

Attachment

Tuition and Fees for Career Certificate/Applied Technology Diploma and Adult General Education Programs 2026-27

The 2026 General Appropriations Act did not include any changes to the standard tuition and fees rate for 2026-27. **Effective July 1, 2026, the following standard rates of tuition remain in effect:**

- **For Career Certificates/Applied Technology Diplomas, \$2.33 per contact hour.**
- **For Adult General Education, a block tuition rate of \$45.00 per half year, or \$30.00 per term.**

According to the workforce development fees statute, section (s.) 1009.22(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.), a district's tuition must be within five percent (above or below) of the standard tuition and out-of-state fee, if applicable. For career certificate and applied technology diploma programs, students who are classified as non-residents for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21, F.S., have a required out-of-state fee in addition to the tuition.

The tables found on the next pages provide a summary of the rates allowed for the program areas of Career Certificates (also known as CAR), Applied Technology Diplomas (ATD) and Adult General Education (AGE). The summary includes ranges for tuition; out-of-state fees; and the optional fees for student financial aid, capital improvement and technology. See tables on page 2 for the minimum and maximum tuition ranges for career certificate programs and page 3 for the minimum and maximum block tuition ranges for adult general education.

Career Certificate/Applied Technology Diplomas, student financial aid, capital improvement and technology fees are discretionary and are, therefore, not required. However, it is important to note that if these fees are charged, the amount allowed to be charged varies. If student financial aid fees are charged, the highest amount allowed is ten percent of tuition (for residents) or ten percent of the sum of tuition and out-of-state fee (for non-residents). Thus, the amount charged for student financial aid can be any percentage **up to 10 percent**. If capital improvement or technology fees are charged, the highest amount allowed is five percent of tuition (for residents) or five percent of the sum of tuition and out-of-state fee (for non-residents). Thus, the amount allowed to be charged for a capital improvement or technology fee is any percentage **up to five percent**.

Career Certificates/Applied Technology Diplomas			
RESIDENT	Standard Fee Rate	Minimum Fee Rate ⁽¹⁾	Maximum Fee Rate ⁽¹⁾
Tuition	2.33	2.22	2.44
Student Financial Aid ⁽²⁾ (10% of Tuition)	0.23	0.22	0.24
Capital Improvement Fee ⁽²⁾ (5% of Tuition)	0.11	0.11	0.12
Technology Fee ⁽²⁾ (5% of Tuition)	0.11	0.11	0.12
NONRESIDENT	Standard Fee Rate	Minimum Fee Rate ⁽¹⁾	Maximum Fee Rate ⁽¹⁾
Tuition	2.33	2.22	2.44
Full Cost: Standard Tuition + Out-of-State Fee	9.32	8.86	9.78
Student Financial Aid ⁽²⁾ (10% of Tuition + Out-of-State Fee)	0.93	0.88	0.97
Capital Improvement Fee ⁽²⁾ (5% of Tuition + Out-of-State Fee)	0.46	0.44	0.48
Technology Fee ⁽²⁾ (5% of Tuition + Out-of-State Fee)	0.46	0.44	0.48

- (1) Each district school board may adopt tuition that is within the range of five percent below to five percent above the standard tuition and out-of-state fee, if applicable pursuant to s. 1009.22(3)(d), F.S.
- (2) Student Financial Aid, Capital Improvement and Technology Fees are discretionary and are not required.

Adult General Education			
	Standard Rate	Minimum Rate ⁽¹⁾	Maximum Rate ⁽¹⁾
Block Tuition (Per half year)⁽²⁾	45.00	42.75	47.25
	Standard Rate	Minimum Rate ⁽¹⁾	Maximum Rate ⁽¹⁾
Block Tuition (Per term) ⁽²⁾	30.00	28.50	31.50

- (1) Each district school board may adopt tuition that is within the range of five percent below to five percent above the standard tuition and out-of-state fee, if applicable pursuant to s. 1009.22(3)(d), F.S.
- (2) Tuition does not vary based on instructional hours scheduled or number of Adult General Education programs in which the student is enrolled.

2026 Legislative Changes

House Bill 1279 clarifies s.1009.21, F.S., to specify that students cannot lose their Florida resident status for tuition purposes due to serving outside the state as active duty or civilian personnel. Specifically, residency is protected if the absence from Florida is due to:

- Military service outside Florida (Armed Forces)
- Assignments with the U.S. Department of State or Department of Defense
- Teaching at a Department of Defense Dependents School

The bill modifies s. 1007.271, F.S., to clarify that the dual enrollment program applies to eligible secondary and home education students in the state of Florida. In addition, the amendment defines the postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in dual enrollment as the following: Florida public postsecondary institutions and eligible not-for-profit independent colleges and universities pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(i), F.S.

