.
- 19 were for new program development.

The grants included 31 registered apprenticeship programs and 20 pre-apprenticeship programs with grant awards ranging from \$44,500 to just over \$1,500,000.

During the Fiscal Year 2021-22 program year, one grant competition was held resulting in the award of 42 grants. Of the 42 grants awarded:

- 20 were for expansion of existing apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs.
- 22 were for new program development.

The grants included 28 registered apprenticeship programs and 14 pre-apprenticeship programs with grant awards ranging from \$46,024 to more than \$624,200. These grants have been approved for an extension into Fiscal Year 2022-23.

### **Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program**

The Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program is a sub-initiative of the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant. Its purpose is to create a teacher pipeline for Florida's school districts and to encourage innovative partnerships between public educator preparation programs (EPP) and school districts to provide innovative, no cost pathways to the teaching profession by increasing the supply of qualified teachers.

The department will administer the grant, identify projects, solicit proposals and make funding recommendations to the Commissioner of Education, who is authorized to approve grant awards. Eligible applicants are: Public Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS) institutions, and Florida independent college and university (ICUF) institutions with baccalaureate-level state-approved educator preparation programs approved by the Florida Department of Education that will prepare teacher apprentices for initial teacher preparation. This opportunity requires that eligible applicants partner with school districts that commit to participating in the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program, registered and sponsored by the department.

During the Fiscal Year 2023-24 program year, a separate funding opportunity was held for the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant and Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program, resulting in the award of 9 grants. The grants included awards ranging from \$132,641 to just over \$1,360,000.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$20,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$20,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$15,000,000

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 125 - Workforce Education - G/A - Vocational Formula Funds

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	92,363,333	2,000,000	0	94,363,333	94,363,333	2,000,000	92,363,333	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	92,363,333	2,000,000	0	94,363,333	94,363,333	2,000,000	92,363,333	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$92,363,333 is requested to continue providing budget authority for federal flow-through funds for the Federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) grant award to support Florida's goal of building an effective career and technical education system.

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,000,000 is requested for restoration in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for funds received from the Federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$2,000,000 of nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for Vocational Formula grants, provided through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, for total funding of \$94,363,333. This request will provide sufficient budget authority for any carry forward funds as well as any potential increases in federal awards for Fiscal Year 2026-27. This request allows the department to maintain the Fiscal Year 2025-26 level of funding for grant awards. Federal award allocations not spent within a state fiscal year carry over as provided under the federal Tydings Amendment, Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b). It states any funds not obligated at the end of the federal funding period specified in block six shall remain available for obligation for an additional period of 12 months. The funds are distributed to secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at school districts and Florida College System institutions.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Federal)  
Section 1004.92, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Keep America competitive in the global economy of the 21st century and make Florida #1 in workforce education by 2030.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) was signed into law in July 2018. The State Board of Education approved Florida's State Plan in February 2020. The state of Florida receives an allocation of funds each year to support the purposes of the Perkins V Grant. About 90 percent of the total state allocation of federal funds are distributed to secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at school districts and community colleges. Funds are provided for activities in Title I - Career and Technical Education Assistance to the States.

Activities supported by the act include the following:

- Develop challenging academic and technical standards and related integrated instruction.
- Increase opportunities for individuals to keep America competitive.
- Focus on high-skill, high-wage and high-demand occupations.
- Conduct and disseminate research and information on best practices.
- Promote partnerships (education, workforce boards, business, industry, etc.).
- Provide technical assistance and professional development.

Exact federal allocations for the upcoming year are not yet known. Federal budget beyond the annual grant award amounts carry over as provided under the federal Tydings Amendment, Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b). It states any funds not obligated at the end of the federal funding period specified on the award shall remain available for obligation for an additional period of 12 months. This Fiscal Year 2025-26 Federal Award is \$83,105,534.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$92,363,333
- 2023-24 - \$82,363,333
- 2022-23 - \$73,997,159

## Item 126 - Workforce Education - G/A - Nursing Education

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$20,000,000 is requested to continue the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) program.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1009.897, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

To reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers offering a licensed practical nurse program.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The legislature established the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learner through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund to reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers offering a licensed practical nurse program.

The department administers this grant program in accordance with the requirements in section 1009.897, F.S., and Rule 6A-10.0351, F.A.C.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$20,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$20,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$20,000,000

## Item 127 - Workforce Education - G/A - Strategic Statewide Initiatives

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$5,000,000 is requested to continue funding the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) program pursuant to section 1011.804, Florida Statutes, as follows:

- \$4,000,000 - GATE Startup grants
- \$1,000,000 - GATE Program Performance Fund

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☐ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 446.54, Florida Statutes; Section 1011.80, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Keep America competitive in the global economy of the 21st century and make Florida #1 in workforce education by 2030.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:****Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program – Startup**

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 7032 to create the GATE Startup Grant Program. The GATE Startup Grant Program provides grants to school district career and adult education centers, charter technical career centers, and Florida College System institutions to fund some or all the initial costs associated with the creation of the GATE Startup Grant Program pursuant to section 1011.804, Florida Statutes.

In 2024-25, the department awarded four grants for the GATE Startup Grant Program.

**Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program - Performance Fund**

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 7032 to create the GATE Program Performance Fund, in addition to the GATE Scholarship Program and the GATE Startup Grant Program. The GATE Program Performance Fund established pursuant to section 1011.8041, Florida Statutes awards incentive funds to school districts and Florida College System institutions based on student performance outcomes achieved by GATE program students. Ten school districts and two Florida College System institutions have received program approval to offer the GATE program. Two school districts reported GATE participation in the 2024-25 academic year. To date, no performance awards have been made as most programs have only recently been approved for operation.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$7,500,000
- 2023-24 - \$11,500,000
- 2022-23 - \$2,000,000

## Item 127A - Workforce Education - G/A - School and Instructional Enhancements

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	5,675,192	5,675,192	0	(5,675,192)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	5,675,192	5,675,192	0	(5,675,192)	(100.00%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$5,675,192 for the following projects is not requested to be restored:

- \$ 500,000 - Achieve Miami - Teacher Accelerator Program
- \$ 307,692 - First Coast Technical College - Industrial Agriculture Program Enhancements
- \$ 92,500 - Florida Farm Bureau - Agricultural Business Associate Pathway
- \$ 50,000 - Learn To Read of St. Lucie County
- \$1,300,000 - ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative
- \$1,000,000 - School District of Manatee County - Aviation Maintenance Technician School
- \$1,750,000 - Southwest Florida Manufacturing Training Center (Charlotte County)
- \$ 175,000 - The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative
- \$ 500,000 - CodeBoxx Technology Academy: A Pathway to a Better Future/Building Florida's Technology

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kevin O'Farrell (850) 245-9004; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested:

\$5,675,192 for the following projects is not requested to be restored:

- \$ 500,000 - Achieve Miami - Teacher Accelerator Program
- \$ 307,692 - First Coast Technical College - Industrial Agriculture Program Enhancements
- \$ 92,500 - Florida Farm Bureau - Agricultural Business Associate Pathway
- \$ 50,000 - Learn To Read of St. Lucie County
- \$1,300,000 - ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative
- \$1,000,000 - School District of Manatee County - Aviation Maintenance Technician School
- \$1,750,000 - Southwest Florida Manufacturing Training Center (Charlotte County)
- \$ 175,000 - The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative
- \$ 500,000 - CodeBoxx Technology Academy: A Pathway to a Better Future/Building Florida's Technology Workforce

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access

- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1004.93, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Support the community's efforts to expand adult education programs throughout Florida.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

#### **ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative**

ReUp Education provides engagement and success coaches to delivery one-on-one coaching to students. ReUp achieves this goal by creating a marketplace of curated credentials from in-state institutions that align with the needs of business and industry. The grant provides funds for the managing director, success coaches and technology/data analytics costs for a ReUp's predictive modeling, analytics and reporting tool.

#### **The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative**

The goal of this initiative is to advance entrepreneur education in high school and college programming. JAX Bridges helps small and medium sized businesses build strategy, gain access to capital & contract opportunities, and connect to other entrepreneurs to grow their businesses by providing entrepreneurial education/training opportunities. There are 3 components to the program: (1) technology leading entrepreneur education to prepare small business owners, (2) assist in educating procurement professionals and enterprises in implementing Know Your Business protocols and (3) assist entrepreneurs in leveraging artificial intelligence and agentic networks to make Florida a model for educating and supporting small business communities. Funds are provided for the associated salary/benefits and operational costs for the JAX Chamber Foundation.

#### **CodeBoxx: Building Florida's Technology Workforce**

The CodeBoxx Foundation seeks to address Tampa Bay's need for skilled tech talent and creates pathways for individuals to transition from low-wage jobs to high-paying careers in technology. Funds are provided for the associated salary/benefits for the campus director and program manager, in addition to consultants to serve as teachers, mentors and cohort leads. Additional costs include wrap around support, student support, technology needs, learning management systems, travel, and supplies.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$3,236,342
- 2023-24 - \$1,139,045
- 2022-23 - \$1,047,288

**Item 127B - Workforce Education - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	<b>2026-27</b>				<b>2025-26</b>				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	2,750,000	2,750,000	0	(2,750,000)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	2,750,000	2,750,000	0	(2,750,000)	(100.00%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,750,000 is not requested for the following projects:

- \$ 250,000 - Citrus County - Public Safety Training Annex to Include an Indoor Range
- \$ 2,500,000 - Heights CareerTech Institute

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$2,750,000 is not requested for the following projects:

- \$ 250,000 - Citrus County - Public Safety Training Annex to Include an Indoor Range
- \$ 2,500,000 - Heights CareerTech Institute

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement  
 [ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
 [ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
 [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1013.64 Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide capital improvements for workforce education projects.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provide capital improvements for workforce education projects.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$ 730,000
- 2023-24 - \$3,500,000
- 2022-23 - \$0

# Florida Colleges

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 128 - Florida Colleges - Performance Based Incentives

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$20,000,000 is requested to continue funding performance incentives of \$1,000 per student, unless otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act, to colleges for eligible industry certifications. For the last several years, proviso language has allowed the department to prorate the award amount above or below the \$1,000 statutory amount based on the eligible industry certifications.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1011.81(2)(b), 1008.44, and 1004.65, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Reward program outputs and outcomes in programs that embed industry certifications within them. An emphasis will be on increasing certifications that focus on technology and computer-focused certifications to prepare students for tomorrow's workforce needs.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Performance funding was established by the Legislature to reward industry certification attainment. Funding shall be based on students who earn industry certifications with a college postsecondary funding designation on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. Section 1011.81(2)(b), F.S., authorizes a \$1,000 award, unless otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act, for each industry certification earned by a student. For the last several years, proviso language has allowed the department to prorate the award amount above or below the \$1,000 statutory amount based on the eligible industry certifications.

Recent disbursement of funds for industry certifications are as follows:

2024-25: 17,725 industry certifications awarded; award amount of \$1,128.35 per certification

2023-24: 16,366 industry certifications awarded; award amount of \$1,222.17 per certification

2022-23: 14,177 industry certifications awarded; award amount of \$987.45 per certification

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$20,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$20,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$14,000,000

## Item 129 - Florida Colleges - Student Success Incentive Funds

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	30,000,000	0	0	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	30,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	30,000,000	0	0	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	30,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$30,000,000 is requested to continue funding operations for the Student Success Incentive Funds.

- \$17,000,000 - 2+2 Student Success Incentive
- \$13,000,000 - Work Florida Student Success Incentive

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1004.65, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Reward Florida College System institutions for student success outcomes in the areas of 2+2, workforce and dual enrollment.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Funding is based on an incentive funding formula created in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) that rewards colleges based on student success outcomes such as on-time graduation and gateway course completions, job placement and wages that are considered critical to articulate to higher educational goals or entering the workforce in critical areas of need.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$30,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$30,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$30,000,000

## Item 8 and 130 - Florida Colleges - G/A - Florida College System Program Fund

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,406,055,245	0	70,000,000	1,476,055,245	1,423,665,645	17,610,400	1,406,055,245	52,389,600	3.68%
Lottery (EETF)	254,754,863	0	0	254,754,863	254,754,863	0	254,754,863	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,660,810,108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,000,000</b>	<b>1,730,810,108</b>	<b>1,678,420,508</b>	<b>17,610,400</b>	<b>1,660,810,108</b>	<b>52,389,600</b>	<b>3.12%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,660,810,108 is requested to continue funding operations of the 28 Florida College Systems (FCS) institutions that support 304,604 full-time equivalent (FTE) students.

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

The Florida College System needs an additional \$70,000,000 in recurring base funding into the Program, which is a 4.21 percent increase in FCS Program Funding. This will enable all institutions to increase workforce programs, recruit and retain top employees in both academic and workforce areas, and invest in infrastructure, facilities and technology that supports and ensures student success.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **ENHANCEMENT**

The department requests a recurring appropriation of \$70,000,000 in General Revenue in College Program Funds for total funding of \$1,730,810,108. These additional funds will be used to retain and recruit top employees in both academic and workforce areas, and invest in infrastructure, facilities and technology that supports and ensures student success. The funds would be distributed using the Florida College System (FCS) funding model presented and agreed to by FCS presidents. Institutions will use the funding for operations, faculty recruitment and retention, program creation and enhancement, and any other specific purchases or functions needed to meet growing employer and student demand.

A majority of Florida's high school graduates begin their postsecondary education in the FCS. A substantial percentage of the juniors and seniors within the State University System are students from the FCS. Florida's colleges have open admissions and offer a variety of academic and workforce programs specifically to meet the needs of their regions and the state. As such, they play an essential role in meeting Governor DeSantis' goal of keeping Florida's position as the number one state in the nation for workforce education. Florida colleges rank among the top producers of associate degrees in the United States, the most affordable in the nation and consistently ranks among the top college systems in the nation. The FCS and the State University System together make up Florida's number one ranked education system in the nation for 9 years in a row.

To keep this high ranking, the Florida College System needs an additional \$70 million in base funding recurring into the Program Fund so that all institutions are able to recruit and retain top faculty in both academic and workforce areas. This is a 4.21 percent increase in FCS program funds. Using the funding model and putting \$17.5 million in the floor component and then \$52.5 million in the index, gives all colleges at least a 4 percent increase in program funds.

Specifically, all colleges need to:

- Implement initiatives and support systems that enhance services to increase student enrollment and completion and continue to increase graduation rates. This includes employing enough qualified faculty to provide targeted advising, innovative academic and workforce programs and career preparation for Florida's future leaders in a manner especially flexible for working adults that comprise most of the FCS student body (two thirds of FCS students are part time).
- Invest in and implement programs that meet the evolving needs of industries and communities, contributing to state development. This includes programs such as the teacher apprenticeship program, cyber security, artificial intelligence (AI), law enforcement, and a range of critical health care occupations.
- Invest in infrastructure, facilities and technology, including unified systems and artificial intelligence driven tools, that support and ensure student success, and foster lifelong learners who balance new information technologies and digital connections with their understanding of civics and the historical foundations of our society always building skills in critical thinking.
- Cover rising expenses related to the costs of utilities, property insurance, premiums on employee health insurance, retirement contributions, facilities maintenance, and address and prioritize campus safety.

If funded, the department would continue to support the FCS institutions to retain and recruit faculty and staff to implement student and workforce-focused programs for the enhanced economic development of Florida. Last year, the FCS experienced an increase of 7.2% in systemwide enrollment and an approximately 4.5% increase in degree and credential completions. As system enrollment and attainment continue to rise, this funding would allow institutions to serve all students requesting enrollment, while maintaining no tuition increases, and provide up-to-date, world class education and workforce training from their local college.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Florida College System Program Fund (ACT0571), State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1004.65 and 1011.81-1011.84, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide community-based access to postsecondary education.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

College Program Funds are used to fund the basic operations of the Florida College System based on multiple specific categories, many of which can be considered accounted for in a college's FTE enrollment. The colleges provide undergraduate instruction and award associate and baccalaureate degrees, prepare students for Florida's regional and statewide workforce demands, provide student development services and promote economic development for the state. The Florida College System consists of 28 locally governed public colleges operating 175 instructional sites and serving students from all walks of life. The colleges have statutorily defined service districts to provide educational opportunities within commuting distance to almost all Florida residents. Governed by local boards of trustees and led by their presidents, the State Board of Education supervises the colleges. A majority of Florida's high school graduates begin their postsecondary education in the Florida College System. A significant percentage of the juniors and seniors with the State University System are students from the Florida College System. Florida's colleges have open admissions and offer a variety of academic and workforce programs to meet the specific needs of their regions. As such, they play an essential role in maintaining Florida's status as the number one state in the nation for workforce education as Governor DeSantis' set forth. Florida colleges rank among the top producers of associate degrees in the United States, and the Florida College System consistently ranks among the top college systems in the nation.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,610,294,595
- 2023-24 - \$1,606,206,848
- 2022-23 - \$1,394,732,240

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 131 - Florida Colleges - G/A - Nursing Education

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	64,000,000	0	0	64,000,000	64,000,000	0	64,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	64,000,000	0	0	64,000,000	64,000,000	0	64,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$64,000,000 is requested to continue funding operations for Nursing Education Programs:

- \$40,000,000 for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE)
- \$24,000,000 for the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) program

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1009.896 and 1009.897 Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

To reward performance and excellence among public postsecondary nursing education programs and incentivizing collaboration between nursing education programs and health care partners.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Prepping Institution, Programs, Employers and Learner through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) and the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) programs, established in 2021, provide funding to the Florida College System Institutions for the nursing education programs. The PIPELINE fund is to reward performance and excellence among public postsecondary nursing education programs. Allocations are based on the number of nursing education programs completed by program and the first-time National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination passage rate of the institutions' nursing education program completers. The LINE fund is a competitive grant program that provides matching funds, on a dollar-to-dollar basis, to participating institutions that partner with a healthcare provider to recruit faculty and clinical preceptors, increase capacity of high-quality nursing education programs and increase the number of nursing education graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce.

#### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$64,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$59,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$59,000,000

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**Item 132 - Florida Colleges - G/A - Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	11,024,746	0	(121,577)	10,903,169	11,024,746	0	11,024,746	(121,577)	(1.10%)
<b>Total</b>	11,024,746	0	(121,577)	10,903,169	11,024,746	0	11,024,746	(121,577)	(1.10%)

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$11,024,746 is requested to continue funding the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library for the following:

- \$10,903,169 - Florida Virtual Campus Library Services
- \$ 50,000 - Reverse Transfer Portal
- \$ 71,577 - Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP)

**WORKLOAD**

(\$121,577) workload reduction is requested for recurring maintenance funds no longer needed for the following:

- (\$50,000) - Reverse Transfer Portal
- (\$71,577) - Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP)

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****WORKLOAD**

The department requests a decrease of (\$121,577) in recurring General Revenue in the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network category for a new appropriation amount of \$10,903,169. The request is for recurring maintenance funds that are no longer needed for the Reverse Transfer Portal in the amount of (\$50,000) and the Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP) in the amount of (\$71,577).

