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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Directors
School District Technical College Directors
School District Adult Education Directors

FROM: Ashley Meros, Ph.D.

DATE: August 7, 2026

SUBJECT: **2026 Legislation Affecting Career, Technical and Adult Education Partners**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is providing an update regarding changes made during the 2026 Legislative session and special session E. This update provides a brief overview of sections (s.) throughout Florida Statutes (F.S.) with new implementation requirements for school district career and technical education (CTE) and adult general education (AGE) programs. Unless otherwise specified, all legislative acts took effect on July 1, 2026.

APPROPRIATIONS

School District Workforce Development Funding Sources in the General Appropriations Act (HB 5001E)

- Workforce Development Program funds: \$473.5 million
 - o An increase of \$6.1 million (1.3 percent) over the current year
- Industry Certifications Performance-Based Incentive funds: \$8.5 million
- Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE): \$20 million
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE):
 - o Startup Grant funds: \$2 million
 - o Performance Funding: \$500,000
 - o Scholarship Program funds: \$2 million
- Open Door Grant Program funds: \$10 million
- Workforce Capitalization funds: \$40 million

For district workforce education funding, the division will provide a detailed summary of workforce development and performance-based incentives funds, which will be posted on the following web page:
<https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/state-funding-districts/funding-reports-workload.stml>.

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

TUITION AND FEES

No changes were made to the standard rate for tuition for students in workforce education programs.

Additional conditions for Residency Determination (HB 1279)

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 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.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment (HB 1279)

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 Florida public postsecondary institutions and eligible not-for-profit independent colleges and universities pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(i), F.S.

For questions, contact Shannon Mercer, Executive Director, Office of Articulation, at Shannon.mercer@fldoe.org.

NURSING EDUCATION

Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) (HB 5001)

The 2026-27 General Appropriations Act provided \$20 million for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund to reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers that offer a licensed practical nurse program pursuant to s. 1009.897, F.S. This is the fourth year in which funding was provided for this program.

FDOE will provide a separate district workforce education finance summary with information on the calculation of funds. See Appendix below for district allocations for 2026-27.

FDOE will release funds via direct transfer of funds in four increments, allowing for the efficient use of these resources to benefit the programs. The first disbursement is expected to be released around August 15, 2026.

Human Trafficking Education for Nursing Programs (SB 340)

Senate Bill 340 amends s. 464.008, F.S., and establishes a new requirement for initial nurse licensure in Florida. Beginning July 1, 2027, applicants seeking initial licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) must complete a 2-hour course on human trafficking before being eligible for licensure by examination. The course content must meet the requirements outlined in s. 464.013(3)(c), F.S. The Florida Department of Education will work with the Department of Health to update the frameworks for the 2026–27 academic year. The Board of Nursing will be discussing these new licensure requirements at the annual long-range planning meeting scheduled for August 2026. Once the Board of Nursing makes its recommendations for implementation, the Florida Department of Education's Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE) office will seek approval at the November 2026 State Board of Education meeting to ensure the updated frameworks are in place for Spring 2027 classes. Institutions should begin planning for implementation during the 2026-27 academic year to ensure graduates are prepared to meet the new licensure requirement.

For questions about the Board of Nursing requirements, contact Sherri Sutton-Johnson, Education Unit Director at the Florida Board of Nursing, at Sherri.Sutton-Johnson@flhealth.gov or 850-617-1496.

For questions about Florida Department of Education frameworks, contact Cora Walden, CTE Industry Specialist State Supervisor, at Cora.Walden@fldoe.org.

ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Standards for High School Diploma (HB 453)

House Bill 453 amends s. 1003.4282, F.S., to provide that completion of two years of marching band satisfies both the physical education and performing arts requirements for a standard high school diploma. The bill also allows students with disabilities to satisfy the physical education requirement through participation in the Special Olympics, as determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

For questions, contact Carol Bruner, Chief, Office of Adult Education, at Carol.Bruner@fldoe.org.

Thank you for implementing these important changes.

