



# Rule 6A-20.045, F.A.C. Open Door Grant Program

State Board of Education  
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

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## House Bill (HB) 1507

- HB 1507 created section (s.) 1009.895, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to establish the Open Door Grant Program (Open Door), which will provide funds to support student completion of short-term, high-demand credit and non-credit career and technical education (CTE) programs at:
  - School district postsecondary technical career centers under s. 1001.44, F.S.
  - Charter technical career centers under s. 1002.34, F.S.
  - Florida College System (FCS) institutions s. 1000.21(3), F.S.

## Purpose

The Open Door Grant Program was established for the purpose of:

- Creating and sustaining a demand-driven supply of credentialed workers for high-demand occupations by addressing and closing the gap between the skills needed by workers in the state and the skills of the available workforce in the state.
- Expanding the affordability of workforce training and credentialing.
- Increasing the interest of current and future workers in short-term, high-demand career and technical education credentialing and certificate programs.

## Key Components

- Subject to the availability of funds, if an eligible student enrolled in an eligible program is:
  - In receipt of state or federal aid, grant funds are awarded to cover the unmet need after all eligible aid is applied to the student's account. ("Last Dollar")
  - Not in receipt of state or federal aid at the time of enrollment, the student is responsible for paying **one-third** of the cost of the program up front. The institution is then eligible to receive the remaining **two-thirds** of the program costs once the student completes the certificate or degree and associated industry certification. ("Student Investment")
- The award amount may not exceed \$3,000 per student per eligible program.

## Key Components

- Awards to institutions are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Also prioritized is funding for integrated education and training programs in which institutions establish partnerships with local workforce development boards to provide basic skills instruction, contextually and concurrently, with workforce training that results in the award of credentials under s. 445.004(4), F.S.
- Programs tied to credentials on Master Credential List.
- No more than one-quarter of the appropriated funds may be disbursed annually to any one institution.
- At least one-quarter of the funds are prioritized for rural institutions.
- Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for the program.

## Funding

- To support implementation of Open Door, the Florida Legislature appropriated:
  - \$15,000,000 for school district career centers.
  - \$20,000,000 for FCS institutions.
- Institutions are encouraged to leverage other funding sources (e.g., WIOA, Perkins, and HEERF)

## Timeline & Agency Collaboration

- Statewide Rule Workshop Held **on July 16<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Weekly meetings** with CareerSource, DEO, DCF and others to strengthen partnerships.
- Solicited feedback **from dozens** of workforce education stakeholders.
- Application for institutions will be released asap.
- The first review date: **October 15**. Applications will be accepted until **November 1** or until all dollars have been awarded, whichever comes first.
- This year, all funds must be **disbursed by January 2022**.