

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

June 30, 2026
Conference Call

Chair Ryan Petty called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. The following members were present: Vice Chair Magar, Dr. Grazie Christie, Daniel Foganholi, Layla Collins, Erika Fritz-Ochs and Luis Fuste. Chair Petty recognized Kevin O'Farrell to provide the invocation.

The Board took public comment.

Action Items

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards

Chair Petty recognized Dr. Paul O. Burns, Senior Chancellor, for an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401. Sr. Chancellor Burns shared that the proposed amendment complies with the statutory changes from House Bill 1255 and updates the history of communism standards in light of recent events in Cuba, including Raúl Castro's indictment. Originally adopted in November 2025 after Senate Bill 1264, these standards were updated earlier this year to include Nicolás Maduro's indictment. These changes ensure that state academic standards reflect relevant historical developments and adhere to statutory requirements.

Chair Petty called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards. Vice Chair Magar made the motion with a second by Mr. Foganholi. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.0240, Minimum Standards for Out-of-State High School Equivalency Diplomas

Chair Petty recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, for an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-10.0240. Chancellor Hebda shared that the proposed amendment expands admission standards for the Florida College System (FCS) by consolidating all criteria into a single rule. It aligns admission criteria with the FCS mission as defined in Section 1004.65, Florida Statutes. The rule outlines general minimum standards, as well as specific criteria for associate degree, career certificate, and baccalaureate programs. It mandates boards of trustees to adopt policies ensuring non-discrimination based on race, sex, disability, and other factors, while confirming that admitted students must be U.S. citizens or legally present. The rule also emphasizes the need for transparency regarding admissions policies and the community programs that do not lead to admission.

Chair Petty called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-10.0240, Minimum Standards for Out-of-State High School Equivalency Diplomas. Ms. Collins made the motion with a second by Mr. Fuste.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.014, General Requirements for Adult General Education Program

Chair Petty recognized Ashley Meros, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education, to provide an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-6.014, General Requirements for Adult General Education Program. Chancellor Meros shared that Rule 6A-6.014 sets the

requirements for adult general education programs in Florida, focusing on administration, student eligibility, and provider responsibilities. The amendment mandates that adult education providers verify that enrolling students are U.S. citizens or lawfully present. Additionally, providers must develop written policies for verifying eligibility during enrollment. To ensure compliance, local enrollment processes will need updates, with the department offering guidance and technical assistance for consistent implementation statewide.

Chair Petty called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-6.014, General Requirements for Adult General Education Program. Mr. Fuste made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Magar.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-14.0061, Campus, Center, Special Purpose Center and Instructional Site Designations

Chair Petty recognized Chancellor Hebda to provide an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-14.0061, Campus, Center, Special Purpose Center and Instructional Site Designations. Chancellor Hebda shared that Rule 6A-14.0061 outlines the definitions of college sites in the Florida College System (FCS), including campuses, special purpose centers, and instructional sites. The rule mandates that FCS institutions request new site designations or changes to existing ones from the State Board of Education. Recent revisions update terminology and establish that all colleges must seek approval for construction or renovations at a new site or if such work may alter an existing site's designation. These amendments ensure compliance with the established review process.

Chair Petty called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-14.0061, Campus, Center, Special Purpose Center and Instructional Site Designations. Mr. Foganholi made the motion with a second by Ms. Collins.

The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of the Appointment of an Interim Commissioner of Education

Chair Petty shared that the board must appoint an interim Commissioner of Education during the ongoing search for a permanent commissioner. This role is crucial as it will influence the future of students, educators, and families in Florida. The board members also thanked Commissioner Kamoutsas for his dedication and leadership.

Chair Petty shared that Dr. Paul O. Burns, Senior Chancellor, is the best candidate at this time, having served in various capacities since 2018. He has been integral to numerous initiatives alongside senior leadership, prioritizing the department's mission and students. His continued leadership is expected to ensure smooth operations within the Department of Education.

Chair Petty nominated Dr. Paul O. Burns to serve as interim commissioner of Education, with a second by Vice Chair Magar.

Chair Petty announced that the next meeting would be on July 22, 2026, in Orlando, FL.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Petty adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 10:30 p.m.