

Overview of Repeal of SBE Rules 6A-6.0131 and 6A-6.0132

Rules 6A-6.0131 and 6A-6.0132 relate to the implementation and operation of the Handicapped Adult Program. Rule 6A-6.0131 outlines the roles and responsibilities for the sponsor (provider) which was either a school district or a community college and Rule 6A-6.0132 addresses more of the programmatic aspects; such as, who can participate in the program and the requirements for the Adult Individualized Education plan.

Primary Reasons for the Recommendation for Repeal

- The funding for the program has totally changed and is now administered as a grant program and not through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and the Community College Program Fund (CCPF).
- The grant requirements incorporate many of the items outlined in the rules.
- The rules are based on outdated statutes or statutes that relate to the funding source, which has now changed.
- The rules date to a time when school districts and community colleges were required to have all adult vocational and adult education programs approved through a regional coordinating council.

History

Prior to 1997, this program received weighted funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for school districts. There was an alternative method for community colleges funding; however, the funding eventually became part of the Community College Program Fund (CCPF).

In 1997 the funds became part of the Workforce Development Education Fund (WDEF). In 1998, the Legislature permitted school districts to “set aside” a portion of the WDEF funds for use for adults with disabilities and senior adult learners and held harmless from performance. The funds are focused primarily on those adults with disabilities who would not be successful mainstreamed into vocational or adult education courses or successful in specialized courses for adults with disabilities. It was not until 1999 that the community colleges set aside funds.

By 2000-2001 the funds from both the school districts and community colleges were combined into a competitive grant program that focused on three primary goals:

- Improve quality of life through the provision of recreational activities and intellectual stimulation (primarily adult literacy)
- Serve adults with disabilities who are not suited for workforce development education programs (going into competitive employment)
- Provide lifelong learning activities to senior citizens.

In 2004, the Legislature transferred the funds from the Division of Workforce Education to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Currently there are 40 school districts and 10 community colleges that receive funds.