Department of Education
Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management
2027-28 Legislative Budget Request
09/09/26

Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	2026-27 Ch. 2026-232 LOF 07/01/26 Total All Funds	2027-28 Legislative Budget Request 09/09/26 Total All Funds	2027-28 LBR over/(under) 2026-27 Appropriation Total All Funds	% 2027-28 LBR over/(under) 2026-27 Appropriation Total All Funds
1			**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**				
2	24		***FTE Positions***	878.00	878.00	0.00	0.00%
3	24	3	Salaries and Benefits	67,866,352	67,866,352	0	0.00%
4	25	5	Other Personal Services	1,378,520	1,378,520	0	0.00%
5	26	7	Expenses	12,521,523	12,521,523	0	0.00%
6	27	9	Grants and Aids - Adults With Disabilities Funds	7,876,853	5,076,853	(2,800,000)	-35.55%
7			*Adults with Disabilities - Helping People Succeed*	109,006	109,006	0	0.00%
8			*Arc Broward Skills Training - Adults with Disabilities*	225,000	0	(225,000)	-100.00%
9			*Boca School for Autism: Bridge to Success (B2S) Micro-Enterprise Vocational Job Training Program*	200,000	0	(200,000)	-100.00%
10			*Brevard Adults with Disabilities (AWD)*	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
11			*Bridging the Gap in Employment of Young Adults with Unique Abilities*	800,000	0	(800,000)	-100.00%
12			*Broward County Public Schools Adults with Disabilities*	800,000	800,000	0	0.00%
13			*Els for Autism Foundation - Specialized Workforce Training Program*	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
14			*Flagler Adults with Disabilities Program*	535,892	535,892	0	0.00%
15			*Gadsden Adults with Disabilities Program*	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
16			*Gulf Adults with Disabilities Program*	35,000	35,000	0	0.00%
17			*HabCenter Boca Raton - Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (Also in FCO)*	175,000	0	(175,000)	-100.00%
18			*Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM)*	750,000	750,000	0	0.00%
19			*Jackson Adults with Disabilities Program*	1,019,247	1,019,247	0	0.00%
20			*Jacksonville School for Autism Supportive Transition & Employment Placement (STEP)*	300,000	0	(300,000)	-100.00%
21			*Leon Adults with Disabilities Program*	225,000	225,000	0	0.00%
22			*Miami-Dade Adults with Disabilities Program*	1,125,208	1,125,208	0	0.00%
23			*NextStep Autism Transition Program*	400,000	0	(400,000)	-100.00%
24			*Palm Beach Habilitation Center/Arc of Palm Beach County*	225,000	225,000	0	0.00%
25			*Sumter Adults with Disabilities Program*	42,500	42,500	0	0.00%
26			*Tallahassee State College Adults with Disabilities Program*	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
27			*Taylor Adults with Disabilities Program*	42,500	42,500	0	0.00%
28			*Wakulla Adults with Disabilities Program*	42,500	42,500	0	0.00%
29	28	11	Operating Capital Outlay	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
30	29	13	Contracted Services	19,994,901	21,667,392	1,672,491	8.36%
31			*Able Trust - High School High Tech Futures in Focus Program*	250,000	0	(250,000)	-100.00%
32			*Able Trust High School High Tech Program*	1,018,000	1,500,000	482,000	47.35%
33			*Match - Grants and Donation TF Increase*	1,500,000	2,940,491	1,440,491	96.03%
34	30	17	Grants and Aids - Independent Living Services	7,819,793	6,319,793	(1,500,000)	-19.18%
35			*Community Transition Services for Adults with Disabilities*	1,500,000	0	(1,500,000)	-100.00%
36	31	19	Purchased Client Services	146,582,621	151,582,621	5,000,000	3.41%
37	32	21	Risk Management Insurance	779,482	779,482	0	0.00%
38	33	23	Tenant Broker Commissions	97,655	97,655	0	0.00%
39	34	25	Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	312,375	312,375	0	0.00%
40	35	27	Other Data Processing Services	670,078	670,078	0	0.00%
41	36	29	Education Technology and Information Services	972,732	972,732	0	0.00%
42	37	31	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	293,178	293,178	0	0.00%
43	37A	33	Local Governments and Nonstate Entities - FCO Facility Repairs Maintenance and Construction	537,500	0	(537,500)	-100.00%
44			*HabCenter Boca Raton - Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (Also in Operating)*	37,500	0	(37,500)	-100.00%
45			*Learning Independence for Tomorrow (LiFT) Campus*	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
46			**Total: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**	**267,728,563**	**269,563,554**	**1,834,991**	**0.69%**
47			**BLIND SERVICES**				
48	38		***FTE Positions***	279.75	279.75	0.00	0.00%
49	38	37	Salaries and Benefits	20,649,260	20,649,260	0	0.00%
50	39	39	Other Personal Services	498,690	498,690	0	0.00%
51	40	41	Expenses	2,973,667	5,375,348	2,401,681	80.76%
52			*Increase in Federal Budget Authority and Matching State Funds*	0	2,401,681	2,401,681	100.00%
53	41	45	Grants and Aids - Community Rehabilitation Facilities	4,948,260	4,948,260	0	0.00%
54	42	47	Operating Capital Outlay	289,492	289,492	0	0.00%
55	43	49	Food Products	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
56	44	51	Acquisition of Motor Vehicles	120,000	120,000	0	0.00%
57	45	53	Grants and Aids - Client Services	40,569,717	37,221,717	(3,348,000)	-8.25%
58			*Blind Babies Successful Transition from Preschool to School*	2,438,004	2,438,004	0	0.00%
59			*Blind Children's Program*	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
60			*Client Services - General Program - Recurring Base*	27,128,169	27,128,169	0	0.00%
61			*Community Rehabilitation Program Rates*	5,778,379	5,778,379	0	0.00%
62			*Conklin Davis Center - Vision Beyond Limits*	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
63			*Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind*	2,000,000	500,000	(1,500,000)	-75.00%
64			*Lighthouse for the Blind - Miami*	150,000	150,000	0	0.00%
65			*Lighthouse for the Blind - Pasco/Hernando*	50,000	50,000	0	0.00%
66			*Lighthouse of Broward for the Blind and Visually Impaired*	350,000	0	(350,000)	-100.00%
67			*Lighthouse Vision Loss Center - Mobile Education Center*	848,000	0	(848,000)	-100.00%
68			*Maintaining Independence for the Blind*	150,000	0	(150,000)	-100.00%
69			*Older Blind Program*	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
70			*Service Provider's Indirect Costs*	477,165	477,165	0	0.00%
71	46	57	Contracted Services	931,140	2,293,217	1,362,077	146.28%

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72			*Increase in Federal Budget Authority and Matching State Funds*	*0*	*1,362,077*	*1,362,077*	*100.00%*
73	47	59	Grants and Aids - Independent Living Services	35,000	35,000	0	0.00%
74	48	61	Risk Management Insurance	215,203	215,203	0	0.00%
75	49	63	Library Services	189,735	189,735	0	0.00%
76	50	65	Vending Stands - Equipment and Supplies	10,884,166	16,434,166	5,550,000	50.99%
77	51	69	Tenant Broker Commissions	18,158	18,158	0	0.00%
78	52	71	Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	99,529	99,529	0	0.00%
79	53	73	Other Data Processing Services	686,842	686,842	0	0.00%
80	54	75	Education Technology and Information Services	249,902	249,902	0	0.00%
81	55	77	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	243,315	243,315	0	0.00%
82	55A	79	Local Governments and Nonstate Entities - FCO Facility Repairs Maintenance and Construction	500,000	0	(500,000)	-100.00%
83			*Florida Center for the Blind - Workforce Education and Training Center for the Visually Impaired Adults*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
84			**Total: BLIND SERVICES**	**84,302,076**	**89,767,834**	**5,465,758**	**6.48%**
85			**PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**				
86	56	83	Grants and Aids - Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory	6,000,000	3,500,000	(2,500,000)	-41.67%
87			*University of Miami-Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
88	57	85	Grants and Aids - Historically Black Private Colleges	32,021,685	31,771,685	(250,000)	-0.78%
89			*Bethune-Cookman University*	*16,960,111*	*16,960,111*	*0*	*0.00%*
90			*Bethune-Cookman University - Nursing Workforce Readiness Program*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
91			*Edward Waters University*	*6,429,526*	*6,429,526*	*0*	*0.00%*
92			*Edward Waters University - Institute on Criminal Justice*	*1,000,000*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
93			*Florida Memorial University*	*7,032,048*	*7,032,048*	*0*	*0.00%*
94			*Florida Memorial University - Council on the Status of Black Men and Boys*	*350,000*	*350,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
95	58	87	Grants and Aids - Private Colleges and Universities	17,726,000	5,000,000	(12,726,000)	-71.79%
96			*Barry University - First Responder Risk Detection Training*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
97			*Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Aerodynamics Research/Hypersonic Equipment*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*(3,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
98			*Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Aerospace Academy*	*3,000,000*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
99			*Flagler College - The Institute for Classical Education at Flagler College*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
100			*Florida Southern College - Workforce Readiness Expansion (Also in FCO)*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
101			*Jacksonville University - Accelerated Nursing Programs*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
102			*Jacksonville University - EPIC*	*2,000,000*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
103			*Saint Leo University: Cybersecurity and Cyberforensics Training and Education Center (Also in FCO)*	*102,000*	*0*	*(102,000)*	*-100.00%*
104			*Saint Leo University: Nursing Program Expansion to Meet Regional Demand (Also in FCO)*	*624,000*	*0*	*(624,000)*	*-100.00%*
105	59	89	Special Categories - Effective Access To Student Education Grant	136,901,500	147,052,250	10,150,750	7.41%
106			*EASE*	*133,952,000*	*143,741,500*	*9,789,500*	*7.31%*
107			*EASE - Plus*	*2,949,500*	*3,310,750*	*361,250*	*12.25%*
108	59A	93	Grants and Aids - To Local Government and Non-State Entities (FCO)	6,856,883	0	(6,856,883)	-100.00%
109			*Florida Southern College - Workforce Readiness Expansion (Also in Operating)*	*3,775,000*	*0*	*(3,775,000)*	*-100.00%*
110			*Palm Beach Atlantic University - LeMieux Center for Public Policy*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
111			*Saint Leo University: Cybersecurity and Cyberforensics Training and Education Center (Also in Operating)*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
112			*Saint Leo University: Nursing Program Expansion to Meet Regional Demand (Also in Operating)*	*581,883*	*0*	*(581,883)*	*-100.00%*
113			**Total: PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**	**199,506,068**	**187,323,935**	**(12,182,133)**	**-6.11%**
114			**STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - STATE**				
115	3	99	Grants and Aids - Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program	705,181,580	742,947,660	37,766,080	5.36%
116			*Bright Futures Scholarship Program - Workload*	*0*	*37,766,080*	*37,766,080*	*100.00%*
117	60	97	Open Door Grant Program	25,000,000	25,000,000	0	0.00%
118			*District Workforce Education - Restore Nonrecurring*	*10,000,000*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
119			*Florida College System - Restore Nonrecurring*	*15,000,000*	*15,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
120	61	101	Grants and Aids - Benacquisto Scholarship Program	35,172,921	36,288,703	1,115,782	3.17%
121			*Benacquisto Scholarship Program - Workload*	*0*	*1,115,782*	*1,115,782*	*100.00%*
122	62	103	First Generation In College Matching Grant Program	10,617,326	10,617,326	0	0.00%
123	63	105	Prepaid Tuition Scholarships	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	0.00%
124	64	107	Florida Able, Incorporated	1,770,000	1,770,000	0	0.00%
125	65	109	Grants and Aid - Nursing Student Loan Reimbursement / Scholarships	1,233,006	1,233,006	0	0.00%
126	66	111	Mary Mcleod Bethune Scholarship	321,000	321,000	0	0.00%
127	4, 67	113	Student Financial Aid	309,216,409	315,989,175	6,772,766	2.19%
128			*Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased/Disabled Veterans*	*35,566,577*	*43,189,343*	*7,622,766*	*21.43%*
129			*Take Stock in College and Career Program*	*850,000*	*0*	*(850,000)*	*-100.00%*
130	68	117	Out of State Law Enforcement Officers Equivalency and Licensing	250,000	250,000	0	0.00%
131	69	119	Florida First Responder Scholarship Program	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	0.00%
132	70	121	Grants and Aids - Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program	18,050,000	36,936,937	18,886,937	104.64%
133			*Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program - Workload*	*0*	*18,886,937*	*18,886,937*	*100.00%*
134	71	123	Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) - Scholarship Program	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0.00%
135			**Total: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - STATE**	**1,125,812,242**	**1,190,353,807**	**64,541,565**	**5.73%**
136			**STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - FEDERAL**				
137	72	127	Student Financial Aid	100,000	100,000	0	0.00%
138	73	129	Transfer Default Fees to the Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%
139			**Total: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM - FEDERAL**	**105,000**	**105,000**	**0**	**0.00%**

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140			**EARLY LEARNING**				
141	***74***		***FTE Positions***	***97.00***	***97.00***	***0.00***	***0.00%***
142	74	133	Salaries and Benefits	10,127,487	10,127,487	0	0.00%
143	75	135	Other Personal Services	339,000	339,000	0	0.00%
144	76	137	Expenses	1,378,956	1,378,956	0	0.00%
145	77	139	Operating Capital Outlay	20,000	20,000	0	0.00%
146	78	141	Grants and Aids - Contracted Services	30,710,648	16,554,440	(14,156,208)	-46.10%
147			*CCDF Supplemental ARA Child Care Disaster Funds*	*0*	*11,991,901*	*11,991,901*	*100.00%*
148			*CCDF Supplemental Disaster Hurricane Ian - Phase 2*	*10,428,000*	*0*	*(10,428,000)*	*-100.00%*
149			*CCDF Supplemental Non-Disaster Discretionary*	*15,720,109*	*0*	*(15,720,109)*	*-100.00%*
150	79	143	Grants and Aids - Partnership for School Readiness	41,528,957	23,908,957	(17,620,000)	-42.43%
151			*Differential Payment Program*	*3,500,000*	*3,500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
152			*Growing Greatness for Florida's Youngest Children: Empowering Teachers to Improve School Readiness*	*487,500*	*0*	*(487,500)*	*-100.00%*
153			*Help Me Grow Florida Network - Restore CCDF*	*6,508,957*	*6,508,957*	*0*	*0.00%*
154			*Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY) - Restore CCDF*	*3,900,000*	*3,900,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
155			*Early Learning Reading & Math Readiness Pilot*	*237,500*	*0*	*(237,500)*	*-100.00%*
156			*Florida Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
157			*Miami-Dade County Public Schools VPK Expansion of Parental Choice Programs*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
158			*Northeast Florida Summer Bridge for Early Learners*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
159			*Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System (PEARLS)*	*395,000*	*0*	*(395,000)*	*-100.00%*
160			*Seminole County Public Schools' Center for Early Learning*	*650,000*	*0*	*(650,000)*	*-100.00%*
161			*Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H)*	*20,000,000*	*10,000,000*	*(10,000,000)*	*-50.00%*
162			*Tiny Talkers Preschool Initiative*	*350,000*	*0*	*(350,000)*	*-100.00%*
163	80	147	Grants and Aids - School Readiness Services	1,152,783,397	1,136,817,832	(15,965,565)	-1.38%
164			*Differential Payment Program*	*40,000,000*	*45,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*12.50%*
165			*Early Learning Coalitions Allocations*	*978,367,832*	*978,367,832*	*0*	*0.00%*
166			*Fraud Restitution*	*950,000*	*950,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
167			*Gold Seal Quality Care Program*	*70,000,000*	*75,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*7.14%*
168			*School Readiness Hold Harmless*	*30,965,565*	*0*	*(30,965,565)*	*-100.00%*
169			*School Readiness Match Program*	*30,000,000*	*35,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*16.67%*
170			*Special Needs Differential*	*2,500,000*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
171	81	151	Grants and Aids - Sch Readiness Plus Prg	0	4,787,713	4,787,713	100.00%
172			*Workload*	*0*	*4,787,713*	*4,787,713*	*100.00%*
173	82	153	Grants and Aids - Early Learning Standards and Accountability	4,942,601	5,166,847	224,246	4.54%
174			*VPK Program Assessments - Workload*	*0*	*224,246*	*224,246*	*100.00%*
175	83	155	Risk Management Insurance	21,365	21,365	0	0.00%
176	84	157	Grants and Aids - Voluntary Prekindergarten Program	433,773,635	469,724,636	35,951,001	8.29%
177			*VPK - Base Funding*	*430,999,744*	*430,825,416*	*(174,328)*	*-0.04%*
178			*VPK - Base Student Allocation Increase (2%)*	*0*	*8,616,501*	*8,616,501*	*100.00%*
179			*VPK - Summer Bridge Program*	*2,773,891*	*4,112,650*	*1,338,759*	*48.26%*
180			*VPK - VPK Differential*	*0*	*26,170,069*	*26,170,069*	*100.00%*
181	85	161	Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	34,299	34,299	0	0.00%
182	86	163	Education and Technology and Information Services	3,561,011	3,561,011	0	0.00%
183	87	165	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	391,758	391,758	0	0.00%
184			**Total: EARLY LEARNING**	**1,679,613,114**	**1,672,834,301**	**(6,778,813)**	**-0.40%**
185			**STATE GRANTS/K12-FEFP**				
186	5, 88	169	Grants and Aids - Florida Educational Finance Program	13,399,226,254	13,932,462,267	533,236,013	3.98%
187			*Workload Increase*	*0*	*533,236,013*	*533,236,013*	*100.00%*
188	6, 89	173	Grants and Aids - Class Size Reduction	2,650,121,971	2,629,017,025	(21,104,946)	-0.80%
189			*Workload Reduction*	*0*	*(21,104,946)*	*(21,104,946)*	*-100.00%*
190			**Total: STATE GRANTS/K12-FEFP**	**16,049,348,225**	**16,561,479,292**	**512,131,067**	**3.19%**
191			**STATE GRANTS/K12-NON FEFP**				
192	90	179	Grants and Aids - The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	0.00%
193	91	181	Grants and Aids - School Recognition Program	135,000,000	135,000,000	0	0.00%
194	91A	183	Grants and Aids - Assistance to Low Performing Schools	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	0.00%
195	92	185	Grants and Aids - Take Stock In Children	6,125,000	6,125,000	0	0.00%
196	93	187	Grants and Aids - Mentoring/Student Assistance Initiatives	12,247,988	8,097,988	(4,150,000)	-33.88%
197			*Best Buddies*	*700,000*	*700,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
198			*Best Buddies Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative*	*350,000*	*0*	*(350,000)*	*-100.00%*
199			*Big Brothers Big Sisters*	*2,980,248*	*2,980,248*	*0*	*0.00%*
200			*Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs*	*3,652,768*	*3,652,768*	*0*	*0.00%*
201			*Overtown Youth Center – College and Career Readiness*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
202			*Public Safety & Violence Prevention through Mentoring & Career Development*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
203			*Teen Trendsetters*	*300,000*	*0*	*(300,000)*	*-100.00%*
204			*YMCA State Alliance/YMCA Reads*	*1,514,972*	*764,972*	*(750,000)*	*-49.51%*
205			*Youth Matters Mentorship Program*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
206	93A	191	Grants and Aids - College Reach Out Program	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0.00%
207	94	193	Grants and Aids - Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers	8,700,000	8,700,000	0	0.00%
208			*University of Florida*	*1,450,000*	*1,450,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
209			*University of Miami*	*1,450,000*	*1,450,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
210			*Florida State University*	*1,450,000*	*1,450,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
211			*University of South Florida*	*1,450,000*	*1,450,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
212			*University of Florida - Health Science Center at Jacksonville*	*1,450,000*	*1,450,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
213			*Keiser University*	*1,450,000*	*1,450,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
214	95	195	Grants and Aids - School District Education Foundation Matching Grants Program	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	0.00%

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Row #	**Line Item**	**Green Book Page #**	**Category Title/Issue Title**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**
215	96	197	Grants and Aids - Public School Transportation Stipend	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0.00%
216	97	199	Educator Professional Liability Insurance	1,021,560	1,021,560	0	0.00%
217	98	201	Teacher and School Administrator Death Benefits	45,521	55,521	10,000	21.97%
218			*Workload*	*0*	*10,000*	*10,000*	*100.00%*
219	99	203	Risk Management Insurance (FSDB)	613,888	613,888	0	0.00%
220	100	205	Grants and Aids - Autism Program	13,000,000	12,000,000	(1,000,000)	-7.69%
221			*Florida Atlantic University*	*1,386,508*	*1,386,508*	*0*	*0.00%*
222			*Florida State University (College of Medicine)*	*1,483,072*	*1,483,072*	*0*	*0.00%*
223			*University of Central Florida*	*2,467,195*	*2,467,195*	*0*	*0.00%*
224			*University of Florida (College of Medicine)*	*1,431,006*	*1,431,006*	*0*	*0.00%*
225			*University of Florida (Jacksonville)*	*1,276,630*	*1,276,630*	*0*	*0.00%*
226			*University of Miami (Department of Psychology) including $499,979 for activities in Broward County through Nova*	*2,218,340*	*2,218,340*	*0*	*0.00%*
227			*University of South Florida/Florida Mental Health Institute*	*1,737,249*	*1,737,249*	*0*	*0.00%*
228			*Statewide Project for Missing Persons with Special Needs (Supplemental Appropriation)*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
229	101	207	Grants and Aids - Articulated Health Care Programs	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0.00%
230	102	209	Grants and Aids - Regional Education Consortium Services	6,800,000	6,800,000	0	0.00%
231			*Heartland Educational Consortium*	*1,340,009*	*1,340,009*	*0*	*0.00%*
232			*The North East Florida Educational Consortium*	*3,025,465*	*3,025,465*	*0*	*0.00%*
233			*Panhandle Area Educational Consortium*	*2,434,526*	*2,434,526*	*0*	*0.00%*
234	103	211	Teacher Professional Development	9,779,426	9,779,426	0	0.00%
235			*Computer Science Certification and Teacher Bonuses*	*3,000,000*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
236			*Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training*	*5,500,000*	*5,500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
237			*Principal of the Year*	*29,426*	*29,426*	*0*	*0.00%*
238			*School Related Personnel of the Year*	*370,000*	*370,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
239			*Teacher of the Year*	*880,000*	*880,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
240	104	215	Grants and Aids - Strategic Statewide Initiatives	62,112,124	42,207,532	(19,904,592)	-32.05%
241			*All Pro Dad/iMom Fatherhood Literacy and Family Engagement Campaign*	*1,300,000*	*0*	*(1,300,000)*	*-100.00%*
242			*Big Brothers Big Sisters Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success (BISS) Project*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
243			*Charity for Change Program*	*4,702,500*	*4,702,500*	*0*	*0.00%*
244			*Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches*	*3,000,000*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
245			*Civics Professional Learning (Development)*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
246			*Early Childhood Music Education Program*	*400,000*	*400,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
247			*Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs - Workforce Development Programs*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
248			*Florida Arts and Tourism Economic Development Initiative*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
249			*Florida Center for Teaching Excellence*	*0*	*1,000,000*	*1,000,000*	*100.00%*
250			*Florida Civics Seal of Excellence*	*7,000,000*	*7,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
251			*Florida Civics and Debate Initiative*	*1,500,000*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
252			*Florida Council on Economic Education: Expanding Access to Financial Literacy Education Resources*	*275,000*	*0*	*(275,000)*	*-100.00%*
253			*Florida Debate Initiative*	*2,400,000*	*0*	*(2,400,000)*	*-100.00%*
254			*Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation - Miami-Dade College*	*2,000,000*	*3,500,000*	*1,500,000*	*75.00%*
255			*Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)*	*1,073,911*	*1,073,911*	*0*	*0.00%*
256			*Florida Safe Schools Canine Program*	*3,306,121*	*3,306,121*	*0*	*0.00%*
257			*Florida School Safety Portal*	*3,000,000*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
258			*Growing the Game and Lifelong Values*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
259			*Hate Ends Now Traveling Holocaust Cattle Car Exhibit*	*206,855*	*0*	*(206,855)*	*-100.00%*
260			*History of Communism Curriculum*	*725,000*	*0*	*(725,000)*	*-100.00%*
261			*Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach - David Schaecter Holocaust Education Initiative*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
262			*Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics - Mathematics Instructional Coaching Team*	*0*	*1,500,000*	*1,500,000*	*100.00%*
263			*Learning Through Listening/Dyslexia Awareness Professional Learning (Also in Grants and Aids - Exceptional Education)*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
264			*Maritime Workforce Development Instruction*	*750,000*	*0*	*(750,000)*	*-100.00%*
265			*Mobile Museums of Tolerance - Florida*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
266			*Patriotic Displays In Classrooms*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
267			*Regional Literacy Teams*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
268			*School Bond Issuance Database*	*670,223*	*0*	*(670,223)*	*-100.00%*
269			*School District Threat Management Coordinators*	*5,000,000*	*5,425,000*	*425,000*	*8.50%*
270			*Securing the Continuation of the State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida: Project Year 4 of 5*	*150,000*	*0*	*(150,000)*	*-100.00%*
271			*Special Olympics Florida - Unified Champions Schools (Also in Grants and Aids - Exceptional Education)*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
272			*Statewide Adolescent Literacy Initiative Partnership*	*0*	*1,300,000*	*1,300,000*	*100.00%*
273			*State Instructional Materials Adoption Process*	*0*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*100.00%*
274			*Virtual College Tours for Every Florida High School Student*	*375,000*	*0*	*(375,000)*	*-100.00%*
275			*Vision Is Priceless - Sight in Schools Program*	*125,000*	*0*	*(125,000)*	*-100.00%*
276			*Workforce Development in High School Classrooms with 3DE by Junior Achievement*	*2,952,514*	*0*	*(2,952,514)*	*-100.00%*
277	105	225	Schools of Hope	0	25,000,000	25,000,000	100.00%
278			*Workload*	*0*	*25,000,000*	*25,000,000*	*100.00%*
279	106	227	Grants and Aids - New World School of the Arts	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
280	107	229	Grants and Aids - Seed School of Miami	12,758,388	13,320,288	561,900	4.40%
281			*Workload*	*0*	*561,900*	*561,900*	*100.00%*
282	108	231	Grants and Aids - School and Instructional Enhancements	51,078,951	11,806,168	(39,272,783)	-76.89%
283			*ACT Expansion: Advancing Graduation & Career Readiness*	*125,000*	*0*	*(125,000)*	*-100.00%*
284			*Aerospace & Technology Pathway - Jimmy Graham Foundation*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
285			*African American Task Force*	*100,000*	*100,000*	*0*	*0.00%*

