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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Adult Education Directors
District Technical Center Directors

FROM: Rod Duckworth *RW*

DATE: March 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Fee Exemption for Welfare Transition Students in Section 1009.25(1)(e), Florida Statutes

This technical assistance memo is intended to provide clarification on the usage of the fee exemption authorized under section 1009.25(1)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), for individuals in a welfare transition program. The exact language in the statute is as follows:

- (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or state university:
 - (e) A student enrolled in an employment and training program under the welfare transition program. The local workforce development board shall pay the state university, Florida College System institution, or school district for costs incurred for welfare transition program participants.

This exemption applies to the payment by the student for tuition and fees for career certificate, applied technology diploma, and adult general education programs. The law specifies that, while the students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, the local workforce development board is required to pay the institution for the costs incurred for the welfare transition program participants.

Florida's welfare transition program is designed to provide Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients with training, education, support services, and skills needed to gain unsubsidized employment. Welfare transition participants are individuals who are receiving TCA from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and are required to complete work activities as part of the welfare transition programs. Individuals may enroll in education and training to satisfy the work activities requirement in the law. These individuals are referred from DCF when they are required to participate. Therefore, if they have been referred as a mandatory program participant in the welfare transition program and they are participating as a condition to continue receiving TCA, they are welfare transition program participants.

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Individuals eligible to receive this exemption must be welfare transition program participants at the time of enrollment in the term.

To provide the fee exemption and report the exemption to the Florida Department of Education in data reporting required in the Workforce Development Information System (WDIS), the school district must receive appropriate documentation that demonstrates the individual is an active participant in the welfare transition program as described above. In addition, each agency should document how the local workforce development board is complying with the payment provisions in the law.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Tara Goodman at tara.goodman@fldoe.org or 850-245-9001.

RD/tg