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DFC Memorandum Number: 2025-06

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Kathy Hebda 

DATE: September 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Review of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session

The Division of Florida Colleges (DFC) has identified the new or amended laws from the 2025 Legislative Session that impact Florida College System (FCS) institutions. Appendix A contains a chart of the possible FCS actions required by law. As many of the adopted bills cross divisions and functions, it is important to closely read every section of this communication, as well as the corresponding chapter law, which can be found online at <https://laws.flrules.org>.

LEGISLATION

Chapter No. 2025-1 – SB 2C Immigration

Section 25 amends section (s.) 1009.26(12)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to restrict eligibility for out-of-state fee waivers to a student that is a citizen of the United States or a student that is lawfully present therein.

Section 26 requires the reevaluation of a student currently receiving an out-of-state fee waiver for eligibility under s. 1009.26(12)(a), F.S., beginning July 1, 2025. This section does not modify statute.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Chapter No. 2025-86 – SB 356 Holocaust Remembrance Day

Section 1 creates s. 683.196, F.S., to designate January 27 as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Chapter No. 2025-91 – HB 259 Special Observances

Section 1 creates s. 683.3343, F.S., to designate August 21 as Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Chapter No. 2025-107 – HB 875 Educator Preparation

Section 4 creates s. 1012.551, F.S., to require that a teacher preparation program must adhere to newly established guidelines for uniform core curricula by August 1, 2027. The uniform core curricula must meet certain minimum standards. A state-approved teacher preparation program that uses the uniform core curricula must place certain requirements on each teacher candidate.

Section 5 creates s. 1012.981, F.S., to establish the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence at Miami Dade College, subject to appropriation; however, no funds were appropriated for 2025-26.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

The Division of K-12 Public Schools is releasing a memo that will contain more information.

Chapter No. 2025-109 – HB 1105 Education

Section 25 amends s. 1007.271, F.S., to address transportation, scheduling and participation for dual enrollment students. These new additions require that career dual enrollment articulation agreements include sections addressing transportation options and any scheduling changes that will increase enrollment. Dual enrollment articulation agreements are due to the Office of K-20 Articulation by August 1 of each year.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Chapter No. 2025-110 – HB 1255 Education

Section 8 amends s. 100.21, F.S., to rename Hillsborough Community College to “Hillsborough College.”

Sections 10, 45 and 46 provide updated language regarding high demand teacher needs.

Section 13 amends, s. 1001.7065, F.S., to add CLT10 scores to standards for preeminent state research universities.

Section 19 amends s. 1002.42, F.S., to allow private schools under specific conditions to construct on land owned by an FCS institution for specific purposes.

Section 32 amends s. 1004.0971, F.S., to amend the definition of “emergency opioid antagonist.”

Section 36 amends s. 1007.27, F.S., to allow a national consortium, which the Florida Department of Education may join or establish, to develop advanced placement courses that align with s. 1007.25, F.S.

Section 41 amends s. 1009.8962, F.S., to allow independent nonprofit universities or for-profit colleges in Florida to apply for LINE funding.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Chapter No. 2025-139 – HB 681 Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding

The Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE) will provide further guidance on this bill. Please contact Evan Steinberg in DCAE for more information.

Chapter No. 2025-144 – HB 1145 Workforce Education

Section 2 amends s. 1011.803, F.S., to require each FCS institution to expand its Money-back Guarantee (MBG) Program to include at least three (3) additional programs by July 1, 2026. The institution must also notify the State Board of Education (SBOE) of such programs.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Chapter No. 2025-149 – SB 462 Transportation

Section 17 amends paragraph (35) of s. 334.044, F.S., to expend funds for a construction workforce development program. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) may annually expend up to \$5 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund for fiscal years 2025-26 through 2029-30 for grants to state colleges and school districts, with priority given to state colleges and school districts in counties that are rural communities, per s. 288.0656(2), F.S., for the purchase of specified equipment simulators, and to support offering a heavy civil construction elective course which must provide the student with certain certifications.

The Division of Career and Adult Education will be releasing a memo with additional details.

Chapter No. 2025-194 – SB 130 Compensation of Victims of Wrongful Incarceration

Section 4 amends s. 961.06, F.S., to expand the date provision for adjustments for inflation from December 31, 2008, to December 31, 2005.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Chapter No. 2025-196 – SB 584 Young Adult Housing Support

Section 1 amends s. 409.1452, F.S., to require each FCS institution, in consultation with the Florida Department of Children and Families, to develop plans for the prioritization of the placement of certain students in residence halls and dormitory residences owned by the institution. If that plan or one similar is implemented, students eligible for the tuition and fee exemptions under s. 1009.25, F.S., must be awarded first priority for institution-operated housing, year-round housing and work-study opportunities. FCS institutions may not require a student who receives housing under s. 409.1451 (2) or (3), F.S., or is in care under s. 39.6251, F.S., to have a cosigner or guarantor to obtain housing.