Department of Education
Prepared by Bureau of Budget Management
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Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	2026-27 Ch. 2026-232 LOF 07/01/26 Total All Funds	2027-28 Legislative Budget Request 09/09/26 Total All Funds	2027-28 LBR over/(under) 2026-27 Appropriation Total All Funds	% 2027-28 LBR over/(under) 2026-27 Appropriation Total All Funds
286			*After-School All-Stars*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
287			*Afterschool Literacy and Activities Program*	*527,863*	*0*	*(527,863)*	*-100.00%*
288			*Agricultural Technology & Workforce Education Initiative*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
289			*AMI Kids*	*1,100,000*	*1,100,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
290			*Applied Water Resource Technology Career Training Program*	*775,000*	*0*	*(775,000)*	*-100.00%*
291			*ARI/Big Bend Historical and Archaeological Education Project*	*400,000*	*0*	*(400,000)*	*-100.00%*
292			*ARK Innovation Center at Pinellas County Schools (Also in FCO)*	*615,000*	*0*	*(615,000)*	*-100.00%*
293			*Boca Raton High School Robotics Lab and Teams Expansion – Palm Beach County School District*	*350,000*	*0*	*(350,000)*	*-100.00%*
294			*Breakthrough Miami Inc.*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
295			*Busch Wildlife Sanctuary's Environmental Education Program*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
296			*Campus Guardian Angel Pilot Program*	*564,500*	*0*	*(564,500)*	*-100.00%*
297			*Career Pathways - Building Florida's Workforce*	*350,000*	*0*	*(350,000)*	*-100.00%*
298			*Cathedral Arts Project Education Programs*	*991,758*	*0*	*(991,758)*	*-100.00%*
299			*Clay County District Schools - Health Science Programs*	*488,400*	*0*	*(488,400)*	*-100.00%*
300			*Closing Florida's Reading Gap: Building the Workforce of Tomorrow Through Early Literacy*	*600,000*	*0*	*(600,000)*	*-100.00%*
301			*Crestview Robotics and STEM Hub (CRASH) --- STEM Expansion and Workforce Pipeline*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
302			*CrossTown After School Program and SIE*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
303			*Cuban Museum Inc. Public Humanities Programs Preservation & Expansion (Also in FCO)*	*400,000*	*0*	*(400,000)*	*-100.00%*
304			*Empowered of Central Florida Expansion of the Rock Program into Levy, Citrus and Sumter Counties*	*400,000*	*0*	*(400,000)*	*-100.00%*
305			*First Coast High School Maritime Academy (Also in FCO)*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
306			*First Tee Tallahassee Learning Center - Fairways to Futures: Character Development Program Expansion*	*300,000*	*0*	*(300,000)*	*-100.00%*
307			*Florida Holocaust Museum*	*600,000*	*600,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
308			*Florida Repertory Theatre Fine Arts Education Initiative*	*370,000*	*0*	*(370,000)*	*-100.00%*
309			*Girl Scouts of Florida*	*267,635*	*267,635*	*0*	*0.00%*
310			*Glades Workforce Expansion (West Technical Education Center)*	*372,867*	*0*	*(372,867)*	*-100.00%*
311			*Hands of Mercy Everywhere Teen Moms and At-Risk Youth Prep Vocational Training*	*594,810*	*0*	*(594,810)*	*-100.00%*
312			*High School Math Oncology Internship Program*	*100,000*	*0*	*(100,000)*	*-100.00%*
313			*Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach*	*66,501*	*66,501*	*0*	*0.00%*
314			*Holocaust Task Force*	*100,000*	*100,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
315			*HSU Educational Foundation - Proposal for Non-public CTE Certification Program*	*150,000*	*0*	*(150,000)*	*-100.00%*
316			*inSIGHT Through Education - Traveling Holocaust Exhibit*	*82,500*	*0*	*(82,500)*	*-100.00%*
317			*Jackson County School District - JROTC Startup*	*129,384*	*0*	*(129,384)*	*-100.00%*
318			*Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) - What A Leader (W.A.L.) Program (Also in FCO)*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
319			*Jewish Day School Student Transportation Safety Initiative*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
320			*K-12 Student Engagement at the Kennedy Space Center*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
321			*Lake Minneola High School - Robotics Program (Also in FCO)*	*75,000*	*0*	*(75,000)*	*-100.00%*
322			*"Learning in Motion": The Crossroad Playground Project (Also in FCO)*	*30,000*	*0*	*(30,000)*	*-100.00%*
323			*Links to Success (Also in FCO)*	*585,000*	*0*	*(585,000)*	*-100.00%*
324			*Lubavitch Hebrew Academy Wellness Center*	*400,000*	*0*	*(400,000)*	*-100.00%*
325			*Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Classical Education Model*	*450,000*	*0*	*(450,000)*	*-100.00%*
326			*Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
327			*Miami-Dade County Public Schools SpaceHUB @ Booker T. Washington High School (Also in FCO)*	*44,000*	*0*	*(44,000)*	*-100.00%*
328			*National Flight Academy*	*650,000*	*0*	*(650,000)*	*-100.00%*
329			*Nicklaus Children's Student - Athlete EKG Screening Program*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
330			*North Florida After School Agriculture and Arts Program*	*490,000*	*0*	*(490,000)*	*-100.00%*
331			*Okaloosa County Schools Classroom Technology*	*350,000*	*0*	*(350,000)*	*-100.00%*
332			*Parks & Police 4Kids Community Program for At-Risk Youth*	*150,000*	*0*	*(150,000)*	*-100.00%*
333			*Pasco High School Athletic Complex (Also in FCO)*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
334			*Pinellas County: Expanding Access to Youth Athletics and Water Safety*	*880,000*	*0*	*(880,000)*	*-100.00%*
335			*Powerhouse Youth Project*	*400,000*	*0*	*(400,000)*	*-100.00%*
336			*Prevention First: Expanding School-Based Mental Health*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
337			*Project MPACT (Making Priorities Align for Community Transformation)*	*125,000*	*0*	*(125,000)*	*-100.00%*
338			*Putnam County School District - Engineering Pathways and Aviation Maintenance (Also in FCO)*	*473,035*	*0*	*(473,035)*	*-100.00%*
339			*READ USA Workforce Development Program Through Literacy Tutoring*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
340			*Roosevelt Elementary School Program Enhancements*	*440,000*	*0*	*(440,000)*	*-100.00%*
341			*Safer, Smarter Schools*	*2,000,000*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
342			*School District of Lee County - Student Transportation System and Safety Equipment Update*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
343			*Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools (Also in FCO)*	*15,000,000*	*7,500,000*	*(7,500,000)*	*-50.00%*
344			*Soaring Forward: Soar in 4 Lab Expansion (Manatee) (Also in FCO)*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*

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Row #	**Line Item**	**Green Book Page #**	**Category Title/Issue Title**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**
345			*South Florida Autism Charter Schools - Expansion (Also in FCO)*	*525,000*	*0*	*(525,000)*	*-100.00%*
346			*State Academic Tournament*	*125,000*	*0*	*(125,000)*	*-100.00%*
347			*State Science Fair*	*72,032*	*72,032*	*0*	*0.00%*
348			*Taylor County School District Technology Upgrades*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
349			*The Center Presents Wonder Works - Florida Youth Innovation and Workforce Skills Initiative*	*881,000*	*0*	*(881,000)*	*-100.00%*
350			*The Charlie Ward Champions Ranch Phase 1A: Multi-Sport Field, Cafe/Program Building and Programs (Also in FCO)*	*300,000*	*0*	*(300,000)*	*-100.00%*
351			*The Dali: Expanding Education and Outreach*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
352			*The Last Ones of Auschwitz: Teaching Through Testimony (Book Program)*	*487,500*	*0*	*(487,500)*	*-100.00%*
353			*The Shul of Bal Harbour Family Initiative: Jewish Mothers & Babies of South Florida*	*650,000*	*0*	*(650,000)*	*-100.00%*
354			*Victory High Schools*	*300,000*	*0*	*(300,000)*	*-100.00%*
355			*Virtual Tutoring Program Supporting Duval County Public School Students*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
356			*WOFT: Teacher Safety Training Program*	*475,000*	*0*	*(475,000)*	*-100.00%*
357			*Young Dreams Community Outreach Center and Empowerment Hub*	*100,166*	*0*	*(100,166)*	*-100.00%*
358			*Young Musicians Unite: Student Retention and Engagement Initiative*	*600,000*	*0*	*(600,000)*	*-100.00%*
359			*ZeroEyes AI Firearm Detection - Miami Dade*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
360	109	237	Grants and Aids - Exceptional Education	12,260,483	8,152,816	(4,107,667)	-33.50%
361			*Auditory-Oral Education Grant Funding*	*750,000*	*750,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
362			*Behavioral Challenges Therapeutic Inclusion Program - Creating Pathways to Possibilities for Individuals with Autism, Down syndrome & Developmental Disabilities*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
363			*Best Buddies Jobs Project*	*400,000*	*0*	*(400,000)*	*-100.00%*
364			*Bridging the Gap: Therapeutic Education with the No Limits Method*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
365			*Broward Schools - Strengthening ESE Support*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
366			*Comprehensive Health and Mentoring Program (CHAMP) for At Risk and Developmentally Disabled Students and Young Adults (First Tee)*	*225,000*	*0*	*(225,000)*	*-100.00%*
367			*Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers*	*577,758*	*577,758*	*0*	*0.00%*
368			*Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired*	*270,987*	*270,987*	*0*	*0.00%*
369			*Learning Through Listening/Dyslexia Awareness Professional Learning (Also in Grants and Aids - Strategic Statewide Initiatives)*	*1,141,704*	*1,141,704*	*0*	*0.00%*
370			*Love Serving Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program*	*450,000*	*0*	*(450,000)*	*-100.00%*
371			*Miami Lighthouse Academy*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
372			*Multi-Agency Service Network for Students with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Disturbance*	*750,322*	*750,322*	*0*	*0.00%*
373			*Portal to Exceptional Education Resources (PEER)*	*786,217*	*786,217*	*0*	*0.00%*
374			*Resource Materials Technology Center for Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing*	*191,828*	*191,828*	*0*	*0.00%*
375			*School District Exceptional Student Evaluation Grant Program*	*1,000,000*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
376			*Seffner Christian Academy School - Expansion for Children with Special Needs (Also in FCO)*	*416,667*	*0*	*(416,667)*	*-100.00%*
377			*Special Olympics Florida (Also in Grants and Aids - Strategic Statewide Initiatives)*	*250,000*	*250,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
378			*The Bridge to Speech*	*1,750,000*	*1,750,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
379			*The Family Café*	*1,350,000*	*350,000*	*(1,000,000)*	*-74.07%*
380			*Very Special Arts*	*500,000*	*334,000*	*(166,000)*	*-33.20%*
381	110	241	Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind	82,473,890	82,473,890	0	0.00%
382	111	243	Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	263,154	263,154	0	0.00%
383	111A	245	FCO Public Schools Special Projects	26,188,000	0	(26,188,000)	-100.00%
384			*Academy at the Farm Middle School*	*14,000,000*	*0*	*(14,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
385			*ARK Innovation Center at Pinellas County Schools (Also in Operating)*	*385,000*	*0*	*(385,000)*	*-100.00%*
386			*Bay District Schools - Deane Bozeman School Agriculture Center*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
387			*First Coast High School Maritime Academy (Also in Operating)*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
388			*Global Leadership Academy Athletic Facility Completion Project*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
389			*Jacksonville Classical Academy Expansion (Soccer / Football Field)*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*(3,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
390			*Lake Minneola High School - Robotics Program (Also in Operating)*	*15,000*	*0*	*(15,000)*	*-100.00%*
391			*"Learning in Motion": The Crossroad Playground Project (Also in Operating)*	*10,000*	*0*	*(10,000)*	*-100.00%*
392			*Miami-Dade County Public Schools SpaceHUB @ Booker T. Washington High School (Also in Operating)*	*56,000*	*0*	*(56,000)*	*-100.00%*
393			*Pasco High School Athletic Complex (Also in Operating)*	*5,300,000*	*0*	*(5,300,000)*	*-100.00%*
394			*Putnam County School District - Engineering Pathways and Aviation Maintenance (Also in Operating)*	*447,000*	*0*	*(447,000)*	*-100.00%*
395			*Soaring Forward: Soar in 4 Lab Expansion (Manatee) (Also in Operating)*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
396			*South Florida Autism Charter Schools - Expansion (Also in Operating)*	*1,875,000*	*0*	*(1,875,000)*	*-100.00%*
397	112	247	FCO Public School Hardening	20,000,000	42,000,000	22,000,000	110.00%
398	113	249	FCO Facility Repairs/Maintenance/Construction - Nonpublic Entities	28,331,146	5,000,000	(23,331,146)	-82.35%
399			*Achievement Centers: Safe and Secure Learning Environments*	*121,116*	*0*	*(121,116)*	*-100.00%*
400			*Boys & Girls Club & Teen Workforce Readiness Center of West Palm Beach*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
401			*Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County Capital Project - Basketball Pavilion*	*212,500*	*0*	*(212,500)*	*-100.00%*
402			*Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County Lincoln Park Clubhouse*	*995,000*	*0*	*(995,000)*	*-100.00%*

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Row #	**Line Item**	**Green Book Page #**	**Category Title/Issue Title**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**
403			*Carol Boies Teen Center/Facility Improvements*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
404			*Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation - Chi Chi Academy Upgrade & Expansion*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*(3,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
405			*Cuban Museum Inc. Public Humanities Programs Preservation & Expansion (Also in Operating)*	*150,000*	*0*	*(150,000)*	*-100.00%*
406			*FCS School Safety Upgrade*	*187,500*	*0*	*(187,500)*	*-100.00%*
407			*First Tee Tallahassee Learning Center - Building a Home FORE Our Future: Youth Character and Development Program Expansion*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
408			*Florida Dyslexia Literacy Center*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
409			*Grants to Private Schools in a Financially Disadvantaged Community*	*7,000,000*	*0*	*(7,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
410			*Hobe Sound Boys & Girls Club Construction*	*750,000*	*0*	*(750,000)*	*-100.00%*
411			*Holy Trinity Episcopal School (HTES) Expansion Project*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
412			*Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) - What A Leader (W.A.L.) Program (Also in Operating)*	*200,000*	*0*	*(200,000)*	*-100.00%*
413			*Links to Success (Also in Operating)*	*115,000*	*0*	*(115,000)*	*-100.00%*
414			*Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools (Also in Operating)*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
415			*Seffner Christian Academy School - Expansion for Children with Special Needs (Also in Operating)*	*4,583,333*	*0*	*(4,583,333)*	*-100.00%*
416			*The Charlie Ward Champions Ranch Phase 1A: Multi-Sport Field, Cafe/Program Building and Programs (Also in Operating)*	*666,697*	*0*	*(666,697)*	*-100.00%*
417			*The Children's Complex Roof Replacement*	*750,000*	*0*	*(750,000)*	*-100.00%*
418			*Thrive Academy - Babcock Ranch*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
419			*Treasure Coast Wildlife Education Center*	*350,000*	*0*	*(350,000)*	*-100.00%*
420			**Total: STATE GRANTS/K12-NON FEFP**	**512,799,519**	**442,417,231**	**(70,382,288)**	**-13.73%**
421			**FEDERAL GRANTS K-12 PROGRAM**				
422	114	253	Grants and Aids - Projects, Contracts and Grants	3,999,420	3,999,420	0	0.00%
423	115	255	Grants and Aids - Federal Grants and Aids	2,546,421,313	2,546,421,313	0	0.00%
424	116	259	Domestic Security	5,409,971	5,409,971	0	0.00%
425			**Total: FEDERAL GRANTS K-12 PROGRAM**	**2,555,830,704**	**2,555,830,704**	**0**	**0.00%**
426			**EDUCATIONAL MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**				
427	117	263	Capitol Technical Center	224,624	224,624	0	0.00%
428	118	265	Grants and Aids - Public Broadcasting	5,168,721	5,168,721	0	0.00%
429			*Florida Channel*	*4,912,451*	*4,912,451*	*0*	*0.00%*
430			*Florida Public Radio Emergency Network Storm Center*	*256,270*	*256,270*	*0*	*0.00%*
431			*Public Radio Stations*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0.00%*
432			*Public Television Stations*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0.00%*
433			**Total: EDUCATIONAL MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**	**5,393,345**	**5,393,345**	**0**	**0.00%**
434			**CAREER AND ADULT EDUCATION (WORKFORCE)**				
435	119	269	Performance Based Incentives (Also in Colleges)	8,500,000	12,500,000	4,000,000	47.06%
436	120	271	Grants and Aids - Adult Basic Education Federal Flow-Through Funds	63,288,749	63,288,749	0	0.00%
437	7, 121	273	Workforce Development	473,509,975	497,715,274	24,205,299	5.11%
438	122	275	Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program	40,000,000	100,000,000	60,000,000	150.00%
439	123	277	Grants and Aids - Pathways to Career Opportunities	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0.00%
440			*Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program*	*15,000,000*	*15,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
441			*Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program Expansion*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
442	124	279	Grants and Aids - Vocational Formula Funds	94,363,333	94,363,333	0	0.00%
443	125	281	Grants and Aids - Nursing Education (PIPELINE) (Also in Colleges)	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0.00%
444	126	283	Grants and Aids - Strategic Statewide Initiatives	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	0.00%
445			*Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) - Startup Grant*	*2,000,000*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
446			*Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) - Program Performance Fund*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
447	126A	285	Grants and Aids - School and Instructional Enhancements	8,238,000	0	(8,238,000)	-100.00%
448			*Achieve Miami's Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP)*	*375,000*	*0*	*(375,000)*	*-100.00%*
449			*Associated Builders and Contractors - ABC Institute Flagship Apprenticeship Training Academy*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
450			*Charlotte County Public Schools - Southwest Florida Welding Workforce Development Program*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
451			*CodeBoxx: Building Florida's Technology Workforce*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
452			*Fort Lauderdale Aviation Technical Training Program*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
453			*Jacksonville Sports Foundation - Florida Sports Workforce Apprenticeship Initiative*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
454			*JAX Chamber Foundation - The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative*	*175,000*	*0*	*(175,000)*	*-100.00%*
455			*Jewish Culinary Program: The Shul of Downtown/Brickell & Groot Hospitality*	*900,000*	*0*	*(900,000)*	*-100.00%*
456			*Miami-Dade County Public Schools - George T. Baker Aviation and Aerospace Technical College - Equipment*	*100,000*	*0*	*(100,000)*	*-100.00%*
457			*Project BUILD SWFL - Heavy Equipment Simulator Workforce Training Initiative*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
458			*Ring Power Corporation - Technician Apprenticeship Program and Education Partnership*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
459			*ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
460			*Southwest Florida Service Academy - Critical First Responder Facility, Safety & Security Updates (Also in FCO)*	*188,000*	*0*	*(188,000)*	*-100.00%*
461	126B	287	Facility Repairs/Maintenance/Construction	1,686,000	0	(1,686,000)	-100.00%
462			*Heights CareerTech Institute*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*

