

Ben Gibson, *Chair*
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November 1, 2024

Mr. Ben Gibson
Chair
State Board of Education
c/o Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Chair Gibson:

In 2019, Senate Bill 190 passed adding section (s.) 1013.841 to Florida Statutes (F.S.), requiring colleges to submit spending plans for unexpended, end of year, state operating budget fund balances over five percent for colleges with less than 15,000 FTE, and over seven percent for colleges with 15,000 or more FTE. These spending plans are to be approved by college boards of trustees by September 30 each year.

Sections 1013.841(2)(b) and (3)(b), F.S., states, “the State Board of Education shall review and publish each Florida College System institution’s carry forward spending plan by November 15, 2020, and each November 15 thereafter.” This is the fourth year colleges have submitted spending plans. (The requirement for submission was suspended for the 2019-20 fiscal year in the department’s emergency order number 2020-EO-02, dated May 13, 2020.)

Section 1013.841(4), F.S., authorizes expenditures in a carry forward spending plan that may include:

(a) Commitment of funds to a public education capital outlay project for which an appropriation was previously provided, which requires additional funds for completion, and which is included in the list required by s. 1001.03(18)(d);

(b) Completion of a renovation, repair, or maintenance project that is consistent with s. 1013.64(1) or replacement of a minor facility;

(c) Completion of a remodeling or infrastructure project, if such project is survey recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31;

(d) Completion of a repair or replacement project necessary due to damage caused by a natural disaster for buildings included in the inventory required pursuant to s. 1013.31;

(e) Operating expenditures that support the Florida College System institution’s mission;

(f) Any purpose approved by the state board or specified in the General Appropriations Act; and

(g) A commitment of funds to a contingency reserve for expenses incurred as a result of a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to s. 252.36.

For colleges with a final FTE of 15,000 or greater in the prior year, a fund balance of seven percent must be maintained, and their spending plans must include the estimated cost per planned expenditure and a

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

Ben Gibson, Chair
Page Two
November 1, 2024

timeline for completion of the expenditure. Twenty-three colleges currently meet the requirement to maintain a five percent balance and five colleges must maintain a seven percent fund balance.

Twenty-six of the 28 colleges were required to submit a spending plan based on their fund balance exceeding the required percentage. A breakdown of the percentage of funds by category used most by colleges based on the spending plan amounts identified is as follows:

- Category (e), operating expenditures that support the institution's mission, at 56.8 percent;
- Category (g), commitment of funds to a contingency reserve related to a state declared emergency, at 22.24 percent;
- Category (b), completion of a renovation, repair, or maintenance project, at 12.95 percent; and
- Category (c), completion of a remodeling or infrastructure project, at 6.40 percent.

Enclosed for your review are the reports that have been submitted by the Florida College System institutions required to submit a spending plan. The reports reflect the excess carry forward amount as of July 1, 2024.

I am available if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kathryn S. Hebda
Chancellor

KH/lc

Enclosures

cc: Kimberly Richey, Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operation