

CELEBRATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Florida Leads the Nation in AP Exam Participation

The College Board announced that Florida leads the nation with the highest percentage of the class of 2019 graduates who took an Advanced Placement (AP) exam while in high school. Fifty-six percent of the 2019 graduating class participated in an AP exam during their high school career. Additionally, Florida is ranked third in the nation for improvement over the past 10 years in the percentage of graduates scoring 3 or higher on the AP exam during high school, improving by 12.2 percentage points during the last decade. For more information, visit [2019 AP Cohort Data Report](#).

Special Days and Observances

National Black History Month (February)
Career and Technical Education Month (February)
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The 2020 Legislative Session

On Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Florida's representatives and senators convened for the first day of session. The Florida Legislature consists of 40 members in the [Senate](#) and 120 members in the [House of Representatives](#). The Legislative session ends on March 13, 2020.



State Board of Education Approves Florida's Perkins V Plan

The Plan focuses on strategies for improving the recruitment, preparation, and retention of effective career and technical education (CTE) teachers, while also ensuring that CTE programs align with the local labor market and business needs across Florida. For more information on Perkins V, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/PerkinsV.stml>.

Governor DeSantis Eliminates Common Core

At the direction of Governor Ron DeSantis, the Department of Education released the proposed Florida B.E.S.T. (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking) Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, and announced that Common Core be officially eradicated from Florida classrooms. For more information on Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/standardsreview>.



PREPARING FOR COLLEGE & CAREERS

The 2019-20 Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) for the Talented Twenty Program is now available!

The **Talented Twenty Program** guarantees admission to students graduating in the top 20% of their classes and completing a specific minimum high school curriculum. The purpose of the Talented Twenty Program is to increase the number of college admissions of high performing underrepresented students who might otherwise not be eligible for admissions.

Information regarding the guidelines to determine students in the top 20% of their graduating class and the specifications they must meet to be eligible for the Talented Twenty program is described in the Technical Assistance Paper document. To access this document and other helpful resources related to the Talented Twenty Program visit the Talented Twenty website here: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/talented-twenty-program/>.

The Common Application (Common App)

The Common App helps students navigate the college application process and allows students to apply to multiple colleges at once. The Common Application is accepted by a wide array of public and private colleges and universities across all 50 U.S. states and 20 countries. The idea behind the Common App is to reduce the barriers that students face when applying to college. For more information on the *Common App* visit <https://www.commonapp.org/>.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

[Project Yellow Light/Hunter Garner Billboard Design Scholarship](#)

Award Amount: \$2,000 **Deadline:** March 1

Scholarship Description: Create a design to warn your peers of the dangers of texting and driving. In addition to the scholarship, the winning designs may be on billboards across the country.

[Doodle 4 Google Competition](#)

Award Amount: \$30,000 **Deadline:** March 13

Scholarship Description: Create a Google Doodle based on what kindness means to you.

[National High School Essay Contest](#)

Award Amount: \$2,500 **Deadline:** April 6

Scholarship Description: The National High School Essay Contest engages high school students in learning and writing about issues of peace and conflict, encouraging appreciation for diplomacy's role in building partnerships that can advance peace-building and protect national security. The National High School Essay Contest scholarship is available to all high school students attending school in the U.S.



SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC AND CAREER RESOURCES

Career Cluster Infographic Factsheets

The Division of Career and Adult Education has developed a set of infographic factsheets for the majority of the career clusters in Florida, using the most recent data available. These factsheets include, where available, secondary and postsecondary enrollment numbers, top programs, top certifications earned, the articulation path to college and employment outlook.

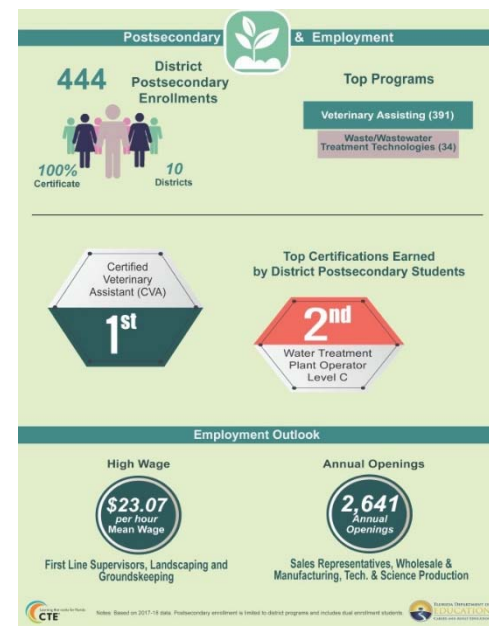
A career cluster factsheet for **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**

EXAMPLE

Individual career cluster factsheets are available on their respective cluster homepages linked from the main Career & Technical Education home page at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/>.

Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook

The **Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook** is an academic advising resource to guide students with planning for postsecondary education in Florida.



UPCOMING EVENT



The Innovative Schools Summit assembles internationally recognized innovators together with practicing educators and consultants who are currently finding success with cutting-edge best practices and research-based methodologies in education. These multi-day events provide an opportunity for counselors, teachers, administrators and other educators to learn about new insights and strategies for reaching and teaching students PK-12.

For more information about this event and registration, please visit <https://innovativeschoolssummit.com/orlando-2020/>.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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*Disclaimer: Links provided for information and reference. The Florida Department of Education does not endorse a specific program or source.