Section 3 requires that OPPAGA will conduct a study, which will be issued on December 1, 2026, regarding barriers young adults face when it comes to housing. OPPAGA shall consult with certain departments, including the FCS. This section does not modify statute.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

BUDGET

SB 2500 – General Appropriations Act (After Governor’s Vetoes)

Based on the 2025-26 legislative appropriations, the FCS will realize an increase of \$68.8 million (4.0%) in state funding, when compared to the level of appropriations for the previous fiscal year.

College Operating Budgets

The total increase over the prior year for the FCS Program fund for 2025-26 is \$68.1 million or 4.23%. This includes:

- \$8,610,400 (non-recurring) for eight (8) special projects for six (6) colleges
- \$15 million additional operational support/enhancement funds for Miami Dade College (\$5 million non-recurring)
- \$4 million (non-recurring) for the State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) training

Other Specific College Non-Program Fund Appropriations

- Student Success Incentive Funds (\$30 million):
 - \$17 million for 2+2
 - \$13 million for Work Florida
- Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Funds (\$40 million)
- Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Funds (\$24 million)
- Academic Library Network (FLVC) (\$11,024,746 FCS portion only; removed \$3,423 for the Education Meets Opportunity Program (EMOP))
- Performance Based Incentive funds for Industry Certifications (\$20 million)

Fixed Capital Outlay

24 projects for 17 colleges totaling \$108.6 million were appropriated in Fixed Capital Outlay funding. This includes projects from PECO and operational general revenue.

Other Noteworthy Items

Appropriated to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA):

- Open Door Grant Program (\$35 million):
 - \$20 million for FCS, with a base allocation for each eligible institution of \$50,000
 - \$15 million for District Workforce Education, with a base allocation per eligible district of \$50,000
- First Generation in College Matching Grant Program (\$10,617,326, with colleges portion at \$2,654,332).
- Nursing Student Loan Reimbursement/Scholarship (\$1,233,006).
- Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement (\$500,000 recurring).
- Florida First Responder Scholarship Program (\$10,000,000). Recurring funds to be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis pursuant to s. 1009.896, F.S.

- Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program (\$18,050,000).
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship Program (\$7,000,000).

Appropriated to Workforce Education

- Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (\$40 million).
- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant (PCOG) (\$20,000,000).
 - \$15 million in recurring funds for grantees including FCS institutions
 - \$5 million in nonrecurring funds to enhance the PCOG to include a specific sub-initiative for the Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program Expansion
- Strategic Statewide Initiatives (\$5,000,000):
 - \$4 million in recurring funds for startup grants to school districts and FCS institutions to fund some or all of the initial costs associated with the creation of the GATE program pursuant to s. 1011.804, F.S.
 - \$1 million in recurring funds is provided for the GATE Program Performance Fund established pursuant to s. 1011.8041, F.S.

Other College-related Appropriations in the GAA:

- Specific Appropriation 362 (\$250,000 recurring) from the State Opioid Settlement Trust Fund is provided for the FCS and SUS to have a supply of emergency opioid antagonists in each dormitory residence owned or operated by the college or university.
- Specific Appropriation 2456 (\$6,384,280) for Hurricane Loss Mitigation must be distributed directly to Gulf Coast State College for the uses described in s. 215.559 (2)(a), F.S.
- Specific Appropriation 2671 (\$1,500,000 nonrecurring) is provided to the Florida Department of Management Services for the People First licenses associated with the FCS integration.

Other items of Interest in the GAA

Section 8. Employee Compensation and Benefits. Paragraph (3)(c) lists state health insurance plans and benefits (starting on page 497), and paragraph (3)(d) lists the State Group Health Insurance Premiums for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, (pages 499-501).

Back-of-bill Items

Section 16. Twenty (20) FCS projects for fourteen (14) colleges requesting approval for acquisition or construction from non-PECO sources were included.

Chapter No. 2025-205 – SB 7022 Retirement

Section 1 amends s. 121.71, F.S., revising the required employer retirement contribution rates for each membership class and subclass of the Florida Retirement System.

Effective date: July 1, 2025.

Additional detailed information is available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/about-us/finance/>.

KH/csm

Cc: Kimberly Richey, Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
Dr. Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education
FCS Council of Business Affairs
FCS Council of Academic Affairs
FCS Council of Student Affairs
FCS Council on Workforce Education
FCS Reports Coordinators
FCS Financial Aid Officers

Appendix A – FCS Institution Actions Following 2025 Legislative Session

Subject and Chapter Number	May require review of local policy and/or procedure	May require data or information to be submitted to the state
2025-1 (SB 2C Immigration)	Yes	Yes
2025-86 (SB 356 Holocaust Remembrance Day)		
2025-91 (HB 259 Special Observances)		
2025-107 (HB 875 Educator Preparation)	Yes	Yes
2025-109 (HB 1105 Education)	Yes	Yes
2025-110 (HB 1255 Education)		
2025-130 (SB 130 Compensation of Victim of Wrongful Incarceration)		
2025-144 (HB 1145 Workforce Education)	Yes	Yes
2025-149 (SB 462 Transportation)	Yes	Yes
2025-196 (SB 584 Young Adult Housing Support)	Yes	Yes