AMY/cm

Appendix – Appropriation by District Summary

Summary of Total Workforce Education Funds by District, 2026-27

Workforce Development, PIPELINE

As provided in 2026 General Appropriations Act, Chapter 2026-XXX Laws of Florida

District #	District	Workforce Development (a)	PIPELINE (b)	TOTAL
1	Alachua	\$ 341,518	\$ -	\$ 341,518
2	Baker	\$ 334,978	\$ -	\$ 334,978
3	Bay	\$ 3,186,059	\$ 659,213	\$ 3,845,272
4	Bradford	\$ 1,351,630	\$ 754,273	\$ 2,105,903
5	Brevard	\$ 3,575,397	\$ -	\$ 3,575,397
6	Broward	\$ 84,953,412	\$ 2,469,922	\$ 87,423,334
7	Calhoun	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
8	Charlotte	\$ 4,354,836	\$ 501,297	\$ 4,856,133
9	Citrus	\$ 3,605,773	\$ 378,732	\$ 3,984,505
10	Clay	\$ 1,154,458	\$ -	\$ 1,154,458
11	Collier	\$ 13,921,490	\$ 1,159,682	\$ 15,081,172
12	Columbia	\$ 306,053	\$ -	\$ 306,053
13	Miami-Dade	\$ 92,761,813	\$ 1,301,294	\$ 94,063,107
14	DeSoto	\$ 761,092	\$ 552,014	\$ 1,313,106
15	Dixie	\$ 222,596	\$ -	\$ 222,596
16	Duval	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Escambia	\$ 5,522,080	\$ -	\$ 5,522,080
18	Flagler	\$ 1,087,978	\$ -	\$ 1,087,978
19	Franklin	\$ 216,965	\$ -	\$ 216,965
20	Gadsden	\$ 1,098,648	\$ 262,855	\$ 1,361,503
21	Gilchrist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22	Glades	\$ 214,467	\$ -	\$ 214,467
23	Gulf	\$ 218,832	\$ -	\$ 218,832
24	Hamilton	\$ 216,897	\$ -	\$ 216,897
25	Hardee	\$ 219,599	\$ -	\$ 219,599
26	Hendry	\$ 1,443,816	\$ -	\$ 1,443,816
27	Hernando	\$ 889,275	\$ -	\$ 889,275
28	Highlands	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
29	Hillsborough	\$ 56,700,748	\$ 472,227	\$ 57,172,975
30	Holmes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
31	Indian River	\$ 1,700,551	\$ 350,141	\$ 2,050,692
32	Jackson	\$ 245,506	\$ -	\$ 245,506
33	Jefferson	\$ 217,097	\$ -	\$ 217,097
34	Lafayette	\$ 217,722	\$ -	\$ 217,722
35	Lake	\$ 7,161,499	\$ 675,098	\$ 7,836,597
36	Lee	\$ 11,513,147	\$ 1,079,150	\$ 12,592,297
38	Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
39	Liberty	\$ 229,885	\$ -	\$ 229,885

District #	District	Workforce Development (a)	PIPELINE (b)	TOTAL
40	Madison	\$ 216,087	\$ -	\$ 216,087
41	Manatee	\$ 10,511,121	\$ 485,048	\$ 10,996,169
42	Marion	\$ 4,813,692	\$ 652,004	\$ 5,465,696
43	Martin	\$ 1,287,481	\$ -	\$ 1,287,481
44	Monroe	\$ 665,868	\$ -	\$ 665,868
45	Nassau	\$ 281,165	\$ -	\$ 281,165
46	Okaloosa	\$ 2,938,989	\$ 653,351	\$ 3,592,340
47	Okeechobee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
48	Orange	\$ 34,889,964	\$ 637,853	\$ 35,527,817
49	Osceola	\$ 10,225,358	\$ 295,218	\$ 10,520,576
50	Palm Beach	\$ 22,181,585	\$ -	\$ 22,181,585
51	Pasco	\$ 3,736,944	\$ -	\$ 3,736,944
52	Pinellas	\$ 28,354,031	\$ 1,616,797	\$ 29,970,828
53	Polk	\$ 10,529,023	\$ 1,056,734	\$ 11,585,757
54	Putnam	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
55	Saint Johns	\$ 4,737,030	\$ 687,460	\$ 5,424,490
56	Saint Lucie	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
57	Santa Rosa	\$ 2,549,536	\$ 552,014	\$ 3,101,550
58	Sarasota	\$ 11,211,772	\$ 523,613	\$ 11,735,385
59	Seminole	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
60	Sumter	\$ 236,969	\$ -	\$ 236,969
61	Suwannee	\$ 4,129,141	\$ 414,162	\$ 4,543,303
62	Taylor	\$ 3,850,082	\$ 592,468	\$ 4,442,550
63	Union	\$ 218,428	\$ -	\$ 218,428
64	Volusia	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
65	Wakulla	\$ 220,887	\$ -	\$ 220,887
66	Walton	\$ 1,676,238	\$ 353,502	\$ 2,029,740
67	Washington	\$ 4,489,307	\$ 359,719	\$ 4,849,026
Total		\$ 473,509,975	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 493,509,975

NOTES:

(a) Funds provided in Specific Appropriations 7/ 121

(b) Funds provided in Specific Appropriation 125