

Exemptions and Waivers in The Florida College System

Fee exemptions and waivers are types of financial assistance authorized in Florida Statute that provide opportunities for many students to attend college at reduced tuition and fee cost or even free. These exemptions and waivers resulted in an estimated savings of nearly \$81 million for more than 56,000 students enrolled in The Florida College System¹ during 2010-11. Exemptions accounted for approximately \$75.2 million and waivers totaled \$5.5 million.

An **exemption** is provided for certain students who are, by statutory definition, exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees. Exemptions are primarily identified in section (s.) 1009.25, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Students in the following categories are broadly defined as exempt:

- Dual enrollment (s. 1009.25(1)(a), F.S.)
- Apprenticeship (s. 1009.25(1)(b), F.S.)
- Road to Independence (s. 1009.25(1)(c), F.S.)
- Custody of a relative (s. 1009.25(1)(d), F.S.)
- Adopted from Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) (s. 1009.25(1)(d), F.S.)
- Welfare transition (s. 1009.25(1)(e), F.S.)
- Homeless (s. 1009.25(1)(f), F.S.)
- Children and spouses of deceased law enforcement officers and firefighters (ss. 112.19(3) and 112.191(3), F.S.)
- 40 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) exemption (s. 1009.25(2), F.S.)

A **waiver** occurs when a student has his or her fees, which would otherwise be due, waived or forgiven by an institution. There are waivers that are discretionary, while others are mandatory and are subject to certain statutory limitations for reporting and funding purposes.

- Vocational / Workforce Education (s. 1009.26(1), F.S.)
- State employees (mandatory if space is available) (s. 1009.265, F.S.)
- College employees and their dependents (s. 1009.26(1), F.S.)

¹ Source: Division of Florida Colleges; Does not include Adult Education programs.

- Purple Heart recipients (mandatory for qualifying students) (s. 1009.26(8), F.S.)
- Certain classroom teachers (s. 1009.26(10), F.S.)
- Wrongfully incarcerated persons (mandatory for qualifying students) (s. 961.06(1)(b), F.S.)
- Spouses of deceased State employees (mandatory for qualifying students) (s. 1009.26(7), F.S.)
- Linkage Institutes (may grant resident status for students from partnerships with institutions in strategic foreign countries) (s. 288.8175(5), F.S.)

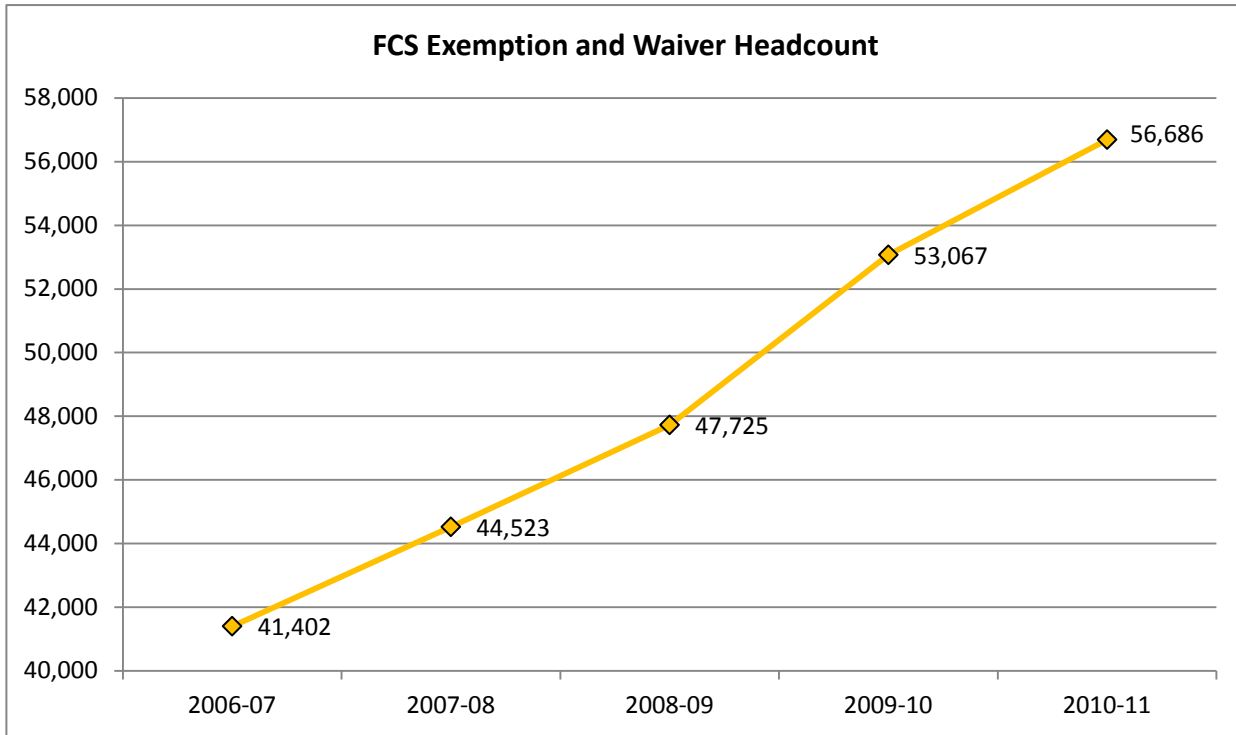
Exhibit 1. Exemption and Waiver Unduplicated Headcount for The Florida College System, 2010-11