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1004.65 and 1006.73, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

These funds provide essential services for libraries and institutions such as e-resources, technical support, distance learning and more.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) library services provide a wide variety of library services to Florida's 28 state colleges and 12 state universities which directly support the nearly 1.3 million students, faculty, and staff at these institutions. Funded by the state as the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network (Network), it is under the joint oversight of the Florida Board of Governors and the Department of Education. The Network is to deliver specified services to public postsecondary education institutions in Florida, which includes provision of information regarding and access to distance learning courses and degree programs; coordination with the institutions to identify and provide online academic support services and resources, such as FloridaShines. The Network administers a single library automation system and associated resources and services used to support learning, teaching, and research needs. The Network provides coordination with the institutions' library staff for the negotiation of statewide licensing of electronic library resources and preferred pricing agreements, issuance of purchase orders, and entering into contracts for the acquisition of library support services, electronic resources, and other goods and services necessary to carry out its authorized duties. It also promotes and provides recommendations concerning the use and distribution of low cost, no cost, or open-access textbooks and education resources and innovative pricing techniques that comply with all applicable laws.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$11,028,169
- 2023-24 - \$11,078,169
- 2022-23 - \$9,076,322

## Item 133 - Florida Colleges - Commission on Community Service

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,483,749	0	0	1,483,749	1,483,749	0	1,483,749	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	1,483,749	0	0	1,483,749	1,483,749	0	1,483,749	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,483,749 is requested to continue providing state matching funds in order to draw down federal AmeriCorps grants funds administered by the Commission on Community Service also known as Volunteer Florida.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1004.65 and 14.29, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Support administrative costs of the Commission on Community Service which promotes volunteerism in the state of Florida.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Commission on Community Service, known as Volunteer Florida, is the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. The Commission administers the AmeriCorps and other volunteer service programs throughout the state of Florida. Volunteer Florida serves as the Governor's lead agency for volunteerism; coordination of donations and volunteers before, during and after times of disaster; and national service programs in the Sunshine State. Volunteer Florida has the unique role of promoting volunteerism across the state; administering high-quality programming; preparing communities to be more disaster-resilient; and building the capacity of the nonprofit sector. The goal is to maximize opportunities for service in a collaborative way and use volunteerism, community engagement, and national service in Florida as a cost-effective way to meet critical human needs.

Volunteer Florida awards grants to local community agencies from federal funding that comes through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Funding received from CNCS, and the Florida Legislature supports 30 AmeriCorps programs across Florida that address critical education, public safety, and human and environmental needs in local communities. In addition, Volunteer Florida encourages volunteerisms for all citizens; coordinates volunteers in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery; supports the governor's priority initiatives through the creation of innovative volunteer programs; and helps to strengthen and expand volunteer centers in Florida.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,483,749
- 2023-24 - \$983,182
- 2022-23 - \$983,182

## Item 133A - Florida Colleges - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	650,000	650,000	0	(650,000)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	650,000	650,000	0	(650,000)	(100.00%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration of nonrecurring General Revenue fund for the following:

- \$650,000 - Miami Dade College - Jewish Student Center (HF1224 (SF1807))

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested for restoration of nonrecurring General Revenue fund for the following:

- \$650,000 - Miami Dade College - Jewish Student Center (HF1224 (SF1807))

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [x] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [x] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [x] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [x] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

NA

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1004.0962, Florida Statutes.

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide capital improvements to Florida College System (FCS) institutions and programs.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provide capital improvements to Florida College System (FCS) institutions and programs.

#### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$0
- 2023-24 - \$5,400,000
- 2022-23 - \$0

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**The Florida College System**  
**Sector Sheet**  
**FY 2026-27**

	<b>2025-26 Appropriation</b>	<b>2026-27 LBR</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percentage Difference</b>
<hr/>				
<b><u>Florida College System Program Fund Appropriations</u></b>				
Program Fund	\$1,573,303,837	\$1,633,303,837	\$60,000,000	
Program Fund Increases	\$60,000,000	\$70,000,000	\$10,000,000	
Operational Support	\$32,506,271	\$27,506,271	(\$5,000,000)	
Special Projects	\$12,610,400	\$0	(\$12,610,400)	
<b>Total Program Fund</b>	<b>\$1,678,420,508</b>	<b>\$1,730,810,108</b>	<b>\$52,389,600</b>	<b>3.12%</b>
<hr/>				
<b><u>Non-Program Fund Appropriations</u></b>				
Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$0	
2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$0	
Academic Library Network	\$11,024,746	\$10,903,169	(\$121,577)	
College System Projects - FCO	\$650,000	\$0	(\$650,000)	
Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners Through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$0	
Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund	\$24,000,000	\$24,000,000	\$0	
Commission on Community Service	\$1,483,749	\$1,483,749	\$0	
Performance Based Incentives	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$0	
<b>Total Non-Program Funds</b>	<b>\$127,158,495</b>	<b>\$126,386,918</b>	<b>(\$771,577)</b>	<b>-0.61%</b>
<hr/>				
<b>Total Operating Budget Appropriations</b>	<b>\$1,805,579,003</b>	<b>\$1,857,197,026</b>	<b>\$51,618,023</b>	<b>2.86%</b>
<hr/>				

**This page is intentionally left blank**

# **State Board of Education**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 134 - State Board of Education - Salaries and Benefits

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	31,142,266	0	2,108,984	33,251,250	31,142,266	0	31,142,266	2,108,984	6.77%
Admin TF	8,780,610	0	0	8,780,610	8,780,610	0	8,780,610	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	5,731,754	0	(2,108,984)	3,622,770	5,731,754	0	5,731,754	(2,108,984)	(36.79%)
Div Univ Fac Const TF	3,664,814	0	0	3,664,814	3,664,814	0	3,664,814	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	16,931,367	0	0	16,931,367	16,931,367	0	16,931,367	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	4,040,342	0	0	4,040,342	4,040,342	0	4,040,342	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	3,305,663	0	0	3,305,663	3,305,663	0	3,305,663	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	95,323	0	0	95,323	95,323	0	95,323	0	0.00%
Operating TF	363,097	0	0	363,097	363,097	0	363,097	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	498,693	0	0	498,693	498,693	0	498,693	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	7,210,058	0	0	7,210,058	7,210,058	0	7,210,058	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,763,987</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,763,987</b>	<b>81,763,987</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,763,987</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:** **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$81,763,987 is requested to continue to fund salaries and benefits for 914 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees of the State Board of Education.

#### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$2,108,984 is requested to be fund shifted from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue due to limited revenues in the trust fund.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

The department is requesting a fund shift in the amount of \$2,108,984 from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue (GR) to ensure that the department has the resources needed to ensure quality teachers are in the classrooms in Florida and protect Florida students.

Currently, the Educational Certification Trust Fund funds the operations of both the Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) and the Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS). Due to a projected revenue shortfall, the trust fund can no longer support the costs associated with PPS, and General Revenue funds are needed to ensure this high-priority function for the department has the necessary resources.

The following are key factors that have created a revenue shortfall in the trust fund over the last few years:

- Certification Fee Waivers: Since 2017, the implementation of specific waivers required by state statute has had a significant impact on annual revenue.
- New Fingerprint Clearing House. This new initiative was implemented in January 2025 as required in s. 435.12, F.S. and is increasing costs for the operations of BEC.
- Annual Pay Increases: There are 29 positions in PPS and annual pay increases have had a significant impact on increased costs along with the pay increases incurred by the BEC.

PPS administers a state-level grievance process and plays an integral part in ensuring that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against the certificate of an educator certified to teach in Florida. PPS investigates alleged misconduct by educators in Florida who hold an educator's certificate and pursues disciplinary actions against the certificates of educators found to have committed acts of misconduct. PPS investigates when facts are presented which show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.796, F.S., and defined by rules of the State Board of Education. Such facts provide the basis to further investigate whether the educator has broken the law or violated the Principles of Professional Conduct, which outline the standards of conduct expected of certified educators in Florida.

This will ensure priority functions of the Office of Professional Practices are continued with limited revenues received in the Educator Certification Trust Fund.

This is part of an overall fund shift request of \$2,587,890. The overall fund shift request is below:

\$2,108,984 - Salaries and Benefits for 29 FTE  
\$ 231,921 - Operating Expense; travel, supplies, etc.  
\$ 6,127 - Contracted Services; primarily security services  
\$ 35,727 - Risk Management Insurance for employees  
\$ 6,337 - HR Services provided by DMS for employees  
\$ 198,794 - IT Services provided to employees and PPS functions  
\$2,587,890 - Total PPS Operating Costs to be Fund Shifted to General Revenue

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapters 216 and 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide executive direction and management of state educational programs.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Funding provides for the salaries and benefits of State Board of Education employees.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$89,525,264
- 2023-24 - \$84,882,236
- 2022-23 - \$77,507,950

## Item 135 - State Board of Education - Other Personal Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	310,969	0	0	310,969	310,969	0	310,969	0	0.00%
Admin TF	199,054	0	0	199,054	199,054	0	199,054	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	103,040	0	0	103,040	103,040	0	103,040	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	44,160	0	0	44,160	44,160	0	44,160	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	473,937	0	0	473,937	473,937	0	473,937	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	235,298	0	0	235,298	235,298	0	235,298	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	26,507	0	0	26,507	26,507	0	26,507	0	0.00%
Operating TF	5,311	0	0	5,311	5,311	0	5,311	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	61,251	0	0	61,251	61,251	0	61,251	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,459,527</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,459,527</b>	<b>1,459,527</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,459,527</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:** **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$1,459,527 is requested to continue funding for temporary assistance on time-limited projects in the department.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**  
Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide temporary assistance to meet deadlines for critical projects and time-limited work products for a variety of educational programs.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provide funding for hourly employees, such as graduate and undergraduate students, as well as contract employees.

#### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$1,356,983
- 2023-24 - \$1,353,421
- 2022-23 - \$1,445,421

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 136 - State Board of Education - Expenses

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	3,457,465	0	231,921	3,689,386	3,457,465	0	3,457,465	231,921	6.71%
Admin TF	1,406,375	0	0	1,406,375	1,406,375	0	1,406,375	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	1,090,901	0	(231,921)	858,980	1,090,901	0	1,090,901	(231,921)	(21.26%)
Ed Media & Tech TF	133,426	0	0	133,426	133,426	0	133,426	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	898,664	0	0	898,664	898,664	0	898,664	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	1,703,663	0	0	1,703,663	1,703,663	0	1,703,663	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	48,433	0	0	48,433	48,433	0	48,433	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	514,776	0	0	514,776	514,776	0	514,776	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	800,556	0	0	800,556	800,556	0	800,556	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	26,050	0	0	26,050	26,050	0	26,050	0	0.00%
Operating TF	295,667	0	0	295,667	295,667	0	295,667	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	135,350	0	0	135,350	135,350	0	135,350	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	606,077	0	0	606,077	606,077	0	606,077	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,117,403</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,117,403</b>	<b>11,117,403</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,117,403</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:** **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$11,117,403 is requested to continue funding for administrative and operating expenses that support the functions of the department such as building rent, travel, supplies, telecommunications, subscriptions, dues, fees, and postage.

#### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$231,921 is requested to be fund shifted from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue due to limited revenues in the trust fund.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

#### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

The department is requesting a fund shift in the amount of \$231,921 from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue (GR) to ensure that the department has the resources needed to ensure quality teachers are in the classrooms in Florida and protect Florida students.

Currently, the Educational Certification Trust Fund funds the operations of both the Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) and the Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS). Due to a projected revenue shortfall, the trust fund can no longer support the costs associated with PPS, and General Revenue funds are needed to ensure this high-priority function for the department has the necessary resources.

The following are key factors that have created a revenue shortfall in the trust fund over the last few years:

- Certification Fee Waivers: Since 2017, the implementation of specific waivers required by state statute has had a significant impact on annual revenue.
- New Fingerprint Clearing House. This new initiative was implemented in January 2025 as required in s. 435.12, F.S. and is increasing costs for the operations of BEC.
- Annual Pay Increases: There are 29 positions in PPS and annual pay increases have had a significant impact on increased costs along with the pay increases incurred by the BEC.

PPS administers a state-level grievance process and plays an integral part in ensuring that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against the certificate of an educator certified to teach in Florida. PPS investigates alleged misconduct by educators in Florida who hold an educator's certificate and pursues disciplinary actions against the certificates of educators found to have committed acts of misconduct. PPS investigates when facts are presented which show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.796, F.S., and defined by rules of the State Board of Education. Such facts provide the basis to further investigate whether the educator has broken the law or violated the Principles of Professional Conduct, which outline the standards of conduct expected of certified educators in Florida.

This will ensure priority functions of the Office of Professional Practices are continued with limited revenues received in the Educator Certification Trust Fund.

This is part of an overall fund shift request of \$2,587,890. The overall fund shift request is below:

\$2,108,984 - Salaries and Benefits for 29 FTE  
\$ 231,921 - Operating Expense; travel, supplies, etc.  
\$ 6,127 - Contracted Services; primarily security services  
\$ 35,727 - Risk Management Insurance for employees  
\$ 6,337 - HR Services provided by DMS for employees  
\$ 198,794 - IT Services provided to employees and PPS functions  
\$2,587,890 - Total PPS Operating Costs to be Fund Shifted to General Revenue

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement  
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access  
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development  
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide executive direction and management of state educational programs.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The department's current cost to continue budget (recurring base) for the Expense category is provided to pay for the following obligations.

**Building Rent** - \$4.5 million, 41% of budget

This is the largest expenditure for the department.

**Day to Day Operations** - \$2.1 million, 18% of budget

These expenditures include items such as travel, supplies, telecommunications, subscriptions, dues, fees, and postage.

**Information Technology** - \$1.1 million, 10% of budget

These expenditures include annual software license renewals and laptop purchases based on the department's refresh schedule.

**Trust Fund Budget Authority for Specific Program Activities - \$3.4 million, 31% of budget**

This budget is available as needed for specific program activities funded from trust funds such as Federal Grant Administration activities, Student Loan activities, Educator Certification activities, Educational Facilities activities.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$11,508,058
- 2023-24 - \$12,578,482
- 2022-23 - \$12,609,730

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 137 - State Board of Education - Operating Capital Outlay

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	45,970	0	0	45,970	45,970	0	45,970	0	0.00%
Admin TF	144,428	0	0	144,428	144,428	0	144,428	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	7,440	0	0	7,440	7,440	0	7,440	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	15,000	0	0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	241,756	0	0	241,756	241,756	0	241,756	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	16,375	0	0	16,375	16,375	0	16,375	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	55,960	0	0	55,960	55,960	0	55,960	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	6,000	0	0	6,000	6,000	0	6,000	0	0.00%
Operating TF	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	3,150	0	0	3,150	3,150	0	3,150	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	47,921	0	0	47,921	47,921	0	47,921	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>589,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>589,000</b>	<b>589,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>589,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:** **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$589,000 is requested to continue funding for Operating Capital Outlay purchases of tangible property in excess of \$5,000 with a life expectancy of over one year to support the administrative and operating functions of the department.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**  
Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide for the replacement of office equipment, fixtures, servers and other tangible property exceeding \$5,000 and with a life expectancy of at least one year.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Funds the replacement of equipment, fixtures, servers and other tangible property of a non-consumable and nonexpendable nature to support the administrative functions of the department.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$589,000
- 2023-24 - \$589,000
- 2022-23 - \$589,000

## Item 138 - State Board of Education - Assessment and Evaluation

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	76,311,120	0	6,953,827	83,264,947	79,311,120	3,000,000	76,311,120	3,953,827	4.99%
Admin TF	2,315,367	0	0	2,315,367	2,315,367	0	2,315,367	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	40,153,877	0	0	40,153,877	40,153,877	0	40,153,877	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	10,421,655	0	(2,962,924)	7,458,731	10,421,655	0	10,421,655	(2,962,924)	(28.43%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,202,019</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,990,903</b>	<b>133,192,922</b>	<b>132,202,019</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>129,202,019</b>	<b>990,903</b>	<b>0.75%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$129,202,019 is requested to continue funding K-12 and certification assessments for students and educators.

##### **WORKLOAD**

\$3,361,975 is requested in recurring General Revenue for assessment costs related to the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE) and the Florida Educational Leadership Exam (FELE).

##### **NEW PROGRAM**

\$628,928 is requested in nonrecurring General Revenue to fund development of the Florida Teacher Excellence Exam (FTEE) assessment.

##### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$2,962,924 is requested to be fund shifted from the Teacher Certification Examination Trust Fund to General Revenue due to a projected revenue shortfall.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Juan Copa (850) 245-0744; Susan Lee (850) 245-0785; Jason Gaitanis (850) 245-9618

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

The department is requesting a recurring fund shift of \$2,962,924 from the Teacher Certification Examination Trust Fund to General Revenue to address a projected revenue shortfall and to maintain the funding needed for the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE) and the Florida Educational Leadership Exam (FELE). The projected cost for these two exams for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is \$13,783,630.

The purpose of the FTCE is to ensure that all teacher candidates demonstrate the necessary content and pedagogical knowledge necessary to effectively instruct students in Florida. The purpose of the Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE) is to ensure that all school administrator candidates demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively lead in Florida's schools.

Historically, these two exams have been funded from exam fees deposited into the trust fund; however, over the last several years, revenues have declined. For the last two fiscal years, the department has requested General Revenue to fund the costs that cannot be funded from the trust fund. The decline in revenues is the result of military fee exemptions and other statutory changes to certification requirements.

Recent statutory changes impacting revenues are listed below.

1012.56, F.S., Changes Impacting Revenues:

- Allows examinees to use concordance scores for the SAT, ACT, and Classic Learning Test (CLT) to satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement.
- Waives the General Knowledge Test requirement for individuals who have received three consecutive years of effective or highly effective ratings under s. 1012.34.
- Allows the following to be used to demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge for a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree for which a Florida subject area examination has been developed: documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution that the DOE has identified as having a quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher in the certificate subject areas as identified by state board rule.
- Allows the documentation of three years of effective or highly effective teaching in a Florida public school while teaching under a temporary certification to be used to demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence.
- Expands the length of a temporary certificate to five years instead of three years.

1012.59, F.S., Changes Impacting Revenues:

- Expands waiver of initial general knowledge, professional education, and subject area examination fees and certification fees to retired first responders, which includes law enforcement officers as defined in s. 943.10(1), firefighters as defined in s. 633.102(9), and emergency medical technicians or paramedics as defined in s. 401.23.
- Expands waiver of subject area test fees for examinees holding a temporary or professional certificate in either Elementary Education Grades K-6 or Exceptional Student Education K-12 (ESE).

## **WORKLOAD**

The department is requesting a workload increase of \$3,361,975 in General Revenue to ensure the department is able to carry out the assessment requirements of the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE) and the Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE). The costs for these two exams for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is projected to be \$13,783,630; however, the recurring base budget is only \$10,421,655. Since there is insufficient revenues projected for the Teacher Certification Exam Trust Fund this request is from General Revenue. These costs were funded from General Revenue in Fiscal Year 2025-26 as nonrecurring. They were not restored for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

The purpose of the FTCE is to ensure that all teacher candidates demonstrate the necessary content and pedagogical knowledge necessary to effectively instruct students in Florida. The purpose of the Florida Educational Leadership Exam (FELE) is to ensure that all school administrator candidates demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively lead in Florida's schools.