The bill clarifies s. 1009.25(1)(e), F.S., related to the tuition and fee exemption for homeless children and youth under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. It specifies that eligibility for this classification is based on a determination previously made by a Florida public school and further clarifies that a distance learning student residing outside of Florida is not eligible for the homeless exemption.

Statutory References for Fees

Tuition Statutes

The following are the current statutory references related to Workforce Fees:

- s. 1009.21, F.S., Determination of resident status for tuition purposes
- s. 1009.22, F.S., Workforce education postsecondary student fees
- s. 1009.25, F.S., Fee exemptions
- s. 1009.26, F.S., Fee waivers
- s. 1009.27, F.S., Deferral of fees
- s. 1011.80(10), F.S., Funds for operation of workforce education programs

Standard Tuition and Non-resident Fees

Standard tuition shall be \$2.33 per contact hour for programs leading to a career certificate or an applied technology diploma. A block tuition of \$45 per half year or \$30 per term shall be assessed for students enrolled in adult general education (s. 1009.22(3)(c), F.S.). Each district school board may adopt tuition that is within the range of five percent below to five percent above the standard tuition and out-of-state fee, if applicable (s. 1009.22(3)(d), F.S.). For career certificate programs, the out-of-state fees must be charged to students classified as non-residents for tuition purposes, in addition to the tuition.

Financial Aid Fee

School districts are **permitted** to collect, for financial aid purposes, up to an additional 10 percent of the student fees collected for workforce development education programs as stated in s. 1009.22(5), F.S. This fee may not be collected for adult general education programs (s. 1009.22(5), F.S.).

Capital Improvement Fee

School districts are **permitted** to collect a separate capital improvement fee for capital improvements, technology enhancements or equipping buildings which may not exceed five percent of the tuition fee for resident students or five percent of the tuition and out-of-state fee for nonresident students. For additional information, see s. 1009.22(6), F.S. This fee may not be collected for adult general education programs (s. 1009.22(3), F.S.).

Technology Fee

School districts are **permitted** to collect a separate technology fee. Section 1009.22(7), F.S., addresses the statutory requirements. According to the statute, “Each district school board and community college board of trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee for technology, not to exceed 5 percent of tuition per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students and not to exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students. Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be used to enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty and shall not be included in any award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.” This fee may not be collected for adult general education programs (s. 1009.22(3), F.S.).

Standard Tuition for Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science

For postsecondary vocational programs offered by career centers, the standard tuition shall be \$71.98 per credit hour for residents and non-residents, and the out-of-state fee shall be \$215.94 per credit hour.

Note: Only districts with approval for A.A.S. or A.S. degrees are allowed to adopt these fees.

Other Fees

Sections 1009.22(9) and (10), F.S., state:

(9) Each district school board and Florida College System institution board of trustees is authorized to establish specific fees for workforce development instruction not reported for state funding purposes or for workforce development instruction not reported as state funded full-time equivalent students. District school boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees are not required to charge any other fee specified in this section for this type of instruction.

(10) Florida College System institution boards of trustees and district school boards are not authorized to charge students enrolled in workforce development programs any fee that is not specifically authorized by statute. In addition to tuition, out-of-state, financial aid, capital improvement, and technology fees, as authorized in this section, Florida College System institution boards of trustees and district school boards are authorized to establish fee schedules for the following user fees and fines: laboratory fees; parking fees and fines; library fees and fines; fees and fines relating to facilities and equipment use or damage; access or identification card fees; duplicating, photocopying, binding, or microfilming fees; standardized testing fees; diploma replacement fees; transcript fees; application fees; graduation fees; and late fees related to registration and payment. Such user fees and fines shall not exceed the cost of the services provided and shall only be charged to persons receiving the service.

Fee Exemptions

Fee exemptions are defined in s. 1009.25, F.S.

Fee Exemption for Welfare Transition Participants

Section 1009.25(1)(e), F.S., allows for the exemption of payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, for students enrolled in welfare transition programs. The exemption applies to the student for tuition and fees for career certificate, applied technology diploma and adult general education programs. The law specifies that, while the student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, the local workforce development board is required to pay the institution for the costs incurred for the welfare transition program participants. Welfare transition participants are individuals who are receiving temporary cash assistance from the Department of Children and Families and are required to complete work activity. The school district must receive appropriate documentation that demonstrates the individual is an active participant in the welfare transition program in order to report the exemption to the Florida Department of Education in data reporting required in the Workforce Development Information System (WDIS).

Fee Exemption for Homeless Children and Youth

Section 1009.25, F.S., specifies that students who meet the definition of homeless children and youths in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 United States Code s. 11434a(2), are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at school district career centers.