Exemption/Waiver Type	2010-11 Headcount	Percent of Total
Dual Enrollment	46,083	81.30%
Apprenticeship	3,212	5.67%
State Employee	2,801	4.94%
Road to Independence	1,434	2.53%
Local Discretionary Waivers	1,076	1.90%
Homeless	511	0.90%
Vocational / Workforce Education	501	0.88%
Adopted from Department of Children and Family Services	424	0.75%
Upper Division Non-Resident	354	0.62%
Relative Caregiver	153	0.27%
Purple Heart Recipients	114	0.20%
Children of Law Enforcement Officers Killed on Duty	18	0.03%
Children of Fire Fighters Killed on Duty	*	0.01%
Spouses of Deceased State Employees	*	0.00%
Wrongfully Incarcerated Persons	*	0.00%
Certain Classroom Teachers	0	0.00%

*To provide meaningful results and to protect the privacy of individual students, data are printed only when the total number of students in a group is at least 10.

Source: Division of Florida Colleges

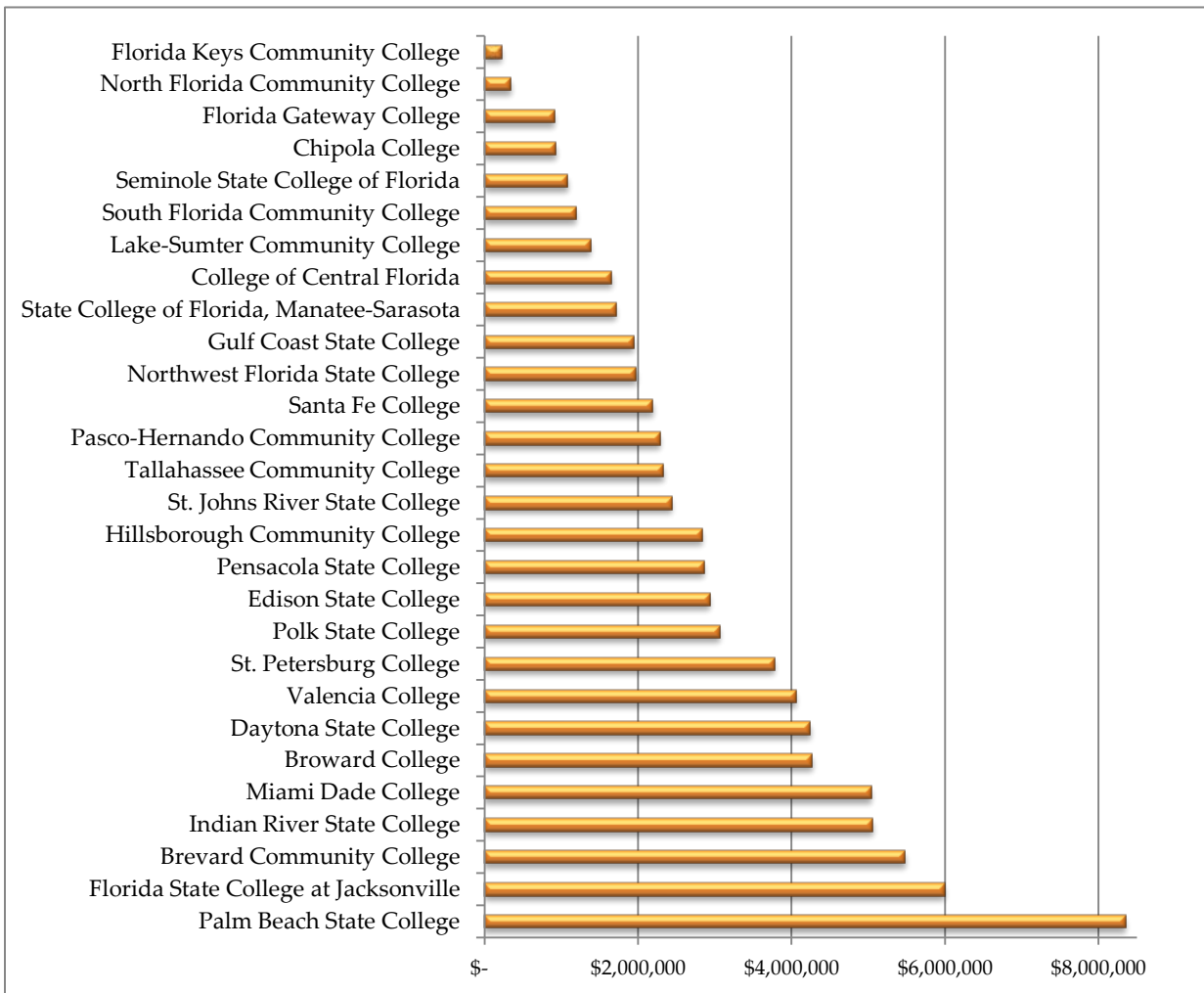
Exhibit 2. Five-Year Trend of Exemptions and Waivers