Historically, these exams have been funded with exam fees deposited into the trust fund; however, over the last several years, revenues have declined. For the last two fiscal years, the department has requested General Revenue to fund the costs that cannot be funded from the trust fund. The decline in revenues is the result of military fee exemptions and other statutory changes to certification requirements.

Recent statutory changes impacting revenues are listed below.

1012.56, F.S., Changes Impacting Revenues:

- Allows examinees to use concordance scores for the SAT, ACT, and Classic Learning Test (CLT) to satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement.
- Waives the General Knowledge Test requirement for individuals who have received three consecutive years of effective or highly effective ratings under s. 1012.34.
- Allows the following to be used to demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge for a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree for which a Florida subject area examination has been developed: documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution that the DOE has identified as having a quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher in the certificate subject areas as identified by state board rule.
- Allows the documentation of three years of effective or highly effective teaching in a Florida public school while teaching under a temporary certification to be used to demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence.
- Expands the length of a temporary certificate to five years instead of three years.

1012.59, F.S., Changes Impacting Revenues:

- Expands waiver of initial general knowledge, professional education, and subject area examination fees and certification fees to retired first responders, which includes law enforcement officers as defined in s. 943.10(1), firefighters as defined in s. 633.102(9), and emergency medical technicians or paramedics as defined in s. 401.23.
- Expands waiver of subject area test fees for examinees holding a temporary or professional certificate in either Elementary Education Grades K-6 or Exceptional Student Education K-12 (ESE).

## **NEW PROGRAM**

The department is requesting \$628,928 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Florida Teacher Excellence Examination (FTEE) in the Assessment and Evaluation category. These funds will be used to address required changes in state statute and enable the department to lead full test development of this new assessment for state-approved teacher preparation programs and teacher candidates at the level of service and quality expected for similar large-scale assessments.

During the 2025 legislative session, HB 875 passed requiring the department to begin development of the FTEE by July 1, 2027. As with similar large-scale assessments, work must begin in advance of the required development begin date. The funds requested for FY 2026-27 are associated with ramp up work involving contractors and subject matter experts and include items such as travel, stipends, materials, space, etc.

The FTEE is required to align with the revised Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAP) and serve as a measure of educator readiness for professional certification. Prior to the FTEE development, the department will establish a workgroup by September 1, 2025, which shall revise the FEAP and submit them to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2026. By August 1, 2026, it must be considered by the State Board of Education. Upon their approval, the department must submit an implementation plan to the Governor and Legislature.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access

- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Assessment and Evaluation (ACT 0635)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

#### **GENERAL ASSESSMENT STATUTES:**

- Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes - Student assessment program for public schools. (includes procurement authorization)
- Section 1008.23, Florida Statutes - Confidentiality of assessment instruments.
- Section 1008.24, Florida Statutes - Test administration and security; public records exemption.
- Section 1008.25, Florida Statutes - Public school student progression; student support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting requirements.
- Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes - Florida's Early Learning-20 education performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission, goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.
- Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes - School grading system; school reports cards; district grade.

#### **SPECIFIC PROGRAM ASSESSMENT STATUTES:**

- Section 1012.55, Florida Statutes - Positions for which certificates required. Section 1012.56, Florida Statutes - Educator certification requirements.
- Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes - Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program accountability. Section 1003.41, Florida Statutes - State academic standards.
- Section 1003.4156, Florida Statutes - General requirements for middle grades promotion. Section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes - Requirements for a standard high school diploma.
- Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes - General education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements.
- Section 1007.27(2)(b), Florida Statutes
- Section 1007.35, Florida Statutes - Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement.

### **PURPOSE:**

Improve public schools by enhancing the learning gains of all students and inform parents of the educational progress of their public school children.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

#### **Florida K-12 Standards Assessments**

##### Statewide, Standardized Science and Social Studies Assessments

Provides for the services and products necessary for statewide, standardized assessments in science and social studies, including test item development, accommodated versions, and the scoring and reporting of grades 5 and 8 Science, end-of-course (EOC) Science and Social Studies assessments, and the Florida Civic Literacy Exam.

##### College Entrance Assessments (ACT/SAT/CLT)

Provides products and services necessary to administer the ACT, SAT and CLT to grade 11 students to expand postsecondary opportunities and potentially serve as the state's high school assessment for satisfying federal requirements.

#### Articulated Acceleration – Advanced Assessments – Florida Advanced Course Tests (FACT)

Provides for the costs to develop, administer, score, and report new advanced K-12 assessments aligned with statutory changes that occurred during the 2023 Florida legislative session. The department may partner with an independent third-party testing or assessment organization to develop assessments that measure competencies consistent with the required course competencies identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.

#### Test Development and Audit Activities

Provides for assessment development activities in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Includes managing the test development work of the department's contractors under the overall direction of the department and organizing and coordinating meetings of Florida educators related to development and hand scoring. Also provides an external, technical review of annual K-12 ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies assessments results and related tasks, as well as alignment and concordant studies.

#### Materials for the Visually Impaired

Provides for the review and proof-reading of large print and Braille materials for K-12 English Language Arts ELA, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies assessments.

### **Other K- 12 Assessments**

#### English Language Proficiency/World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)

Measures the English proficiency and progress of English Language Learners.

#### Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA)

Measures and reports on the achievement of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Pre-College Entrance Assessments - Measures the readiness of 10th grade students for advanced coursework.

#### Student Learning Growth Analysis

Provides for models designed to measure student learning growth using standardized statewide assessments and the impact of a teacher on student learning.

#### Assessment Database Administration

Provides support for multiple internal database administration activities and technology needs.

### **Certification Assessments**

#### Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE)

To ensure that all teacher candidates demonstrate the necessary content and pedagogical knowledge necessary to effectively instruct students in Florida. The purpose of the Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE) is to ensure that all school administrator candidates demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively lead in Florida's schools.

#### Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE)

To measure prospective school administrators' achievement of the benchmarks established by the department and published in the Competencies and Skills Required for Certification in Educational Leadership in Florida. The FELE consists of three subtests covering 13 domains of core curriculum in Educational Leadership.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$129,202,019
- 2023-24 - \$127,202,019
- 2022-23 - \$134,702,019

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**Item 138A - State Board of Education - Transfer to Division of Administrative Hearings****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	480,627	0	0	480,627	480,627	0	480,627	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	480,627	0	0	480,627	480,627	0	480,627	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$480,627 is requested to continue funding the department's share of services from the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH).

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 120.595, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide for administrative hearings and related services.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) schedules cases for pre-hearing conferences, motion hearings, and canceled/continued hearings and final hearings, and bills all state agencies using these services on a prorated basis.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$463,272
- 2023-24 - \$404,792
- 2022-23 - \$275,564

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 139 - State Board of Education - Contracted Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	25,065,599	11,773,000	8,040,897	44,879,496	37,338,599	12,273,000	25,065,599	7,540,897	20.20%
Admin TF	739,054	0	0	739,054	739,054	0	739,054	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	300,000	0	0	300,000	300,000	0	300,000	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	1,402,736	0	(6,127)	1,396,609	1,402,736	0	1,402,736	(6,127)	(0.44%)
Div Univ Fac Const TF	488,200	0	0	488,200	488,200	0	488,200	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	2,376,770	0	0	2,376,770	2,376,770	0	2,376,770	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	405,405	0	0	405,405	405,405	0	405,405	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	14,009,208	0	0	14,009,208	14,009,208	0	14,009,208	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	19,893	0	0	19,893	19,893	0	19,893	0	0.00%
Operating TF	374,193	0	0	374,193	374,193	0	374,193	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	42,250	0	0	42,250	42,250	0	42,250	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	1,043,604	0	0	1,043,604	1,043,604	0	1,043,604	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,316,912</b>	<b>11,773,000</b>	<b>8,034,770</b>	<b>66,124,682</b>	<b>58,589,912</b>	<b>12,273,000</b>	<b>46,316,912</b>	<b>7,534,770</b>	<b>12.86%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

#### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$46,316,912 is requested to continue funding contracted services within the State Board of Education.

#### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$11,773,000 is requested to be restored as recurring General Revenue for the following:

- \$ 450,000 - Alyssa's Alert / Panic Button - Centralization
- \$1,800,000 - School Choice Online Portal
- \$ 845,250 - School Choice Web Applications & Database Update
- \$ 500,000 - Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program
- \$3,000,000 - The CPALMS Platform / Florida Instructional Materials Portal (FLIM) - District Tools
- \$2,177,750 - Transparency Tool
- \$3,000,000 - Open Educational Resources.

#### **WORKLOAD**

\$4,792,520 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- \$2,000,000 - Articulated Acceleration - Advanced Courses
- \$ 200,000 - Online Hosting for Required Training Programs
- \$ 500,000 - Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program
- \$ 770,270 - The CPALMS Platform / Florida Instructional Materials Portal (FLIM) - District Tools
- \$1,322,250 - Transparency Tool

## **ENHANCEMENT**

\$1,300,000 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- \$ 300,000 - Funding for Statutorily Required District Plans with Public Viewing Rights
- \$1,000,000 - Statewide Educator Recruitment Tool

## **NEW PROGRAM**

\$1,942,250 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- \$ 942,250 - FL WINS System Integration
- \$1,000,000 - Professional Learning Marketplace

## **FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$6,127 is requested to be fund shifted from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue due to limited revenues in the trust fund.

## **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

## **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

### **WORKLOAD**

### **ARTICULATED ACCELERATION - ADVANCED COURSES**

The department requests a recurring appropriation of \$2,000,000 in General Revenue to develop advanced courses for articulated acceleration.

During the 2023 legislative session, the legislature passed, and the governor signed House Bill 1537, which amended sections 1007.35 and 1007.27, Florida Statutes. Section 1007.35, F.S., requires the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors respectively to "partner with higher education institutions to develop advanced courses and provide teacher training." The statute also permits the department to partner with a third party to develop and administer assessments associated with each of the courses. These courses and associated assessments will enable high school students in Florida to earn college credits that are transferable to Florida public colleges and universities as an acceptable acceleration mechanism.

These advanced courses must meet the general education requirements for postsecondary education as prescribed by s. 1007.25 F.S. Courses developed must match the postsecondary course description and student learning outcomes reflected in the Statewide Course Numbering System and adhere to any requirements in place for secondary courses in Florida.

House Bill 1255 (2025) amended 1007.27, permits the department to "identify national consortia to develop certain courses" that align with 1007.25 and "authorizing the department to join or establish a national consortium as an additional alternative method to develop and implement advanced courses." Such a consortium will support Florida secondary students who want to acquire advanced instructions based on a passing score on the associated assessment, earn college credit in higher education institutions in Florida and in other participating states.

The initial appropriation received in Fiscal Year 2023-24 funded course work development. The department reverted and reappropriated these funds for the last two fiscal years but does not have a recurring appropriation to support development of additional advanced courses for articulated acceleration.

From these funds Florida has developed an advanced high school course that would award students credit in College Algebra (MAC 1105), if the student passes the associated assessment currently under development. The College Algebra course and assessment pilot around the state in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and will be available to eligible students statewide in 2026-27.

If funded, the department would continue the College Algebra course and assessment pilot around the state in Fiscal Year 2025-26 that will be available to eligible students statewide in Fiscal Year 2026-27. The department is starting development of five (5) additional general education courses and associated assessments. These funds will support the development of advanced courses and implementation over the next three years; related assessments are funded in the Assessment and Evaluation category.

## **ONLINE HOSTING FOR REQUIRED TRAINING PROGRAMS**

The department is requesting \$200,000 in recurring General Revenue for new statutorily required trainings that may be required as a result of changes made during the prior legislative session. Currently, the department does not have recurring funds for new required trainings to be developed and hosted. The requested funds will allow the department to create and host two new courses per year as needed at a projected cost of \$100,000 per training course. This amount was based on the two new courses required during the 2025 legislative session for which no additional funds were provided. Having a recurring appropriation will provide the department with the funds needed to ensure statutory requirements can be completed and made available on a recurring basis.

The department works with the Florida Center for Interactive Media (FCIM) at Florida State University to create, host, and maintain courses in several course management systems for various bureaus in the department. Recent quotes from FCIM are \$100,000 per new course to develop, host, and provide technical support. For example, the department is currently required to create two new training courses that were passed during the 2025 legislative session for which no funds were provided. They are Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools (SB 1514) and Human Trafficking Awareness (HB 1237), which are in the process of being developed for the 2025-2026 year.

## **TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The department is requesting a workload increase of \$500,000 in recurring General Revenue, which with the restored funds will provide total funding of \$1,000,000. The department has been unable to find a vendor that can provide the requested services for \$500,000. Without, the restored funds and the workload request for total available funds of \$1,000,000, the department will be unable to procure the desired services.

The funds are requested for the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance program to provide an on-line marketplace for teachers to make eligible purchases while easing the administrative burden for schools and districts under the current paper-driven process. The intent is for it to be a mobile-friendly interface that will allow teachers to shop conveniently with administrator-elected purchasing guidelines for qualified purchases. Administrators will be able to manage approvals and access with real-time audit ready reporting. This online system will create spending rules, establish approved vendors and service providers, pre-approve purchases, and authorize payments. It will also store images and receipts for up to five years, reducing the administrative burden of managing documents and digital/paper receipts.

## **THE CPALMS PLATFORM / FLA INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS PORTAL (FLIM) - DISTRICT TOOLS**

The department is requesting an increase of \$770,270 in recurring General Revenue, which with base funds and restored funds, will provide total funding of \$6,225,270. This increase will specifically support Career and Technical Education content on CPALMS. Within the last three legislative sessions, the CPALMS platform has undergone major updates in the implementation of department initiatives that have significantly increased hosting and maintenance. These changes have not kept pace with the necessary funding needed to facilitate these initiatives beyond their initial implementation. For example, ESSER II funds were used to create the Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement course in 2021-2022, but no additional funds have been identified for its continued use and maintenance. If funded, the department will be able to maintain all existing aspects of the CPALMS platform.

Additionally, with the implementation of Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics (House Bill 7039 from 2023), a portal for math interventions resources was created in 2024-25 and funds are needed to support its continued use and maintenance. The funds requested are to ensure that CPALMS is fully funded at the level needed to maintain all existing aspects of the CPALMS platform.

## **TRANSPARENCY TOOL**

The department is requesting a workload increase of \$1,322,250 in recurring General Revenue funding. Along with the restoration request, this will provide total recurring funding of \$3,500,000 for the Parent Plus Portal (Transparency Tool). When this program was funded, it was determined that recurring costs (maintenance, system updates, etc.) would be approximately \$3,500,000 annually. This request is needed to ensure the necessary funding is available.

## **NEW PROGRAM**

### **FL WINS SYSTEM INTEGRATION**

The department is requesting a recurring appropriation of \$942,250 in General Revenue to support the operations and maintenance of system integrations for the Division Early Learning, the Division of Blind Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation with the Florida Workforce Integrated Networking Systems (FL WINS) Solution managed by the Department of Commerce. This funding would be used to ensure both operational integrity, enhanced citizen access through seamless integration and adequate completion of “an automated consumer first workforce system that improves coordination among required one-stop partners”, as referenced in Chapter 2021-164, Laws of Florida, House Bill 1507.

FL WINS is a multi-agency initiative and the amount requested is needed to reimburse the Department of Commerce for contractor costs. Operations and maintenance include staff augmentation to build a team of developers, business analysts, and testers. Also, funding will provide additional support and services of the [In-Scope System] system vendor and any additional licensing or software to support the integration. A staff augmentation team, including developers, a project manager, and trainers, is needed to collaborate with the FL WINS vendor partners and maintain integration between the Enhanced Field System – Modification (EFS-Mod), the Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE) systems and the FL WINS Customer Portal, and Data Integration Solution.

The FL WINS Program is an innovative, consumer-first workforce development system that seeks to provide Floridians with improved access to workforce programs and services through interoperable systems and shared integrated data. The strategic alignment and coordination of education and workforce initiatives include an online opportunity portal, allowing access to available state, federal, and local services, resources, and tools. This will provide Floridians with broader access to education and training options, labor market information, career planning tools, workforce training, and education support.

### **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING MARKETPLACE**

The department is requesting \$1,000,000 in recurring General Revenue to support the creation of a dedicated online platform, quality assurance processes, technical infrastructure and support to create and maintain a professional learning marketplace. The department held a competitive bidding process to find a vendor; however, all the bids came in much higher than current available funds; most were over \$1,000,000, so the department had to reject all proposals.

The department will design and launch the foundational elements of a statewide professional learning marketplace to connect educators with high-quality, standards-aligned training opportunities. Project outcomes will include procuring a qualified vendor to design and host the technology platform, identifying and securing the platform's location and infrastructure, and developing a statewide professional learning quality rubric to evaluate offerings. Additional milestones will include building internal expertise among department staff to manage and sustain the marketplace, establishing a clear process for provider vetting and approval, and creating protocols for ongoing monitoring and improvement. Success will be measured by the completion of procurement, platform readiness, adoption of the evaluation rubric, number of department staff trained, and the establishment of operational procedures to support future marketplace expansion.

In 2023, House Bill (HB) 1537, amended s. 1012.98, F.S., specifically requiring the department of to develop and implement a professional learning marketplace to serve as a comprehensive, state-supported platform through which educators may access high-quality professional learning opportunities aligned with established standards. However, no funds were provided. Section (s.) 1012.98, Florida Statutes (F.S.), establishes the framework for a coordinated system of professional learning designed to enhance instructional quality and support educator effectiveness across the state. Without the requested funds, the department cannot move forward with the professional learning marketplace as required by HB 1537.

## **ENHANCEMENT**

### **FUNDING FOR STATUTORILY REQUIRED DISTRICT PLANS WITH PUBLIC VIEWING RIGHTS**

The department is requesting \$300,000 in recurring General Revenue to enhance, and bring in-house, the department's existing vendor-supported platform to manage School Improvement Plans (SIPs), Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan (MHAAs) and Title I Unified School Improvement Grant (UniSIG) budgets statewide. Having the system in-house on a department-developed platform will allow for long-term sustainability. Currently, the department uses a vendor-supported advanced online platform to support SIPs, MHAA and Title I UniSIG budgets for schools and districts statewide. The department provides oversight and support to schools and districts identified for intervention, reviewing SIPs and offering feedback aligned with Rule 6A-1.099811, F.A.C. This ensures SIPs meet federal and state requirements, including those associated with Title I, Part A (UniSIG). The associated costs are currently paid from federal Title I funds.

This request would be used to build a platform with capacity to support multiple users, transfer all historical data and plans, upload new templates and documents and populate data for schools and districts to effectively and efficiently plan for improvement. The requested recurring funds would support maintenance of the platform, data uploads and increased server capacity during peak usage periods. In addition to housing annual data and SIPs, the platform will serve as a central hub for all School Improvement-related materials. Previous SIPs are available to the general public, ensuring transparency of information among different stakeholder groups. Schools and districts that are not currently identified for school improvement also utilize an advanced online platform to support the development of SIPs. An advanced online platform will enable schools and districts to meet the requirements outlined in Rule 6A-1.099811, F.A.C. It serves as a robust source of information for schools, districts and the general public. Historical and annual data is prepopulated, providing a cohesive system to support planning for improved student achievement. The platform will also allow multiple users at the school, district and state level to collaborate on SIP development, fostering alignment and reinforcing a shared commitment to comprehensive school improvement.

