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DFC Memorandum Number: 2026-12

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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
Florida College System Presidents
Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida Presidents
Commission for Independent Education Presidents

FROM: Kathryn S. Hebda 

DATE: September 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund RFP Announcement and Amendments to Rule 6A-10.0352, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Established in 2022, section (s.) 1009.8962, Florida Statutes (F.S.), was created to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and health care partners to combat the nursing shortage in the state. This competitive grant program, titled the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund, provides matching funds, on a dollar-to-dollar basis, to participating agencies that partner with health care providers as defined in s. 768.38(2), F.S.

In the 2026 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1246 which updated s. 1009.8962, F.S., to allow for non-monetary contributions to be matched with LINE funds, permit contributions from contributors who were not involved in healthcare and do not reside in Florida and allow for the possibility of a three-year grant.

Following these legislative changes, Rule 6A-10.0352, F.A.C., was updated by the State Board of Education on July 22, 2026. In addition to technical updates, the following amendments to the rule were made:

- Potential contributors expanded to reflect legislation allowing for contributions from those outside the state of Florida and from those who are not involved in healthcare;
- Use of funds expanded to allow for the remodeling of educational facilities to increase program enrollment;
- Application updated to require a plan to increase the likelihood graduates will join the Florida workforce;
- Rules for use of non-monetary contributions were added; and
- The possibility of a 3-year grant was added.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

These rule amendments will be operationalized in the 2026-27 LINE Request for Proposal (RFP) and explained in a rule technical assistance and funding opportunities webinar. The link to this webinar is provided below.

The 2026 General Appropriations Act provided \$24 million for the LINE Fund for the following institutions:

- Florida College System institutions under s. 1000.21(3), F.S.
- School district postsecondary technical career centers under s. 1001.44, F.S.
- Charter technical career centers under s. 1002.34, F.S.
- Independent nonprofit colleges or universities located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency or association that is recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant baccalaureate degrees.
- Independent schools, colleges or universities with an accredited program as defined in s. 464.003, F.S., which is located in this state and licensed by the Commission for Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31, F.S.

In addition, \$25.9 million was reappropriated/reverted from previous years for a total of \$49.9 million in available LINE funds for the 2026-27 FY.

All eligible applicants must also meet performance metrics set forth in s. 1009.8962, F.S., including:

- Data supporting a completion rate of at least 70 percent for the prior year for a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program.
- Data supporting a first-time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 75 percent for the prior year, based on a minimum of 10 testing participants for a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in nursing and bachelor of science in nursing programs.

Funds may be used to award scholarships to students who meet the residency for tuition purposes requirements, recruit additional faculty, purchase equipment and support simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings but may be used to remodel buildings.

LINE Fund RFP/HB1246
September 2, 2026
Page Three

A technical assistance and funding opportunities webinar is scheduled for the following date and time to provide information on the rule amendments, the appropriation, how to complete and submit the proposal and an overview of the review process.

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m. (ET)

Registration Link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/809cbce0-ef64-4267-ade7-7c376cc884fa@63bf107b-cb6f-4173-8c1c-1406bb5cb794?source=copyLinkLegacyShareEventDialog>

All interested institutions should submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) to the LINE mailbox at LINE_Fund@fldoe.org by Wednesday, September 16, 2026, no later than 11:59 p.m. (ET). The NOI form is located on the Florida Department of Education webpage at <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/linefund/>.

The application for the LINE grant will be submitted through to the Florida Department of Education's Submittable grant application system. A link to the Submittable system containing the LINE RFP will be sent from the LINE mailbox to those who submit an NOI by September 16. The deadline for the application will be October 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (ET).

Please review the proposal requirements and plan to participate in the webinar to ask additional questions. Should you have questions, please contact Dr. Jose Arevalo, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges, at LINE_Fund@fldoe.org.

KH/ja

Attachment

Cc: Paul Burns, Ed.D., Senior Chancellor
Ashley Yopp Meros, Ed.D., Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education
Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations
Robert J. Boyd, Esq., Executive Director, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
Tiffany Hurst, Executive Director, Commission for Independent Education
District Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Directors
District Technical College Directors
Florida College System Workforce Administrators