Section 409.1452, F.S., also requires postsecondary institutions that grant fee exemptions under s. 1009.25, F.S., to have an on-campus liaison who is, at a minimum, a knowledgeable, accessible and responsive staff member to help with any problems related to the use of the exemption. Institutions are required to provide the liaison's contact information to each student using a tuition and fee exemption and to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and community-based care lead agencies.

Fee Exemption for Foster Care Students

Section 1009.25, F.S., includes a tuition and fee exemption for foster care students to include a student who was the subject of a shelter proceeding, a dependency proceeding or a termination of parental rights proceeding, and who:

- Is, or was at the time of reaching 18 years of age, in out-of-home care, rather than in the custody of the DCF as is provided for in current law;
- Was adopted from DCF after May 5, 1997;
- After reaching 14 years of age, spent at least 18 months in out-of-home care and was then reunited with his or her parents who were the subject of the dependency proceeding before reaching 18 years of age, including a student who was reunited under s. 39.8155, F.S. (reinstatement of parental rights). A student is only eligible for this tuition waiver if, in addition to the above-described factors, the student is also Pell Grant-eligible; or
- Was placed in a permanent guardianship, regardless of whether the caregiver participates or participated in the Relative Caregiver Program under s. 39.5085, F.S., and remains in such guardianship until either the student reaches 18 years of age or, if before reaching 18 years of age, enrolls in an eligible institution.

Fee Waivers

Fee Waivers are defined in s. 1009.26, F.S. School districts may waive fees for any student not exempt from fees. The total value of the fee waivers granted by the school district may not exceed the amount established annually in the General Appropriations Act. Waivers for fee-nonexempt students for

programs funded through Workforce Development Education appropriations may not exceed eight percent of the fee revenues that would otherwise be collected. Funds collected from standard tuition and out-of-state fees shall be used to support school district workforce education programs as defined in s. 1004.02(25), F.S., and shall not be used to support K-12 programs or district K-12 administrative indirect costs.

Each Florida College System institution board of trustees, each district school board with a career center authorized under s. 1001.44, F.S., and each board of directors for a charter technical career center authorized under s. 1002.34, F.S., shall waive out-of-state fees for honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed and Reserve Forces (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy) and the National Guard (Army and Air) or any other student who is entitled to and uses educational assistance provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs who physically resides in Florida while enrolled as a degree or certificate seeking student. Tuition and fees charged to a student who qualifies for the out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection may not exceed the tuition and fees charged a resident student enrolled in the same program.

Disabled Veterans Fee Waiver

Section 295.011, F.S., establishes a fee waiver for disabled veterans who are enrolled in a postsecondary program and receive education assistance under the GI Bill, but who do not qualify for the federal 100 percent eligibility tier. Beginning in 2022-23, these students are eligible to receive a waiver in the amount that is the difference between the portion of tuition and fees authorized under federal law and the full amount of tuition and fees charged by the institution attended.

Out-of-State Fee Waiver

SB 2B amended s. 1009.26(12)(a), F.S., to provide additional conditions for using the out-of-state waiver. Starting July 1, 2025, institutions will waive out-of-state fees for students who are citizens of the United States or lawfully present in the United States, provided they meet the following conditions:

1. The student attended a secondary school in Florida for three consecutive years immediately before graduating from a high school in the state.
2. The student applies for enrollment in an institution of higher education within 24 months after graduating from high school.
3. The student submits an official Florida high school transcript as evidence of attendance and graduation.

To receive this waiver, students must demonstrate legal residency in the United States. Additionally, students who currently receive a fee waiver under the prior language in section 1009.26(12) F.S., will need to be reevaluated for eligibility beginning July 1, 2025.

Differential Out-of-State Fee

Section 1009.22(4), F.S., provides that a district school board that has a service area that borders another state may implement a plan for a differential out-of-state fee.

Applied Academics

According to s. 1009.22(3)(a), F.S., fee-nonexempt students enrolled in applied academics for adult education instruction shall be charged fees equal to the fees charged for adult general education programs.

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program Waiver

Section 1004.933 (4), F.S., provides that an institution shall waive 100 percent of registration, tuition, laboratory and examination fees for a student participating in the GATE Program. A waiver provided under this section after a student's first term shall be provided after state aid pursuant to s. 1009.895, F.S., is applied. Instructional materials assigned for use under the GATE Program must be made available to GATE Program students free of charge. An institution may not require payment by students of instructional materials costs eligible for reimbursement under s. 1009.711, F.S.

Contacts

If you have any questions about these issues, please contact Dana McMillan at 850-245-9442 or via email at Dana.McMillan1@fldoe.org.