Without funding for a department-developed advanced online platform to house SIPs, MHAAs and Title I UniSIG budgets, Florida's schools and districts will face major challenges with the development, submission, tracking and monitoring of SIPs and related funding in accordance with 6A-1.099811, F.A.C. Funding for an online platform ensures compliance with state mandates, supports data-driven decision-making and gives the public access to transparent, up-to-date information about how schools are working to improve. Without it, the state risks inefficiency, delays, data loss and reduced public accountability.

Section (s.) 1001.42(18)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires each district school board to annually approve and implement a SIP for any school that meets certain criteria including a school grade of "D" or "F." Schools that show insufficient progress in student performance or graduation rates must complete a school improvement plan (SIP) per Rule 6A-1.099811, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

Per s. 1006.041, F.S., school districts are required to annually develop and submit a MHAA. This plan must outline how the district will use the allocated funds to establish or expand mental health services. It must be submitted through the designated online platform by August 1 each year. Additionally, the plan must include strategies for early identification of mental health needs, coordination with community mental health providers, and the implementation of evidence-based treatment programs.

### **STATEWIDE EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT TOOL**

The department is requesting \$1,000,000 in recurring General Revenue to maintain and enhance the current statewide system for posting teaching vacancies and a database of teacher applicants as required in section (s.) 1012.05(2)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Currently, the department has a contract with a vendor that expires in Fiscal Year 2025-26. When the contract was originally initiated, there was an annual cost of \$400,000 for three years. When it was rebid two years ago, the cost increased to \$1,000,000 annually, with Fiscal Year 2025-26 being the last fiscal year of the current contract. During this time, the costs have been paid from federal Title II funds, and now exceed what can be sustainably supported through Title II. This recurring state appropriation will allow the department to reallocate the federal funds toward other priority initiatives such as professional learning and educator preparation efforts. To meet statutory requirements and ensure the long-term viability of the recruitment system, state funds are requested to fund the database.

The department currently contracts with a service provider to support the development of a statewide educator recruitment website. This contract expires in September 2025. Securing a dedicated appropriation for this project would allow the department to meet its statutory obligation to provide a statewide teacher vacancy and recruitment database.

The appropriation would be used exclusively to develop a comprehensive, centralized recruitment platform designed to serve as a one-stop resource for educator job postings, application submissions and candidate engagement - mirroring best-in-class models utilized by other states.

The requested funds will be used as follows:

- \$ 450,000 - Platform development and licensing – (vendor contract for software development, licensing, and customization)
- \$ 150,000 - Hosting and infrastructure – (secure cloud hosting, data storage, and system maintenance)
- \$ 100,000 - Technical support and help desk – (ongoing user support for applicants and district HR staff)
- \$ 150,000 - District integration and training – (support for onboarding districts, training sessions, and integration services)
- \$ 75,000 - Marketing and outreach – (statewide campaigns to promote the platform to in- and out-of-state educators)
- \$ 75,000 - Project management and oversight – (internal staffing or contracted support)
- \$1,000,000 - Total Requested Funds

## **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

### **ALYSSA'S ALERT / PANIC BUTTON - CENTRALIZATION**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$450,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds, as recurring funds, for the Alyssa's Alert / Panic Button - Centralization Initiative. These funds will be used to pay for any potential recurring maintenance costs.

As the department begins implementation of this initiative during the Fiscal Year 2025-26, it may be determined that recurring maintenance costs will be needed as well. To ensure this important initiative for the safety of Florida's students can be maintained, therefore recurring funds are requested.

## **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$3,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to begin developing the next level of elementary open educational resources for English Language Arts (ELA). In Fiscal Year 2025-26, the department was provided funds to develop free K-2 ELA instructional materials. Since elementary materials must be developed as a vertically aligned K-5 series, limiting resources to K-2 conflicts with both the adoption timeline and the required series. This request will allow the department to develop the 3-5 materials to ensure alignment and continuity across all elementary grades. The next ELA materials adoption is scheduled for 2029-30.

Requested is an appropriation to develop 3-5 materials to align with the instructional materials adoption timeline as well as vertical and sequential alignment for standards and benchmarks for ELA K-5 open educational resources.

Developing K-2 resources in isolation is problematic for districts as it would require them to potentially use materials that would not be in a series and thus, would need to purchase additional materials to supplement 3-5 or the resources would go unused as districts would have already purchased a K-5 series.

Funding will support the development of sequential, vertically aligned K-5 ELA open educational resources for district use. Development of the 3-5 materials will begin upon appropriation and continue through 2027-28 (with the potential of funds being reverted and reappropriated), with all materials finalized and ready for district use by the 2028-29 adoption year. At this time, it is assumed that the funds needed for the 3-5 materials will be the same as those appropriated for the K-2 materials.

## **SCHOOL CHOICE ONLINE PORTAL**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$1,800,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds, as recurring funds, for the My Florida Schools - School Choice Online Portal. These funds will be used to ensure continued access to a user-friendly online tool that supports parents in their search for preK-12 school options.

The My Florida Schools is a platform that allows all Florida K-12 schools to list their programs online. Families can use My Florida Schools to search and discover various school options available in their area, including public and charter schools, virtual school options, private school options including schools with a military focus, religious or secular programs, and day schools. By viewing a school's page, families can learn about unique offerings, ratings, and other helpful information. In 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill (HB) 1, expanding school choice for all Florida families. As part of this law, the department worked collaboratively to create a user-friendly online tool that supports parents in their search for preK-12 school options. My Florida Schools stores information about 10,000 K-12 schools across Florida so that parents have access to all the necessary information as they choose a school for their child.

## **SCHOOL CHOICE WEB APPLICATIONS & DATABASE UPDATE**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$845,250 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds, as recurring funds, for the School Choice Web Application. The School Choice Web Application is the tool used to administer all aspects of the Family Empowerment Scholarship and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship. These funds will be used to pay recurring costs such as licenses and maintenance.

## **TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds, as recurring funds, for the Teacher Supply Assistance Program which would restore funding to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 amount.

The funds are requested for the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance program to provide an on-line marketplace for teachers to make eligible purchases while easing the administrative burden for schools and districts under the current paper-driven process. The intent is for it to be a mobile-friendly interface that will allow teachers to shop conveniently with administrator-elected purchasing guidelines for qualified purchases. Administrators will be able to manage approvals and access with real-time audit ready reporting. This online system will create spending rules, establish approved vendors and service providers, pre-approve purchases, and authorize payments. It will also store images and receipts for up to five years, reducing the administrative burden of managing documents and digital/paper receipts.

## **THE CPALMS PLATFORM / FLA INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS PORTAL (FLIM) - DISTRICT TOOLS**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$3,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds, as recurring funds, for CPALMS which restores funding to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 level of \$5,455,000. These funds will allow the department to maintain all existing aspects of the CPALMS platform.

CPALMS is Florida's official repository for academic standards and integrates with the K-12 Course Code Directory. It supports a network of essential department websites and portals used by educators, students, administrators, and families. This one-stop shop includes the CPALMS main site, FloridaStudents.org, iCPALMS, CPALMS Class Sites, the Civics Literacy Initiative portal, the K-4 Mathematics Intervention site, the Math Formative Assessment System (MFAS), the district certification reporting portal, and statewide Single Sign-On access.

With over 1 billion resource views and downloads, CPALMS has published more than 14,000 K-12 instructional resources, created over 312,000 educator accounts, and provides critical tools such as the Civics Seal of Excellence and district reporting functions. Its instructional resources include more than 6,000 lesson plans, 1,500+ student tutorials, 1,300+ formative assessment tasks, and 550 Perspectives videos.

\$ 540,000 - Salaries and Benefits

\$ 1,000 - Printing

\$ 689,000 - Materials and Supplies (software, license fees, hosting costs)

\$1,627,143 - Consultants and Stipends

\$2,857,143 - Total Project Costs

\$ 142,857 - Administrative Costs (5% of Project Costs)

\$3,000,000 - Total Funds Requested to be Restored

## TRANSPARENCY TOOL

The department is requesting the restoration of \$2,177,750 in nonrecurring General Revenue funding, as recurring, to continue the work in support of House Bill 1557 (2022), Parental Rights in Education. With these funds, the department will be able to continue providing a tool for transparency for parents, district staff and school staff of instructional materials, educational resources and library media materials.

The department has been working toward identifying a statewide solution to provide a tool for transparency for parents, district staff and school staff of instructional materials, educational resources and library media materials. Providing a statewide, centralized, easily accessible solution for access to these materials will allow for across-the-board consistency in how the materials are searched, displayed, reviewed and accessed by users. Districts are currently making the materials available in various formats and platforms. Centralizing this process ensures that parents, districts, school staff and the general public have access to the same information. The recurring funding sought for Parent Plus Portal (Transparency Tool) is not merely a financial request, but an invitation to invest in the future of education—one where transparency, access, and partnership are cornerstones.

## FUND SHIFT(S)

The department is requesting a fund shift in the amount of \$6,127 from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue (GR) to ensure that the department has the resources needed to ensure quality teachers are in the classrooms in Florida and protect Florida students.

Currently, the Educational Certification Trust Fund funds the operations of both the Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) and the Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS). Due to a projected revenue shortfall, the trust fund can no longer support the costs associated with PPS, and General Revenue funds are needed to ensure this high-priority function for the department has the necessary resources.

The following are key factors that have created a revenue shortfall in the trust fund over the last few years:

- Certification Fee Waivers: Since 2017, the implementation of specific waivers required by state statute has had a significant impact on annual revenue.
- New Fingerprint Clearing House. This new initiative was implemented in January 2025 as required in s. 435.12, F.S., and is increasing costs for the operations of BEC.
- Annual Pay Increases: There are 29 positions in PPS and annual pay increases have had a significant impact on increased costs along with the pay increases incurred by the BEC.

PPS administers a state-level grievance process and plays an integral part in ensuring that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against the certificate of an educator certified to teach in Florida. PPS investigates alleged misconduct by educators in Florida who hold an educator's certificate and pursues disciplinary actions against the certificates of educators found to have committed acts of misconduct. PPS investigates when facts are presented which show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.796, F.S., and defined by rules of the State Board of Education. Such facts provide the basis to further investigate whether the educator has broken the law or violated the Principles of Professional Conduct, which outline the standards of conduct expected of certified educators in Florida.

This will ensure priority functions of the Office of Professional Practices are continued with limited revenues received in the Educator Certification Trust Fund.

This is part of an overall fund shift request of \$2,587,890. The overall fund shift request is below:

\$2,108,984 - Salaries and Benefits for 29 FTE  
\$ 231,921 - Operating Expense; travel, supplies, etc.  
\$ 6,127 - Contracted Services; primarily security services  
\$ 35,727 - Risk Management Insurance for employees  
\$ 6,337 - HR Services provided by DMS for employees  
\$ 198,794 - IT Services provided to employees and PPS functions  
\$2,587,890 - Total PPS Operating Costs to be Fund Shifted to General Revenue

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide expertise in a variety of areas that is more advantageous for the department to acquire from the private sector.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The department's current cost to continue budget (recurring base) for Contracted Services is provided to carry out the following primary functions and responsibilities.

#### **Student Loan Operating Services (\$14 million, 30% of budget)**

Provides funds for the collection and recovery services of defaulted student loans to perform activities designed to prevent a default by a borrower, as well as administrative and programmatic expenses.

#### **Safe Schools Initiatives (\$7.3 million, 16% of budget)**

- Alyssa's Alert / Panic Button - \$6,400,000
- Active Shooter Training - \$100,000
- School Safety Training - \$815,000

#### **Legal Services to Address Legal Challenges (\$5 million, 11% of budget )**

Provides funds to address legal challenges made against the department and the state related to education issues.

#### **Career Planning and Work Based Learning (\$4 million, 9% of budget)**

Provides funds for a career readiness system that walks students through a process of career exploration, planning, and preparation. The system will guide the student through a process of plan formation leading towards career success, including selecting and preparing for postsecondary training options - apprenticeship, technical college, Florida College System institution, State University System institution, or national service.

#### **Collaborate, Plan, Align, Learn, Motivate, Share (CPALMS) (\$2.5 million, 5% of budget)**

Provides funds for the maintenance of this online tool which allows access to 13,000 freely available, high-quality instructional and educational materials for teachers, parents, and students to use as well as teachers to plan their instruction, collaborate, and engage in online professional development courses.

#### **Federal Grant Award Administration (\$2.4 million, 5% of budget)**

Provides federal budget authority to support the operating costs associated with implementing federal grant awards.

#### **Department-wide Technology Staff Augmentation (\$1.6 million, 3% of budget)**

Provides funds to obtain contractors with specialized technology skills to work on various department-wide systems.

#### **Educator Certification System and Professional Practices Services (\$1.4 million, 3% of budget)**

Provides funds to maintain and operate the Educator Certification System and operating funds needed to review and process professional practices complaints against educators.

**School Choice Initiatives - (\$1.1 million, 2% of budget)**

- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program - \$250,000
- Family Empowerment Scholarship Programs - \$150,000
- Florida Charter School Review Commission - \$455,000
- IT Staff Augmentation - \$214,606

**Workforce Development Information System Career and Technical Education Dashboard (\$1 million, 2% of budget)**

Provides funds to carry out the requirements of section 1008.40, F.S., to develop a workforce development metrics dashboard that measures the state's investments in workforce development. The dashboard is referred to as the Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP). The dashboard uses statistically rigorous methodologies to estimate, assess, and isolate the impact of programs on participant outcomes. The workforce development metrics dashboard uses existing available data and resources that are currently collected and accessible to state agencies.

**Department-wide Technology Purchases (\$1 million, 2% of budget)**

Provides funds to obtain department-wide technology needs such as software renewals and maintenance.

**Funds for Various Day to Day Operations (\$5 million, 11% of budget)**

Provides funds for administrative costs needed to carry out day-to-day activities for programs such as: Public Education and Capital Outlay (PECO), Commission for Independent Education, General Educational Development (GED), Grants Management, equipment maintenance, customer service, and security for the Turlington Building.

**The following items are funded in Fiscal Year 2025-26 as Nonrecurring and/or Back of the Bill Appropriations but are not part of the cost to continue budget.****Collaborate, Plan, Align, Learn, Motivate, Share (CPALMS) - \$3,338,052**

Provides funds for the maintenance of this online tool which allows access to 13,000 freely available, high-quality instructional and educational materials for teachers, parents, and students to use as well as teachers to plan their instruction, collaborate, and engage in online professional development courses.

**Transparency Tool - \$3,034,937**

Provides funds for a statewide transparency tool to support the implementation of instructional and library materials requirements.

**Open Educational Resources - \$3,000,000**

Provides funds for the development of free K-2 ELA instructional materials.

**Development of New Advanced Courses - \$1,700,000**

Provides funds for the development of core courses identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee for general education.

**Development of New Advance Courses Assessments - \$1,000,000**

Provides funds for the development of assessments that measure competencies consistent with the required course competencies identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee for general education core courses.

**School Choice Portal - \$1,800,000**

Provides funds for the My Florida Schools - School Choice Online Portal platform that allows all Florida K-12 schools to list their programs online. Families can use My Florida Schools to search and discover various school options available in their area, including public and charter schools, virtual school options, private school options including schools with a military focus, religious or secular programs, and day schools.

**School Choice Web - \$845,000**

Provides funds to administer the Family Empowerment Scholarship and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship.

**Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program - \$500,000**

Provides funds for an on-line marketplace for teachers to make eligible purchases while easing the administrative burden for schools and districts under the current paper-driven process.

**Alyssa's Alert/Panic Button - Centralization - \$450,000**

Provides funds for a centralization of the existing panic button system.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$46,616,912
- 2023-24 - \$72,965,012
- 2022-23 - \$54,917,912

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 139A - State Board of Education - Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) System Replacement

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	850,000	0	850,000	850,000	850,000	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	0	850,000	0	850,000	850,000	850,000	0	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$850,000 is requested to be restored in nonrecurring General Revenue for the department to transition from the state's current accounting system (FLAIR) to the new state accounting system (PALM) by July 1, 2026 go live date.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406, Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$850,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to transition from the state's current accounting system (FLAIR) to the new Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) System. The requested funds will ensure that the department has all the necessary systems ready for the PALM implementation during the July 2026 go live date. The next major implementation will be the transition of financials, payroll, and the data warehouse. The funds will be used by staff in both the Division of Finance and Operations (DFO) as well as the Division of Technology and Innovation (DTI).

The requested restoration of \$850,000 will be used to contract for the following purposes:

- \$200,000 - DFO - Project Management
- \$300,000 - DFO - Business Analyst
- \$165,000 - DTI - Business Analyst
- \$185,000 - DTI - Application Developer

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Finance and Accounting (ACT 0100)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 215.94(2), F.S.

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provides funds to replace the state's current accounting and cash management systems.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) System Replacement category provides funds to agencies to transition the state's current accounting and cash management systems (CMS) to the new Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) System. PALM will provide an integrated enterprise financial management solution that will allow the state to organize, define, and standardize its financial management processes.

The PALM project is a multi-year endeavor that began in 2014 with the Department of Financial Services establishing a Project Team. In July 2018, a contract was executed to design, build, and implement Florida PALM. The first implementation, CMS, went live in July 2021 with cash management functionality.

The next major implementation will be the transition of financials, payroll, and the data warehouse which will go live in July 2026. The funds requested will be used to continue the department's efforts to transition to PALM. Funding was provided in Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 for this initiative.

PALM's goals include:

- Reducing the state's risk exposure by harnessing modern financial management technology built on the premises of scalability, flexibility, and maintainability.
- Improving state and agency specific decision making by capturing a consistent and an expandable set of data.
- Improving the State's financial management capabilities to enable more accurate oversight of budget and cash demands today and in the future.
- Increasing internal controls by enabling standardization and automation of business processes within and between the Department of Financial Services and agencies.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$725,000
- 2023-24 - \$0
- 2022-23 - \$0

## Item 140 - State Board of Education - Cloud Computing Services

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,500,000	0	0	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	6,500,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	6,500,000	0	0	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	6,500,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$6,500,000 is requested to continue funding cloud computing services within the State Board of Education for the following Safe Schools Threat Management Initiatives:

- \$5,000,000 - Statewide Information Sharing System (Threat Management Portal)
- \$1,500,000 - School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System (SESIR)

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Darren Norris (850) 245-9328; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Safe Schools Initiatives (ACT3300)

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1003.25(2)(a) and 1006.07, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

To provide a cloud-based, secure statewide information sharing system for threat management.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Although the department currently has several systems located in the cloud, the following two are currently the only ones appropriated from this line item.

##### **School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System (SESIR)**

A statewide portal for school districts to submit SESIR data. The system currently collects incident data from public and public charter schools on 26 incident categories, most of which are crimes, but also include disruptive behaviors and disciplinary offenses that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus school-sponsored events, during any 24-hour period, 365 days per year. Incidents are reported by schools to the districts which, in turn, provide the data to the department.