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Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
463			*Southwest Florida Service Academy - Critical First Responder Facility, Safety & Security Updates (Also in Operating)*	*186,000*	*0*	*(186,000)*	*-100.00%*
464			**Total: CAREER AND ADULT EDUCATION (WORKFORCE)**	**732,086,057**	**810,367,356**	**78,281,299**	**10.69%**
465			**FLORIDA COLLEGES**				
466	127	293	Performance Based Incentives (Also in Workforce)	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0.00%
467	128	295	Student Success Incentive Funds	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	0.00%
468			*2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund*	*17,000,000*	*17,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
469			*Workforce Florida Student Success Incentive Funds*	*13,000,000*	*13,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
470	8, 129	297	Grants and Aids - Florida College System Program Fund	1,729,263,676	1,810,210,108	80,946,432	4.68%
471			*Base Operating Funds in the Florida College System Program*	*1,663,303,837*	*1,763,303,837*	*100,000,000*	*6.01%*
472			*Base Operational Support - Florida Gateway College*	*2,000,000*	*1,000,000*	*(1,000,000)*	*-50.00%*
473			*Base Operational Support - Florida State College at Jacksonville*	*2,000,000*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
474			*Base Operational Support - Florida Southwestern State College*	*2,000,000*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
475			*Base Operational Support - Miami Dade College*	*21,000,000*	*20,400,000*	*(600,000)*	*-2.86%*
476			*Base Operational Support - North Florida College*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
477			*Base Operational Support - Seminole State College*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
478			*Base Operational Support - State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota*	*2,000,000*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
479			*Base Operational Support - South Florida State College*	*1,000,000*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
480			*Base Operational Support - Pasco-Hernando State College*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
481			*Base Operational Support - Pensacola State College*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
482			*Base Operational Support - St. Pete College*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
483			*Base Operational Support - St. Johns River College*	*3,000,000*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
484			*Base Operational Support - Tallahassee State College*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
485			*Base Operational Support - Valencia College*	*3,000,000*	*3,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
486			*Base Operational Support - Chipola College Civil and Industrial Engineering Program*	*200,000*	*200,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
487			*Base Operational Support - Daytona State College Advanced Technology Center*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
488			*Base Operational Support - Hillsborough Community College Regional Transportation Training Center*	*2,500,000*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
489			*Base Operational Support - Pasco-Hernando State College STEM Stackable*	*2,306,271*	*2,306,271*	*0*	*0.00%*
490			*College of Central Florida - Critical Workforce Program Expansion*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
491			*Daytona State College - Specialized Equipment for Center for Aerospace and Advanced Technical Education*	*929,962*	*0*	*(929,962)*	*-100.00%*
492			*Florida SouthWestern State College - Equipping Applied Science Laboratories - Multiple Campuses*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
493			*Miami Dade College - Institute for Freedom in the Americas*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
494			*Northwest Florida State College - South Walton Center Hospitality Program*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
495			*Palm Beach State College - Transportation Technology Expansion Project*	*1,100,000*	*0*	*(1,100,000)*	*-100.00%*
496			*Pasco-Hernando State College Porter Campus Nursing and Allied Health Advancement Institute*	*850,000*	*0*	*(850,000)*	*-100.00%*
497			*Pensacola State College - All Campuses - Expanding Military & Veterans Service Center (Also in FCO)*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
498			*Seminole State College - Amplify@SSC: Advanced Manufacturing (Also in FCO)*	*577,810*	*0*	*(577,810)*	*-100.00%*
499			*South Florida State College - Prepared to Protect: EMS and Fire Readiness*	*750,000*	*0*	*(750,000)*	*-100.00%*
500			*South Florida State College - Rural Success and Readiness: Testing Center Modernization*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
501			*St. Petersburg College - Applied Mental Health Certificate for First Responders*	*501,000*	*0*	*(501,000)*	*-100.00%*
502			*St. Petersburg College - Law Enforcement and Field Training Support*	*494,796*	*0*	*(494,796)*	*-100.00%*
503			*State College CDL Consortium - State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota*	*3,500,000*	*0*	*(3,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
504	130	299	Grants and Aids - Post Secondary Guardian Program	4,200,000	4,200,000	0	0.00%
505	131	301	Grants and Aids - Nursing Education (Also in Workforce)	64,000,000	64,000,000	0	0.00%
506			*Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners Through Incentives for Nursing education (PIPELINE) Fund*	*40,000,000*	*40,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
507			*Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE)*	*24,000,000*	*24,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
508	132	303	Grants and Aids - Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network	10,903,169	10,903,169	0	0.00%
509	132A	305	Grants and Aids - Florida College System Campus Safety and Security	0	50,000,000	50,000,000	100.00%
510	133	307	Commission on Community Service	1,483,749	1,483,749	0	0.00%
511	133AA	309	Grants and Aids - Strategic Statewide Initiatives	0	436,800	436,800	100.00%
512			*Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool - FCS Postsecondary Addition*	*0*	*436,800*	*436,800*	*100.00%*
513	133A	311	Grants and Aids - Higher Education: Projects Non-State Entities	1,400,000	0	(1,400,000)	-100.00%
514			*Greater Miami Jewish Federation - Miami Alliance Against Antisemitism: Higher Education Initiative*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
515			*Jewish Campus Life Initiative: Standing Against Antisemitism Across Florida*	*900,000*	*0*	*(900,000)*	*-100.00%*
516	133B	313	Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonstate Entities - Fixed Capital Outlay - Facility Repairs Maintenance and Construction	3,655,027	0	(3,655,027)	-100.00%
517			*Dale Mabry Army Air Field Museum - American Liberty Plaza*	*182,837*	*0*	*(182,837)*	*-100.00%*
518			*Pensacola State College - All Campuses - Expanding Military & Veterans Service Center (Also in Operating)*	*250,000*	*0*	*(250,000)*	*-100.00%*
519			*Pasco-Hernando State College - West Campus YMCA*	*3,200,000*	*0*	*(3,200,000)*	*-100.00%*
520			*Seminole State College - Amplify@SSC: Advanced Manufacturing (Also in Operating)*	*22,190*	*0*	*(22,190)*	*-100.00%*
521			**Total: FLORIDA COLLEGES**	**1,864,905,621**	**1,991,233,826**	**126,328,205**	**6.77%**

Department of Education
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Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	2026-27 Ch. 2026-232 LOF 07/01/26 Total All Funds	2027-28 Legislative Budget Request 09/09/26 Total All Funds	2027-28 LBR over/(under) 2026-27 Appropriation Total All Funds	% 2027-28 LBR over/(under) 2026-27 Appropriation Total All Funds
522			**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**				
523	***134***		***FTE Positions***	***904.00***	***906.00***	***2.00***	***0.22%***
524	134	319	Salaries and Benefits	84,066,641	84,238,815	172,174	0.20%
525			*2 FTE - CAE - Workforce Cap*	*0*	*172,174*	*172,174*	*100.00%*
526	135	321	Other Personal Services	1,479,345	1,479,345	0	0.00%
527	136	323	Expenses	11,117,403	11,142,627	25,224	0.23%
528			*2 FTE - CAE - Workforce Cap*	*0*	*25,224*	*25,224*	*100.00%*
529			*Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*	*45,187*	*45,187*	*0*	*0.00%*
530			*Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact*	*46,623*	*46,623*	*0*	*0.00%*
531	137	327	Operating Capital Outlay	589,000	589,000	0	0.00%
532	138	329	Assessment and Evaluation	127,830,947	133,809,369	5,978,422	4.68%
533			*Prek-12 Assessments - Articulated Acceleration - Advanced Courses Assessments (Florida Advanced Courses & Tests - FACT)*	*0*	*1,500,000*	*1,500,000*	*100.00%*
534			*Prek-12 Assessments - College Entrance Assessments*	*8,000,000*	*8,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
535			*Prek-12 Assessments - Statewide Standardized Assessments and Others*	*105,353,394*	*109,160,744*	*3,807,350*	*3.61%*
536			*Postsecondary Assessments - Teacher Certification Exam & Educator Leadership Exam (FTCE / FELE)*	*13,848,625*	*13,848,625*	*0*	*0.00%*
537			*Postsecondary Assessments - Florida Teacher Excellence Exam (FTEE) Assessment*	*628,928*	*1,300,000*	*671,072*	*106.70%*
538	139	333	Transfer to Division of Administrative Hearings	400,391	400,391	0	0.00%
539	140	335	Contracted Services	56,867,779	73,267,434	16,399,655	28.84%
540			*Articulated Acceleration - Advanced Courses (Florida Advanced Courses & Tests- FACT)*	*0*	*1,500,000*	*1,500,000*	*100.00%*
541			*Career Planning and Work-Based Learning Coordination System*	*4,000,000*	*4,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
542			*CPALMS/FLIM (District Tools)*	*4,864,617*	*4,864,617*	*0*	*0.00%*
543			*DOE Unified Program Management Infrastructure - Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit*	*2,000,000*	*0*	*(2,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
544			*Early Learning Customer Service Survey Implementation*	*300,000*	*300,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
545			*Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP) - Workforce Development Information System Dashboard*	*1,045,000*	*1,045,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
546			*Florida Charter School Review Commission*	*455,000*	*455,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
547			*Florida Empowerment Scholarship*	*150,000*	*150,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
548			*Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program*	*250,000*	*250,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
549			*Florida WINS System Integration*	*0*	*942,250*	*942,250*	*100.00%*
550			*Grant Management Application System*	*500,000*	*500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
551			*Litigation Costs*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
552			*School Choice Online Portal*	*0*	*2,200,000*	*2,200,000*	*100.00%*
553			*School Choice Web Applications & Database Update*	*845,250*	*1,003,655*	*158,405*	*18.74%*
554			*School Safety - Active Shooter Training*	*100,000*	*100,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
555			*School Safety - Alarm Systems / Alyssa's Alert*	*6,400,000*	*6,400,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
556			*School Safety - Alarm Systems / Alyssa's Alert - Centralization*	*450,000*	*450,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
557			*School Safety - Training*	*825,000*	*825,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
558			*State Apprenticeship Expansion*	*0*	*1,500,000*	*1,500,000*	*100.00%*
559			*Statewide Educator Recruitment Tool*	*846,000*	*1,000,000*	*154,000*	*18.20%*
560			*Sunshine State Debate*	*0*	*115,000*	*115,000*	*100.00%*
561			*Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program*	*500,000*	*1,000,000*	*500,000*	*100.00%*
562			*Enterprise Mainframe Modernization (Feasibility Study for Modernization of Department Mainframe Application Systems and Processes)*	*0*	*11,330,000*	*11,330,000*	*100.00%*
563			*Transparency Tool*	*3,500,000*	*3,500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
564	141	345	Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) Readiness	483,189	483,189	0	0.00%
565			*Restore nonrecurring*	*0*	*483,189*	*483,189*	*100.00%*
566	142	347	Cloud Computing Services	5,500,000	6,500,000	1,000,000	18.18%
567			*School Safety - Statewide Information Sharing System*	*4,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*1,000,000*	*25.00%*
568			*School Safety - School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System (SESIR)*	*1,500,000*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*0.00%*
569	143	349	Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency	116,057	116,057	0	0.00%
570	144	351	Educational Facilities Research and Development Projects	200,000	200,000	0	0.00%
571	145	353	Risk Management Insurance	724,782	724,782	0	0.00%
572	146	355	Transfer to Department of Management Services - Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract	336,405	337,117	712	0.21%
573			*2 FTE - CAE - Workforce Cap*	*0*	*712*	*712*	*100.00%*
574	147	357	Education Technology and Information Services	16,914,108	16,941,710	27,602	0.16%
575			*2 FTE - CAE - Workforce Cap*	*0*	*27,602*	*27,602*	*100.00%*
576	148	361	Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)	9,508,527	9,508,527	0	0.00%
577			**Total: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**	**316,134,574**	**339,738,363**	**23,603,789**	**7.47%**
578			**Total Department of Education - Operating**	**25,393,565,108**	**26,116,408,548**	**722,843,440**	**2.85%**
579			**FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY**				
580	14	371	State University System Capital Improvement Fee Projects	53,789,000	59,571,000	5,782,000	10.75%
581	15	373	Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, and Remodeling	260,235,971	575,447,407	315,211,436	121.13%
582			*Charter Schools*	*260,235,971*	*274,107,224*	*13,871,253*	*5.33%*
583			*Public Schools*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0.00%*
584			*Florida College System*	*0*	*167,719,215*	*167,719,215*	*100.00%*
585			*State University System*	*0*	*133,620,968*	*133,620,968*	*100.00%*
586	16	377	Survey Recommended Needs - Public Schools	11,569,642	12,247,749	678,107	5.86%
587			*Lab Schools and Charters Sponsored by State University or Florida College System*	*11,569,642*	*12,247,749*	*678,107*	*5.86%*
588	16A	381	Florida College System Projects	197,339,884	62,995,896	(134,343,988)	-68.08%
589			*Broward College - North Campus Building 56 & Building 57 Remodel into STEM and Nursing Expansion*	*4,000,000*	*0*	*(4,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
590			*Daytona State College - Airframe/Power Plant, Daytona Beach*	*12,251,578*	*0*	*(12,251,578)*	*-100.00%*
591			*Eastern Florida State College - Dental Program Relocation and Expansion*	*3,300,000*	*0*	*(3,300,000)*	*-100.00%*

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Row #	Line Item	Green Book Page #	Category Title/Issue Title	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
592			*Florida Gateway College - ADA Compliance/Bathroom Renovation for Howard Conference Center*	*850,000*	*0*	*(850,000)*	*-100.00%*
593			*Florida Gateway College - Allied Health Building Roof and HVAC Replacement*	*900,000*	*0*	*(900,000)*	*-100.00%*
594			*Florida Southwestern College - Charlotte Bldg E Health Professions (Nursing) Remodel*	*2,464,530*	*0*	*(2,464,530)*	*-100.00%*
595			*Florida Southwestern College - Charlotte Bldg G Yarger Science Hall STEM Remodel*	*7,092,094*	*0*	*(7,092,094)*	*-100.00%*
596			*Gulf Coast State College - HVAC and Other Infrastructure Improvements*	*4,000,000*	*0*	*(4,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
597			*Hillsborough College - Campus Improvements*	*50,000,000*	*0*	*(50,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
598			*Hillsborough College - Plant City Campus Workforce Center*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
599			*Lake-Sumter State College - Campus HVAC Repairs and Upgrades*	*430,000*	*0*	*(430,000)*	*-100.00%*
600			*Miami Dade College - Hialeah Campus Expansion*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
601			*Miami Dade College - STEM Center for Excellence (Kendall)*	*12,500,000*	*0*	*(12,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
602			*Miami Dade College - STEM Center for Excellence (Wolfson)*	*17,700,000*	*0*	*(17,700,000)*	*-100.00%*
603			*North Florida College - Welding Program Expansion Project*	*385,000*	*0*	*(385,000)*	*-100.00%*
604			*Northwest Florida State College - Workforce Innovation Center*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
605			*Pensacola State College - South Santa Rosa Health Science & Nursing Building*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
606			*Polk State College - Northeast Ridge Phase 1*	*7,576,930*	*0*	*(7,576,930)*	*-100.00%*
607			*Polk State College - Remodel/Renovate Building #3 (LLC)*	*25,389,752*	*0*	*(25,389,752)*	*-100.00%*
608			*Santa Fe College - Renovate/Remodel M Building (NW Campus)*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
609			*Seminole State College - Workforce, Science, and Technology Building B*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*(10,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
610			*South Florida State College - Regional Workforce Transportation and Firearms Training Center*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
611			*State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota - Parrish Center*	*7,500,000*	*0*	*(7,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
612			*St. Petersburg College - Allied Health & Student Success Center*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
613			*Tallahassee State College - Gadsden County Expansion Phase 2*	*4,000,000*	*0*	*(4,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
614			*Valencia College - Lake Nona Campus Building 2*	*1,000,000*	*0*	*(1,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
615	17	385	State University System Projects	462,966,594	431,698,514	(31,268,080)	-6.75%
616			*Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University - Chemical and Biological Research Laboratory Center*	*7,000,000*	*0*	*(7,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
617			*Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University - Florida State University College of Engineering Bldg. C 1*	*91,975,000*	*0*	*(91,975,000)*	*-100.00%*
618			*Florida Atlantic University - Health Professions Training and Research Facility*	*20,000,000*	*0*	*(20,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
619			*Florida Gulf Coast University - Babcock Ranch Learning, Research and Outreach Facility*	*22,000,000*	*0*	*(22,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
620			*Florida International University - Aquarius Reef Base*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
621			*Florida International University - Wall of Wind Hurricane and Storm Surge Simulator*	*15,000,000*	*0*	*(15,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
622			*Florida International University - Wertheim College of Medicine Academic Health Sciences/ Clinical Facility*	*53,691,594*	*0*	*(53,691,594)*	*-100.00%*
623			*Florida Polytechnic University - Student Achievement Center*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*(10,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
624			*Florida State University - Basketball Training Facility*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
625			*Florida State University - Dental School - Planning*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
626			*Florida State University - Health Facilities Deferred Maintenance*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
627			*Florida State University - Kellogg Research Building Remodeling and Improving Connectivity to Adjacent Structures*	*11,500,000*	*0*	*(11,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
628			*Florida State University - Life Safety Upgrades*	*2,500,000*	*0*	*(2,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
629			*Florida State University - Middleton Center Planning*	*20,000,000*	*0*	*(20,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
630			*Florida State University - Moore Auditorium Remodel*	*15,000,000*	*0*	*(15,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
631			*Florida State University - Rovetta Business Building Renovation*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*(10,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
632			*Florida State University - Veterans Legacy Complex*	*13,000,000*	*0*	*(13,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
633			*University of Central Florida - Discovery and Innovation Hub*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*(10,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
634			*University of Central Florida - Intelligent Manufacturing and Autonomous Engineering Innovation (Research II)*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*(10,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
635			*University of Central Florida - Workforce Entrepreneurship Resource exchange*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
636			*University of Florida - Advanced Brain Research and Innovation*	*20,000,000*	*0*	*(20,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
637			*University of Florida - Dental Science Building*	*20,000,000*	*0*	*(20,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
638			*University of Florida - Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education*	*1,800,000*	*0*	*(1,800,000)*	*-100.00%*
639			*University of Florida - IFAS - Animal Sciences Expansion and Renovation*	*4,000,000*	*0*	*(4,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
640			*University of Florida - IFAS - Florida 4-H Camp Cherry Lake Renovation and Expansion*	*5,000,000*	*0*	*(5,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
641			*University of Florida - Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases*	*25,000,000*	*0*	*(25,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
642			*University of North Florida - Mathews Academic Building Renovation*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*(10,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
643			*University of South Florida - College of AI, Cybersecurity and Computing Facility*	*25,000,000*	*0*	*(25,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
644			*University of South Florida - Health Translational Research Institute Facility*	*10,000,000*	*0*	*(10,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
645			*University of West Florida - Critical Infrastructure - Satellite Utilities Plan*	*8,000,000*	*0*	*(8,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
646	18	387	Special Facility Construction Account	145,463,618	259,916,238	114,452,620	78.68%
647			*Baker - Baker Middle (Year 3)*	*1,818,742*	*34,020,144*	*32,201,402*	*1770.53%*
648			*DeSoto - DeSoto High (Year 3)*	*36,307,690*	*36,307,690*	*0*	*0.00%*
649			*Gadsden - PreK-8*	*17,958,511*	*0*	*(17,958,511)*	*-100.00%*
650			*Hardee - Hardee Senior High School - Replacement (Year 2)*	*34,400,140*	*51,600,209*	*17,200,069*	*50.00%*
651			*Hendry - LaBelle High (Year 4)*	*30,210,267*	*33,130,317*	*2,920,050*	*9.67%*
652			*Lafayette - PK-12 Combination School (Year 2)*	*1,000,000*	*43,841,171*	*42,841,171*	*4284.12%*
653			*Union - Lake Butler Elementary (Year 3)*	*1,818,742*	*28,609,661*	*26,790,919*	*1473.05%*
654			*Wakulla - Wakulla High (Year 4)*	*21,949,526*	*32,407,046*	*10,457,520*	*47.64%*
655	19	391	Debt Service	483,745,709	448,117,318	(35,628,391)	-7.37%
656			*Reduction*	*0*	*(35,628,391)*	*(35,628,391)*	*-100.00%*
657	20	393	Grants and Aids - School District and Community College	128,000,000	146,024,066	18,024,066	14.08%
658			*Increase*	*0*	*18,024,066*	*18,024,066*	*100.00%*
659	1	395	Debt Service - Class Size Reduction Lottery Capital Outlay Program	72,559,186	40,701,003	(31,858,183)	-43.91%

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Row #	**Line Item**	**Green Book Page #**	**Category Title/Issue Title**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**	**Total All Funds**
660			*Debt Service Reduction*	*0*	*(31,858,183)*	*(31,858,183)*	*-100.00%*
661	2	397	Debt Service - Educational Facilities	6,328,962	6,332,490	3,528	0.06%
662			*Debt Service Increase*	*0*	*3,528*	*3,528*	*100.00%*
663	21	399	Florida School for the Deaf and Blind - Capital Projects	11,882,154	2,911,829	(8,970,325)	-75.49%
664			*Maintenance Projects*	*11,882,154*	*2,911,829*	*(8,970,325)*	*-75.49%*
665	22	401	Division of Blind Services - Capital Projects	820,000	795,000	(25,000)	-3.05%
666	22AA	403	Public Broadcasting Projects	0	7,137,558	7,137,558	100.00%
667	22A	405	Public School Projects	24,244,491	0	(24,244,491)	-100.00%
668			*Brevard Public Schools - Firefighting Program at Cocoa High*	*640,000*	*0*	*(640,000)*	*-100.00%*
669			*Calhoun County School Board (Blountstown High School Track Restoration*	*300,000*	*0*	*(300,000)*	*-100.00%*
670			*Dixie District School Consolidation - Old Town Elementary Classroom Addition*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
671			*Glades - Air Handling System Repair and Retrofit*	*826,991*	*0*	*(826,991)*	*-100.00%*
672			*Glades - School District Roofing Project*	*4,500,000*	*0*	*(4,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
673			*Hardee - Renovation of 1948 High School to Consolidate School District Office*	*12,000,000*	*0*	*(12,000,000)*	*-100.00%*
674			*Highlands - Roof and HVAC Renovations*	*1,500,000*	*0*	*(1,500,000)*	*-100.00%*
675			*Liberty - School Safety Window Hardening*	*120,000*	*0*	*(120,000)*	*-100.00%*
676			*Monroe - Renovation of Historic Bruce Hall and Historic Reynolds School*	*1,750,000*	*0*	*(1,750,000)*	*-100.00%*
677			*Taylor - Critical Facility Needs*	*1,357,500*	*0*	*(1,357,500)*	*-100.00%*
678			*Walton - Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment & Workforce Center Expansion*	*750,000*	*0*	*(750,000)*	*-100.00%*
679	22B	407	Vocational-Technical Facilities	4,800,000	0	(4,800,000)	-100.00%
680			*First Coast Technical College - Public Safety - Firefighter Workforce Expansion Initiative*	*600,000*	*0*	*(600,000)*	*-100.00%*
681			*Lake Technical College Workforce Education Center South*	*3,700,000*	*0*	*(3,700,000)*	*-100.00%*
682			*Volusia County Schools - Aviation Hangar - Aerospace*	*500,000*	*0*	*(500,000)*	*-100.00%*
683	22C	409	Post Secondary School Hardening	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	100.00%
684			**Total: FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY**	**1,863,745,211**	**2,073,896,068**	**210,150,857**	**11.28%**
685			**Grand Total: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**	**27,257,310,319**	**28,190,304,616**	**932,994,297**	**3.42%**
686			***FTE Positions (Includes VR, DBS, DEL, and SBOE)***	***2,158.75***	***2,160.75***	***2.00***	***0.09%***

Vocational Rehabilitation

Blind Services

Blind Services (cont.)

Private Colleges & Universities

Student Financial Aid Program (State)

Student Financial Aid Program (Federal)

Division of Early Learning

Division of Early Learning (cont.)

State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP

State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP

State Board of Education (cont.)

Fixed Capital Outlay

Vocational Rehabilitation

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Item 24 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Salaries and Benefits

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 curring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	13,772,459	0	0	13,772,459	13,772,459	0	13,772,459	0	0.00%
Admin TF	292,494	0	0	292,494	292,494	0	292,494	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	53,801,399	0	0	53,801,399	53,801,399	0	53,801,399	0	0.00%
Total	67,866,352	0	0	67,866,352	67,866,352	0	67,866,352	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$67,866,352 is requested to continue funding for 878 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide support for 90 offices for general vocational rehabilitation services and the division's central office.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation - General Program (ACT1625) Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is comprised of 878 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, of whom an estimated 86 percent provide direct services to customers with disabilities. The Basic Support Program is administered through 90 offices statewide.

Salaries and Benefits is a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $67,542,403
- 2024-25 - $64,930,214
- 2023-24 - $62,308,620

Item 25 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Other Personal Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	1,378,520	0	0	1,378,520	1,378,520	0	1,378,520	0	0.00%
Total	1,378,520	0	0	1,378,520	1,378,520	0	1,378,520	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,378,520 is requested to continue funding to hire temporary employees, such as undergraduate students, graduate assistants, and other professional employees to provide support for the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Other Personal Services is not a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,622,578
- 2024-25 - $1,609,170
- 2023-24 - $1,602,046

Item 26 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Expenses

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,686	0	0	6,686	6,686	0	6,686	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	12,514,837	0	0	12,514,837	12,514,837	0	12,514,837	0	0.00%
Total	12,521,523	0	0	12,521,523	12,521,523	0	12,521,523	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$12,521,523 is requested to continue funding administrative expenses that support the operational functions of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)
Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Approximately 85 percent of these funds are used for the payment of fixed costs such as office rent, communications, postage, equipment rental, etc., which are necessary for the field offices to carry out the functions of providing vocational services to customers.

