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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Suzanne Pridgeon

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Pridgeon', is written over the printed name.

DATE: February 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Reimbursement of Workers' Compensation Insurance Premiums

On March 30, 2022, the State Board of Education approved Rule 6A-6.05732, Reimbursement for Workers' Compensation Insurance Premiums. This rule (copy attached) establishes the procedures for implementation of section (s.) 446.54, Florida Statutes (F.S.), which was passed by the 2021 Florida Legislature. The statute and rule prescribe that Workers' Compensation (WC) insurance coverage will be made available for students 18 years of age or younger who are participating in service-providing Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunities. Students being paid for their services are to be covered by the business or entity employing them. Unpaid students are to be covered by the WC insurance of the school district or Florida College System (FCS) institution in which they are enrolled.

WBL opportunities that are not service-providing (e.g., virtual, simulated, or project-based learning) or that fall short of the WBL opportunity definition in s. 446.0915, F.S., (e.g., job shadowing, mentoring, or business tours) do not require workers' compensation insurance nor are they eligible for reimbursement.

The rule specifies that the Florida Department of Education must notify school districts and FCS institutions of the deadline for submitting requests for reimbursement. **The deadline for the 2022-23 fiscal year is June 15, 2023. Requests for reimbursement received after that date will not be eligible for reimbursement.**

The rule also specifies that the requests for reimbursement from employers of paid WBL students must be submitted by the school district or FCS institution in which the student(s) are enrolled. Thus, it is incumbent on the school district or FCE institution to notify the businesses that provide paid employment experiences to their students of the opportunity for reimbursement, the requirements, and the deadline for submission. This notification of those businesses should occur as soon as possible after the district or FCS institution receives this memorandum.

Suzanne Pridgeon
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

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Attached to this memorandum are guidelines for requesting reimbursement, as well as several optional templates for making a request. Completed requests should be sent to the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of the Comptroller, 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 914 Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400. Questions regarding this information may be directed to Martha K. Asbury at martha.asbury2@fldoe.org.

We look forward to working with you to provide the Workers' Compensation coverage that will help incentivize employers to participate in work-based learning opportunities.

SP/mka

Attachments

cc: School District Secondary Career and Technical Education Directors
School District Technical Center Directors
School District Finance Officers
FCS Chief Academic Officers
FCS Workforce Administrators
FCS Institution Finance Officers
Henry Mack, Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges
Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Division of Career of Adult Education