##### **Statewide Information Sharing System (Threat Management Portal)**

A portal that is a Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument for use by each school district, school, and charter school. The portal facilitates the electronic threat assessment reporting and documentation as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$6,500,000
- 2023-24 - \$15,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$0

**Item 140A - State Board of Education - Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency**

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	30,175	0	0	30,175	30,175	0	30,175	0	0.00%
Admin TF	85,882	0	0	85,882	85,882	0	85,882	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,057</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116,057</b>	<b>116,057</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116,057</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$116,057 is requested to maintain the current level of office productivity software licenses, related security and cloud-based services equivalent to the services previously provided through the Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency category within the Department of Management Services.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Network Operations (ACT 0340)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapter 282.318, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Funds are provided to maintain the current level of office productivity software licenses, related security, and cloud-based services equivalent to the services previously provided through the Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency category within the Department of Management Services (DMS).

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Following Governor Ron DeSantis' call to modernize state government, the Florida Legislature created the Florida Digital Service (FLDS) in 2020 to develop and implement the state's enterprise-wide cybersecurity, data interoperability, and cloud-first initiatives to support Florida's government and the constituents who access its critical services. Until FY 2025-26, FLDS leveraged the state's volume purchasing authority to deliver taxpayer savings in technology procurement and to improve agencies' cybersecurity posture and resiliency. In the 2025 Legislative Session, the legislature included appropriations to individual agencies to maintain the current level of services provided under the FLDS Enterprise Agreement and required agencies to transfer specific Microsoft licenses to the agency tenant.

All Microsoft licenses provided by FLDS to the agencies expired at the end of fiscal year 2024-25. Azure Sentinel, an Azure Log Analytics Workspace (LAW), was used by some agencies to provide additional security for some Microsoft environments. This LAW was previously housed in a subscription linked to the Florida Digital Service (FLDS) Enterprise Agreement, and the LAW itself was linked to the FLDS Enterprise Cluster for billing purposes. In fiscal year 2025-26, agencies were required to link the LAW to each agency's Microsoft environment and to transfer the subscription to the individual agency's Microsoft Enterprise Agreement.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

**Item 141 - State Board of Education - Educational Facilities Research and Development Projects**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Div Univ Fac Const TF	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****COST TO CONTINUE**

\$200,000 is requested to continue providing research, technical assistance and training to public school districts, state colleges and state universities related to planning, constructing, developing and operating educational facilities as needed.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Educational Facilities (ACT0535)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1013.03 and 1013.64, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provides research, technical assistance and training related to educational facilities to the education agencies. Additionally, research projects are undertaken to provide boards and their consultants with needed information relating to the planning, design, construction and operation of educational facilities as needed.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Office of Educational Facilities (OEF) provides technical assistance and training to public school districts, state colleges and state universities on a variety of facilities-related issues. To provide valuable technical assistance and training to the education agencies, and to keep abreast of the latest laws, rules and industry standards, technical assistance equipment and training programs are required to be updated periodically.

The following are typical expenditures from this program:

- Replacement of training modules that have become worn and outdated.
- Updates to the Florida Building Code Handbook for public educational facilities to stay current with the latest changes to the Florida Building Code.
- New equipment to enable the delivery of technical assistance, as well as address new environmental and safety issues encountered in today's schools.
- Training aides teach the educational agencies' staff about new technologies and techniques used to maintain and keep educational facilities safe for students and personnel.
- New literature and training programs reflecting today's issues and requirements.
- Contracts with nationally recognized experts to teach district personnel about important facility issues.

Research projects provide boards and their consultants with needed information relating to the design, cost, construction and operations of educational facilities. Research projects are proposed by legislators, OEF, boards, consultants and other individuals involved in developing and operating educational facilities. Research is conducted on relevant issues affecting educational agencies' ability to fulfill their statutory obligation for providing safe, healthy and economically constructed and maintained educational facilities. Research projects completed in the past few years include:

- Florida Building Code Handbook
- Disaster and Crisis Management Guidelines
- Florida Safe School Design Guidelines
- Maintenance and Operations Administrative Guidelines for School Districts and Community Colleges
- Life Cycle Cost Guidelines documents

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$200,000
- 2023-24 - \$200,000
- 2022-23 - \$200,000

## Item 142 - State Board of Education - Risk Management Insurance

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	148,653	0	35,727	184,380	148,653	0	148,653	35,727	24.03%
Admin TF	62,554	0	0	62,554	62,554	0	62,554	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	36,109	0	(35,727)	382	36,109	0	36,109	(35,727)	(98.94%)
Div Univ Fac Const TF	11,502	0	0	11,502	11,502	0	11,502	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	103,426	0	0	103,426	103,426	0	103,426	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	17,146	0	0	17,146	17,146	0	17,146	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	24,304	0	0	24,304	24,304	0	24,304	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	474	0	0	474	474	0	474	0	0.00%
Operating TF	1,422	0	0	1,422	1,422	0	1,422	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	1,735	0	0	1,735	1,735	0	1,735	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	41,941	0	0	41,941	41,941	0	41,941	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>449,266</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>449,266</b>	<b>449,266</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>449,266</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:** **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$449,266 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the State Board of Education.

#### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$35,727 is requested to be fund shifted from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue due to limited revenues in the trust fund.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

The department is requesting a fund shift in the amount of \$35,727 from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue (GR) to ensure that the department has the resources needed to ensure quality teachers are in the classrooms in Florida and protect Florida students.

Currently, the Educational Certification Trust Fund funds the operations of both the Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) and the Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS). Due to a projected revenue shortfall, the trust fund can no longer support the costs associated with PPS, and General Revenue funds are needed to ensure this high-priority function for the department has the necessary resources.

The following are key factors that have created a revenue shortfall in the trust fund over the last few years:

- Certification Fee Waivers: Since 2017, the implementation of specific waivers required by state statute has had a significant impact on annual revenue.
- New Fingerprint Clearing House. This new initiative was implemented in January 2025 as required in s. 435.12, F.S. and is increasing costs for the operations of BEC.
- Annual Pay Increases: There are 29 positions in PPS and annual pay increases have had a significant impact on increased costs along with the pay increases incurred by the BEC.

PPS administers a state-level grievance process and plays an integral part in ensuring that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against the certificate of an educator certified to teach in Florida. PPS investigates alleged misconduct by educators in Florida who hold an educator's certificate and pursues disciplinary actions against the certificates of educators found to have committed acts of misconduct. PPS investigates when facts are presented which show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.796, F.S., and defined by rules of the State Board of Education. Such facts provide the basis to further investigate whether the educator has broken the law or violated the Principles of Professional Conduct, which outline the standards of conduct expected of certified educators in Florida.

This will ensure priority functions of the Office of Professional Practices are continued with limited revenues received in the Educator Certification Trust Fund.

This is part of an overall fund shift request of \$2,587,890. The overall fund shift request is below:

\$2,108,984 - Salaries and Benefits for 29 FTE

\$ 231,921 - Operating Expense; travel, supplies, etc.

\$ 6,127 - Contracted Services; primarily security services

\$ 35,727 - Risk Management Insurance for employees

\$ 6,337 - HR Services provided by DMS for employees

\$ 198,794 - IT Services provided to employees and PPS functions

\$2,587,890 - Total PPS Operating Costs to be Fund Shifted to General Revenue

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provides business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These funds provide for Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Federal Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriation amounts are recommended by the state's Division of Risk Management.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$449,266
- 2023-24 - \$422,763
- 2022-23 - \$328,276

**Item 142A - State Board of Education - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract**

**2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	116,366	0	6,337	122,703	116,366	0	116,366	6,337	5.45%
Admin TF	22,303	0	0	22,303	22,303	0	22,303	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	22,506	0	(6,337)	16,169	22,506	0	22,506	(6,337)	(28.16%)
Div Univ Fac Const TF	12,119	0	0	12,119	12,119	0	12,119	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	76,413	0	0	76,413	76,413	0	76,413	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	9,513	0	0	9,513	9,513	0	9,513	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	45,870	0	0	45,870	45,870	0	45,870	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	315	0	0	315	315	0	315	0	0.00%
Operating TF	2,978	0	0	2,978	2,978	0	2,978	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	1,856	0	0	1,856	1,856	0	1,856	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	27,477	0	0	27,477	27,477	0	27,477	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>337,716</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>337,716</b>	<b>337,716</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>337,716</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**REQUEST NARRATIVE**

**SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

**COST TO CONTINUE**

\$337,716 is requested to continue funding the current level of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services for the State Board of Education.

**FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$6,337 is requested to be fund shifted from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue due to limited revenues in the trust fund.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

**FUND SHIFT(S)**

The department is requesting a fund shift in the amount of \$6,337 from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue (GR) to ensure that the department has the resources needed to ensure quality teachers are in the classrooms in Florida and protect Florida students.

Currently, the Educational Certification Trust Fund funds the operations of both the Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) and the Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS). Due to a projected revenue shortfall, the trust fund can no longer support the costs associated with PPS, and General Revenue funds are needed to ensure this high-priority function for the department has the necessary resources.

The following are key factors that have created a revenue shortfall in the trust fund over the last few years:

- Certification Fee Waivers: Since 2017, the implementation of specific waivers required by state statute has had a significant impact on annual revenue.
- New Fingerprint Clearing House. This new initiative was implemented in January 2025 as required in s. 435.12, F.S. and is increasing costs for the operations of BEC.
- Annual Pay Increases: There are 29 positions in PPS and annual pay increases have had a significant impact on increased costs along with the pay increases incurred by the BEC.

PPS administers a state-level grievance process and plays an integral part in ensuring that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against the certificate of an educator certified to teach in Florida. PPS investigates alleged misconduct by educators in Florida who hold an educator's certificate and pursues disciplinary actions against the certificates of educators found to have committed acts of misconduct. PPS investigates when facts are presented which show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.796, F.S., and defined by rules of the State Board of Education. Such facts provide the basis to further investigate whether the educator has broken the law or violated the Principles of Professional Conduct, which outline the standards of conduct expected of certified educators in Florida.

This will ensure priority functions of the Office of Professional Practices are continued with limited revenues received in the Educator Certification Trust Fund.

This is part of an overall fund shift request of \$2,587,890. The overall fund shift request is below:

\$2,108,984 - Salaries and Benefits for 29 FTE  
\$ 231,921 - Operating Expense; travel, supplies, etc.  
\$ 6,127 - Contracted Services; primarily security services  
\$ 35,727 - Risk Management Insurance for employees  
\$ 6,337 - HR Services provided by DMS for employees  
\$ 198,794 - IT Services provided to employees and PPS functions  
\$2,587,890 - Total PPS Operating Costs to be Fund Shifted to General Revenue

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

All Activities

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Chapters 1000 – 1013, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide human resource management services for the department.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (People First) managing agency human resources.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$337,716
- 2023-24 - \$342,359
- 2022-23 - \$318,811

## Item 143 - State Board of Education - Education Technology and Information Services

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,053,246	0	198,794	6,252,040	6,053,246	0	6,053,246	198,794	3.28%
Admin TF	1,790,165	0	0	1,790,165	1,790,165	0	1,790,165	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	1,364,190	0	(198,794)	1,165,396	1,364,190	0	1,364,190	(198,794)	(14.57%)
Div Univ Fac Const TF	354,602	0	0	354,602	354,602	0	354,602	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	3,945,700	0	0	3,945,700	3,945,700	0	3,945,700	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	363,220	0	0	363,220	363,220	0	363,220	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	1,288,715	0	0	1,288,715	1,288,715	0	1,288,715	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	31,147	0	0	31,147	31,147	0	31,147	0	0.00%
Operating TF	100,026	0	0	100,026	100,026	0	100,026	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	73,950	0	0	73,950	73,950	0	73,950	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	1,313,571	0	0	1,313,571	1,313,571	0	1,313,571	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,678,532</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,678,532</b>	<b>16,678,532</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,678,532</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:** **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$16,678,532 is requested to continue the current level of services to meet the department's critical technology needs and programs related to Information Technology (IT) services, Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS), Education Data Warehouse (EDW) and Department-wide Technology Purchases.

#### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

\$198,794 is requested to be fund shifted from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue due to limited revenues in the trust fund.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

#### **FUND SHIFT(S)**

The department is requesting a fund shift in the amount of \$198,794 from the Educational Certification and Service Trust Fund to General Revenue (GR) to ensure that the department has the resources needed to ensure quality teachers are in the classrooms in Florida and protect Florida students.

Currently, the Educational Certification Trust Fund funds the operations of both the Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) and the Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS). Due to a projected revenue shortfall, the trust fund can no longer support the costs associated with PPS, and General Revenue funds are needed to ensure this high-priority function for the department has the necessary resources.

The following are key factors that have created a revenue shortfall in the trust fund over the last few years:

- Certification Fee Waivers: Since 2017, the implementation of specific waivers required by state statute has had a significant impact on annual revenue.
- New Fingerprint Clearing House. This new initiative was implemented in January 2025 as required in s. 435.12, F.S. and is increasing costs for the operations of BEC.
- Annual Pay Increases: There are 29 positions in PPS and annual pay increases have had a significant impact on increased costs along with the pay increases incurred by the BEC.

PPS administers a state-level grievance process and plays an integral part in ensuring that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against the certificate of an educator certified to teach in Florida. PPS investigates alleged misconduct by educators in Florida who hold an educator's certificate and pursues disciplinary actions against the certificates of educators found to have committed acts of misconduct. PPS investigates when facts are presented which show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.796, F.S., and defined by rules of the State Board of Education. Such facts provide the basis to further investigate whether the educator has broken the law or violated the Principles of Professional Conduct, which outline the standards of conduct expected of certified educators in Florida.

This will ensure priority functions of the Office of Professional Practices are continued with limited revenues received in the Educator Certification Trust Fund.

This is part of an overall fund shift request of \$2,587,890. The overall fund shift request is below:

\$2,108,984 - Salaries and Benefits for 29 FTE

\$ 231,921 - Operating Expense; travel, supplies, etc.

\$ 6,127 - Contracted Services; primarily security services

\$ 35,727 - Risk Management Insurance for employees

\$ 6,337 - HR Services provided by DMS for employees

\$ 198,794 - IT Services provided to employees and PPS functions

\$2,587,890 - Total PPS Operating Costs to be Fund Shifted to General Revenue

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Education Data Warehouse

Information Technology – Application Development/Support (ACT0320)

Primary Data Center Services - Northwest Regional Data Center

Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)

Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

Technology and Information Services

Information Technology – Administrative Services (ACT0310)

Information Technology – Application Development/Support (ACT0320)

Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)

Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

Information Technology - Desktop Support (ACT0350)

Department-Wide Technology Purchases

Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)

Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

Information Technology - Desktop Support (ACT0350)

Information Technology – Asset Acquisition (ACT0370)

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Education Data Warehouse

Sections 1001.02(2)(s), 1001.03(9), 1001.11(4) and 1008.385, Florida Statutes

Technology and Information Services and Department-Wide Technology Purchases

Section 216.272, Florida Statutes

Northwest Regional Data Center/State Data Center

Sections 1004.649 and 282.201 Florida Statutes

Disaster Recovery

Section 282.318, Florida Statutes

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) - State

Section 1008.385, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide the technological resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the Department of Education.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Technology services used by the department/customer are acquired from both internal and external service providers. Some providers are directly funded, while others charge for their services, as required. Below is a description of the technology and information services acquired by the department.

**TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENTAL STAFF**

These services are provided to employees and specific program areas for which the department/customer is charged in accordance with section 216.272, F.S.. These services are provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS).

District Support Services:

Provides vision and leadership for developing and implementing information technology initiatives that support the strategic initiatives of the department. Provides overall management of the department's technology and information systems and services related to district data and technology needs.

Infrastructure and Support Services (Direct and Indirect Support):

Provides direct services that interface with and support technology end users. End users utilize a help desk to receive desktop and laptop hardware and software support, as well as batch and production report assistance. Additionally, end users have access to a broad range of media web conferencing services. Provides indirect services that support and maintain the internal network infrastructure necessary for internal and external connectivity for the end users, the centralized telephone system, database administration, server administration, disaster recovery processes and access management.

Enterprise Strategic Project Delivery & Data Management:

Provides industry-standard project management and governance services for information technology (IT) capital projects, IT projects with high visibility and IT projects with high risk due to a broad impact. Also provides data governance and classification strategies for department data. These services are provided to ensure technology solutions are delivered on time, within budget, meet or exceed the expectations as defined by the department and the department remains in compliance with Florida Statutes and Division of State Technology administrative rules.

#### Applications Development & Support:

Provides development and maintenance of software products to support the business of the department, including legacy mainframe applications, web applications, the Intranet and Internet web sites. The following is a representative list of the major applications:

- Bright Futures Scholarship Program
- Charter School Accountability
- Educational Facilities Information System (EFIS)
- FASTER Transcript Transmittal System
- Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP)
- Teacher Certification System (Versa)
- Florida Grants System (FLAGS)
- General Education Development (GED) System
- K-12 Public Schools Finance System
- K-12 Public Schools Student and Staff System
- Workforce Apprenticeship
- School Bus Inventory
- School Grades
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Florida School Choice Programs
- Statewide Course Numbering System

#### **DEPARTMENT- WIDE TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES**

Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) makes technology purchases that are needed on a department-wide scale. These purchases are charged back to the department/customer as required in section 216.272, F.S.. The department-wide purchases include, but are not limited to, those related to hardware maintenance, software license renewals, software maintenance, network equipment maintenance, media services, data center services, data governance and information security tools and services, and the department's Continuity of Operations Program (including disaster recovery services).

#### **EDUCATION DATA WAREHOUSE**

The Education Data Warehouse (EDW) was designed and developed to provide an accessible means to retrieve information from the department's prodigious data resources longitudinally. The Division of Early Learning (DEL) Data Warehouse, the K-12 student and staff data collection (CIMS) and the Florida College System (FCS) data collection system (CCTMIS) were designed to collect and edit data required to administer Florida's education programs. This includes state and federally mandated reporting requirements. State and federal funding are also administered through all of these data systems. The EDW repository uses state-of-the-art technology that is leveraged to improve the processing environments for the DEL, K-12, and FCS data systems to better integrate them into the enterprise vision of the department.

#### **STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM (SLDS)**

In 2003, the department launched the nation's first integrated statewide longitudinal education data system. In this context, "integrated" means that the system contains comprehensive data that spans education sectors ranging from pre-kindergarten through public schools, postsecondary education and into workforce experiences over relatively long periods of time. The system includes data used by early learning providers, school districts, colleges, workforce development programs and universities. Also included is state-level data for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten through grade 12 reporting, the Florida College System, the Florida Education Training Placement Information Program, Teacher Certification and related systems, the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the state university system, student transcripts, course code directories, educational facilities, and finance systems.

#### **EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Funds are used to carry out the requirements of section 1008.31(3), F.S., which instructs the department to provide data required to implement education performance accountability and measures in state and federal law. The statute also instructs the Commissioner to initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality and timeliness and determine standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and measure improvements.

#### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$16,661,411
- 2023-24 - \$16,451,804
- 2022-23 - \$14,899,160

## Item 144 - State Board of Education - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,568,712	1,140,000	0	3,708,712	3,708,712	1,140,000	2,568,712	0	0.00%
Admin TF	109,548	0	0	109,548	109,548	0	109,548	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	96,817	0	0	96,817	96,817	0	96,817	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	12,571	0	0	12,571	12,571	0	12,571	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	442,878	0	0	442,878	442,878	0	442,878	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	822,208	0	0	822,208	822,208	0	822,208	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	42,045	0	0	42,045	42,045	0	42,045	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	5,889,471	0	0	5,889,471	5,889,471	0	5,889,471	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,984,250</b>	<b>1,140,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,124,250</b>	<b>11,124,250</b>	<b>1,140,000</b>	<b>9,984,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$9,984,250 is requested to continue funding for data center and computer facilities services provided by the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

\$1,140,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested to be restored as recurring to provide the resources needed to continue efforts to protect department data and system integrity.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

The department is requesting the restoration of \$1,140,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring to provide the resources to improve information security, risk management, and strengthen the department network and data security.

Malicious entities frequently breach systems and compromise sensitive personal information. The department is utilizing the Florida Digital Service (FLDS) resources currently provided. The FLDS has determined that there are no additional resources available to provide or enhance cybersecurity within the department. Findings in recent audits and risk assessments determined that the department needs to address remaining cybersecurity gaps in which FLDS does not have a current solution, such as Network Access Controls, Zero Trust and Multifactor Authentication protection and identify Access Management. Funding would be used to maintain stronger, more robust security and privacy programs. Provide a unified approach for protecting all types of information and strengthening the following areas to protect sensitive and confidential data pertaining to students and teachers.

- Firewall enhancement
- Network access controls enhancement
- Update department's programs regularly
- Secure department laptops
- Backup department data regularly
- Monitoring staff to identify cybersecurity and system breaches

This funding would provide the critical resources needed to enhance the department's cybersecurity and personal data protection. Reducing the chance of system attacks and exposing sensitive personal data of department employees, teachers, and students.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)  
Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 282.201, 282.318, 1004.649 and 1008.385, Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide funds for a statutorily designated data center and computer facility services to the department through a Primary Data Center.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

#### **Primary Data Center -**

The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

#### **Mainframe Environment –**

The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of mainframe disaster recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The following is a list of the major mainframe applications and processes hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the State Board of Education and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- Comptroller/Accounting processes
- Course Data Survey, Student, Staff and Teacher Surveys
- FASTER Electronic Transcript System (and its interstate transcript SPEEDE/ExPRESS interface)
- Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Funding and Financial Tracking
- Master School ID System
- Statewide College Entrance Assessments Test Score Repository (ACT/SAT/CLT)
- Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) and Educational Facilities Processing
- Statewide Staff, Student and Finance databases
- Workforce Development Information System

**Open Systems Environment -**

The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades (located at SSRC)
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a list of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the State Board of Education and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- ARTS Budget Tracking System - LBR Greenbook
- Bright Futures and other State of Florida Scholarship Eligibility and Disbursement Systems
- Civil Rights Data Collection
- Commission for Independent Education Database
- PreK-20 Education Data Warehouse
- Educational Facilities Information System
- Exceptional Student Systems (PEER, IDEA, Restraint Seclusion, etc.)
- Florida Grants System (FLAGS)
- Instructional Materials
- Migrant Student Information System (MSIX)
- Office of School Safety Systems (Bullying Compliance, etc.)
- Public Schools Transportation-Related Systems
- School Choice and Charter School systems
- Statewide Course Numbering System
- Student Loan Forgiveness Programs
- Teacher Certification System (VERSA, Teacher Certification Fee Waiver, FileNet, etc.)

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$9,777,250
- 2023-24 - \$10,512,719
- 2022-23 - \$7,306,139

**This page is intentionally left blank**

# **Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO)**

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Fixed Capital Outlay

### Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Allocation

PECO - Distribution Based on August 4, 2025 Revenue Estimating Conference  
[Cash amount: \$970,900,000 Bond Proceeds: \$0]

<u>PECO</u>					<u>Total 2026-27</u>
<u>Priorities</u>					<u>Allocation</u>
<u>Off-The-Top Allocations</u>					
I	Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind - Maintenance				\$ 11,882,154
I	Division of Blind Services				\$ 820,000
I	Public Broadcasting				\$ 7,566,202
<b>Total Off-The-Top Allocations</b>					<b>\$ 20,268,356</b>
<u>Distributions to Public Schools, Colleges &amp; Universities</u>		<u>K-12</u>	<u>FCS</u>	<u>SUS</u>	
I	Amount for Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodeling	\$ -	\$ 123,962,366	\$ 97,439,744	\$ 221,402,110
I	Amount for Charter School Capital Outlay	\$ 259,338,337			\$ 259,338,337
II	Amount for Local Millage Equivalent Funding for University Developmental Research Schools	\$ 10,735,858			\$ 10,735,858
II	Special Facility Construction Account Projects	\$ 82,277,424			\$ 82,277,424
I	Amount for First Year of Three-Year Project Priority Lists	\$ -	\$ 55,925,660	\$ 320,952,255	\$ 376,877,915
<b>Total PECO</b>		<b>\$ 352,351,619</b>	<b>\$ 179,888,026</b>	<b>\$ 418,391,999</b>	<b>\$ 970,900,000</b>
<b>Percent of PECO Appropriation by Division: (Net of Off-The-Top Allocations)</b>		<b>37.07%</b>	<b>18.92%</b>	<b>44.01%</b>	
 <b>Other Capital Outlay Needs</b>					
Educational Facilities Security Grant					\$ 42,000,000
Jewish Day Schools Security Grant					\$ 5,000,000
State University System Capital Improvement Fee Projects					\$ 53,789,000
Special Facility Construction Account Projects Additional Amount					\$ 260,678,597
Public Education Capital Outlay - Debt Service					\$ 469,946,651
Capital Outlay & Debt Service - Debt Service					\$ 6,840,061
State University System Capital Improvement Fee Trust Fund - Debt Service					\$ 6,958,997
Education Facilities - Debt Service					\$ 6,328,962
Class Size Reduction Lottery Capital Outlay Program - Debt Service					\$ 72,559,186
Grant & Aid Distribution (Capital Outlay and Debt Service Program)					\$ 128,000,000
<b>Total Other Capital Outlay Needs</b>					<b>\$ 1,052,101,454</b>
<b>Total 2026-27 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request</b>					<b>\$ 2,023,001,454</b>

## Overview of the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Distribution

### Amount for K-12 Programs

• Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, and Remodeling	\$ -
• Charter School Maintenance, Repair, Renovation and Remodeling	\$ 259,338,337
• Special Facility Construction Account Projects	\$ 82,277,424
• Survey Recommended/Local Millage Equivalent for University Developmental Research Schools and Charter Schools	\$ 10,735,858
<b><i>K-12 Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>\$ 352,351,619</u></b>

### Allocable Amount for the Florida College System

• Maintenance, Repair, Renovation and Remodeling	\$ 123,962,366
• Three-Year Project Priority List	\$ 55,925,660
<b><i>Florida College System Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>\$ 179,888,026</u></b>

### Allocable Amount for the State University System

• Maintenance, Repair, Renovation and Remodeling	\$ 97,439,744
• Three-Year Project Priority List	\$ 320,952,255
<b><i>State University System Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>\$ 418,391,999</u></b>

### Off-the-Top Allocations

• Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind	\$ 11,882,154
• Division of Blind Services	\$ 820,000
• Public Broadcasting Projects	\$ 7,566,202
<b><i>Off-the-Top Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>\$ 20,268,356</u></b>

### Total Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Request

	<b><u>\$ 970,900,000</u></b>
--	------------------------------

**Summary of Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Appropriations  
(Fiscal Years 2017-18 through 2026-27)**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>K-12 Appropriations</b>	<b>Florida College System Appropriations</b>	<b>State University System Appropriations</b>	<b>Off the Top Appropriations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Appropriations<sup>2</sup></b>
2017-18	\$ 166,167,167	\$ 111,657,341	\$ 191,641,708	\$ 5,362,572	\$ 474,828,788
2018-19	\$ 368,348,253	\$ 78,535,725	\$ 159,783,259	\$ 5,996,480	\$ 612,663,717
2019-20	\$ 247,729,673	\$ 11,279,721	\$ 105,245,000	\$ 6,145,606	\$ 370,400,000
2020-21	\$ 261,942,895	\$ 10,650,533	\$ 92,700,352	\$ 10,344,650	\$ 375,638,430
2021-22	\$ 244,705,640	\$ 26,049,234	\$ 37,833,473	\$ 9,037,263	\$ 317,625,610
2022-23	\$ 254,383,472	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 115,200,000	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 386,583,472
2023-24	\$ 412,107,413	\$ 223,797,462	\$ 622,019,394	\$ 5,147,878	\$ 1,263,072,147
2024-25	\$ 452,836,768	\$ 189,438,962	\$ 366,959,399	\$ 18,870,854	\$ 1,028,105,983
2025-26	\$ 452,410,158	\$ 108,565,327	\$ 421,827,378	\$ 15,181,311	\$ 997,984,174
2026-27	\$ 352,351,619	\$ 179,888,026	\$ 418,391,999	\$ 20,268,356	\$ 970,900,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 3,212,983,058</b>	<b>\$ 948,362,331</b>	<b>\$ 2,531,601,962</b>	<b>\$ 104,854,970</b>	<b>\$ 6,797,802,321</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes amounts for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Division of Blind Services and Public Broadcasting Stations.

<sup>2</sup> Analysis excludes appropriations for debt service; includes General Revenue supplements and appropriations.

**Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Revenue Estimates**  
**Maximum Possible PECO Trust Fund Appropriation**  
**(Based Upon the August 4, 2025 Revenue Estimating Conference)**

**No Bonding**  
**(In millions)**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Bonded</u> <u>Projects</u>	<u>Non-Bonded</u> <u>Projects</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026-27	\$ -	\$ 970.9	\$ 970.9
2027-28	\$ -	\$ 977.7	\$ 977.7
2028-29	\$ -	\$ 996.5	\$ 996.5
2029-30	\$ -	\$ 1,019.5	\$ 1,019.5
2030-31	\$ -	\$ 1,043.4	\$ 1,043.4
2031-32	\$ -	\$ 1,069.1	\$ 1,069.1

**With Bonding**  
**(In millions)**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Bonded</u> <u>Projects</u>	<u>Non-Bonded</u> <u>Projects</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026-27	\$ 11,874.0	\$ 430.5	\$ 12,304.5
2027-28	\$ 381.5	\$ 390.3	\$ 771.8
2028-29	\$ 388.2	\$ 271.7	\$ 660.0
2029-30	\$ 337.3	\$ 179.8	\$ 517.1
2030-31	\$ 347.9	\$ 173.3	\$ 521.2
2031-32	\$ 278.7	\$ 175.5	\$ 454.2

## Item 14 - Fixed Capital Outlay - SUS Capital Improvement Fee Projects

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
CITF	0	0	53,789,000	53,789,000	50,384,000	50,384,000	0	3,405,000	6.76%
<b>Total</b>	0	0	53,789,000	53,789,000	50,384,000	50,384,000	0	3,405,000	6.76%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$53,789,000 is requested in the Capital Improvement Trust Fund as part of the Board of Governors' fixed capital outlay legislative budget request for construction projects at state universities.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Kevin Pichard (850) 245-0059

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The Board of Governors will meet September 11, 2025, to approve \$53,789,000 for construction projects at state universities.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1010.86, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

To construct or renovate student-selected facilities.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Capital Improvement Fee is a self-generating source of revenue. It is an existing user fee charged to students for capital improvements. Proceeds from the fee are used to construct or renovate student-selected

facilities such as student unions, wellness centers, student advising centers, recreational opportunities, etc. Fee revenues are collected by the universities and remitted to the state in order to satisfy annual debt service requirements. The fee may only be used for university facilities recommended by students, the university boards of trustees and the Board of Governors when it is appropriated by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$50,546,000
- 2023-24 - \$44,022,800
- 2022-23 - \$44,700,000

## Item 15 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, and Remodeling

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	480,740,447	480,740,447	248,623,329	248,623,329	0	232,117,118	93.36%
<b>Total</b>	0	0	480,740,447	480,740,447	248,623,329	248,623,329	0	232,117,118	93.36%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

\$480,740,447 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for the remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair and site improvements of educational facilities. Allocations will be made to state colleges, universities and charter schools as follows:

- \$123,962,366 - Florida College System
- \$ 97,439,744 - State University System
- \$259,338,337 - Charter Schools

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

\$480,740,447 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for the remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair and site improvements of educational facilities. Allocations will be made to public schools, state colleges, universities and charter schools as follows:

- \$123,962,366 - Florida College System
- \$ 97,439,744 - State University System
- \$259,338,337 - Charter Schools

PECO funding is based on estimated available revenues. Allocations to state colleges and universities are determined by a statutory formula that considers building age and value. Disbursements of cash occur monthly to over 100 K-20 education agencies for maintenance, repair, renovation and remodeling projects. Approximately 682 eligible charter schools received a monthly distribution during Fiscal Year 2024-25 for capital outlay purposes.

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1013.62 and 1013.64(1), Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

To assist education agencies with remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair and site improvement projects; to expand or upgrade current educational plants; to prolong the useful life of the facilities; and to assist eligible charter schools in providing educational facilities to enhance the learning experience of their students.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Pursuant to section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, funds for remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repairs and site improvements for existing satisfactory facilities are to be given priority consideration by the Legislature for appropriations allocated to the education sectors from the total amount of the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) revenues. Funds appropriated from the PECO revenues for these purposes are to be used for projects that will expand or upgrade current educational plants to prolong the useful life of the plant. Additionally, at least one-tenth of an agency's allocation of these funds is to be spent to correct unsafe, unhealthy or unsanitary conditions in its educational facilities. Pursuant to section 1013.62(7), Florida Statutes, the annual Legislative Budget Request of the Department of Education includes a request for capital outlay funding for charter schools. Eligible charter schools must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have been in operation for two or more years;
- The governing board operates both charter and conversion charter schools and has been located in Florida for two or more years;
- Be part of an expanded feeder chain of another currently eligible charter school located in the same district;
- Be accredited by a regional accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education rule; or
- Serve students in facilities that are provided by a business partner for a charter school-in-the-workplace pursuant to section 1002.33(15)(b), Florida Statutes.
- Be operated by a hope operator pursuant to section 1002.333, Florida Statutes.

In addition, they must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have an annual audit that does not reveal any of the financial emergency conditions provided in section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, for the most recent fiscal year for which such audit results are available;
- Have not earned two consecutive grades of "F", three consecutive grades below a "C", or two consecutive school improvement ratings of "Unsatisfactory".
- Have received final approval from its sponsor pursuant to section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, for operation during that year.
- Serve students in facilities that are not provided by the charter school's sponsor.
- Attesting in writing to the department that if the charter school is nonrenewed or terminated, any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property purchased with public funds shall revert pursuant to section 1013.62(5) F.S.
- Is not a developmental research (laboratory) school that receives state funding for capital improvement purposed pursuant to section 1002.32(9)(e), F.S.
- A member of the governing board, or his or her family member as defined in s. 440.13(1)(b), does not have an interest in or is an employee of the lessor, excluding charter schools operating pursuant to section 1002.33(15), F.S.

Charter schools, including charter schools-in-the-workplace, may use these funds for the following purposes:

- Purchases of real property;
- Construction of school facilities;
- Purchase, lease-purchase or lease of permanent or relocatable school facilities;
- Purchase of vehicles to transport students to and from the charter school;

- Renovation, repair and maintenance of school facilities that the charter school owns or is purchasing through a lease-purchase or long-term lease of five years or longer;
- Payment of the cost of premiums for property and casualty insurance necessary to insure the school facilities;
- Purchase, lease-purchase or lease of driver's education vehicles; motor vehicles; motor vehicles used for the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment; security vehicles; or vehicles used in storing or distributing materials and equipment;
- Purchase, lease-purchase or lease of computer and device hardware and operating software necessary for gaining access to or enhancing the use of electronic or digital instructional content and resources; and enterprise resource software applications that are classified as capital assets in accordance with definitions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, have a useful life of five years and are used to support school- wide administration or state-mandated reporting requirements, which may be acquired by annual license fees, maintenance fees or lease agreement; and
- The payment of the cost of the opening day collection for the library media center of a new school.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$230,810,199
- 2023-24 - \$213,453,885
- 2022-23 - \$207,190,966

**This page is intentionally left blank**

**Item 16 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Survey Recommended Needs - Public Schools****2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	10,735,858	10,735,858	10,044,628	10,044,628	0	691,230	6.88%
<b>Total</b>	0	0	10,735,858	10,735,858	10,044,628	10,044,628	0	691,230	6.88%

**REQUEST NARRATIVE****SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:****EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$10,735,858 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for capital outlay needs at the university developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution.

**KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

**ISSUE NARRATIVE:****EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

An amount of \$10,735,858 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for capital outlay need at the university developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution. These funds are the equivalent of the revenues generated by the non-voted capital outlay discretionary millage in the district within which the school is located.

Funds distributed to a university developmental research school or charter school sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution are to be expended on needed projects as supported by an educational plant survey under the rules of the State Board of Education. University developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution complete an education plant survey identifying the need for the construction of new educational facilities, as well as major additions, renovations or repair necessary to extend the useful life of buildings.

**GOALS****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

**PROGRAM BACKGROUND****LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

**STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1002.32(9)(e), 1013.64(3), and 1002.33(17)(b)2.d, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Assist public school districts and university developmental research schools in providing sufficient and safe educational facilities in support of the academic programs provided for students.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Sections 1002.32(9)(e) and 1002.33(17)(b)2.d, Florida Statutes, requires the state to provide capital improvement funds to developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution equivalent to the per-student revenue amount that would be generated in the school district in which the developmental research school or charter school is located by the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary levy for capital improvements, pursuant to section 1011.71(2), Florida Statutes.

To determine the discretionary capital improvement funds, the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage is multiplied by the value of 96 percent of the district's current-year taxable value for school purposes. The result is divided by the total full-time equivalent student membership of the district and then multiplied by the full-time equivalent student membership of the university developmental research school or charter school. The amount obtained is the discretionary capital improvement funds for the university developmental research school or charter school.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$ 9,223,318
- 2023-24 - \$10,038,597
- 2022-23 - \$ 8,128,636

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 estimated local millage equivalent allocation for university developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution:

School	County	2026-27 Estimated 1.5-Mill Value	2026-27 Estimated District FTE	Dollar Value Per FTE	2026-27 Estimated Lab School FTE	2026-27 Appropriation Request
University of Florida	Alachua	\$ 44,213,531	31,869.95	\$ 1,387.31	1,347.46	\$ 1,869,346
Florida State University	Bay	\$ 55,696,359	28,990.20	\$ 1,921.21	369.37	\$ 709,639
Florida State University	Broward	\$ 528,764,580	282,658.83	\$ 1,870.68	713.21	\$ 1,334,189
Florida State University	Leon	\$ 41,918,410	34,895.55	\$ 1,201.25	1,846.14	\$ 2,217,683
Florida A&M University	Leon	\$ 41,918,410	34,895.55	\$ 1,201.25	508.89	\$ 611,306
Florida Atlantic University	Palm Beach	\$ 571,208,801	216,544.45	\$ 2,637.84	1,321.91	\$ 3,486,982
Tallahassee State College	Leon	\$ 41,918,410	34,895.55	\$ 1,201.25	421.82	\$ 506,713
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,325,638,501</b>	<b>664,750.08</b>	<b>\$ 11,420.79</b>	<b>6,528.80</b>	<b>\$ 10,735,858</b>

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 16A - Fixed Capital Outlay - Florida College System Projects

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	4,532,427	4,532,427	0	(4,532,427)	(100.00%)
PECO	0	0	55,925,660	55,925,660	103,382,900	103,382,900	0	(47,457,240)	(45.90%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	55,925,660	55,925,660	107,915,327	107,915,327	0	(51,989,667)	(48.18%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$55,925,660 is requested from the Public Educational Capital Outlay (PECO) trust fund for renovation, remodeling, and new construction projects for the 28 Florida colleges.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

An amount of \$55,925,660 is requested from the Public Educational Capital Outlay (PECO) trust fund for renovation, remodeling and new construction projects for the 28 Florida colleges. The appropriation is the primary source of capital outlay funding for the Florida colleges to provide educational facilities that meet the educational needs of the students. The amount allocated to the Florida College System's PECO projects is based on a five-year average of fixed capital outlay appropriations to each level of public education. The calculations for the allocation are based upon revenue projections adopted at the August 4, 2025, PECO Revenue Estimating Conference.