Expenses is not a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $12,771,523
- 2024-25 - $12,771,523
- 2023-24 - $12,715,537

Item 27 - Vocational Rehabilitation - G/A - Adults with Disabilities Funds

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,076,853	0	0	5,076,853	7,876,853	2,800,000	5,076,853	(2,800,000)	(35.55%)
Total	5,076,853	0	0	5,076,853	7,876,853	2,800,000	5,076,853	(2,800,000)	(35.55%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$5,076,853 is requested to continue funding grants to 14 Adults with Disabilities Programs for approximately 1,856 adults with disabilities.

- $109,006 - Adults with Disabilities - Helping People Succeed
- $800,000 - Broward County Public Schools Adults with Disabilities
- $535,892 - Flagler Adults with Disabilities Program.
- $100,000 - Gadsden Adults with Disabilities Program
- $35,000 - Gulf Adults with Disabilities Program
- $1,019,247 - Jackson Adults with Disabilities Program
- $225,000 - Leon Adults with Disabilities Program
- $1,125,208 - Miami-Dade Adults with Disabilities Program
- $225,000 - Arc of Palm Beach County
- $42,500 - Sumter Adults with Disabilities Program
- $25,000 - Tallahassee State College Adults with Disabilities Program
- $42,500 - Taylor Adults with Disabilities Program
- $42,500 - Wakulla Adults with Disabilities Program
- $750,000 - Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM)

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$2,800,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds is not requested for restoration for the following programs:

- $200,000 - Boca School for Autism: Bridge to Success (B2S) Micro-Enterprise Vocational Job Training Program
- $300,000 - Brevard Adults with Disabilities
- $800,000 - DMF Employment Opportunities-Bridging the Gap in Employment of Young Adults with Unique Abilities
- $400,000 - Els for Autism Foundation - Specialized Workforce Training Program
- $175,000 - HabCenter Boca Raton - Employment and Empowerment Programs for Individuals with Disabilities
- $300,000 - Jacksonville School for Autism Supportive Transition & Employment Placement (STEP)
- $400,000 - NextStep Autism Transition Program
- $225,000 - Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM)

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $2,800,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the following programs:

- $200,000 - Boca School for Autism: Bridge to Success (B2S) Micro-Enterprise Vocational Job Training Program
- $300,000 - Brevard Adults with Disabilities
- $800,000 - DMF Employment Opportunities-Bridging the Gap in Employment of Young Adults with Unique Abilities
- $400,000 - Els for Autism Foundation - Specialized Workforce Training Program
- $175,000 - HabCenter Boca Raton - Employment and Empowerment Programs for Individuals with Disabilities
- $300,000 - Jacksonville School for Autism Supportive Transition & Employment Placement (STEP)
- $400,000 - NextStep Autism Transition Program
- $225,000 - Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM)

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1004.93-98, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities education services, community partnerships, and training for future workforce success. The program is designed to help the adults with disabilities population lead meaningful and productive lives, explore their potential, develop a sense of community, and pursue independence and employment.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The mission of the program is to support and enhance the educational and recreational opportunities for Floridians with disabilities who may (or may not) have employment as a goal by providing programs that enhance the individual's quality of life, health and well-being, or lifelong learning.

The Adults with Disabilities Grant Program provides the opportunity for individualized instruction and educational services to improve participants' skills and assist adults in acquiring the level of self-sufficiency needed to become more productive citizens. The shared mission of the Adults with Disabilities Grant Program and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is to assist those individuals with disabilities to enhance their independence.

Adults with Disabilities is a match category for federal funds, with the exception of any program that does not have an employment component. Currently, Tallahassee State College Adults with Disabilities Program does not have an employment component and as such cannot be used for match.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $8,126,853
- 2024-25 - $9,391,853
- 2023-24 - $8,307,953

Item 28 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Operating Capital Outlay

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	25,000	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	25,000	0	0.00%
Total	25,000	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	25,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$25,000 is requested to continue funding to provide staff with replacement information technology and adaptive equipment.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Operating Capital Outlay is not a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $25,000
- 2024-25 - $25,000
- 2023-24 - $80,986

Item 29 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Contracted Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,636,015	0	482,000	2,118,015	1,886,015	250,000	1,636,015	232,000	12.30%
Fed Rehab TF	16,608,886	0	0	16,608,886	16,608,886	0	16,608,886	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	1,500,000	0	1,440,491	2,940,491	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	1,440,491	96.03%
Total	19,744,901	0	1,922,491	21,667,392	19,994,901	250,000	19,744,901	1,672,491	8.36%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$19,744,901 is requested to continue funding for contracted services, which include direct client services, consultations, advertising, maintenance, accounting, security, and other services acquired from individuals and firms that are independent contractors.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$250,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for The Able Trust - Futures in Focus program is not requested to be restored.

WORKLOAD

$1,440,491 is requested in Grants and Donations Trust Fund budget authority, allowing the department to match an additional $3.9 million in nonrecurring and $1.4 million in recurring federal grant funding. Of this request, $373,984 is recurring and $1,066,507 is nonrecurring.

ENHANCEMENT

$482,000 is requested in recurring General Revenue to support the continued expansion and strategic evolution of the Florida High School High Tech (HSHT) program by adding additional services such as a blended HSHT/Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) model including substitute teacher coverage for off-campus experiences, transportation and access supports, expanded employer engagement, professional development and technical assistance, curriculum and framework design, and program evaluation and research.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $250,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for The Able Trust - Futures in Focus program.

WORKLOAD

An increase of $1,440,491 in Grants and Donations Trust Fund budget authority, allowing the department to match additional federal grant funding. Of this request, $373,984 is recurring and $1,066,507 is nonrecurring.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2017-18, the department was provided with new recurring revenue sources via Chapter 2017-75, Senate Bill No. 890, Sections 2 and 4. Revenue was redirected from the Florida Endowment Foundation (Able Trust) to the department’s Grants and Donations Trust Fund for the purpose of improving employment and training opportunities for people who have disabilities. The department has used this funding to supplement the department's privatized staffing contract since the bill’s inception. Over the past several years not only has the revenue increased but also the cash balance at year end.

The current amount of operating budget authority is not sufficient to sustain the projected increase or the estimated cash balance projected on June 30, 2027. Funding this request will not only provide the department with sufficient budget authority on an annual basis and allow for the drawdown of the projected cash balance but it will also provide a one-time match in the amount of $3.9 million and a recurring match of $1.4 million in federal funding.

The requested funding is used to supplement the department's privatized staffing contract with Abilities, Inc. of Florida (Abilities). This contract is over $6 million annually and pays Abilities to perform delegable staff augmentation services to eligible persons with disabilities and also Pre-Employment Transition Services in specific Areas of the department.

ENHANCEMENT

An increase of $482,000 in recurring General Revenue to support the continued expansion and strategic evolution of the Florida High School High Tech (HSHT) program by adding additional services such as a blended HSHT/Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) model including substitute teacher coverage for off-campus experiences, transportation and access supports, expanded employer engagement, professional development and technical assistance, curriculum and framework design, and program evaluation and research.

HSHT currently serves approximately 1,300 students with disabilities across 39 counties and has demonstrated strong outcomes over more than 30 years, including a 99 percent graduation rate and 80 percent transition to postsecondary education, employment, or both. These outcomes significantly exceed those of students with disabilities who do not participate in HSHT.

As the department's Pre-ETS services expand across Florida’s public, charter, and private high schools, core transition services historically delivered through HSHT will be increasingly available at scale. To maximize impact and avoid duplication, the department will implement a three-year phased transition strategy, maintaining services at select HSHT sites while gradually shifting the program’s primary role toward innovation, enhancement, and expanded access. Scaling proven transition practices through HSHT and Pre-ETS represents a strong investment in Florida's future workforce.

According to The Able Trust's 2026 Return on Investment study:

- A single graduating HSHT cohort is projected to generate approximately $60.2 million in additional lifetime earnings for participating students.
- Expanding access to a proven HSHT/Pre-ETS model to a modest estimate of 5,000 students annually could generate an estimated $290 million in additional household income each year for Florida families.

These findings demonstrate that investments in effective transition services not only improve educational and employment outcomes for students with disabilities, but also generate substantial economic benefits for Florida's communities, employers, and taxpayers. Consistent with Florida’s commitment to educational choice, HSHT will continue to support students across various educational settings. This approach ensures strong financial stewardship, leverages federal and state resources, strengthens statewide capacity to improve outcomes for students with disabilities, and yields a strong financial return for the state of Florida.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)
Florida Alliance for Assistive Service and Technology (ACT1610)
Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

General Revenue funds are used to support the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST), Disability Jobs Portal, and High School High Tech program. Federal funds are used to support contracts addressing rehabilitation engineering, self-employment, evaluation of customer satisfaction, direct service outsourcing, and assistive services and technology.

Contracted Services is a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $20,044,901
- 2024-25 - $21,144,901
- 2023-24 - $20,050,486

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Item 30 - Vocational Rehabilitation - G/A - Independent Living Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,232,004	0	0	1,232,004	2,732,004	1,500,000	1,232,004	(1,500,000)	(54.90%)
Fed Rehab TF	5,087,789	0	0	5,087,789	5,087,789	0	5,087,789	0	0.00%
Total	6,319,793	0	0	6,319,793	7,819,793	1,500,000	6,319,793	(1,500,000)	(19.18%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$6,319,793 is requested to continue funding services provided to 54,835 individuals statewide by the 16 independent living centers for individuals with disabilities.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$1,500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the Community Transition Services for Adults with Disabilities program is not requested to be restored.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $1,500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the Community Transition Services for Adults with Disabilities program.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Independent Living Services (ACT1615)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Promote independent living, including consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy; maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities; and promote and maximize the integration of individuals with significant disabilities into society.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds allow the state's 16 Centers for Independent Living to provide services to individuals with significant disabilities, as prescribed by state and federal law.

At a minimum, the centers provide four core services: information and referral services, independent living skills training, advocacy services, and peer counseling. In addition to the four core services, the centers are authorized to provide a wide range of services that assist people with disabilities to live more independently. The additional services provided are based on the needs of the local communities served by the centers.

The Rehabilitation Act Subchapter B Independent Living Services Grants through the Department of Health and Human Services require 10 percent state funding to 90 percent federal funding. Per 2026-27 proviso, up to $3,472,193 shall be funded from Social Security reimbursements (program income), if available.

Independent Living Services is not a match category for the Vocational Rehabilitation program but has its own match requirements as noted above.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $7,069,793
- 2024-25 - $7,219,793
- 2023-24 - $7,294,793

Item 31 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Purchased Client Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	33,158,559	0	0	33,158,559	33,158,559	0	33,158,559	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	113,424,062	0	5,000,000	118,424,062	113,424,062	0	113,424,062	5,000,000	4.41%
Total	146,582,621	0	5,000,000	151,582,621	146,582,621	0	146,582,621	5,000,000	3.41%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$146,582,621 is requested to continue funding services that make it possible for Vocational Rehabilitation clients to obtain or keep a job, including, but not limited to, assessments, vocational counseling, on-the-job training, job coaching, employment readiness services, supported employment services, education and training, support services, medical services, mental health services, equipment, transportation, assistive technology services, prosthetics and orthotics, and job placement services.

WORKLOAD

$5,000,000 is requested in recurring Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund budget authority to accommodate projected expenditures and projected client demand in the Purchased Client Services category.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

An increase of $5,000,000 in recurring Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund budget authority is requested to accommodate projected expenditures and projected client demand in the Purchased Client Services category.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR) is a state/federal one-to-four match program that supports a wide range of services to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and get or keep gainful employment. Eligible individuals are those who have a physical or mental disability that results in a substantial obstacle to employment, who can receive help from VR services to obtain successful employment.

The number of Floridians with a disability applying for VR services has shown an estimated 13 percent increase over the past three years. For those individuals that apply for services, there has been an estimated 20 percent increase in eligibility. This has resulted in a projected increase of 30 percent in services provided. As the demand rises along with the associated costs, the department has consistently found ways to accurately measure service outcomes and the benefits to not only clients but also the taxpayer. Improved outcome measurements have provided the department with the opportunity to seek out more efficient and cost saving methods of delivering services to the most vulnerable Floridians. These efficiencies have resulted in an increase in case closures with Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) and reduced service timelines even though counselor caseloads have increased. The requested funding will enable the department to continue its effort in providing services to all adults and students with disabilities including but not limited to employment services, work readiness training, job exploration counseling, education and training, mental health services, supported employment services, etc.

Currently, additional General Revenue Match funding is not needed; however, maintaining a sufficient level of budget authority is critical to the department's ability to address the current client demand and projected expenditures for the request year. Funding this request will enable the department to continue serving the projected client caseload, estimated to be $45,765 in Fiscal Year 2027-28.

According to the latest available Return on Investment (ROI) estimate for Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), for every $1 invested in helping VR customers get or keep a job, $9.16 was returned to the Florida economy.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The career goals and required goods and services are outlined in an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) developed with each client. Goods and services provided include, but are not limited to, assessments, vocational counseling, on-the-job training, job coaching, employment readiness services, supported employment services, education and training, support services, medical services, mental health services, equipment, transportation, assistive technology services, prosthetics and orthotics, and job placement services. The program prioritizes employment for individuals who have the most significant disabilities and, therefore, the most significant barriers to obtaining or keeping a job.

Purchased Client Services is a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $146,582,621
- 2024-25 - $153,714,203
- 2023-24 - $153,423,416

Item 32 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Risk Management Insurance

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	779,482	0	0	779,482	779,482	0	779,482	0	0.00%
Total	779,482	0	0	779,482	779,482	0	779,482	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$779,482 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provides business insurance to cover the state's potential liability for workers and property.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a

statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

These funds provide for Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Federal Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriations are recommended by the state's Division of Risk Management.

Risk Management Insurance is not a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $779,482
- 2024-25 - $625,126
- 2023-24 - $525,643

Item 33 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Tenant Broker Commissions

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	97,655	0	0	97,655	97,655	0	97,655	0	0.00%
Total	97,655	0	0	97,655	97,655	0	97,655	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$97,655 is requested to continue funding for tenant broker fees, as required by statute.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation - General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 255.25(3)(h)5, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a

statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, is required to pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space. The Department of Management Services (DMS) has negotiated a contract to provide tenant broker and real estate consulting services. State agencies acquiring services under this contract are required to collect a commission fee from the landlord on behalf of the contractor. The contractor is then compensated for services provided. The commission fee is stated in the contract at an amount up to 4 percent of the lease amount for new leases and up to 2 percent of the lease amount for lease renewals. The fees are due to the contractor in two installments: (i) 50 percent upon execution of the lease documents by the landlord and the agency; and (ii) 50 percent upon occupancy by the agency of the leased premises.

Tenant Broker Commissions is not a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $97,655
- 2024-25 - $97,655
- 2023-24 - $97,655

Item 34 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	57,151	0	0	57,151	57,151	0	57,151	0	0.00%
Admin TF	1,062	0	0	1,062	1,062	0	1,062	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	254,162	0	0	254,162	254,162	0	254,162	0	0.00%
Total	312,375	0	0	312,375	312,375	0	312,375	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$312,375 is requested to continue funding to support the current level of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide human resource management services for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (PeopleFirst) to manage agency human resources.

Transfer to the Department of Management Services - Human Resource Services Purchased per Statewide Contract is a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $312,375
- 2024-25 - $314,153
- 2023-24 - $313,524

Item 35 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Other Data Processing Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	154,316	0	0	154,316	154,316	0	154,316	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	515,762	0	0	515,762	515,762	0	515,762	0	0.00%
Total	670,078	0	0	670,078	670,078	0	670,078	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$670,078 is requested to continue funding IT support for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's Aware case management system.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities giving them the skills, education, goods and services, and support required to maximize employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The division's Aware case management system is an integral part of providing services to clients. Aware is a statewide management information system that allows for valid and reliable collection of data on customers served, duration of service, clients rehabilitated, and cost per client served. The division uses this system to obtain data used to analyze day-to-day operations and to complete state and federal performance reports.

Other Data Processing Services is a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $670,078
- 2024-25 - $670,078
- 2023-24 - $670,078

Item 36 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Education Technology and Information Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	972,732	0	0	972,732	972,732	0	972,732	0	0.00%
Total	972,732	0	0	972,732	972,732	0	972,732	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$972,732 is requested to continue funding the current level of services to meet the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's critical technology needs and programs.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 216.272 and 413.20-413.74, Florida Statutes
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide the technology resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the division.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a

statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

These funds are used to pay for services provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS). These services are paid in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes, for the cost recovery of information technology resources.

Below is a list of services provided:

- Telecommunications Support
- Network Support
- Help Desk and Desktop Support
- Disaster Recovery and Department-wide Data Center Services
- Department-wide Software, Software Maintenance, and Information Security Services
- Enterprise and Web Applications Development for Department-wide Applications
- Mainframe Support for Comptroller Functions

Education Technology and Information Services is not a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $252,112
- 2024-25 - $248,994
- 2023-24 - $246,053

Item 37 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	293,178	0	0	293,178	293,178	0	293,178	0	0.00%
Total	293,178	0	0	293,178	293,178	0	293,178	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$293,178 is requested to continue funding data center and computer facilities services provided by the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Leah Compagnone-Bolt (850) 245-3270; Roger Godwin (850) 245-3280

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Vocational Rehabilitation – General Program (ACT1625)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1004.649, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide funds for a statutorily designated data center and computer facility services to the department through a Primary Data Center.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent in two separate grant awards. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a

statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

Primary Data Center -
The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

Mainframe Environment –
The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of Mainframe Disaster Recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The major mainframe application and process hosted at the NWRDC that is used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part is Comptroller/Accounting processes.

Open Systems Environment -
The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a list of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- Aware Case Management System
- ARTS Budget Tracking System - LBR Greenbook
- Florida Grants System (FLAGS)
- Rehabilitation Information Management System (RIMS)

Northwest Regional Data Center is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $285,739
- 2024-25 - $373,772
- 2023-24 - $278,290

Item 37A - Vocational Rehabilitation - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	537,500	537,500	0	(537,500)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	537,500	537,500	0	(537,500)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$537,500 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds is not requested for facility repairs, maintenance, and construction of the following facilities:

- $ 37,500 - HabCenter Boca Raton - Employment and Empowerment Programs for Individuals with Disabilities
- $500,000 - Learning Independence for Tomorrow (LiFT): Family Resource Center for Neurodiverse Families

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $537,500 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for facility repairs, maintenance, and construction of the following facilities:

- $ 37,500 - HabCenter Boca Raton - Employment and Empowerment Programs for Individuals with Disabilities
- $500,000 - Learning Independence for Tomorrow (LiFT): Family Resource Center for Neurodiverse Families

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

N/A

PURPOSE:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $850,000
- 2024-25 - $3,067,000
- 2023-24 - $2,176,000

Blind Services

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Item 38 - Blind Services - Salaries and Benefits

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,532,041	0	0	6,532,041	6,532,041	0	6,532,041	0	0.00%
Admin TF	510,029	0	0	510,029	510,029	0	510,029	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	13,607,190	0	0	13,607,190	13,607,190	0	13,607,190	0	0.00%
Total	20,649,260	0	0	20,649,260	20,649,260	0	20,649,260	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$20,649,260 is requested to continue funding for 279.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees who provide direct services to clients in ten district offices and executive guidance and administrative support for the effective delivery of services.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Ensure people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults and early intervention education for children and their families.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Proposed funding for Fiscal Year 2026-27 provides for the salaries and benefits of 279.75 FTE employees who provide executive guidance, administrative services, and technical services to clients. The Bureau of Business Enterprise provides job opportunities in the food service sector for eligible blind individuals under the Randolph-Sheppard Act. The division administers federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements.

The division is responsible for ensuring people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, Braille and Talking Book Library, and the residential Career, Technology and Training Center, and dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Salaries and Benefits is an eligible match category for the two grants.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $20,478,689
- 2024-25 - $19,665,055
- 2023-24 - $18,865,863

Item 39 - Blind Services - Other Personal Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	161,282	0	0	161,282	161,282	0	161,282	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	326,329	0	0	326,329	326,329	0	326,329	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	11,079	0	0	11,079	11,079	0	11,079	0	0.00%
Total	498,690	0	0	498,690	498,690	0	498,690	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$498,690 is requested to continue funding non-salaried, Other Personal Services (OPS) staff for the Braille and Talking Book Library and to provide statewide personal assistance for reading of print information and transportation for Division of Blind Services employees who require accommodations.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Provide administrative and operational support to ensure blind or visually impaired Floridians have the tools, support, and opportunity to achieve success.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Temporary employees provide administrative and operational support at the Braille and Talking Book Library and provide support services for the division’s employees who are blind or visually impaired and require accommodations.

The division administers federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements. The division is responsible for ensuring people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, the Braille and Talking Book Library, and residential Career, Technology, and Training Center and Dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Other Personal Services is an eligible match category for the two grants.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $498,690
- 2024-25 - $497,876
- 2023-24 - $496,736

Item 40 - Blind Services - Expenses

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	415,191	0	401,681	816,872	415,191	0	415,191	401,681	96.75%
Admin TF	40,774	0	0	40,774	40,774	0	40,774	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	2,473,307	0	2,000,000	4,473,307	2,473,307	0	2,473,307	2,000,000	80.86%
Grants & Donations TF	44,395	0	0	44,395	44,395	0	44,395	0	0.00%
Total	2,973,667	0	2,401,681	5,375,348	2,973,667	0	2,973,667	2,401,681	80.76%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$2,973,667 is requested to continue funding administrative expenses to support the operations of the Division of Blind Services.

WORKLOAD

$2,401,681 is requested in additional funding; $401,681 in General Revenue state match and $2,000,000 in Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund. This request will allow the department to fully expend the federal award thus increasing the operating budget for the division. This request is based on the United States Department of Education's Fiscal Year 2027-28 estimated grant award amount of $47,659,742.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting $401,681 in General Revenue state match authority and $2,000,000 in Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund authority for a total of $2,401,681 to serve more clients under the employment program in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and maximize federal funds. In Fiscal Year 2025-26, DBS served 4,842 clients in the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Many clients require ongoing services prior to reaching completion of their goals. During the last completed program year, 1,017 blind or visually impaired individuals gained, maintained and/or achieved better paying jobs. These clients received training and services for adjustment to blindness, assistive technology, Braille, paid work experiences, job coaching, higher education, vocational training/assessments, rehabilitation engineering and more. Participation in programs and services have consistently risen, however, unmet operational costs make serving more clients at the same steady rate challenging. DBS requires more spending authority in the Expense category to meet the needs of increasing program participation.

The additional funds that are drawn down from the added authority will be used to provide services that are required to carry out both operational and programmatic functions of the division.

Total Vocational Rehabilitation Budget Authority:	$44,697,665
2028 Estimated Grant Award:	$47,659,742
Difference—Authority:	($2,962,077)

	General Revenue	Federal Trust Fund
Expenses:	$401,681	$2,000,000
Contracted Services:	$400,000	$ 962,077
	Match: $801,681	Federal TF: $2,962,077

Furthermore, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has required DBS to develop and present them with an action plan for expending the full grant.