Source: Division of Florida Colleges

The recent trend depicted in **Exhibit 2** shows continued growth in the number of students benefitting from either an exemption or fee waiver; however, it is important to note this pattern emulates the overall growth in enrollment for the system. Full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment is up by 14.1% in the past three years while exemptions and waivers have remained relatively stable as a percentage of FTE over the same period at approximately 7%. In 2010-11, 6.4% of all students taking courses benefited from this type of assistance.

Exhibit 3. Total Dollar Amount Exempted and Waived by College, 2010-11



Source: Division of Florida Colleges

Florida Keys Community College reported the lowest total dollar amount of \$227,577 exempted or waived in 2010-11. Palm Beach State College reported the highest figure of \$8,350,882. The system average was \$2,879,818 per institution. These totals do not include amounts for adult education students. The Legislature eliminated the exemption for adult education during the 2011 session, and starting in the 2011-12 academic year, those students are required to pay a block tuition rate.

Exhibit 4. Historical Exemption and Waiver Unduplicated Headcount by College

College	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	5-Year Growth Rate
Brevard Community College	3,038	3,122	3,318	3,808	3,871	27.4%
Broward College	1,683	1,780	2,173	2,746	3,400	102.0%
College of Central Florida	599	584	652	776	883	47.4%
Chipola College	564	615	540	577	511	-9.4%
Daytona State College	1,568	2,082	2,298	2,294	2,058	31.3%
Edison State College	1,325	1,458	1,894	2,394	2,803	111.5%
Florida State College at Jacksonville	2,395	2,370	2,200	3,736	4,421	84.6%
Florida Keys Community College	291	315	397	445	267	-8.2%
Gulf Coast State College	2,187	2,050	2,273	2,173	1,715	-21.6%
Hillsborough Community College	1,865	2,218	2,146	2,284	2,447	31.2%
Indian River State College	2,733	2,986	3,029	3,075	3,170	16.0%
Florida Gateway College	558	652	716	763	804	44.1%
Lake-Sumter Community College	427	531	636	820	969	126.9%
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	1,450	1,367	1,641	1,940	1,795	23.8%
Miami Dade College	2,197	2,368	2,770	2,965	3,143	43.1%
North Florida Community College	295	244	219	276	287	-2.7%
Northwest Florida State College	567	688	674	756	834	47.1%
Palm Beach State College	3,358	3,038	3,263	3,832	4,536	35.1%
Pasco-Hernando Community College	1,307	1,237	1,661	1,978	1,818	39.1%
Pensacola State College	2,279	2,356	2,001	1,944	2,102	-7.8%
Polk State College	874	1,035	1,148	1,375	1,812	107.3%
St. Johns River State College	1,081	1,230	1,470	1,491	1,664	53.9%
St. Petersburg College	1,604	2,134	2,173	2,374	2,745	71.1%
Santa Fe College	1,106	1,253	1,195	1,257	1,315	18.9%
Seminole State College of Florida	1,192	1,554	1,605	1,381	1,410	18.3%
South Florida Community College	1,142	1,067	1,085	923	919	-19.5%
Tallahassee Community College	1,769	1,872	2,127	2,014	2,074	17.2%
Valencia College	1,948	2,317	2,421	2,670	2,913	49.5%
System	41,402	44,523	47,725	53,067	56,686	36.9%

Source: Division of Florida Colleges

Most institutions, 22 of 28, experienced significant growth in the number of students utilizing exemptions and waivers over the past five years, four of which, including Broward College, Edison State College, Lake-Sumter Community College, and Polk State College, were up over 100%. Six schools, Chipola College, Florida Keys Community College, Gulf Coast State College, North Florida Community College, Pensacola State College, and South Florida Community College, experienced declines during this period. The system-wide growth in exemptions and waivers on a headcount basis was 36.9%.

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