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1013.64(4)(a), Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

To construct and maintain a capital outlay program for the Florida colleges to serve the educational needs of their

communities and a vast array of workforce/vocational programs for the economic viability of the state and its citizens.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Almost every Florida college has new academic programs as a result of remodeled space or a new building funded through PECO appropriations. Each year, Florida colleges complete a five-year capital improvement plan identifying the need for construction of new educational facilities, as well as major additions, renovations or repairs necessary to extend the useful life of buildings. These plans are reviewed by the Division of Florida Colleges' staff, and recommendations are made to fund specific projects within the limits of available funds earmarked for public educational facilities.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$100,273,178
- 2023-24 - \$218,397,462
- 2022-23 - \$ 8,590,757

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Division of Florida Colleges - Office of Financial Policy**  
**Florida College System**  
**Fixed Capital Outlay 2025-26 (per s. 1013.64(4)(a), F.S.)**  
**August 11, 2025**

<b>Total PECO Cash K-20</b>		Based on EDR PECO Est. Conf. on August 4, 2025		<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>
				970,900,000	977,700,000	996,500,000
<b>Total PECO Cash Allocation for FCS</b>		Based on 5-year Average of Appropriations (provided by Commissioner of Education)		<b>179,888,026</b>	<b>182,077,106</b>	<b>185,634,630</b>

FCS Priority	College Name	Project	College Priority	First Year Funded	Project Cost	Prior State Funding	Other Funding Available	Total \$ State Request (Remaining PECO Need)	Request for Year 1		Request for Year 2		Request for Year 3		Request for Year 4 2025-30 and beyond
									2026-27	\$55,925,660	2027-28	\$56,606,226	2028-29	\$57,712,230	
1	Florida College System	Maintenance Request (PECO Sum-of-the-digits) Maintenance, Repair, Renovation & Remodeling							Request for Year 1 2026-27	123,962,366	Request for Year 2 2027-28	125,470,880	Request for Year 3 2028-29	127,922,400	
1	2	Broward College	1	2023-24	\$ 38,404,437	\$ 22,702,219	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 7,702,218							
2	15	Miami Dade College	1	2023-24	\$ 33,858,454	\$ -	\$ 16,158,454	\$ 17,700,000							
3	11	Indian River State College	1	2023-24	\$ 9,279,950	\$ 6,189,975	\$ -	\$ 3,089,975							
4	28	Valencia College	1	2023-24	\$ 54,076,848	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 2,146,934	\$ 43,928,914							
5	3	College of Central Florida	1	2025-26	\$ 9,858,994	\$ 4,929,497	\$ -	\$ 4,929,497							
6	15	Miami Dade College	2	2025-26	\$ 26,500,000	\$ 11,176,064	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 13,823,936							
7	9	Gulf Coast State College	2	2025-26	\$ 8,760,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 7,760,000							
8	21	Polk State College	1	2006-07	\$ 53,226,930	\$ 34,650,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 10,576,930							
9	22	St. Johns River State College	1	2024-25	\$ 28,773,926	\$ 19,386,963	\$ -	\$ 9,386,963							
10	19	Pasco Hernando State College	3	2017-18	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 13,801,797	\$ -	\$ 11,198,203							
11	25	Seminole State College of FL	1	2023-24	\$ 60,333,945	\$ 14,376,555	\$ -	\$ 45,957,390							
12	6	Florida SouthWestern State College	1	2024-25	\$ 7,329,060	\$ 4,864,530	\$ -	\$ 2,464,530							
13	14	Sarasota	1	2025-26	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 10,500,000							
14	5	Daytona State College	1	2024-25	\$ 25,380,026	\$ 11,128,448	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 12,251,578							
15	10	Hillsborough College	2	2023-24	\$ 21,916,713	\$ 7,305,571	\$ -	\$ 14,611,142							
16	12	Florida Gateway College	1		\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000							
17	23	St. Petersburg College	1		\$ 82,598,892	\$ -	\$ 9,201,430	\$ 73,397,462							
18	18	Palm Beach State College	2	2023-24	\$ 16,966,723	\$ 5,050,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 11,416,723							
19	17	Northwest Florida State College	1	2025-26	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000							
20	4	Chipola College	1		\$ 2,097,205	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,097,205							
21	27	Tallahassee State College	1		\$ 4,185,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,185,000							
22	13	Lake-Sumter State College	1		\$ 5,290,983	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,290,983							
23	8	College of the Florida Keys	1		\$ 8,053,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,053,500							
24	19	Pasco Hernando State College	1		\$ 9,600,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,600,000							
25	2	Broward College	2		\$ 26,565,085	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,565,085							
26	17	Northwest Florida State College	2		\$ 11,929,524	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 8,929,524							
27	16	North Florida State College	2		\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000							
28	24	Santa Fe College	1		\$ 19,685,906	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 15,685,906							
29	24	Santa Fe College	2		\$ 13,246,054	\$ -	\$ 1,279,250	\$ 11,966,804							
30	15	Miami Dade College	3	2008-09	\$ 43,700,000	\$ 17,071,003	\$ -	\$ 26,628,997							
31	10	Hillsborough College	1		\$ 38,134,875	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 34,134,875							
32	4	Chipola College	2		\$ 3,878,190	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,878,190							
33	7	Florida State College at Jacksonville	1		\$ 26,532,094	\$ -	\$ 4,476,984	\$ 22,055,110							

FCS Project Priority	College Name	Project	College Priority	First Year Funded	Project Cost	Prior State Funding	Other Funding Available	Total \$ State Request (Remaining PECO Need)	Request for Year 1 2026-27 \$55,925,660	Request for Year 2 2027-28 \$56,606,226	Request for Year 3 2028-29 \$57,712,230	Request for Year 4 2029-30 and beyond
34	3 College of Central Florida	Bob Zelinski Athletics Building Remodel with addition-Ocala	2		\$ 3,609,918	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,609,918				\$ 3,609,918
35	20 Pensacola State College	Remodel Building 21 for Training Center-Pensacola	1		\$ 5,323,547	\$ -	\$ 770,759	\$ 4,552,788				\$ 4,552,788
36	12 Florida Gateway College	Construct completion and renovation of storm water management systems	2		\$ 1,800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800,000				\$ 1,800,000
37	18 Palm Beach State College	Remodel AD 102 - Student Enrollment Ctr. Boca Raton	1		\$ 5,769,681	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 4,769,681				\$ 4,769,681
38	13 Lake-Sumter State College	South Lake Campus Center for Health and Innovation	2		\$ 24,429,497	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 19,429,497				\$ 19,429,497
39	1 Eastern Florida State College	Student Services Renovation - Melbourne	2		\$ 5,993,114	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,993,114				\$ 5,993,114
40	28 Valencia College	West Campus HSB Nursing Simulation Lab Remodel	2		\$ 5,529,985	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,029,985				\$ 3,029,985
41	21 Polk State College	Renovate Building 3-Lakeland	2		\$ 15,589,752	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,589,752				\$ 15,589,752
42	26 South Florida State College	Citrus Center-EMS Remodel	1		\$ 5,983,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,983,845				\$ 5,983,845
43	9 Gulf Coast State College	HVAC & Other Infrastructure Improvements	2		\$ 8,865,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,865,000				\$ 8,865,000
44	22 St. Johns River State College	Site Improvements and Infrastructure Repairs, St. Augustine	2		\$ 8,893,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,893,200				\$ 8,893,200
45	1 Eastern Florida State College	Dental Program Move Remodel Building 3 - Cocoa	1		\$ 6,639,123	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,639,123				\$ 6,639,123
46	8 College of the Florida Keys	Renovate Classroom Building (C) 1200	2		\$ 5,800,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,800,227				\$ 5,800,227
47	25 Seminole State College of FL	Student Services Center - Altamonte Springs	2	2023-24	\$ 5,166,595	\$ 377,665	\$ -	\$ 4,788,930				\$ 4,788,930
48	7 Florida State College at Jacksonville	Renovate College-Wide Exterior Wayfinding	2		\$ 10,091,222	\$ -	\$ 875,000	\$ 9,216,222				\$ 9,216,222
49	11 Indian River State College	Comprehensive Safety and Security Modernization	2		\$ 9,900,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,900,000				\$ 9,900,000
50	14 State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	Miscellaneous Maintenance and Repairs - College Wide	2		\$ 19,803,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,803,500				\$ 19,803,500
51	16 North Florida College	Career Workforce Education Building	1		\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,000,000				\$ 3,000,000
52	20 Pensacola State College	Workforce Training Building - SSRC	2		\$ 6,865,942	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,865,942				\$ 6,865,942
53	27 Tallahassee State College	Gadsden County Expansion	2	2025-26	\$ 10,600,000	\$ 2,822,500	\$ 100,000	\$ 7,677,500				\$ 7,677,500
54	26 South Florida State College	Building Y Remodel	2		\$ 9,521,570	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,521,570				\$ 9,521,570
55	6 Florida SouthWestern State College	Charlotte Campus - Bldg G Yarger Science Hall STEM Remodel	2		\$ 7,092,094	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,092,094				\$ 7,092,094
56	5 Daytona State College	Aero Space Technology, Avionics, HVAC and Welding Technology-New Smyrna Beach	2		\$ 19,459,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,459,761				\$ 19,459,761
57	19 Pasco Hernando State College	Remodel Building N	2		\$ 4,240,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,240,000				\$ 4,240,000
FCS Subtotal Projects					952,930,887	193,332,787	79,608,911	679,889,289	55,925,660	56,606,226	57,712,230	509,645,173
FCS TOTAL PECO Maintenance, Repair, Renovation & Remodeling (Sum-of-the-digits) and Projects									179,888,026	182,077,106	185,634,630	509,645,173

## Item 17 - Fixed Capital Outlay - State University System Projects

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	13,633,554	13,633,554	0	(13,633,554)	(100.00%)
PECO	0	0	320,952,255	320,952,255	407,435,491	407,435,491	0	(86,483,236)	(21.23%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	320,952,255	320,952,255	421,069,045	421,069,045	0	(100,116,790)	(23.78%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$320,952,255 is requested for fixed capital outlay projects at state universities.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Kevin Pichard (850) 245-0059

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

An amount of \$320,952,255 is requested for fixed capital outlay projects at state universities. The appropriation from the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) fund is the primary source of capital outlay funding for the state universities to provide educational facilities that meet the educational needs of the students. The amount allocated for State University System PECO projects is based on a five-year average of fixed capital appropriations to each level of public education. The calculations for the allocation are based upon revenue projections adopted at the August 4, 2025, PECO Revenue Estimating Conference.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1013.64(4)(a), Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

To construct and maintain a capital outlay program for the State University System educational facilities that serves the higher education needs of the state of Florida.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

State universities have documented that remodeled space or a new building funded through PECO appropriations have resulted in the implementation of new academic programs and increased enrollment. Each year, the state universities complete a capital improvement plan identifying the need for construction of new educational facilities, as well as major additions, renovations or repairs necessary to extend the useful life of buildings. These plans are reviewed by the Board of Governors staff, and recommendations are made to fund specific fixed capital outlay projects within the limits of available funds earmarked for public educational facilities.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$572,906,035
- 2023-24 - \$616,491,744
- 2022-23 - \$115,200,000

## Item 18 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Special Facility Construction Account

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	260,678,597	260,678,597	250,000	250,000	0	260,428,597	104171.44%
PECO	0	0	82,277,424	82,277,424	144,419,602	144,419,602	0	(62,142,178)	(43.03%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	342,956,021	342,956,021	144,669,602	144,669,602	0	198,286,419	137.06%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$342,956,021 is requested to provide funding for construction of Special Facility projects located in school districts, as approved by the Special Facilities Construction Committee.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

An amount of \$342,956,021 is requested to provide funding for construction of Special Facility projects. The following allocations represent a portion of the total funding for a three-year plan. Allocations will be made to public school districts as follows:

- \$43,899,450 - Bradford County - Bradford Junior/Senior High School project (first year of project)
- \$45,866,853 - Hardee County - Hardee Senior High School - Replacement - project (first year of project)
- \$25,662,737 - Holmes County - PK-12 Ponce de Leon School project (first year of project)
- \$44,174,504 - Lafayette County - Lafayette PK-12 Combination School project (first year of project)
- \$51,939,586 - Baker County - Baker Middle School (year two of three of project)
- \$36,307,690 - DeSoto County - DeSoto High School (year two of three of project)
- \$29,519,032 - Union County - PK-5 Lake Butler Elementary School (year two of three of project)
- \$13,426,376 - Gilchrist County - Gilchrist Elementary School (year three of project)
- \$30,210,267 - Hendry County - LaBelle High School (year three of project)
- \$21,949,526 - Wakulla County - Wakulla High School (year three of project)

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1013.64(2), Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Funding for Bradford County School District will be utilized for the construction of Bradford Junior/Senior High School. The new facility will have a total of 1,463 student stations.

Funding for Hardee County School District will be utilized for the construction of Hardee Senior High School. The new facility will have a total of 1,417 student stations.

Funding for Holmes County School District will be utilized for the construction of PK-12 Ponce de Leon School. The new facility will have a total of 793 student stations.

Funding for Lafayette County School District will be utilized for the construction of Lafayette PK-12 Combination School. The new facility will have a total of 1,278 student stations.

Funding for Baker County School District will be utilized for the construction of Baker Middle School. The new facility will have a total of 1,417 student stations.

Funding for DeSoto County School District will be utilized for the construction of DeSoto High School. The new facility will have a total of 1,379 student stations.

Funding for Union County School District will be utilized for the construction of PK-5 Lake Butler Elementary School. The new facility will have a total of 1,093 student stations.

Funding for Gilchrist County School District will be utilized for the construction of Gilchrist Elementary School. The new facility will have a total of 756 stations.

Funding for Hendry County School District will be utilized for the construction of LaBelle High School. The new facility will have a total of 1,499 student stations.

Funding for Wakulla County School District will be utilized for the construction of Wakulla High School. The new facility will have a total of 955 student stations.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Special Facility Construction Account is used to provide necessary construction funds to school districts that have urgent construction needs, but lack sufficient resources, and cannot reasonably anticipate sufficient resources within the next three years from current sources of capital outlay revenue. The project must be deemed a critical need and must be recommended by the Special Facilities Construction Committee, comprised of representatives from the Executive Office of the Governor, Florida Department of Education, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida School Boards Association.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$193,182,160
- 2023-24 - \$ 88,590,239
- 2022-23 - \$ 0

**Department of Education  
2026-27 Special Facility Construction Account**

	<b>Priority Ranking</b>	<b>Total Estimated Costs</b>	<b>LBR</b>
Lafayette - Lafayette PK-12 Combination School	1	\$132,523,513	\$44,174,504
Bradford - Bradford Junior/Senior High School	2	\$131,698,349	\$43,899,450
Hardee - Hardee Senior High School	3	\$137,600,558	\$45,866,853
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$401,822,420</b>	<b>\$133,940,807</b>

In accordance with section 1013.64, Florida Statutes, a statewide priority list for special facilities construction must be submitted with the Legislative Budget Request.

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Item 19 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Debt Service

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
CITF	8,854,372	(1,895,375)	0	6,958,997	8,854,372	0	8,854,372	(1,895,375)	(21.41%)
PECO	506,883,113	(36,936,462)	0	469,946,651	506,883,113	0	506,883,113	(36,936,462)	(7.29%)
CO&DS TF	8,072,018	(1,231,957)	0	6,840,061	8,072,018	0	8,072,018	(1,231,957)	(15.26%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>523,809,503</b>	<b>(40,063,794)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>483,745,709</b>	<b>523,809,503</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>523,809,503</b>	<b>(40,063,794)</b>	<b>(7.65%)</b>

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

483,745,709 is requested to continue the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund fixed capital outlay programs.

##### **DEBT SERVICE**

A decrease of \$40,063,794 is requested to more closely align with the estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **DEBT SERVICE**

A decrease of \$40,063,794 is requested for debt service payments based on the total current outstanding and estimated debt service obligations of \$483,745,709. This total amount will provide for the payment of the estimated Fiscal Year 2026-27 debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund projects pursuant to the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO), Capital Outlay and Debt Service (CO&DS) and University System Improvement Revenue Bond Programs.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1010.62 and 1013.65, Florida Statutes  
Section 11(d), Article VII of the Florida Constitution

**PURPOSE:**

Provide for the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund capital outlay programs that provide facilities for the delivery of educational programs.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Bond Program is funded from gross receipts tax revenues and through the issuance of bonds. These bonds are issued by the state to fund educational facility building programs for public school districts, Florida colleges, state universities and other education agencies. The estimated annual debt service requirements are based on the most current PECO Revenue Estimating Conference outstanding debt service obligations. Estimated State Board of Administration (SBA) fees are also included.

The Capital Outlay and Debt Service Bond Program is funded from motor vehicle license tax revenues and through the issuance of bonds. This program assists with the funding of educational facility projects undertaken by the Florida colleges and public school districts. The annual debt service amount requested is based upon the outstanding debt service obligations and estimated debt service requirements associated with additional bonds to be issued during the current and subsequent fiscal years, and the amount requested includes estimated SBA fees.

The University System Improvement Revenue Bonds are supported by student building fees and capital improvement fees. These bonds are issued to provide funds for the building programs of the state universities. The estimated annual debt service requirements are based upon outstanding debt service obligations and estimated debt service requirements associated with the issuance of additional bonds, and include estimated SBA fees.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$541,295,449
- 2023-24 - \$713,367,901
- 2022-23 - \$820,464,706

## Item 20 - Fixed Capital Outlay - G/A - School District And Community College

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
CO&DS TF	128,000,000	0	0	128,000,000	128,000,000	0	128,000,000	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	128,000,000	0	0	128,000,000	128,000,000	0	128,000,000	0	0.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$128,000,000 is requested to continue funding fixed capital outlay projects pursuant to approved project priority lists provided by the public school districts and Florida colleges.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

### GOALS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☒ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☒ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☒ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 9(d), Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Florida

#### **PURPOSE:**

Acquire, construct, alter, remodel, improve, enlarge, furnish, equip, maintain, renovate or repair educational facilities to enhance the learning environments of the public school districts and Florida colleges.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Capital Outlay & Debt Service Program receives motor vehicle license tax revenues for educational facilities. Public school districts and Florida colleges may use these funds to acquire, construct, alter, remodel, improve, enlarge, furnish, equip, maintain, renovate or repair educational facilities that are included on a project priority list approved by the Department of Education. Public school districts and Florida colleges may also elect to bond their share of the motor vehicle license tax revenue, if they have sufficient bonding capacity after the deduction of debt service obligations and administrative fees.