The additional funding authority and match funds will enable DBS to meet the rising needs of serving more clients and empower DBS to develop and implement the spending plan needed to satisfy the requirements of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Support for administrative activities in achieving the division's overall mission to serve blind or visually impaired individuals in ten district offices, the residential Career, Technology, and Training Center, and the Braille and Talking Book Library.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funds are provided for administrative expenses that allow the division to administer federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements. The division is responsible for ensuring people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, the Braille and Talking Book Library, and residential Career, Technology, and Training Center and dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Expenses is an eligible match category for the two grants.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $2,973,667
- 2024-25 - $2,973,667
- 2023-24 - $2,973,667

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Item 41 - Blind Services - G/A - Community Rehabilitation Facilities

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	847,347	0	0	847,347	847,347	0	847,347	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	4,100,913	0	0	4,100,913	4,100,913	0	4,100,913	0	0.00%
Total	4,948,260	0	0	4,948,260	4,948,260	0	4,948,260	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$4,948,260 is requested to continue funding established community rehabilitation facilities. The Community Rehabilitation Programs provide statewide services to approximately 12,000 individuals with blindness or visual impairments.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Enable community rehabilitation facilities to provide local resources and education to visually impaired Floridians aimed at fostering and promoting independence and self-sufficiency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Through agreements and collaboration, the division’s ten district offices and a statewide network of established community rehabilitation facilities provide the following services to qualifying visually impaired Floridians: (a) assessment to determine participant needs; (b) service plan to address needs; (c) rehabilitation technology; (d) job development, placement, coaching and retention services; (e) extended employment services; (f) orientation and mobility; (g) counseling and adjustment to blindness; (h) Braille and other communication skills; (i) training and resources for limited-vision participants to maximize remaining vision; and (j) adaptive skills that support independent living and self-sufficiency.

To participate in these services, individuals are referred to a community rehabilitation program service provider by the division's district staff. The provider conducts a needs assessment and develops a service plan to address the participant's needs. Services may be provided in small group sessions or on an individual basis, depending on the needs of the participant. The goal is to foster and promote independence and self-sufficiency for individuals with visual impairments within their community.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Community Rehabilitation Facilities is an eligible match category for the two grants.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $4,948,260
- 2024-25 - $4,948,260
- 2023-24 - $4,948,260

Item 42 - Blind Services - Operating Capital Outlay

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	54,294	0	0	54,294	54,294	0	54,294	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	235,198	0	0	235,198	235,198	0	235,198	0	0.00%
Total	289,492	0	0	289,492	289,492	0	289,492	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$289,492 is requested to continue funding the purchase equipment and adaptive technology costing more than $5,000 per item with a minimum life expectancy of one year to support the functions of the Division of Blind Services.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapter 273 and Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide funds to purchase and/or replace adaptive technology, office equipment and furniture necessary to carry out the division's administrative activities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The division administers federal and state grant programs pursuant to statutory requirements. The division is responsible for ensuring that people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals, including gainful employment of adults who have a vocational goal.

The division provides a comprehensive array of services through ten district offices and in partnership with a statewide network of not-for-profit community rehabilitation program partners. Services are delivered through the following programs: Blind Babies Program, Children's Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, the Braille and Talking Book Library, and the Career, Technology and Training Center and dormitory.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter 2 grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding. Operating

Capital Outlay is not a match category for federal funds.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $289,492
- 2024-25 - $289,492
- 2023-24 - $289,492

Item 43 - Blind Services - Food Products

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%
Total	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$200,000 is requested to continue funding to purchase food products for the independent living training in the food preparation program and to provide meals for students attending the residential Career, Technology, and Training Center in Daytona.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Provide instructional services to individuals with disabilities to maximize independence and self-sufficiency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The funds are used to provide approximately 8,940 meals per year to clients. Meal preparation is a requirement for graduation whereby each graduate is required to prepare a meal for four individuals. Additionally, food products are used in adaptive cooking classes designed to teach safe adaptive cooking techniques to clients attending the residential Career, Technology, and Training Center.

Food Products is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $200,000
- 2024-25 - $200,000
- 2023-24 - $200,000

Item 44 - Blind Services - Acquisition of Motor Vehicles

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	120,000	0	0	120,000	120,000	0	120,000	0	0.00%
Total	120,000	0	0	120,000	120,000	0	120,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$120,000 is requested to continue funding the acquisition of motor vehicles for the Division of Blind Services' fleet.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Provide vehicles for use by division employees for state business purposes, which include meeting with clients, employers, and community partners, as well as providing transportation of clients to the division's residential Career, Technology, and Training Center.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The division maintains a fleet of 39 vehicles to provide safe and adequate transportation for clients at the division’s residential rehabilitation center located in Daytona. Additionally, the vehicles are used to transport counselors to the homes of clients with visual impairments when transportation is a barrier to receiving services. The availability of transportation is critical to clients receiving training and education provided by the division.

The vehicles are located throughout the state in each of the ten district offices and five satellite offices. The use of a state vehicle reduces the costs of personal travel mileage reimbursements for division staff who are required to travel frequently. The division follows a vehicle replacement schedule in accordance with the Department of Management Services rules to ensure safe and adequate transportation is available for both clients and employees.

Acquisition of Motor Vehicles is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $165,000
- 2024-25 - $100,000
- 2023-24 - $100,000

Item 45 - Blind Services - G/A - Client Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	15,206,159	0	0	15,206,159	18,554,159	3,348,000	15,206,159	(3,348,000)	(18.04%)
Fed Rehab TF	21,762,812	0	0	21,762,812	21,762,812	0	21,762,812	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	252,746	0	0	252,746	252,746	0	252,746	0	0.00%
Total	37,221,717	0	0	37,221,717	40,569,717	3,348,000	37,221,717	(3,348,000)	(8.25%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$37,221,717 is requested to continue funding to provide rehabilitation services to the blind and visually impaired for the following programs:

- $24,833,100 - Vocational Rehabilitation
- $ 5,914,872 - Independence Living Older Blind
- $ 1,146,802 - Adult Program
- $ 4,426,943 - Blind Babies Successful Transition from Preschool to School
- $ 200,000 - Blind Children's Program
- $ 500,000 - Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind
- $ 150,000 - Lighthouse for the Blind - Miami
- $ 50,000 - Lighthouse for the Blind - Pasco/Hernando

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested is $3,348,000 of nonrecurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- $ 500,000 - Conklin Davis Center - Vision Beyond Limits: Breaking Barriers for the most significantly disabled of Florida
- $1,500,000 - Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind
- $ 350,000 - Lighthouse of Broward for the Blind and Visually Impaired - Vital Living for Seniors Program
- $ 848,000 - Lighthouse Vision Loss Center - Mobile Education Center: Services to Blind and Low Vision Residents Access Expansion
- $ 150,000 - Maintaining Independence for the Blind - Rehabilitation Services for Individuals with Vision Loss

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested is $3,348,000 of nonrecurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- $ 500,000 - Conklin Davis Center - Vision Beyond Limits: Breaking Barriers for the most significantly disabled of Florida
- $1,500,000 - Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind
- $ 350,000 - Lighthouse of Broward for the Blind and Visually Impaired - Vital Living for Seniors Program
- $ 848,000 - Lighthouse Vision Loss Center - Mobile Education Center: Services to Blind and Low Vision Residents Access Expansion
- $ 150,000 - Maintaining Independence for the Blind - Rehabilitation Services for Individuals with Vision Loss

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Provide training in foundational skills, independent living skills and career development to assist individuals with visual impairments to become self-sufficient in their homes and communities while progressing toward their individual goals.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Client Services Program serves individuals who are blind or have a severe bilateral visual impairment making it difficult to read regular print or function independently. These individuals are served through one or more of the following programs, depending on their needs:

- Vocational Rehabilitation - 78.7% Federal Funded and 21.3% General Revenue Match Funded - Provides services to young adults (ages 14 to 22) and adults who are blind or visually impaired and who desire to work or transition from school to work. The program provides vocational rehabilitation services that will enable individuals who are blind or visually impaired to reach their agreed-upon outcome by reducing barriers to employment.
- Independent Living - Older Blind - 90% Federal Funded and 10% General Revenue Match Funded - Provides rehabilitation instruction and guidance to help individuals who are age 55 years of age and older who do not have employment as a goal acquire the skills and knowledge to manage their daily lives. Independent Living enables blind and visually impaired adults to live more independently in their homes and communities.
- Adult Program - 100% General Revenue Funded - Provides rehabilitation instruction and guidance to help individuals who are under 55 years of age who do not have employment as a goal acquire the skills and knowledge to manage their daily lives. Adult Program enables blind and visually impaired adults to live more independently in their homes and communities.
- Blind Babies - 100% General Revenue Funded - Provides community-based early intervention education to blind or visually impaired children, ranging in age from birth through five years old, and their families. The program provides direct educational services within the child's home or natural environment and links the children and their families with other available resources that can assist them in achieving developmental milestones and meaningful participation in the community.
- Children's Program - 100% General Revenue Funded - Serves blind and visually impaired children ages five to 13, or older, to promote their fullest participation within their families, communities, and educational settings. The program provides services such as information and referral, support in navigating educational and community resources, and counseling.

Services under these programs are provided through ten district offices and community rehabilitation programs serving the blind. Services may include: assessment, advocacy training, adjustment to blindness counseling, personal and home management, adaptive aids and devices training, safe travel within their environment, career exploration, job development, and job training.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter two grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Client Services is an eligible match category for the two grants.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $39,496,717
- 2024-25 - $31,602,688
- 2023-24 - $24,824,309

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Item 46 - Blind Services - Contracted Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	56,140	0	400,000	456,140	56,140	0	56,140	400,000	712.50%
Fed Rehab TF	875,000	0	962,077	1,837,077	875,000	0	875,000	962,077	109.95%
Total	931,140	0	1,362,077	2,293,217	931,140	0	931,140	1,362,077	146.28%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$931,140 is requested to continue funding independent contractors for courier services, technical support, information systems, security, lawn care, computer science training program and minor repairs and maintenance for building services.

WORKLOAD

$1,362,077 is requested in additional funding; $400,000 in General Revenue state match authority and $962,077 in Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund budget authority. This request will allow the department to fully expend the federal award thus increasing the operating budget for the division. This request is based on the United States Department of Education's Fiscal Year 2027-28 estimated grant award amount of $47,659,742.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting $1,362,077 in the Contracted Services category to serve more clients under the employment program in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and maximize federal funds. In Fiscal Year 2025-26, the department served 4,842 clients in the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Many clients require ongoing services prior to reaching completion of their goals. During the last completed program year, 1,017 blind or visually impaired individuals gained, maintained and/or achieved better paying jobs. These clients received training and services for adjustment to blindness, assistive technology, Braille, paid work experiences, job coaching, higher education, vocational training/assessments, rehabilitation engineering and more. Participation in programs and services have consistently risen, however, unmet operational costs make serving more clients at the same steady rate challenging. DBS requires more spending authority in the Expense category to meet the needs of increasing program participation.

The additional funds that are drawn down from the added authority will be used to provide services that are required to carry out both operational and programmatic functions of the division.

Total Vocational Rehabilitation Budget Authority:	$44,697,665
2028 Estimated Grant Award:	$47,659,742
Difference—Authority:	($2,962,077)

	General Revenue	Federal Trust Fund
Expenses:	$401,681	$2,000,000
Contracted Services:	$400,000	$ 962,077
	Match: $801,681	Federal TF: $2,962,077

Furthermore, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has required DBS to develop and present them with an action plan for expending the full grant.

The additional funding authority and match funds will enable DBS to meet the rising needs of serving more clients and empower DBS to develop and implement the spending plan needed to satisfy the requirements of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Procurement of contracted expertise to ensure staff has adequate tools, knowledge, and information to carry out the services provided by the division.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds are used to provide services required to carry out both operational and programmatic functions of the division. Contracted services include maintenance of the division's properties, connectivity and technical support of information systems, research and development studies, and professional and technical services from subject matter experts.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Under federal rules, total expenditures in the Independent Living Chapter two grant match category requires 10 percent state funding match to 90 percent federal funding.

Contracted Services is an eligible match category for these two grants.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $931,140
- 2024-25 - $931,140
- 2023-24 - $931,140

Item 47 - Blind Services - G/A - Independent Living Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	35,000	0	0	35,000	35,000	0	35,000	0	0.00%
Total	35,000	0	0	35,000	35,000	0	35,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$35,000 is requested to continue funding the Florida Independent Living Council (FILC), a nonprofit organization created to assist in developing a state plan for independent living.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 413.395, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Promote independent living, including consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities; and promote and maximize the integration of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Independent Living Council (FILC) is a nonprofit organization created to assist in developing a state plan for independent living that addresses the needs of specific disability populations under federal laws. Independent Living Services is not an eligible match for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $35,000
- 2024-25 - $35,000
- 2023-24 - $35,000

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Item 48 - Blind Services - Risk Management Insurance

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	70,768	0	0	70,768	70,768	0	70,768	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	144,435	0	0	144,435	144,435	0	144,435	0	0.00%
Total	215,203	0	0	215,203	215,203	0	215,203	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$215,203 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the Division of Blind Services.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Provides business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds provide for Workers’ Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Federal Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriations are recommended by the State's Division of Risk Management.

Risk Management Insurance is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $215,203
- 2024-25 - $212,224
- 2023-24 - $184,717

Item 49 - Blind Services - Library Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	89,735	0	0	89,735	89,735	0	89,735	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	100,000	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0.00%
Total	189,735	0	0	189,735	189,735	0	189,735	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$189,735 is requested to continue funding Library Services that serve an estimated 21,332 customers through the circulation of more than one million items.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Braille and Recorded Publications Services (ACT0770)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide information and reading materials needed by Floridians who are unable to use standard print due to a visual, physical, or reading disability.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services is designated by the National Library Service of the Library of Congress as the regional library for the state of Florida. There are also ten sub-regional libraries that serve the large metropolitan areas.

The regional library is responsible for maintaining and circulating materials and equipment needed by clients who qualify due to visual, physical and/or learning disabilities. The National Library Service provides most materials and all the equipment that is available to the clients. The library provides descriptive video, digital video formats, Braille transcription services and Braille publications. Reading materials are sent to and from clients via postage-free mail, and all services are provided at no charge to the client.

Library Services is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $189,735
- 2024-25 - $189,735
- 2023-24 - $189,735

Item 50 - Blind Services - Vending Stands - Equipment and Supplies

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	9,639,345	0	5,550,000	15,189,345	9,639,345	0	9,639,345	5,550,000	57.58%
Grants & Donations TF	1,044,821	0	0	1,044,821	1,044,821	0	1,044,821	0	0.00%
Total	10,884,166	0	5,550,000	16,434,166	10,884,166	0	10,884,166	5,550,000	50.99%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$10,884,166 is requested to continue funding for the management of vending facilities employing blind and visually impaired vendors as independent contractors.

WORKLOAD

$5,550,000 of additional funding authority is requested for the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) to accommodate the increase in military dining contracts.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $5,550,000 in the Vending Stands and Equipment category for the Business Enterprise Program. This will provide total funding for the program of $15,189,345 and increase the budget authority allocated for military dining contracts from $6,477,345 to $12,027,345 to accommodate the increase in military dining contracts for Fiscal Year 2027-28.

These contracts are awarded through the Division of Blind Services, Business Enterprise Program (BEP), which employs and supports licensed blind vendors at these military bases. Military dining contracts are no-cost, pass-through contracts awarded through the U.S. Department of Defense's competitive procurement process. Under these contracts, the awarded contractor is responsible for providing all personnel, supervision, and other resources necessary to operate full-service dining facilities at military installations.

When the department is awarded a military dining contract, the Division of Blind Services' Business Enterprise Program (BEP) selects a licensed vendor through a competitive BEP selection process to operate the dining facility. The licensed vendor submits a monthly invoice to the department for services rendered. The department then invoices the Department of Defense (DoD) for the same amount. Upon receipt of payment from the DoD, the department remits payment in the identical amount to the BEP licensed vendor. As a result, these contracts have no net fiscal impact to the state and require only sufficient federal budget authority to process the pass-through payments

The military dining contracts requested to be funded for Fiscal Year 2027-28 are as follows:

$1,054,657 - Key West Naval Air Station
$2,219,280 - Hurlburt Field Air Force (part of Eglin Air Force Base)
$2,107,924 - Naval Support Activity Panama City
$2,084,459 - Eglin Airforce Base
$2,304,625 - Camp Blanding Army National Guard
$2,256,400 - Tyndall Air Force Base

$12,027,345 - Total for Military Dining Contracts
($6,477,345) - Less Available Federal Budget Authority for Military Contracts
$ 5,550,000 - Additional Federal Budget Authority Requested for Military Contracts

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Food Service Vending Training, Work Experience and Licensing (ACT0750)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Part 395)

PURPOSE:

Create and provide job opportunities in the food service sector for eligible blind persons under the Randolph-Sheppard Act and the Little Randolph-Sheppard Act.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Business Enterprise Program provides job opportunities in food service for eligible blind persons under the Randolph-Sheppard Act. Specifically, the program provides persons who are legally blind with business ownership and self-sufficiency through the operation of vending facilities on federal and other properties. The program is one of the largest vending and food services programs operated by people who are legally blind in the United States. Currently, it has 131 operating vending facilities around the state of Florida, which include six cafeterias, eight snack bars, 15 micro-markets, 41 non-highway vending facilities, 55 interstate rest areas, one highway rest area, and five military dining facilities. In Fiscal Year 2025-26, gross sales in these facilities totaled $27,655,911. The facilities generated state and local sales tax, as required by law, and provided 211 jobs for Florida citizens in the food and vending machine service industry.

The initial 18-week training for this program is offered at the division’s residential rehabilitation center located in Daytona and is followed by up to six to ten weeks of on-the-job training in an operational business enterprise program facility.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The vending stands category consist of $3,162,000, which is eligible for match because it is expended from the VR grant award; however, of the $9,639,345 in federal VR funds, $6,477,345 is not eligible for match since it is pass-through from the military contract's funds. The division has contractual agreements with federal vendors to pass-through the funds to make payments to the contracted blind vendors.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $8,572,345
- 2024-25 - $8,572,345
- 2023-24 - $6,772,345

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Item 51 - Blind Services - Tenant Broker Commissions

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	18,158	0	0	18,158	18,158	0	18,158	0	0.00%
Total	18,158	0	0	18,158	18,158	0	18,158	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$18,158 is requested to continue funding for the management of tenant broker fees and real estate consulting services.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 255.25(3)(h)5, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space for the Division of Blind Services.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The division is required to pay for tenant broker and real estate consulting services used to locate and lease suitable business space. The Department of Management Services (DMS) negotiated a contract with Vertical Integration, Inc., to provide tenant broker and real estate consulting services. State agencies acquiring services under this contract are required to collect a commission fee from the landlord on behalf of the contractor. The contractor is then compensated for services provided. The commission fee is stated in the contract at an amount of up to 4 percent of the lease amount for new leases and up to 2 percent of the lease amount for lease renewals. The fees are due to the contractor in two installments: (i) 50 percent upon execution of the lease documents by the landlord and the agency; and (ii) 50 percent upon occupancy by the agency of the leased premises.

Tenant Broker Commissions is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $18,158
- 2024-25 - $18,158
- 2023-24 - $18,158

Item 52 - Blind Services - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	3,162	0	0	3,162	3,162	0	3,162	0	0.00%
Admin TF	2,915	0	0	2,915	2,915	0	2,915	0	0.00%
Fed Rehab TF	93,452	0	0	93,452	93,452	0	93,452	0	0.00%
Total	99,529	0	0	99,529	99,529	0	99,529	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$99,529 is requested to continue funding human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services for the Division of Blind Services.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Determine Eligibility, Provide Counseling, Facilitate Provision of Rehabilitative Treatment, and Job Training to Blind Customers (ACT0740)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Provide for human resource management services for the Division of Blind Services.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (PeopleFirst) to manage agency human resources.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and

Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

Human Resource Services/State Contract is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $99,529
- 2024-25 - $104,535
- 2023-24 - $104,134

Item 53 - Blind Services - Other Data Processing Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	686,842	0	0	686,842	686,842	0	686,842	0	0.00%
Total	686,842	0	0	686,842	686,842	0	686,842	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$686,842 is requested to continue funding the Automated Web-Based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE), a statewide client management system provided by non-state entities.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Information Technology - Application Development/Support (ACT0320)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Maintain the division's Automated Web-Based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE) system, a statewide client case management system, to provide accurate data necessary to meet federal reporting requirements.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Automated Web-Based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE) system is the division's statewide client case management system. The AWARE system provides reliable, accurate case management information that is required to meet state and federal reporting requirements. Additionally, the system supports case management of individual clients by providing counselors with pertinent information, including application and eligibility status, activities due, plan development and documentation of progress toward the client's goal. This category provides funds for technology services provided by non-state entities.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program (VR) is a federal and state program under Chapter 413, Florida Statutes, and Section 110 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This federally mandated program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs that serve eligible individuals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as the Division of Blind Services (DBS). These federal VR funds are appropriated at the state level and are split between the two divisions with DVR receiving approximately 83 percent and DBS receiving approximately 17 percent. The VR program serves individuals with a broad range of disabilities. The intent of the program is to provide eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to obtain or keep gainful employment. It is administered on a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated basis, and requires 21.3 percent state funding match to 78.7 percent federal funding.

The Other Data Processing Services category is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $686,842
- 2024-25 - $686,842
- 2023-24 - $686,842

Item 54 - Blind Services - Education Technology and Information Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	249,902	0	0	249,902	249,902	0	249,902	0	0.00%
Total	249,902	0	0	249,902	249,902	0	249,902	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$249,902 is requested to continue funding technology services to meet some critical technology needs and programs related to Information Technology Services.

These funds are used to pay for services provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS). These services are paid in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes, for the cost recovery of information technology resources.

Below is a list of services provided:

- Telecommunications Support
- Network Support
- Help Desk and Desktop Support
- Disaster Recovery and Department-wide Data Center Services
- Department-wide Software, Software Maintenance, and Information Security Services
- Enterprise and Web Applications Development for Department-wide Applications
- Mainframe Support for Comptroller Functions

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Information Technology - Computer Operation (ACT0330) Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 216.272, and 413.011-413.092, Florida Statutes
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (CFR 34 Parts 361-367)

PURPOSE:

Provide the technology resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the division.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Technology services used by the division are acquired from the internal service provider as required by statute. Below is a description of the technology and information services acquired by the division:

TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
The Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) provides these services to employees and specific program areas for which the department is charged in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes.

Education Technology Services:
Provides vision and leadership for developing and implementing information technology initiatives that support the strategic initiatives of the department, as well as overall management of the department's technology and information systems and services.

Infrastructure and Support Services, Direct and Indirect Support:
Provides direct services that interface with and support technology end users. End users utilize a help desk to receive desktop and laptop hardware and software support, as well as batch and production report assistance. Additionally, end users have access to a broad range of media web conferencing services.

Provides indirect services that support and maintain the internal network infrastructure necessary for internal and external connectivity for the end users, the centralized telephone system, disaster recovery processes and information security accesses.

Enterprise Strategic Project Delivery Management:
Provides industry-standard project management and governance services for information technology (IT) capital projects, IT projects with high visibility and IT projects with high risk due to a broad impact. These services are provided to ensure technology solutions are delivered on time and within budget, and that they meet or exceed the expectations as defined by the department.

Applications Development Support:
Provides development and maintenance of software products to support the business of the department, including legacy mainframe applications, web applications, data base administration, and the Intranet and Internet web sites.

The division's primary application system, Automated Web-based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE) is used for case management. Applications Development Support processes monthly mainframe jobs related to the division's FLAIR transactions.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
OTIS makes technology purchases that are needed on a department-wide scale. These purchases are charged back to the department, as required in section 216.272, Florida Statutes. The department-wide purchases include, but are not limited to, hardware maintenance, software license renewals, software maintenance, data center and computer facilities services, disaster recovery and continuity of operations planning.

