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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Ashley Meros, Ph.D.

DATE: October 13, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Start-up Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement and Webinar

The Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Start-up Grant is established in Section (s.) 1011.804, Florida Statutes (F.S.). This grant program is created to fund and support the startup and implementation of the GATE Program, subject to legislative appropriation. The purpose of the grant program is to increase access to programs that support adult learners earning a high school credential, either a high school diploma or its equivalent, and a workforce credential aligned to statewide or regional demand. Career education credentials offered as part of the GATE program must be included on the 2025-26 Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4), F.S. See s. 1011.804 GATE Startup Grant Program F.S., Laws of Florida, for the complete statutory language.

Attached is the concept proposal document which must be completed by institutions that are eligible to receive grants. Proposals may be received by institutions that serve students in or are located in Rural Areas of Opportunity. Current designations of Rural Areas of Opportunity can be found on the Florida Commerce Rural Areas of Opportunity webpage: [Florida Rural Areas of Opportunity - FloridaJobs.org](https://www.floridajobs.org/rural-areas-of-opportunity). Attachment A of the concept proposal includes a list of identified eligible recipients.

Priority will be provided to proposals received by Monday, December 1, 2025. Proposals will continue to be accepted until all funds are awarded. To learn more about this opportunity, please register for the funding opportunities webinar below.

Link to Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5547718309994770520>

Date: November 17, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. (EDT)

Ashley Meros, Ph.D.
Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

Questions may be directed to GATEprogram@fldoe.org.

- cc. District and Florida College System Adult Education Directors
- Technical College Directors
- Florida College System Workforce Administrators
- District Career and Technical Education Directors
- Adult Education Directors