Revenues are allocated to all school districts and Florida colleges based upon a constitutional funding formula.

This formula provides \$600 for each instruction unit for the 1967-68 base year and \$800 for each growth instruction unit (the increase of the current year from the 1967-68 base year) for school districts. Both base units and growth units for the colleges are valued at \$400.

The annual appropriation requested reflects the cash from motor vehicle license tax revenues that a local school district or Florida college is eligible to receive after debt service payments and administrative fees have been paid (flow-through revenue). Funds remaining after the deduction of administrative fees and debt service amounts are transferred to the public school districts and colleges as flow-through funds available for capital outlay projects that are included on a project priority list approved by the Department of Education.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$118,000,000
- 2023-24 - \$112,000,000
- 2022-23 - \$112,000,000

## Item 1 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Debt Service - Class Size Reduction Lottery Capital Outlay Program

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Lottery (EETF)	86,823,158	(14,263,972)	0	72,559,186	86,823,158	0	86,823,158	(14,263,972)	(16.43%)
<b>Total</b>	86,823,158	(14,263,972)	0	72,559,186	86,823,158	0	86,823,158	(14,263,972)	(16.43%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$86,823,158 is requested to continue the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund the class size reduction projects undertaken by the public school districts in accordance with constitutional provisions.

##### **DEBT SERVICE**

A decrease of \$14,263,972 will more closely align with the estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **DEBT SERVICE**

A decrease of \$14,263,972 is requested for debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees estimated to be \$72,559,186 for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The program obligations include estimated debt service requirements and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to provide funding for class size reduction project appropriations.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1003.03, 1013.71(2), 1013.735, and 1013.737, Florida Statutes  
 Sections 11(d) and (f), Article VII of the Florida Constitution, as amended  
 Section 1, Article IX of the Florida Constitution, as amended

**PURPOSE:**

Provide for the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to assist public school districts in meeting constitutional class size reduction requirements, as stipulated in the Florida Constitution.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Class size reduction projects were funded through the issuance of bonds supported by lottery revenues. Funding has been provided to public school districts to meet constitutional class size reduction requirements, as stipulated in the Florida Constitution. The annual amount requested is based upon outstanding debt service obligations and estimated State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds.

Pursuant to section 1013.71(2), Florida Statutes, lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital outlay and debt service purposes are to be transferred from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund. This transfer is accomplished during the budgetary start-up process at the beginning of the fiscal year.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$ 98,684,514
- 2023-24 - \$113,299,755
- 2022-23 - \$127,915,436

## Item 2 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Educational Facilities

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Lottery (EETF)	6,334,412	(5,450)	0	6,328,962	6,334,412	0	6,334,412	(5,450)	(0.09%)
<b>Total</b>	6,334,412	(5,450)	0	6,328,962	6,334,412	0	6,334,412	(5,450)	(0.09%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **COST TO CONTINUE**

\$6,334,412 is requested to continue the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund projects undertaken by the Florida colleges and state universities.

##### **DEBT SERVICE**

A decrease of \$5,450 will more closely align with the estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **DEBT SERVICE**

A decrease of \$5,450 is requested in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund for debt service payments based on total funding of \$6,328,962 to provide for the payment of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 program obligations. The amount includes estimated debt service requirements and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund authorized projects of the Florida colleges and state universities.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1013.71(2) and 1013.737, Florida Statutes

Sections 11(d) and (f), Article VII of the Florida Constitution, as amended

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide for the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated

with the issuance of bonds to fund projects authorized in the Fiscal Year 2012-13 General Appropriations Act for the Florida colleges and state universities.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Educational facilities projects for the Florida colleges and state universities were authorized in the Fiscal Year 2012-13 General Appropriations Act to be funded through the issuance of lottery bonds. The amount requested is based upon the estimated debt service obligations and estimated State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of the bonds. Pursuant to section 1013.71(2), Florida Statutes, lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital outlay and debt service purposes are to be transferred from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund. This transfer is accomplished during the budgetary start-up process at the beginning of the fiscal year.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$6,334,090
- 2023-24 - \$6,334,498
- 2022-23 - \$6,647,049

## Item 21 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind - Capital Projects

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	11,882,154	11,882,154	13,707,311	13,707,311	0	(1,825,157)	(13.32%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	11,882,154	11,882,154	13,707,311	13,707,311	0	(1,825,157)	(13.32%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$11,882,154 is requested to fund preventative maintenance and capital projects at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

An amount of \$11,882,154 is requested to fund preventative maintenance and capital projects at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

- \$3,774,432 - Maintenance and Repair - The funds will be used to correct conditions that directly affect the educational mission of the school and will be used for preventative maintenance contracts that cannot be executed in-house. These preventative service contracts, as well as the in-house work orders, extend the building component replacement life of the campus facilities.
- \$7,205,890 - Capital Projects - Walker Hall Annex Renovation - Major renovations including roofing, gutters and downspouts, windows, exterior finishes, lighting, HVAC, fire sprinkler system, HVAC, and flooring.
- \$901,832 - South Bulkhead Sidewalk Repair/Replacement.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

**PURPOSE:**

Provide facilities for approximately 1,000 visually impaired and hearing-impaired students attending the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a Florida public school for eligible hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in pre-school through grade 12. Boarding and post-secondary programs are also available to students. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is the largest school of its type in the United States. As a school of academic excellence, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind strives to provide students an opportunity to access educational services in a caring, safe and unique learning environment to prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent lifelong learners. The school awards standard and special diplomas, preparing graduates for a wide range of professional careers and trades. Each year, the majority of the graduating class continues their education at colleges, universities and technical training centers. Funds are requested to accomplish projects included in the Campus Master Plan, Facilities Master Plan and educational plant survey, as required in section 1002.36, Florida Statutes.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$13,545,443
- 2023-24 - \$ 4,552,330
- 2022-23 - \$ 8,500,000

## Item 22 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Division of Blind Services - Capital Projects

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	820,000	820,000	1,474,000	1,474,000	0	(654,000)	(44.37%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	820,000	820,000	1,474,000	1,474,000	0	(654,000)	(44.37%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$820,000 is requested for the Division of Blind Services for repair and maintenance at the Daytona facility which is owned and operated by the State of Florida.

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

An amount of \$820,000 for the Division of Blind Services for repair and maintenance at the Daytona facility. The funds will be used to extend the useful life of the campus and building including: replacing HVAC, replacing generators, campus security restoration and upgrade project.

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 413.011 and 1013.64(3), Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide safe and adequate facilities for the instruction and training of visually impaired individuals.

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Division of Blind Services provides services to persons with visual disabilities that will enable them to maximize employment opportunities, independence and self-sufficiency. The Division of Blind Services strives to

empower people who are visually impaired to reach self-determined goals through training in foundational and independent skills and career development.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$627,000
- 2023-24 - \$595,548
- 2022-23 - \$0

## Item 22a - Fixed Capital Outlay - Public Broadcasting Projects

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

Fund Source	2026-27				2025-26				
	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	7,566,202	7,566,202	0	0	0	7,566,202	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	0	0	7,566,202	7,566,202	0	0	0	7,566,202	100.00%

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

\$7,566,202 is requested for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies and project renovations. The following projects are included in the request:

- \$ 98,962 - WFIT-FM, Melbourne - Replace Satellite Dish
- \$ 64,000 - WFSU-TV/FM, Tallahassee - Repaint Studio to Transmitter Link Tower
- \$ 758,750 - WJCT-TV/FM, Jacksonville - Replace HVAC Chiller - Phase I
- \$ 311,110 - WJCT-TV/FM - Jacksonville - Renovate Restrooms - Phase II
- \$4,286,435. WMFE-FM, Orlando - Replace Roof - Phase II
- \$ 847,246 - WMNF-FM, Tampa - Replace HVAC system - Phase II
- \$ 733,600 - WQCS-FM, Ft. Pierce - Replace Tower
- \$ 218,599 - WUFT-TV/FM, Gainesville - Replace Tower Lights
- \$ 79,500 - WUSF-FM, Tampa/St. Petersburg - Replace Backup Tower
- \$ 168,000 - WUSF-FM Tampa/St. Petersburg - Replace Roof

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

An amount of \$7,566,202 is requested for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies and project renovations. The following projects are included in the request:

WFIT-FM, is a member of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) that delivers life-saving information before, during and after hurricanes.

- \$98,962 - Replace Satellite Dish
- This project will remove WFIT's damaged satellite dish from the roof of a seven-story campus building and install a new dish on the ground near the station. The current dish is inoperable and WFIT has been utilizing a make-shift internet connection to receive live news and information programming from another station, WMFE, as a courtesy.
- 

WFSU-TV/FM, Tallahassee is a broadcast service that began operations in 1960 from an on-campus location. In 1983, its operations were consolidated with WFSU-FM in a new facility located on Florida State University property in southwest Tallahassee.

- \$64,000 - Repaint Studio to Transmitter Link Tower  
WFSU has a significant safety concern regarding the 200-foot self-supported tower at the WFSU studio/station location. The safety of planes, the WFSU studio building, and its staff are at risk. The current tower paint is faded and will continue to fade and does not meet the minimum FAA safety requirements. The tower is located in a flight path to Tallahassee International Airport. By not meeting at least minimum FAA safety requirements, the tower poses a significant safety hazard to incoming planes. With this funding, WFSU will repaint this STL (Studio to Transmitter Link) tower located at 1600 Red Barber Plaza – to meet the FAA standards and provide required safety benefits for the station and for in-coming planes.

WJCT-TV/FM, Jacksonville, located at 100 Festival Park Avenue in Jacksonville, Florida, is licensed to the community and governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Community Advisory Board. WGCU-TV/FM, Ft. Myers/Naples is a broadcast service that covers approximately 12 counties in South and Southwest Florida with a population base of around 1.7 million Floridians.

- \$758,750 - Replace HVAC Chiller - Phase II
- This project is to complete the replacement of the second chiller. This request includes the additional funding required to complete the replacement of the second chiller, replace rooftop units, and address building control issues affecting all areas of the building (this is the final phase of the project). WJCT's HVAC system is critical to maintaining a safe and stable working and technical environment for the people and the technology serving WJCT's mission.
- \$311,110 -Renovate Restrooms - Phase II
- This project is to complete the final phase of the restroom renovations. This request includes the additional funding required to complete the construction phase. Funds will be used for the ground floor facilities, include replacement of commodes/urinals, sinks, partitions, flooring, lighting, and sheetrock/painting.

WMFE-FM, Orlando, serving the counties of Orange, Brevard, Seminole, Flagler, Lake, Osceola, Sumter and Volusia, is a Federal Emergency Alert System LP-2 broadcasting station. WMFE covers news and information during hurricanes and other emergencies. As an LP-2 station, they are responsible for relaying emergency information to other radio and TV stations in each of those counties. The station is also part of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN).

- \$4,286,435 - Replace Roof - Phase II
- Phase II will complete the replacement of the 34-year old roof for the headquarters and studios of Community Communications, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization, license holder of WMFE-FM and WMFV-FM, operating as Central Florida Public Media.

WMNF-FM, Tampa, is a community radio licensee in the city of Tampa since 1979. WMNF's 70000 watts extend 63 miles from our tower and serves seven counties with its broadcast signal, including all of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota, Polk, Hernando. WMNF is an active member of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN).

- \$847,246 - Replace HVAC System - Phase II
- This project will provide the replacement of the HVAC system. The HVAC, one of the most critical system supporting this facility, is at least two to three generations behind in technology. In addition to this technological disadvantage, much of the critical HVAC infrastructure is at the end of its useful life.

WQCS-FM, Indian River State College (IRSC) Public Media operates two full-market radio stations servicing the Treasure Coast.

- \$733,600- Replace Tower
- This project is to replace the IRSC Public Media's 37th Street tower. The funding will be used for the safe removal and replacement of the tower. The tower was constructed in 1973 and the normal useful life of a tower of this type is 30-50 years. The tower is at risk of collapse and could cause major damage to the surrounding residential neighborhood if it is not replaced.

WUFT-TV/FM, Gainesville/Ocala operates the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) from the facilities of the public broadcasting stations operated by the University of Florida and located in Gainesville, Florida. FPREN provides live and produced content to all public media in the state of Florida including markets such as Miami, Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Ft. Myers and Pensacola. FPREN serves as the primary conduit for hurricane, tropical storm and other emergency-related messaging for Florida's public radio stations.

- \$218,599 - Replace Tower Lights
- This project is to replace the current out of date and unsafe tower lighting system with a new one that will help ensure the safety of the facility, those citizens who live in the area of the tower and the considerable commercial and private/general aviation traffic approaching and departing the Gainesville Regional Airport.

WUSF-FM, Tampa/St. Petersburg is the primary NPR station in West Central Florida, which serves the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota, reaching nearly 325,000 weekly listeners. WUSF-FM was founded in 1963 as a public service of the University of South Florida (USF) and it is part of WUSF Public Media, a department of USF.

- \$79,500 – Replace Backup Tower  
This project is to conduct critical maintenance and make critical improvement to our outdated back-up tower which is on site at WUSF. This will sustain the structural integrity of the tower and ensure its longevity.
- \$168,00 – Replace Roof  
This project is to remove the end-of-life roof at primary transmitter site and replace with a new roof and improve insulation. This roof protects our essential broadcast equipment which includes our broadcast transmitter, studio to transmitter links, audio processing and routers.

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1001.26, and 1013.18(2), Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide statewide delivery of governmental and educational broadcast services.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Education has been authorized to establish and support public broadcasting networks for the primary purpose of providing educational television programming for the citizens of Florida. These funds are used for the maintenance and renovation of state-owned public broadcasting facilities that provide continuous year-round coverage of Florida governmental affairs, legislative sessions and Supreme Court hearings that address issues of critical state concern and are produced and broadcast statewide over the public broadcast system. In addition, education programs are delivered via these stations in support of statewide and local educational goals.

Florida public broadcasting facilities allow educational television stations to provide local and state programming of interest and importance to their communities. Florida teachers, students, parents and citizens obtain greater access and receive better services in a cost-effective manner by providing local public television stations with the resources to cover local events and issues while providing educational services and support, especially for reading and literacy, to the school districts and communities in their coverage area.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$6,325,998
- 2023-24 - \$0
- 2022-23 - \$0

## Item 23A - Fixed Capital Outlay - Public School Projects

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	0	0	10,536,509	10,536,509	0	(10,536,509)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	10,536,509	10,536,509	0	(10,536,509)	(100.00%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Not requested is \$10,536,509 for the following programs:

- \$ 120,000 – Citrus County Public Schools - Academy of Environmental Science Building Safety Enhancements and Stabilization
- \$ 641,841 – Citrus County Public Schools - Hurricane and Coastal Mitigation
- \$ 570,000 – Dixie County Public Schools - Consolidation - Ruth Rains and Old Town Schools Flooring Replacement
- \$ 830,000 - Dixie County Public Schools - Unused Building Inventory Reduction (Dixie High and Anderson Elementary)
- \$ 750,000 – Duval County Public Schools - Cornerstone Classical Academy Athletic Turf Field
- \$ 967,168 – Hernando County Public Schools - Hurricane Shelter Generator
- \$ 370,000 - Liberty County Public Schools - High School Track Restoration
- \$ 500,000 - Martin County Public Schools - Hurricane Milton Damage - Murray Middle School
- \$ 450,000 – Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Visual and Performing Arts Programs
- \$3,500,000 - Monroe County Public Schools - Renovation of Historic Bruce Hall and Reynolds School
- \$ 487,500 - Levy County Public Schools - Infrastructure Improvements for Emergency Sheltering
- \$ 750,000 - Walton County Public Schools - Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment and Workforce Center Expansion
- \$ 600,000 - Washington County Public Schools - Vernon High School Tennis Complex

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Not requested is \$10,536,509 for the following programs:

- \$ 120,000 – Citrus County Public Schools - Academy of Environmental Science Building Safety Enhancements and Stabilization
- \$ 641,841 – Citrus County Public Schools - Hurricane and Coastal Mitigation
- \$ 570,000 – Dixie County Public Schools - Consolidation - Ruth Rains and Old Town Schools Flooring Replacement
- \$ 830,000 - Dixie County Public Schools - Unused Building Inventory Reduction (Dixie High and Anderson Elementary)
- \$ 750,000 – Duval County Public Schools - Cornerstone Classical Academy Athletic Turf Field
- \$ 967,168 – Hernando County Public Schools - Hurricane Shelter Generator

- \$ 370,000 - Liberty County Public Schools - High School Track Restoration
- \$ 500,000 - Martin County Public Schools - Hurricane Milton Damage - Murray Middle School
- \$ 450,000 – Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Visual and Performing Arts Programs
- \$3,500,000 - Monroe County Public Schools - Renovation of Historic Bruce Hall and Reynolds School
- \$ 487,500 - Levy County Public Schools - Infrastructure Improvements for Emergency Sheltering
- \$ 750,000 - Walton County Public Schools - Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment and Workforce Center Expansion
- \$ 600,000 - Washington County Public Schools - Vernon High School Tennis Complex

## **GOALS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- [ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
- [ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- [ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- [ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Section 1013.64 Florida Statutes

### **PURPOSE:**

Provides capital improvements for school districts.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provides capital improvements for school districts.

### **PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$14,844,309
- 2023-24 - \$34,050,392
- 2022-23 - \$0

## Item 23B - Fixed Capital Outlay - Vocational-Technical Facilities

### 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST

	2026-27				2025-26				
Fund Source	2025-26 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	0	0	5,650,000	5,650,000	0	(5,650,000)	(100.00%)
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	5,650,000	5,650,000	0	(5,650,000)	(100.00%)

### REQUEST NARRATIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested is \$5,650,000 for the following projects:

- \$4,900,000 - Lake Technical College Workforce Education Center South
- \$ 750,000 - Suncoast Technical College North Port Branch Expansion

#### **KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:**

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

#### **ISSUE NARRATIVE:**

##### **RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING**

Not requested is \$5,650,000 for the following projects:

- \$4,900,000 - Lake Technical College Workforce Education Center South
- \$ 750,000 - Suncoast Technical College North Port Branch Expansion

### **GOALS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):**

- ☐ 1. Highest Student Achievement
- ☐ 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
- ☐ 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ 4. Quality Efficient Services

### **PROGRAM BACKGROUND**

#### **LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:**

N/A

#### **STATUTORY REFERENCES:**

Sections 1004.93-98, Florida Statutes

#### **PURPOSE:**

Provide capital improvements for Lake and Sarasota County School Districts.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Provide capital improvements for Lake and Sarasota County School Districts.

**PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:**

- 2024-25 - \$ 7,225,000
- 2023-24 - \$14,614,000
- 2022-23 - \$11,400,000