Education Technology and Information Services is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $249,289
- 2024-25 - $246,207
- 2023-24 - $243,299

Item 55 - Blind Services - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Fed Rehab TF	243,315	0	0	243,315	243,315	0	243,315	0	0.00%
Total	243,315	0	0	243,315	243,315	0	243,315	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$243,315 is requested to continue funding data processing services provided by the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Trina Travis (850) 245-5047; Mitchell Clark (850) 245-0527

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330) Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1004.649, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide funds for a statutorily designated data center and computer facility services to the department through a Primary Data Center.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

Primary Data Center -

The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

Mainframe Environment –
The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:
- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of Mainframe Disaster Recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The following is a list of the major mainframe applications and processes hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:
- Comptroller/Accounting processes

Open Systems Environment -
The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:
- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a list of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:
- AWARE Case Management System
- ARTS Budget Tracking System – LBR Greenbook

Northwest Regional Data Center is not a match category for federal grant purposes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $236,181
- 2024-25 - $430,327
- 2023-24 - $320,398

Item 55A - Blind Services - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	(500,000)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	(500,000)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested is $500,000 of nonrecurring General Revenue to fund the repairs and maintenance for the Florida Center for the Blind--Workforce Education and Training Center for Visually Impaired Adults.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406, Gina Jones (850) 245-9865, Sandra Sidwell (850) 245-9245

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested is $500,000 of nonrecurring General Revenue to fund the repairs and maintenance for the Florida Center for the Blind--Workforce Education and Training Center for Visually Impaired Adults (HF 1813) (SF 2919)

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

N/A

PURPOSE:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements. Through the Workforce Education and Training Center, the Florida Center for the Blind will use this innovative facility to provide dedicated services such as job development, vocational training, and job placement services that empower individuals with vision loss to achieve independence and become active contributors to Florida's growing economy. The facility will serve Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion and Union counties.

While the funds will be used for construction, the outcome will be a building that provides accessible technology and computer labs, vocational training classrooms, orientation and mobility training spaces and career counseling/job placement programs that connect participants with local employers. The Center will serve approximately 50-100 individuals each year.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $0
- 2024-25 - $500,000
- 2023-24 - $0

Private Colleges and Universities

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Item 56 - Private Colleges & Universities - G/A - Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	3,500,000	0	0	3,500,000	6,000,000	2,500,000	3,500,000	(2,500,000)	(41.67%)
Total	3,500,000	0	0	3,500,000	6,000,000	2,500,000	3,500,000	(2,500,000)	(41.67%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$3,500,000 is requested to continue funding for training first responders of Pre-hospital Emergency Health Care and internal medicine and surgery for medical, nursing, allied healthcare, and first responders.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$2,500,000 is not requested for restoration of nonrecurring funds provided to the University of Miami Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $2,500,000 of nonrecurring funds provided to the University of Miami Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory (ACT1904)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1011.521, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Create, sustain, update, and disseminate life-saving programs to train thousands of individuals at medical centers, agencies, universities, and colleges throughout Florida.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory program at the Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education provides services that have allowed advanced pre-hospital and emergency training programs for Florida first responders; patient simulation training scenarios to improve hands-on advance lifesaving skills; improved response for natural disasters response training and community paramedicine for public health and primary health care. This is accomplished using web-based and mobile multimedia and simulation technology, and to develop and deliver a greater range of educational modalities to train healthcare providers.

The program focuses on advanced lifesaving, critical skills for first responders and recommended best practices for the pre-hospital management of active shooter/assailant events, natural disasters and public health and preventive health services for all populations.

The Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education at the University of Miami also uses the funds toward project-related salaries for faculty and staff. Additionally, funds are used for a variety of expenses, including consultant fees, purchasing temporary services, repair and maintenance of equipment, technical supplies, printing, and travel.

The broad goals of the project are to:

- Develop materials, educational systems and assessment instruments based on best-evidence protocols for the training of fire fighters, law enforcement and military medics, paramedics and emergency medical technicians, medical students, physicians, physician assistant students, physician assistants, nursing students, nurses, and nurse practitioners.
- Serve as a laboratory for research and development in the application, dissemination, and evaluation of advanced simulation technology to healthcare education.
- Serve as a resource for programs and instructors from other healthcare training and emergency response centers in the state of Florida.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $6,000,000
- 2024-25 - $6,000,000
- 2023-24 - $4,500,000

Item 57 - Private Colleges & Universities - Historically Black Private Colleges

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	31,771,685	0	0	31,771,685	32,021,685	250,000	31,771,685	(250,000)	(0.78%)
Total	31,771,685	0	0	31,771,685	32,021,685	250,000	31,771,685	(250,000)	(0.78%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$31,771,685 is requested to continue funding special project programs, student access and retention efforts at historically black private universities in Florida.

- $16,960,111 - Bethune-Cookman University
- $ 6,429,526 - Edward Waters University
- $ 1,000,000 - Edward Waters University - Institute on Criminal Justice
- $ 7,032,048 - Florida Memorial University
- $ 350,000 - Florida Memorial University - Council on the Status of Black Men and Boys

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$250,000 is not requested for restoration of nonrecurring funds provided to Bethune-Cookman University - Nursing Workforce Readiness Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $250,000 of nonrecurring funds provided to Bethune-Cookman University - Nursing Workforce Readiness Program.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Bethune-Cookman (ACT1936)
Edward Waters College (ACT1938)
Florida Memorial College (ACT1940)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1011.521, Florida Statutes
Section 1001.216, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Promote increased access, retention, and graduation rates at Florida's three private historically black universities, which provide opportunities to educationally and economically disadvantaged students who are primarily Florida residents.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The state's three private historically black universities use these funds to boost their access, retention, and graduation efforts. Specifically, the three historically black private universities use the funds for the following purposes:

- Bethune-Cookman University - Funds are used toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits; student scholarships; student wages and stipends; purchase of equipment and maintenance; office operations; travel (including conference registrations, lodging, and mileage); professional services/honorariums; workshops/seminars; cultural activities.
- Edward Waters University - Funds are used toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits; contracted services; travel; supplies; scholarships.
- Edward Waters University - Institute on Criminal Justice funds are used to implement core courses and the Police Academy certification training as a Law Enforcement concentration; establish an articulation agreement with the Northeast Florida Criminal Justice Training and Education Center, Florida State College at Jacksonville; prepare students to be academically prepared to gain admission to the Police Academy; teach essentials to prepare students to successfully pass the Florida State Law Enforcement Certification examination; develop private partnerships to hire students in the Law Enforcement within Florida.
- Florida Memorial University - Funds are used toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits; student stipends; supplies; consulting; honorariums; recruitment materials; subscriptions; contracted services; repair and maintenance; automobile rental; space rental; staff and student travel; workshops; awards; cultural activities; scholarships; and miscellaneous expenses.
- Florida Memorial University - Florida Council on Black Men and Boys - Funds are used to provide staff and administrative support to the Council. The Council shall make a systematic study on the conditional affecting black men and boys, including but not limited to homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual income levels, school performance in all grade levels including post secondary and health issues. The Council shall propose measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of the described conditions, measures may consist of changes to the law or systematic changes that may be implemented without Legislative action. The Council may study other topics suggested by the Legislature or as directed by the chair. The Council may also receive suggestions or comments pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the Legislature, governmental agencies, public or private organizations and private citizens.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $31,921,685
- 2024-25 - $31,421,685
- 2023-24 - $31,921,685

Item 58 - Private Colleges & Universities - G/A - Private Colleges and Universities

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000	17,726,000	12,726,000	5,000,000	(12,726,000)	(71.79%)
Total	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000	17,726,000	12,726,000	5,000,000	(12,726,000)	(71.79%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$5,000,000 is requested to continue funding the following projects:

- $3,000,000 - Embry-Riddle - Aerospace Academy
- $2,000,000 - Jacksonville University - Entrepreneurism, Policy, Innovation, and Commerce (EPIC) program

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$12,726,000 is not requested for restoration for the following projects:

- $ 500,000 - Barry University - First Responder Risk Detection Training
- $3,000,000 - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Aerodynamics Research/Hypersonic Equipment
- $1,500,000 - Flagler College - The Institute for Classical Education at Flagler College
- $5,000,000 - Florida Southern College - Workforce Readiness Expansion
- $2,000,000 - Jacksonville University - Accelerated Nursing Programs
- $ 102,000 - Saint Leo University: Cybersecurity and Cyberforensics Training and Education Center
- $ 624,000 - Saint Leo University: Nursing Program Expansion to Meet Regional Demand

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $12,726,000 for the following projects:

- $ 500,000 - Barry University - First Responder Risk Detection Training
- $3,000,000 - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Aerodynamics Research/Hypersonic Equipment
- $1,500,000 - Flagler College - The Institute for Classical Education at Flagler College
- $5,000,000 - Florida Southern College - Workforce Readiness Expansion
- $2,000,000 - Jacksonville University - Accelerated Nursing Programs
- $ 102,000 - Saint Leo University: Cybersecurity and Cyberforensics Training and Education Center
- $ 624,000 - Saint Leo University: Nursing Program Expansion to Meet Regional Demand

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
State Grants to Private Colleges and Universities (ACT1941)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Section 1011.521, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:
Provide funds to Florida residents enrolled in high-priority disciplines in an effort to encourage residents to remain in the state of Florida and pursue careers in crucial fields.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Aerospace Career Academy at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) is a collaborative effort between ERAU and the state of Florida to broaden the participation of Florida's secondary school students in Aerospace STEM-related degrees. The program provides rigorous aerospace-based STEM-related courses that prepare secondary school students for college and the workforce, while providing them a clear pathway to college graduation and high-paying jobs in a thrilling and dynamic industry in the state of Florida. Funding allocations will:

- Increase dual enrollment programming in Aerospace Science through the state of Florida.
- Increase student participation in accelerated aerospace STEM course options.
- Increase career and technical education opportunities and internships.
- Increase aerospace STEM-related educational opportunities.
- Increase the STEM proficiency of Florida's teachers and expand the number of faculty credentialed under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) credentialing criteria.

Jacksonville University (JU)- Entrepreneurism, Policy, Innovation, and Commerce (EPIC) program provides academic training that is aligned with Florida's workforce needs, bridges the gap between higher education and the marketplace, addresses the gap in the skills and competencies expected by employers, and retains JU graduates in Florida to help the state meet its workforce needs.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $7,265,000
- 2024-25 - $36,974,411
- 2023-24 - $23,506,260

Item 59 - Private Colleges & Universities - Effective Access Grant (EASE)

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	136,901,500	0	10,150,750	147,052,250	136,901,500	0	136,901,500	10,150,750	7.41%
Total	136,901,500	0	10,150,750	147,052,250	136,901,500	0	136,901,500	10,150,750	7.41%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$136,901,500 is requested to fund the following:

- $133,952,000 - EASE - funds 38,272 students at an average award amount of $3,500.
- $ 2,949,500 - EASE Plus - funds 3,470 EASE students at an additional award amount of $850.

WORKLOAD

$10,150,750 is requested to fund the following:

- $9,789,500 - EASE - funds 2,797 additional students at an average award amount of $3,500.
- $ 361,250 - EASE Plus - funds 425 additional EASE students at an additional award amount of $850.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $10,150,750 in recurring General Revenue for the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) grant for total funding of $147,052,250. This request aligns with the August 5, 2026, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference and reflects an increase for EASE and EASE Plus.

The estimating conference amounts are as follows:

EASE
2,797 - Additional students
41,069 - Total students
$ 9,789,500 - Additional funds
$143,741,500 - Total funds

EASE Plus
425 - Additional Students
3,895 - Total students
$ 361,250 - Additional funds
$3,310,750 - Total funds

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Effective Access to Student Education Program (ACT1963)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1009.89, Section 1009.521, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide tuition assistance to full-time Florida students who have chosen to attend an eligible private institution.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) grant provides tuition assistance to Florida full-time students who are attending an eligible private Florida institution. The Florida Legislature considers private schools an integral part of higher education in the state and seeks to reduce the tax burden for the residents of the state. All eligible students are afforded the maximum award to the extent of the program funding.

The EASE Plus stipend provides an additional award to support qualified EASE students enrolled in upper-level courses in quality, high-demand programs. These programs include Agriculture/Veterinary Science, Allied Health, Cyber Security, Digital Arts/Computer Graphics, Nursing, and Teaching.

The following is a list of the eligible institutions for the current fiscal year:

Advent Health University
Ave Maria University
Barry University
Beacon College
Bethune-Cookman University
Eckerd College
Edward Waters University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Everglades University
Flagler College
Florida College
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Memorial University
Florida Southern College
Herzing University
Jacksonville University
Keiser University
Lynn University
Nova Southeastern University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Ringling School of Art and Design
Rollins College
Saint Leo University
South College

South University
Southeastern University
St. Thomas University
Stetson University
The Baptist University of Florida
University of Miami
University of Tampa
Warner University
Webber International University

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $135,903,100
- 2024-25 - $127,659,350
- 2023-24 - $127,348,000

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Item 59A - Private Colleges & Universities - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	6,856,883	6,856,883	0	(6,856,883)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	6,856,883	6,856,883	0	(6,856,883)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$6,856,883 is not requested for restoration for the following projects:

- $3,775,000 - Florida Southern College - Workforce Readiness Expansion
- $2,000,000 - Palm Beach Atlantic University - LeMieux Center for Public Policy
- $ 500,000 - Saint Leo University: Cybersecurity and Cyberforensics Training and Education Center
- $ 581,883 - Saint Leo University: Nursing Program Expansion to Meet Regional Demand

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Sandra Sidwell (850) 245-9245

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested for restoration is $6,856,883 for the following projects:

- $3,775,000 - Florida Southern College - Workforce Readiness Expansion
- $2,000,000 - Palm Beach Atlantic University - LeMieux Center for Public Policy
- $ 500,000 - Saint Leo University: Cybersecurity and Cyberforensics Training and Education Center
- $ 581,883 - Saint Leo University: Nursing Program Expansion to Meet Regional Demand

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1011.521 Florida Statute

PURPOSE:

Provide capital improvements for private colleges and universities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide capital improvements for private colleges and universities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $5,833,333
- 2024-25 - $26,885,714
- 2023-24 - $25,943,082

Student Financial Aid Program (State)

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Item 60 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Open Door Grant Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	25,000,000	0	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	0	0	0.00%
Total	0	25,000,000	0	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	0	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$25,000,000 is requested to be restored in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue to fund 21,076 students at an award amount of $1,186.18 each

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $25,000,000 for the Open Door Grant Program in nonrecurring General Revenue. This request maintains the Fiscal Year 2026-27 funding and allows the department to continue to serve 21,076 students at an award amount of $1,186.18 each.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
Open Door Grant Program (ACT2049)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Section 1009.895, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Create and incentivize current and future workers to enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) that leads to a credential certificate or degree and provide grants to Florida College System (FCS) institutions and eligible public technical centers to cover the cost of integrated education and training programs as well as workforce education programs for eligible students. This program expands the affordability of workforce training and credentialing and increases the interest of current and future workers in high-demand career and technical education fields.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Open Door Grant Program, established in 2021, was converted to a financial aid program in 2023 to assist students in a Florida College System institution or technical center to incentivize current and future workers to enroll in a career and technical education program that leads to a credential, certificate, or degree. Grants are provided to qualified students who must be a Florida resident for tuition purposes, be enrolled in a workforce education program, and be enrolled at a school district postsecondary technical career center, a state college, or a charter technical career center. A student is eligible to receive an award equal to the amount needed to cover 100 percent of the cost for the eligible workforce education program after all other federal and state financial aid and any other private or public financial assistance is applied. These costs may include tuition and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, or related materials. Additionally, a student is eligible to receive a stipend up to $1,500 per academic year to cover other educational expenses related to cost of attendance.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $35,000,000
- 2024-25 - $35,000,000
- 2023-24 - $35,000,000

Item 3 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Lottery (EETF)	705,181,580	0	37,766,080	742,947,660	705,181,580	0	705,181,580	37,766,080	5.36%
Total	705,181,580	0	37,766,080	742,947,660	705,181,580	0	705,181,580	37,766,080	5.36%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$705,181,580 is requested to continue funding approximately 146,086 students at an average award amount of $4,827.17.

WORKLOAD

$37,766,080 is requested to provide 6,123 additional students awards and increase the average award amount by $53.93, from $4,827.17 to $4,881.10, for the total projected students of 152,209 to align with the August 5, 2026, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $37,766,080 in recurring in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (Lottery) for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program for total funding of $742,947,660. This request aligns with the August 5, 2026, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference projecting 6,123 additional students and increasing the average award amount by $53.93 from $4,827.17 to $4,881.10 for total projected students of 152,209.

The workload breakout for the additional students and the average award amount increase is as follows:

$29,556,746 - 6,123 additional students at the cost to continue average award amount
$ 8,209,334 - Increase average award by $53.93, from $4,827.17 to $4,881.10, for 152,209 students
----
$37,766,080 - Workload Total Amount Requested

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship (ACT 2014)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1009.53-1009.538, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Reward Florida high school students for their high academic achievement and encourage them to continue and maintain their pursuit of high standards of academic achievement at a Florida institution of higher education.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program was created in 1997 to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement. Funded by the Florida Lottery, the program rewards Florida high school students for their high academic achievement and encourages them to continue their postsecondary education at a Florida institution of higher education. There are four types of Bright Futures Scholarships: Florida Academic Scholarship (also includes the academic top scholars auxiliary award to a few Florida Academic Scholars), Florida Medallion Scholarship, Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship. For all four scholarship types, eligible institutions include Florida state universities; state/community colleges; public technical centers; and eligible private colleges, universities and technical schools that meet licensure, accreditation and operation standards.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $637,661,624
- 2024-25 - $620,634,992
- 2023-24 - $607,192,051

Item 61 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Benacquisto Scholarship Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	35,172,921	0	1,115,782	36,288,703	35,172,921	0	35,172,921	1,115,782	3.17%
Total	35,172,921	0	1,115,782	36,288,703	35,172,921	0	35,172,921	1,115,782	3.17%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$35,172,921 is requested to continue funding approximately 1,786 students at an average award amount of $19,693.68.

WORKLOAD

$1,115,782 is requested to fund an additional 1,805 students an increased average award amount of $410.86, from $19,693.68 to $20,104.54 each for the total projected students of 1,805 to align with the August 5, 2026, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $1,115,782 in recurring General Revenue for the Benacquisto Scholarship Program for total funding of $36,288,703. This request aligns with the August 5, 2026, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference projecting 19 additional students and increasing the average award amount by $410.86, from $19,693.68 to $20,104.54 for total projected students of 1,805.

The workload breakout for the additional students and the average award amount increase is as follows:

$ 374,180 - 19 additional students at the cost to continue average award amount
$ 741,602 - Increase average award by $410.86, from $19,693.68 to $20,104.54 for 1805 students
- -
$1,115,782 - Workload Total Amount Requested

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Benacquisto Scholarship Program (ACT2036)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1009.893, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Reward Florida high school graduates (including non-Florida high school graduates) who receive recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement Scholar and encourage them to pursue higher education at an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institution.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida National Merit Scholarship was created in 2014 to establish a program to reward a Florida high school graduate who receives recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement Scholar. In Fiscal Year 2016-17 the award is equal to the public institution's cost of attendance (including tuition and fees, room and board, and other expenses), minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National Achievement Scholarship. Regionally accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institutions are deemed eligible to participate in the program. The Florida National Merit Scholarship Program was renamed to the Benacquisto Scholarship Program, pursuant to Chapter 2016-237, Laws of Florida (HB 7029). The Benacquisto Scholarship Program in Fiscal Year 2018-19 was expanded to include non-Florida high school graduates as award recipients, pursuant to Chapter 2018-4, Laws of Florida (SB 4); however, Chapter 2021-232, Laws of Florida, (HB 1261), was passed to no longer allow non-Florida high school graduates to qualify for a Benacquisto award for the 2022-23 fiscal and beyond.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $38,101,648
- 2024-25 - $36,785,924
- 2023-24 - $37,652,713

Item 62 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - First Generation in College Matching Grant Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	10,617,326	0	0	10,617,326	10,617,326	0	10,617,326	0	0.00%
Total	10,617,326	0	0	10,617,326	10,617,326	0	10,617,326	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$10,617,326 is requested to continue funding approximately 9,909 students with scholarships at the current level, as follows:

- $7,962,994 - 4,501 state university student scholarships at an average award amount of $2,653.74.
- $2,654,332 - 5,409 state/community college student scholarships at an average award amount of $729.66.

The First Generation in College Matching Grant Program is a two-to-one matching program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

First Generation in College Matching Grant Program (ACT2062)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1009.701, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide need-based scholarships, in partnership with private donors, to students who are the first generation in their family to attend college and who may not otherwise have the resources to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The First Generation in College Matching Grant Program (FGMG) was established to provide need-based scholarships, in partnership with private donors, to students who are the first generation in their family to attend college and who may not otherwise have the resources to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities. The program enables each public state university and public state/community college to provide donors with a matching grant incentive for contributions that will create need-based scholarships at each institution. Each year, the General Appropriations Act delineates the total amount of funding to be distributed among the universities and colleges. The institutions, through their institutional foundations, are responsible for generating private donations for the purpose of this program. Each institution's allocation is a proration based on a sector-driven formula that includes, but is not limited to, the institution's percentage of first-generation students exhibiting financial need.

Florida law requires that, to receive funds, students must:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen,
- Be accepted at a Florida public state university or Florida public state college,
- Enroll in a minimum of six credit hours per term as a degree-seeking undergraduate student,
- Be a first-generation college student, where neither of the student's parents earned a college degree at the baccalaureate level or higher, and
- Submit a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) and meet all other requirements under section 1009.50, Florida Statutes, for demonstrated financial need, as also required for the Florida Student Assistance Grant Program.

The program offers a maximum award based on a student's need, which is calculated from the student's cost of attendance less the student's student aid index and any other aid, not including loans.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $10,617,326
- 2024-25 - $10,617,326
- 2023-24 - $10,617,326

Item 63 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Prepaid Tuition Scholarships

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$7,000,000 is requested to continue funding 3,092 Prepaid Tuition Scholarships, at an average cost of $2,263.90 per scholarship which are matched one-to-one by private donations.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Prepaid Tuition Scholarships (ACT2040)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1009.984, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarships to economically disadvantaged youth who otherwise may not have the financial resources to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Prepaid Tuition Scholarship program is administered by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation and serves Florida's youth who are economically disadvantaged by offering prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarships, also known as Project STARS – Secondary Tuition for At-Risk-Students. Project STARS is the largest foundation initiative, specifically targeting children from low-income families who are at risk of dropping out of school. Many of these children are the first in their families to have the opportunity to go to college. Project STARS scholarships are funded from an annual legislative appropriation and matching contributions from partners, including Take Stock in Children, local education foundations, school districts and other community-based organizations.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $7,000,000
- 2024-25 - $7,000,000
- 2023-24 - $7,000,000

Item 64 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Florida ABLE, Incorporated

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,770,000	0	0	1,770,000	1,770,000	0	1,770,000	0	0.00%
Total	1,770,000	0	0	1,770,000	1,770,000	0	1,770,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,770,000 is requested to continue funding the Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program to manage 13,616 active accounts for individuals with disabilities at an average management cost of $130.00 per account.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida ABLE, Incorporated (ACT2041)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1009.985 and 1009.986, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Encourages and assists with the saving of private funds in tax-exempt accounts for qualified disability expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida ABLE, Incorporated, is a special needs trust that manages tax-free savings and investment accounts for disabled persons and their families as part of the state's ABLE program. This program is the result of the federal Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act that began in 2014. Most states have an ABLE program and Florida was one of the first. The Florida Legislature passed the Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, into law in 2015.

When people with special needs apply for disability benefits, they must show that they do not have enough money to support themselves independently. Any money a person has in a traditional bank account count against that person's ability to qualify for disability benefits. As a result, people with special needs are not able to build savings with the money they earn or receive through inheritance or gifts. On a day-to-day basis, this means that people with special needs must live with very little money if they want to receive government aid. ABLE accounts fill this gap by giving people with special needs the opportunity to manage a modest bank account without penalty against their eligibility for SSI, Medicaid, or other government benefits.

An individual may have only one ABLE Account and the amount donated into the account is capped at $15,000 per year. Recipients may withdraw funds to use for quality disability expenses including: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology services, personal support services, and other expenses to enhance the account owner's quality of life.

As of June 30, 2025, Floridians have opened 16,573 ABLE United Accounts of which, only 13,616 are considered active. There were 2,665 new accounts opened between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,770,000
- 2024-25 - $1,770,000
- 2023-24 - $1,770,000

Item 65 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Nursing Student Loan Reimbursement/Scholarships

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	1,233,006	0	0	1,233,006	1,233,006	0	1,233,006	0	0.00%
Total	1,233,006	0	0	1,233,006	1,233,006	0	1,233,006	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,233,006 is requested to continue funding the Nursing Student Loan Reimbursement/Scholarships, providing a maximum award amount of $4,000 to 308 eligible nurses.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program (ACT2500)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1009.66 and 1009.67, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Increase employment and retention of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The program offers loan forgiveness to eligible nurses to increase employment and retention of registered and licensed practical nurses in nursing homes, in-state hospitals, state-operated medical facilities, health care facilities, public schools, birth centers, federally sponsored community health centers, family practice teaching hospitals and specialty children's hospitals. Loans received by nurses from federal programs, state programs or commercial lending institutions may be reduced in return for the recipient working in approved facilities after graduation.

Funds in the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by contributions from employing institutions, not including state-operated facilities. All money collected from the private health care industry and other private sources shall be deposited into the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Trust Fund. There is a levied fee of $5 that is collected at the time of licensure or renewal that funds this program.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,233,006
- 2024-25 - $1,233,006
- 2023-24 - $1,233,006

Item 66 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	160,500	0	0	160,500	160,500	0	160,500	0	0.00%
St St Fin Assist TF	160,500	0	0	160,500	160,500	0	160,500	0	0.00%
Total	321,000	0	0	321,000	321,000	0	321,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$321,000 is requested to continue funding the Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program at a maximum annual award amount of $3,000 to 107 students with state funds and private contributions at a one-to-one match.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship (ACT2026)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1009.73, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Increase postsecondary access for need-based students to one of Florida's four historically black colleges and universities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program provides scholarships to need-based students attending one of Florida's historically black postsecondary institutions:

- Bethune-Cookman University
- Edward Waters University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- Florida Memorial University

The scholarships are funded through state funds and private contributions on a one-to-one match ratio at a maximum award amount of $3,000 annually, as provided in Florida Statutes. Any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year will carry forward and be available for implementing the program. Based on the general eligibility framework established by the department, each institution will then rank eligible students according to individual financial need and report relevant data to the department. This is a decentralized program, which means each participating institution determines application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility. Participating institutions may choose to prorate awards to accommodate all eligible students.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $321,000
- 2024-25 - $321,000
- 2023-24 - $321,000

Item 4 and 67 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Student Financial Aid

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	205,412,333	0	7,622,766	213,035,099	206,262,333	850,000	205,412,333	6,772,766	3.28%
Lottery (EETF)	102,954,076	0	0	102,954,076	102,954,076	0	102,954,076	0	0.00%
Total	308,366,409	0	7,622,766	315,989,175	309,216,409	850,000	308,366,409	6,772,766	2.19%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$308,366,409 is requested to continue funding approximately 173,565 students at the current average award level (see chart for the number of students and the amount per student funding per program).

$236,044,017 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Public Full & Part - Time
$ 23,612,502 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Private
$ 6,430,443 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Postsecondary
$ 3,309,050 - Florida Student Assistance Grant - Career Education
$ 35,566,577 - Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans
$ 1,569,922 - Florida Work Experience Program
$ 256,747 - Rosewood Family Scholarship
$ 1,000,000 - Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program
$ 272,151 - Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship
$ 305,000 - Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program

WORKLOAD

$7,622,766 in additional recurring General Revenue is requested for the Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans scholarship program to fund 1,187 additional students, for a total of 9,560 awards, and increase the average award amount by $269.94, from $4,247.77 to $4,517.71, to align with the August 5, 2026, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $7,622,766 in recurring General Revenue for the Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans scholarship program (CSDDV) to fund 1,187 additional students and increase the average award amount by $269.94, from $4,247.77 to $4,517.71. This request aligns with the August 5, 2026, Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference which projects a need of $43,189,343 for a total of 9,560 students at an average award amount of $4,517.71.

The workload breakout for the additional students and the average award amount increase is as follows:

$5,042,103 - 1,187 additional students at cost to continue average award amount
$2,580,663 - Increase average award by $269.94, from $4,247.77 to $4,517.71, for 9,560 students (rounding)
- -
$7,622,766 - Workload Total Amount Requested

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans (ACT2006)
Florida Work Experience Program (ACT2020)
Florida Farmworker Scholarships (ACT2021)
Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant (ACT2038)
Private Student Assistance Grant (ACT2042)
Florida Student Assistance Grants for Public Full and Part-Time Students (ACT2044)
Rosewood Family Scholarship (ACT2046)
Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program (ACT2050)
Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Grant (ACT2064)
Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program (ACT2023)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 295.01-05, 1009.50, 1009.505, 1009.51-52, 1009.55, 1009.77, and 1009.894, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Increase postsecondary access and educational opportunities for students with financial needs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS (FSAG)

The Public, Private, Postsecondary, and Career Education FSAG Program, created in 1972, is Florida's largest need-based grant program. FSAG includes separately funded student financial aid programs available to undergraduate Florida residents who demonstrate substantial financial need; are enrolled in participating postsecondary institutions; and are degree-seeking in the public, private and postsecondary grants; or are enrolled in a participating state college or career center, and are certificate-seeking in the Career Education grant. The FSAG is available to students who attend Florida public state universities, public state colleges and eligible private postsecondary institutions. The FSAG is administered as a decentralized program, which means that each participating institution determines application deadlines, student eligibility and award amounts. Eligibility criteria and maximum award amounts are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

CHILDREN AND SPOUSES OF DECEASED OR DISABLED VETERANS (CSDDV)

The CSDDV scholarship program has been in effect since 1941. This program provides educational opportunities to dependent children and spouses of Florida veterans who have died or have been determined to be 100 percent disabled as a result of specified military actions. Students who are enrolled in public postsecondary education institutions are eligible for an award equal to the cost of tuition and fees. Students enrolled in a private postsecondary institution are eligible for an award equal to the average cost of tuition and fees at a comparable public institution. Eligible institutions include Florida public state universities, public state/community colleges, public career centers and eligible private postsecondary institutions. Current Florida Statutes require that CSDDV students receive 100 percent of tuition and fees.

FLORIDA WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (FWEP)
The FWEP, created in 1993, is a self-help, need-based student financial assistance program intended to facilitate student employment in occupations complementary to students' educational endeavors and career goals. The FWEP provides employment opportunities for students at a reduced cost to the employer and represents a partnership between state and private employers. The FWEP is offered at participating Florida public state universities; public state/community colleges; and eligible private, non-profit postsecondary institutions. The FWEP is administered as a decentralized program, and each participating institution determines application deadlines, student eligibility criteria and award amounts. Eligibility criteria and award amounts are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

ROSEWOOD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP (RFS)
The RFS Program was created in 1994 for the purpose of funding direct descendants of Rosewood families affected by the incidents of January 1923. This need-based program provides student financial assistance for eligible degree-seeking or certificate-seeking students who attend public state universities, public state/community colleges or public postsecondary career centers. The 2014 Florida Legislature expanded the program by increasing the number of scholarships from 25 to 50 per year and increased the authorized maximum annual award to be equal to the cost of tuition and fees, from $4,000 to $6,100 per student, but not to exceed the new maximum award.

FLORIDA FARMWORKER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
The Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship, created in 2018, provides a need-based scholarship to degree-seeking or career certificate-seeking undergraduate residents who are farmworkers or are the children of such farmworkers, as defined in section 420.503, Florida Statutes.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED GRADUATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
The Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program was created to provide supplemental need-based veteran education benefits to eligible students across the state. Funds are used to assist in the payment of living expenses during holiday breaks for active-duty and honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001.

RANDOLPH BRACY OCOEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program, created in 2021, funds students who are either a direct descendant of victims of the Ocoee Election Day Riots of November 1920, or current African-American residents of Ocoee, Florida. This need-based program provides financial assistance for eligible degree-seeking or certificate-seeking students who attend public state universities, public Florida colleges, public postsecondary career centers, or a Historically Black College or University in Florida.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $302,773,861
- 2024-25 - $298,512,131
- 2023-24 - $291,132,244

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Item 68 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	250,000	0	0	250,000	250,000	0	250,000	0	0.00%
Total	250,000	0	0	250,000	250,000	0	250,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$250,000 is requested to continue reimbursing up to $1,000 of equivalency training costs for certified law enforcement officers who relocate to Florida or members of the special operations forces who become full-time law enforcement officers in Florida.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement Program (ACT 2605)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Financial incentives to recruit law enforcement officers who relocate from outside the State of Florida or who transition from service in the special operations forces.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, the department, in consultation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, will reimburse eligible applicants who relocate to Florida or who transition from service in the special operations forces to become a full-time law enforcement officer within Florida. The scholarships reimburse eligible expenses incurred while obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification.

To be eligible for such reimbursement, an applicant's employing agency must certify that he or she: qualifies for an exemption from the basic recruit training program and is not sponsored by the employing agency to cover the cost of equivalency training.

Eligible applicants may be reimbursed for eligible costs and fees up to $1,000, which include any cost or fee incurred for:

- any equivalency assessment administered to determine required equivalency training,
- any equivalency training required by the commission, and
- the law enforcement officer certification examination.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $500,000
- 2024-25 - $1,000,000
- 2023-24 - $1,000,000

Item 69 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Florida First Responder Scholarship Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	10,000,000	0	0	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	10,000,000	0	0	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$10,000,000 is requested to continue funding scholarships for tuition, applicable fees, and up to $1,000 for eligible expenses to trainees enrolled in an approved training program at a Florida College System institution or school district technical center.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida First Responder Scholarship Program (ACT 2601)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1000.896, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Assist in the recruitment of first responders within Florida through the increase of postsecondary access and education opportunities with student financial assistance.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, the Florida Law Enforcement Scholarship Program was renamed the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program and was expanded to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters within the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who enroll in an approved training program.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $10,000,000
- 2024-25 - $10,000,000
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 70 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - G/A - Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	18,050,000	0	18,886,937	36,936,937	18,050,000	0	18,050,000	18,886,937	104.64%
Total	18,050,000	0	18,886,937	36,936,937	18,050,000	0	18,050,000	18,886,937	104.64%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$18,050,000 is requested to continue funding postsecondary institutions in support of 62,418 students enrolled in a dual enrollment program at an average reimbursement amount of $289.18.

WORKLOAD

$18,886,937 is requested to provide 3,686 additional students reimbursements and increase the average reimbursement amount by $269.59, from $289.18 to $558.77, for the total projected students of 66,104.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $18,886,937 in recurring General Revenue funds to provide total funding of $36,936,937 to support the increased student and institutional participation in the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program. Funding for the program began in Fiscal Year 2021-22 and the recurring base appropriation since that time has remained constant at $18,050,000. However, during the 2024 legislative session, the program was expanded to allow students at eligible independent postsecondary institutions to be reimbursed through the program. As a result, there were insufficient funds to meet the demand, and the demand has grown each fiscal year since. For each fiscal year, the reimbursement requests have exceeded the appropriation as follows: Fiscal Year 2024-25, $6,807,719; Fiscal Year 2025-26, $16,379,104; Fiscal Year 2026-27 projected, $16,635,868; Fiscal Year 2027-28 projected, $18,886,937.

The workload breakout for the additional students and the average reimbursement amount increase is as follows:

$ 1,065,915 - 3,686 additional students at the cost to continue average reimbursement amount
$17,821,022 - Increase average amount by $269.59, from $289.18 to $558.77, for 66,104 students (rounding)

$18,886,937 - Workload Total Amount Requested

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program (ACT 2047)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Section 1009.30, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Increase postsecondary access and educational opportunities for secondary students.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The 2021 legislature established the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program due to the importance of dual enrollment being an integral part of the education system in this state and should be available for all eligible secondary students without cost to the student. The scholarship provides postsecondary institutions with a reimbursement for expenses associated with providing dual enrollment courses to private, home education, and personalized education program secondary students in the fall and spring terms, and to public, private, home education, and personalized education program secondary students in the summer term. In Fiscal Year 2024-25 the program was expanded to allow eligible independent postsecondary institutions to be reimbursed through the program. An eligible independent college or university includes those that are not for profit, accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, and confers degrees as defined in section 1005.02, Florida Statutes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $18,050,000
- 2024-25 - $18,050,000
- 2023-24 - $18,050,000

Item 71 - Student Financial Aid Program (State) - Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$2,000,000 is requested to continue funding an alternative pathway to education and workforce opportunities for students.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley; (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship Program (ACT2045)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1009.711 and 1004.933, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

The GATE Scholarship Program supports institutions participating in the GATE Program to create an alternative pathway to education and workforce opportunities for students who have withdrawn from high school prior to graduation. This alternative pathway program waives tuition and fees for participating students who have not earned a standard high school diploma.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 7032 to create the GATE program, in addition to, the GATE Scholarship Program. The GATE Scholarship Program (s. 1009.711, F.S.) supports institutions participating in the GATE Program (s. 1004.933, F.S.) with the reimbursement of registration, tuition, laboratory, and examination fees and related instructional materials costs for students enrolled in the GATE Program.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $7,000,000
- 2024-25 - $7,000,000
- 2023-24 - $0

Student Financial Aid Program (Federal)

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Item 72 - Student Financial Aid Program (Federal) - Student Financial Aid

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	100,000	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0.00%
Total	100,000	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$100,000 is requested to continue funding loan repayment assistance to approximately 13 recipients at an average award amount of $7,692.31 under the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program (ACT2048)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
42 U.S.C. 3797cc-21

PURPOSE:

To encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as prosecutors and public defenders for the state of Florida.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program is to assist funding of loan repayment for local, state and federal public defenders and prosecutors within the state of Florida. The purpose of the program is to encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as prosecutors and public defenders. Funding for the program is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $100,000
- 2024-25 - $100,000
- 2023-24 - $185,548

Item 73 - Student Financial Aid Program (Federal) - Transfer Default Fees to the Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Student Loan Oper TF	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
Total	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$5,000 is requested to continue funding the payment of the one percent default fee on behalf of students acquiring student loans from the U.S. Department of Education, administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Transfer Default Fees To Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund (ACT 2055)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1010.731, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Ease the financial burden of postsecondary education access for students and generate revenues that can support scholarships for Florida students.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) operates the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) within regulations established by the U.S. Department of Education. Earnings from this program support the operations of the student loan program and provide scholarships to Florida students.

The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 eliminated the bank-based guaranteed student loan program (Federal Family Education Loan Program) administered by OSFA and moved all colleges to the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan Program as of July 1, 2010.

Federal regulations require guarantee agencies to charge a one percent default fee on each student loan that is guaranteed on July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2010. The payment of the fee is transferred from the Student Loan Operating Trust Fund to the Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund upon notification of the student loan disbursement. Federal regulations require guarantee agencies to maintain a Federal Fund (Student Loan Guaranty Reserve Trust Fund), which is the property of the U.S. Department of Education and can only be used for default aversion fees, claims submitted by lenders for defaulted student loans and deposits of the default fee.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $5,000
- 2024-25 - $5,000
- 2023-24 - $5,000

Early Learning

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Item 74 - Early Learning Services - Salaries and Benefits

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,555,739	0	0	5,555,739	5,555,739	0	5,555,739	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	4,571,748	0	0	4,571,748	4,571,748	0	4,571,748	0	0.00%
Total	10,127,487	0	0	10,127,487	10,127,487	0	10,127,487	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$10,127,487 is requested to continue funding salaries and benefits for 97 employees of the Division of Early Learning.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT0940) Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930) Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide executive direction and management of School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education programs and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funding provides for the salaries and benefits of the Division of Early Learning employees.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $10,061,771
- 2024-25 - $9,784,348
- 2023-24 - $9,454,864

Item 75 - Early Learning Services - Other Personal Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	118,840	0	0	118,840	118,840	0	118,840	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	220,160	0	0	220,160	220,160	0	220,160	0	0.00%
Total	339,000	0	0	339,000	339,000	0	339,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$339,000 is requested to continue funding for temporary services and time-limited projects in the Division of Early Learning.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940) Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930) Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Funding provides assistance to meet deadlines for critical projects and time-limited work products for a variety of School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education programs, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provides funding for temporary hourly employees.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $339,000
- 2024-25 - $338,084
- 2023-24 - $336,802

Item 76 - Early Learning Services - Expenses

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	455,745	0	0	455,745	455,745	0	455,745	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	658,048	0	0	658,048	658,048	0	658,048	0	0.00%
Welfare Transition TF	265,163	0	0	265,163	265,163	0	265,163	0	0.00%
Total	1,378,956	0	0	1,378,956	1,378,956	0	1,378,956	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,378,956 is requested to continue funding for administrative expenses that support the Division of Early Learning.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provides funds for operational expenses for the Division of Early Learning programs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This budget supports the administrative functions of the Division of Early Learning by providing for operational expenditures such as rent, travel, printing, telephones, educational materials, office supplies, non-capitalized equipment, technology supplies, and annual software license renewals.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,378,956
- 2024-25 - $1,378,956
- 2023-24 - $1,378,956

Item 77 - Early Learning Services - Operating Capital Outlay

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	15,000	0	0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	0	0.00%
Total	20,000	0	0	20,000	20,000	0	20,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$20,000 is requested to continue funding for Operating Capital Outlay in support of the administrative functions of the Division of Early Learning.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940) Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930) Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provides for the replacement of appropriate office equipment and technical equipment.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funds the replacement of furniture, computers, servers, and other office equipment exceeding a cost of $5,000 and with a life expectancy of at least one year to support the administrative functions of the Division of Early Learning.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $20,000
- 2024-25 - $20,000
- 2023-24 - $20,000

Item 78 - Early Learning Services - G/A - Contracted Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,150,211	0	0	1,150,211	1,150,211	0	1,150,211	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	3,187,328	0	11,991,901	15,179,229	29,335,437	26,148,109	3,187,328	(14,156,208)	(48.26%)
Federal Grants TF	225,000	0	0	225,000	225,000	0	225,000	0	0.00%
Total	4,562,539	0	11,991,901	16,554,440	30,710,648	26,148,109	4,562,539	(14,156,208)	(46.10%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$4,562,539 is requested to continue funding contracted services for the Division of Early Learning.

ENHANCEMENT

$11,991,901 is requested in nonrecurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority for the following:

- $11,991,901 is requested for the American Relief Act, 2025 (ARA) Disaster CCDF Discretionary Supplemental grant funds awarded to the Department for disaster recovery activities related to child care.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

ENHANCEMENT

The department is requesting an increase of $11,991,901 in nonrecurring Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) budget authority for the following:

ARA Disaster CCDF Discretionary Supplemental — $11,991,901

The department is requesting $11,991,901 in nonrecurring CCDF budget authority for the American Relief Act, 2025 (ARA) Disaster CCDF Discretionary Supplemental grant funds awarded to the department on February 10, 2026, for disaster recovery activities related to child care. These funds will be available until September 30, 2030.

The ARA Disaster CCDF Discretionary Supplemental grant funding is in addition to the Fiscal Year 2027-28 appropriation and is meant to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local public funds expended for the implementation of disaster recovery activities related to child care for the following purposes: materials, supplies, furnishings and equipment; other child care supply building; mental health consultation or services; and/or quality improvement activities. Eligible early learning coalitions shall apply for these funds and make subgrants available to child care providers within their service area in counties designated as having had a major disaster declaration by FEMA in calendar years 2023 and 2024 as per ARA guidelines.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)
Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Funds financial monitoring services, fraud investigations, observation-based program for teacher assessment, plans to implement quality initiatives throughout the state based on the needs assessment for children birth to five, and other services necessary for the Division of Early Learning.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This budget supports multiple statewide contracts to support the services provided by the Division of Early Learning.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $4,562,539
- 2024-25 - $29,467,275
- 2023-24 - $18,467,275

Item 79 - Early Learning Services - G/A - Partnership for School Readiness

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,808,957	0	0	1,808,957	4,428,957	2,620,000	1,808,957	(2,620,000)	(59.16%)
Child Care and Dev TF	13,500,000	4,700,000	0	18,200,000	33,200,000	19,700,000	13,500,000	(15,000,000)	(45.18%)
Welfare Transition TF	1,400,000	2,500,000	0	3,900,000	3,900,000	2,500,000	1,400,000	0	0.00%
Total	16,708,957	7,200,000	0	23,908,957	41,528,957	24,820,000	16,708,957	(17,620,000)	(42.43%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$16,708,957 is requested to continue funding for the following programs:
- $1,808,957 in General Revenue (GR) funds for Help Me Grow Florida Network.
- $1,400,000 in Welfare Transition Trust Fund (TANF) funds for Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY).
- $3,500,000 in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) funds for Quality Differential Payment Program.
- $10,000,000 in CCDF funds for the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Program (T.E.A.C.H.).

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$7,200,000 is requested for restoration in nonrecurring funds for the following programs:
- $2,500,000 in nonrecurring TANF funds for continuation of HIPPY projects.
- $4,700,000 in nonrecurring CCDF funds to continue the expansion of the Help Me Grow Florida Network to all 67 counties.

$17,620,000 is not requested for restoration for the following programs:
- $237,500 is not requested in nonrecurring GR funds for the Early Learning Reading & Math Readiness Pilot
- $487,500 is not requested in nonrecurring GR funds for the Growing Greatness for Florida's Youngest Children: Empowering Teachers to Improve School Readiness.
- $250,000 is not requested in nonrecurring GR funds for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools VPK Expansion of Parental Choice Programs.
- $250,000 is not requested in nonrecurring GR funds for the Northeast Florida Summer Bridge for Early Learners.
- $650,000 is not requested in nonrecurring GR funds for the Seminole County Public Schools' Center for Early Learning.
- $395,000 is not requested in nonrecurring GR funds for the Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System.
- $350,000 is not requested in nonrecurring GR funds for the Tiny Talkers Preschool Initiative.
- $10,000,000 is not requested in nonrecurring CCDF funding for the T.E.A.C.H. program.
- $5,000,000 is not requested in nonrecurring CCDF funding for the Florida Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $7,200,000 in nonrecurring funds for the following programs:

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) — $2,500,000
The department is requesting the restoration of $2,500,000 for the HIPPY program. The funding will continue serving sites to deliver high-quality early learning curriculum directly to parents, so they can strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children. Early learning coalitions in these counties refer families to HIPPY, based on their poverty level, limited education, and willingness to participate actively in all aspects of the program. HIPPY is known worldwide and has a presence in 19 of Florida's counties.

Help Me Grow Florida — $4,700,000
The department is requesting restoration of $4,700,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to continue expansion of the Help Me Grow Florida Network to all 67 counties. Through partnerships with the early learning coalitions, this funding will support the Help Me Grow Florida Program's ability to locate, identify, and assist families to obtain services for children 3 to 5 years who have developmental delays, suspected delays, and/or special learning needs. In Fiscal Year 2025-26, Help Me Grow Florida served 43 counties through 15 affiliate sites, two of which are funded through other sources. Of the 13 affiliates funded through DEL, 9,659 developmental and behavioral screenings were completed, 42% of which required further follow-up and supports. 81% of children were successfully connected to at least one needed resource.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930)
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide for multiple programs supporting school readiness programs including the Help Me Grow, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.), and the Quality Differential Payment Program administered by the Division of Early Learning.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

HELP ME GROW

This program assists states in identifying children birth through age five at risk for developmental or behavioral challenges and connects their families with community-based services and programs. Help Me Grow promotes early identification of developmental, behavioral, or educational concerns, then links children and families to community-based services and supports at no cost to parents and caregivers. The Help Me Grow system is designed to leverage existing resources to ensure communities identify vulnerable children, link families to community-based services, and empower families to support their children’s healthy development through the implementation of four Core Components. These components include a centralized access point, family and community outreach, child health provider outreach, and data collection and analysis.

HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (HIPPY)
The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is an evidence-based, home-visiting program that partners with parents and guardians of children ages two through five to help prepare children for school success. The HIPPY program is delivered by home visitors who are members of the community served and many were once parents in the program. Parents are provided with an evidence-based curriculum, materials, and books related to the activities that parents and children do together. Group meetings allow parents to come together and share their experiences.

QUALITY DIFFERENTIAL PAYMENT PROGRAM
Section 1002.82(2)(o), Florida Statutes, directs the Division of Early Learning to develop a differential payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the department. This funding provides training and system supports to maintain statewide capacity to implement quality measures used for determining quality differential payments.

TEACHER EDUCATION AND COMPENSATION HELPS (T.E.A.C.H.)
Early Childhood Scholarship Program licensed by the Children's Forum in Tallahassee, Florida.

The goal of the program is to increase the education and training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood education. (Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes)

The program provides professional learning scholarships to improve the skill level of early childhood workers and center directors, as well as:

- Links training, compensation, and commitment to improving the quality of early care and education experiences for young children and families.
- Provides scholarships for early childhood teachers and center directors to work toward earning an AS or BS degree in early childhood education, a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, a Florida Staff Credential, or a Director Credential.
- Involves a partnership for sharing expenses by the educator receiving the scholarship, the sponsor child care center or family child care home, and the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $33,600,000
- 2024-25 - $33,921,000
- 2023-24 - $56,493,000

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Item 80 - Early Learning Services - G/A - School Readiness

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	155,995,939	0	0	155,995,939	155,995,939	0	155,995,939	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	758,709,466	112,500,000	15,000,000	886,209,466	902,175,031	143,465,565	758,709,466	(15,965,565)	(1.77%)
Federal Grants TF	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%
Welfare Transition TF	94,112,427	0	0	94,112,427	94,112,427	0	94,112,427	0	0.00%
Total	1,009,317,832	112,500,000	15,000,000	1,136,817,832	1,152,783,397	143,465,565	1,009,317,832	(15,965,565)	(1.38%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,009,317,832 is requested to continue funding for the School Readiness Program child care services.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$112,500,000 is requested for restoration in nonrecurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority based on the following:

- $70,000,000 to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program;
- $40,000,000 to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program; and
- $2,500,000 to maintain the implementation of the School Readiness Special Needs Differentials.

WORKLOAD

$15,000,000 is requested in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority based on the following:

- $5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program;
- $5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program; and
- $5,000,000 in recurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Match Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $112,500,000 in nonrecurring Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority based on the following:

Gold Seal Quality Care — $70,000,000

The department is requesting $70,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(1)(d), F.S., and targeted federal requirements for improving the quality of infant and toddler child care to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

Quality Differential Payment Program — $40,000,000
The department is requesting $40,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program and enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.82(2)(o), F.S.

Special Needs Differentials — $2,500,000
The department is requesting $2,500,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of the School Readiness Special Needs Differentials, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(1)(b), F.S.

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $15,000,000 in Child Care and Development Trust Fund (CCDF) budget authority based on the following:

Gold Seal Quality Care — $5,000,000
The department is requesting $5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Gold Seal Quality Care Program, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(1)(d), F.S., and targeted federal requirements for improving the quality of infant and toddler child care to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

Quality Differential Payment Program — $5,000,000
The department is requesting $5,000,000 in nonrecurring CCDF to maintain the implementation of School Readiness Quality Differential Payment Program and enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.82(2)(o), F.S.

School Readiness Match Program — $5,000,000
The department is requesting $5,000,000 in recurring CCDF to administer the School Readiness Match Program, enabling the department to be in compliance with s. 1002.89(3), F.S. and CCDF match requirements.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
Provide School Readiness Services (ACT 0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Section 1002 - Part VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:
Provide school readiness programs to enable parents to access high-quality early learning programs for their children allowing the parent to work and achieve self-sufficiency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:
In 1999, the Florida Legislature established a statewide school readiness program to ensure children of low-income working families receive high-quality care. The School Readiness Program is a financial assistance program for working families with children at-risk of school failure, including children from families with low incomes, families receiving temporary cash assistance or transitional child care, migrant farm workers, and those with children at risk of abuse, neglect, homelessness, or being victims of domestic violence.

The School Readiness Program:

- Supports families in accessing and affording quality early learning services;
- Enables eligible parents to participate in workforce training, pursue higher education, and remain in the workforce so they may achieve economic self-sufficiency;
- Involves parents as their child's first teacher;
- Provides parents with information on child development, family well-being, and other topics related to early learning and community resources;
- Prepares children to enter kindergarten ready to learn, which builds a foundation for success in life;
- Serves as a preventive measure for children at risk of future school failure and enhances the educational readiness of eligible children; and
- Assists parents in preparing their at-risk children for educational success, including, as appropriate, health screening and referral services.

The School Readiness Program has eligibility requirements based on state and federal laws and rules that include the following:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be working or participating in an educational activity such as attending college or trade school at least 20 hours per week or a total of 40 hours per week for a two-parent household, if applicable for their eligibility group;
- The family must meet the income guidelines based on the federal poverty level per family size and most recent gross income; and
- Families pay a copayment based on their income and family unit size unless waived on a case-by-case basis.

This category funds the School Readiness Program via the 30 early learning coalitions and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association that administer early childhood education and child care programs provided for targeted populations of children based on need.

- 2025-26 more than 215,269 children served through 6,865 child care service providers.
- 2024-25 more than 210,786 children served through 6,919 child care service providers.
- 2023-24 more than 212,062 children served through 6,889 child care service providers.

Gold Seal Quality Care Program

Beginning in 1998, the Florida Legislature authorized the payment of a rate differential or stipend to child care providers who achieved Florida "Gold Seal" quality status through accreditation. Since then, this has evolved into the Gold Seal Quality Care Program designation that providers can obtain if they are accredited by an approved Gold Seal Quality Care Accrediting Association as outlined in Rule 6M-10.001, F.A.C. Providers must maintain accreditation and continuously meet the standards established by their Gold Seal Quality Care Accrediting Association in order to retain their designation. This program was transferred to the department from the Department of Children and Families via Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida, section 1002.945, Florida Statutes.

Quality Differential Payment Program

The Quality Performance Incentive (QPI) differential is paid to School Readiness providers based upon their program assessment composite score for zero to five classrooms and range from seven to ten percent above the established early learning coalition (ELC) reimbursement rate for each care level and unit of care. School Readiness providers on Quality Improvement Plans are ineligible for such payment.

School Readiness providers may also qualify for child assessment differential payments. This differential is paid to School Readiness providers based on the completion of child assessments for children age birth to five years and for whom providers submit valid and reliable data on language and executive functioning domains into the department’s data system. Again, School Readiness providers on Quality Improvement Plans are ineligible for such payment.

Special Needs Differentials

Special needs children are a priority eligibility category for the School Readiness Program. To qualify for special needs, a child must be between three and five years old, have been determined eligible as a student with a disability, and have a current individual educational plan or family support plan with a Florida school district. A School Readiness provider that serves a special needs child may receive a higher reimbursement rate, up to 20 percent above the established coalition reimbursement rate for infant care, from the early learning coalition if caring for a School Readiness child with special needs requires additional care beyond services required by the

Americans with Disabilities Act. The provider must submit a list of the additional services it provides to the child and request the special needs rate from the early learning coalition. A special needs rate shall be reimbursed for a School Readiness child that has a documented physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral condition and must be validated by a licensed health, mental health, education, or social service professional other than the child's parent or person employed by the child care provider. The early learning coalition may approve the higher reimbursement rate for the higher level of care required in the child care setting.

School Readiness Match Program
These funds are provided from the General Appropriations Act to expand the provision of services to low-income families at or below 70 percent of the state median income as long as it does not exceed 85 percent of the state median income. Local matching funds can be derived from local governments, employers, charitable foundations, and other sources so that Florida communities can create local partnerships focused on using the state and local funds for direct services and expanding the number of School Readiness slots.

To be eligible for funding, an early learning coalition must match its portion of the state funds with a dollar-for-dollar match of local funds. The Division of Early Learning shall establish procedures for the match program which shall include giving priority to early learning coalitions whose local match complies with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant matching requirements.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,121,817,832
- 2024-25 - $1,202,314,283
- 2023-24 - $1,113,347,242

Item 81 - Early Learning Services - G/A - School Readiness Plus Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	4,787,713	4,787,713	0	0	0	4,787,713	100.00%
Total	0	0	4,787,713	4,787,713	0	0	0	4,787,713	100.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

WORKLOAD

$4,787,713 is requested in recurring General Revenue funds to continue implementation of the School Readiness (SR) Plus Program in Fiscal Year 2027-28 and annually thereafter.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting $4,787,713 in recurring General Revenue (GR) funds to continue implementation of the School Readiness (SR) Plus Program in Fiscal Year 2027-28 and annually thereafter. This budget request will allow the department to comply with s. 1002.935, F.S.

For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the department was reverted and appropriated the balance of $8,375,740 in nonrecurring GR funds to continue implementation of the SR Plus Program. Each early learning coalition (ELC) was allocated funds based on the number of children (FTE, full-time equivalent) receiving the subsidy from April 2026 through June 2026, as of July 31, 2026, the projected base SR Plus rate per FTE by coalition, the projected differential rates per FTE, and the projected administrative cost at five percent by coalition. The projected amounts were calculated using actual payment data from Fiscal Year 2024-25.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Part VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

The School Readiness (SR) Plus Program established in s. 1002.935, F.S., is for currently working SR families transitioning off SR services to assist in economic self-sufficiency and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible families.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The School Readiness (SR) Plus Program established in s. 1002.935, F.S., is for currently working SR families transitioning off SR services to assist in economic self-sufficiency and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible families. The early learning coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for administering the program and may not use more than five percent of program funds for administrative costs per fiscal year. SR Plus Providers are reimbursed the same rates as the approved reimbursement rates for the SR Program, including quality differentials. SR Plus families are authorized for care in 12-month increments and are redetermined annually. If the family loses purpose of care during their 12-month authorization period, a 3-month re-establishment period is granted to the family. If the family does not re-establish a new purpose of care during the 3-month period, the family will no longer be eligible for the SR Plus Program. The family's copayment amount in SR Plus will increase as their income increases and will be set at a percent higher than what is allowable in the SR Program.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $0
- 2024-25 - $23,076,259
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 82 - Early Learning Services - G/A - Early Learning Standards and Accountability

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,095,526	0	224,246	2,319,772	2,095,526	0	2,095,526	224,246	10.70%
Child Care and Dev TF	2,847,075	0	0	2,847,075	2,847,075	0	2,847,075	0	0.00%
Total	4,942,601	0	224,246	5,166,847	4,942,601	0	4,942,601	224,246	4.54%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$4,942,601 is requested to continue implementation of the required Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program accountability system.

WORKLOAD

$224,246 is requested in recurring General Revenue funds to continue implementation of the CLASS program assessments for Fiscal Year 2027-28 and annually thereafter.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting $224,246 in recurring General Revenue funds to continue implementation of the CLASS program assessments for Fiscal Year 2027-28 and annually thereafter.

This projected increase in costs is derived based on increased costs supporting the program from Fiscal Year 2025-26 to Fiscal Year 2026-27, including the number of VPK classrooms receiving these supports, which are estimated to increase from 5,031 to 5,573 from Fiscal Year 2025-26 to 2026-27.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT 0930)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Part V, Florida Statutes
Section 1008.25, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Maintain the quality of the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program through enhanced standards-related support for VPK instructors, providers, and parents, and continued implementation of the required VPK accountability system.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The VPK Program is constitutionally mandated to be available to all eligible prekindergartners. Children who complete the VPK Program consistently outperformed non-VPK participants on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). These results are due, in part, to the department's development and delivery of high-quality professional development to Florida's VPK instructors and directors, funded by the VPK Standards and Accountability appropriation.

Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida (HB 419), passed in the 2021 Regular Session, revised the entire accountability system for the VPK program. VPK no longer uses kindergarten readiness as a measure based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener. The new assessment is Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy and new outcomes have been developed based on this assessment and policies established under HB 419.

Chapter 2021-10, Laws of Florida requires each Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program provider (private and public) to participate in a program assessment beginning with the 2022-23 program year. The program assessment measures the quality of teacher-child interactions, including emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support for children ages 3 to 5 years. Each VPK provider receives the results of the program assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the observation. Each early learning coalition is responsible for the administration of the program assessments, which must be conducted by qualified individuals.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation-based program assessment instrument that measures teacher-child interactions in three broad areas — emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support. The CLASS assessment describes multiple teaching components linked to student achievement and social development. Given that program assessments/CLASS is also required for most School Readiness programs, more than 750 CLASS observers (assessors) statewide have received training, which includes Pre-K Observer Training, Pre-K Observer Train-the-Trainer, Making the Most of Classroom Interactions Train-the-Trainer, Toddler Observer Training, and Toddler Observer Train-the-Trainer.

Each VPK program provider (private and public) is required to participate in the CLASS program assessment. This appropriation will provide for CLASS program assessment support for the VPK program to provide costs associated with conducting the observations including the training of observers and teacher training and support. These mirror those supports already provided to school readiness providers and will allow the continued implementation of the CLASS program assessment requirement in the VPK program, per Ch. 2021-10, L.O.F., including VPK regional facilitators to assist early learning coalitions in the implementation of these assessments.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $4,942,600
- 2024-25 - $4,942,600
- 2023-24 - $4,942,600

Item 83 - Early Learning Services - Risk Management Insurance

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	7,046	0	0	7,046	7,046	0	7,046	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	14,319	0	0	14,319	14,319	0	14,319	0	0.00%
Total	21,365	0	0	21,365	21,365	0	21,365	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$21,365 is requested to continue funding for risk management insurance premiums for the Division of Early Learning.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940) Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930) Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

These funds provide business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds provide for workers' compensation insurance, general liability insurance, federal civil rights insurance, and auto liability insurance premiums. The state's Division of Risk Management recommends annual appropriations amounts.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $21,365
- 2024-25 - $27,019
- 2023-24 - $26,130

Item 84 - Early Learning Services - Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	433,773,635	0	35,951,001	469,724,636	433,773,635	0	433,773,635	35,951,001	8.29%
Total	433,773,635	0	35,951,001	469,724,636	433,773,635	0	433,773,635	35,951,001	8.29%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$433,773,635 is requested for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program based on the following:

- $430,999,744 is requested to continue funding for the constitutionally established VPK Education Program.
- $2,773,891 is requested to continue implementation of the VPK Summer Bridge program.

WORKLOAD

$1,164,431 is requested for the VPK program based on the following:

- ($174,328) is requested to continue funding for the constitutionally established VPK program for the projected student enrollment decrease in Fiscal Year 2027-28 of 158 FTEs based on the August 6, 2026, VPK Program Estimating Conference.
- $1,338,759 is requested to cover the increase in the eligibility threshold for the VPK Summer Bridge program to include VPK students who score below the 25th percentile on the final administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) in Fiscal Year 2027-28 and annually thereafter.

ENHANCEMENT

$34,786,570 is requested for the VPK program based on the following:

- $8,616,501 is requested to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for the VPK program.
- $26,170,069 is requested for VPK differentials to award established VPK program providers for students receiving a performance designation of above expectations or excellent, as directed by s. 1002.68(4)(e), F.S., subject to an appropriation. The department shall provide for a differential payment based on the provider's designation.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting $1,164,431 in recurring General Revenue funds for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program based on the following:

VPK Program Reduction — ($174,328)

The department is requesting a decrease of $174,328 from Fiscal Year 2026-27 to continue funding for the constitutionally established VPK program. This decrease is derived from the projected student enrollment decrease in Fiscal Year 2027-28 of 158 FTEs (full-time equivalent) based on the August 6, 2026, VPK Program Estimating Conference.

VPK Summer Bridge Program Workload Increase — $1,338,759
The department is requesting $1,338,759 in recurring General Revenue funds to continue implementation of the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Summer Bridge program for established VPK students who score below the 25th percentile on the final administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM); this eligibility threshold was previously below the 10th percentile.

In an effort to ensure children are ready for kindergarten, legislation was enacted to the summer bridge program to increase the threshold eligibility to include VPK students scoring below the 25th percentile on the CSPM, enabling more children that are struggling to receive additional services and supports from the local school district, with strong emphasis on emergent literacy skills, to support kindergarten readiness.

The projected cost of this program is derived based on the Fiscal Year 2025-26 allocation methodology and the estimated children below 25th percentile on the CSPM (6,503 children based on 2025-26 school-year VPK CSPM final administration count of students scoring below the 25th percentile as of July 26, 2026). This methodology provides each county with a minimum allocation of $8,000 and $550 per eligible student. ($8,000 x 67 = $536,000 + 6,503 x 550 = $3,576,650, $536,000 + $3,576,650 = $4,112,650, for a total of need of $4,112,650)

ENHANCEMENT

The department is requesting an increase of $34,786,570 in recurring General Revenue funds for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program based on the following:

VPK Base Student Allocation Increase — $8,616,501
The department requests $8,616,501 to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for the VPK program from $3,029 per full-time equivalent (FTE) to $3,090 per FTE for School Year students, a 2 percent increase of $61 per FTE, and from $2,586 per FTE to $2,638 per FTE for Summer Program students, a 2 percent increase of $52 per FTE.

Florida is currently ranked 44th in state spending for VPK according to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). An increase in the VPK BSA is needed for VPK providers to keep up with the increasing minimum wage schedule as it will reach $15 per hour in September 2026, as well as continue to provide the competitive salaries necessary to recruit and retain qualified VPK instructors.

VPK Differentials — $26,170,069
The department requests $26,170,069 to recognize and reward high-performing VPK program providers for established VPK program students receiving services from a VPK provider (private prekindergarten provider and public school) that has received a performance designation of above expectations or excellent, as directed by s. 1002.68(4)(e), F.S., subject to an appropriation. The department shall provide for a differential payment based on the provider's designation.

This projected cost of these differentials is derived based on the following analysis. In Fiscal Year 2024-25, there were 153,132 children enrolled with 6,292 providers in Florida’s VPK school year program, which projects an average of 24 students per provider. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 school year base student allocation (BSA) is

$3,029 and the maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent student. A projected 2,100 providers may be eligible to receive a designation of above expectations (2,100 multiplied by 24 students by 5 percent of the BSA is $7,740,443). A projected 2,500 providers may be eligible to receive a designation of excellent (2,500 multiplied by 24 students by 10 percent of the BSA is $18,429,626). This totals $26,170,069.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Part V, Florida Statutes
Section 1008.25, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To provide leadership and support to administer Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program is constitutionally mandated and available free-of-charge to all eligible four-year-olds (and young five-year-olds). The VPK program provides funding for students using a full-time equivalent (FTE) and base student allocation methodology. Funds are distributed through early learning coalitions to public and private providers.

The base student allocation (BSA) for Florida's VPK is determined annually by the Florida Legislature and prescribed in the current year's General Appropriations Act. There is a separate base student allocation per FTE for the school-year prekindergarten program and for the summer prekindergarten program.

The VPK Summer Bridge Program is for the established Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program students who score below the 10th percentile on the final administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) and will enable these children to receive additional services and supports from the local school district, with strong emphasis on emergent literacy skills, to support kindergarten readiness. This is a separate allocation methodology, and the funds are provided directly to the school districts.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $434,199,644
- 2024-25 - $439,908,621
- 2023-24 - $427,003,731

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Item 85 - Early Learning Services - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	23,607	0	0	23,607	23,607	0	23,607	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	10,692	0	0	10,692	10,692	0	10,692	0	0.00%
Total	34,299	0	0	34,299	34,299	0	34,299	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$34,299 is requested to continue funding the current level of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940) Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930) Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To provide for human resource management services for the Division of Early Learning.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (People First) to manage agency human resources.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $34,299
- 2024-25 - $33,594
- 2023-24 - $32,003

Item 86 - Early Learning Services - Education Technology and Information Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,248,383	0	0	1,248,383	1,248,383	0	1,248,383	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	2,312,628	0	0	2,312,628	2,312,628	0	2,312,628	0	0.00%
Total	3,561,011	0	0	3,561,011	3,561,011	0	3,561,011	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$3,561,011 is requested to continue the current level of funding to provide critical technology and information support and services for the Division of Early Learning.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940) Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930) Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide the technological resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the Division of Early Learning.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES COST RECOVERY

These funds are used to pay for services provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS). These services are paid in accordance with section 216.272, Florida Statutes, for the cost recovery of information technology resources.

Below is a list of services provided:

- Telecommunications Support
- Network Support
- Help Desk and Desktop Support
- Disaster Recovery and Department-wide Data Center Services
- Department-wide Software, Software Maintenance, and Information Security Services
- Enterprise and Web Applications Development for Department-wide Applications
- Mainframe Support for Comptroller Functions

ENHANCED FIELD SYSTEM - MODERNIZATION

These funds also provide the information technology staff augmentation services for the maintenance of the Division of Early Learning's Enhanced Field System - Modernization. This system establishes a single statewide information system that each early learning coalition must use for the purposes of managing the single point of entry, tracking children’s progress, coordinating services among stakeholders, determining eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and streamlining administrative processes for providers and early learning coalitions.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $3,552,277
- 2024-25 - $3,508,347
- 2023-24 - $3,467,150

Item 87 - Early Learning Services - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	166,702	0	0	166,702	166,702	0	166,702	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	225,056	0	0	225,056	225,056	0	225,056	0	0.00%
Total	391,758	0	0	391,758	391,758	0	391,758	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$391,758 is requested to continue funding for data center and computer facilities services provided by Northwest Regional Data Center.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Katerina Maroney (850) 717-8614; Monica Rutkowski (850) 717-8683

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Services (ACT 0940) Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten Services and System Support (ACT0930) Provide School Readiness Services (ACT0920)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002 - Parts V and VI, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Primary Data Center -

The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

Mainframe Environment –
The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of Mainframe Disaster Recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The following is a list of the major mainframe applications and processes hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- Comptroller/Accounting processes

Open Systems Environment -
The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the division and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- ARTS Budget Tracking System – LBR Greenbook
- PreK-20 Education Data Warehouse
- Enhanced Field System – Modernization

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $382,725
- 2024-25 - $596,975
- 2023-24 - $447,291

State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP

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Item 5 and 88 - State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP - G/A - Florida Education Finance Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	12,687,228,117	0	0	12,687,228,117	12,458,310,476	(228,917,641)	12,687,228,117	228,917,641	1.84%
Lottery (EETF)	460,159,235	0	0	460,159,235	486,211,876	26,052,641	460,159,235	(26,052,641)	(5.36%)
State Sch TF	251,838,902	0	533,236,013	785,074,915	454,703,902	202,865,000	251,838,902	330,371,013	72.66%
Total	13,399,226,254	0	533,236,013	13,932,462,267	13,399,226,254	0	13,399,226,254	533,236,013	3.98%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$13,399,226,254 is requested to continue funding 3,215,929.85 full-time equivalent (FTE) students in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

WORKLOAD

$791,627,621 overall increase is necessary to provide a workload increase for an additional 3,908.04 full-time equivalent (FTE). Scholarship FTE is projected to increase by 22,413.75 FTE, while district FTE is projected to decrease by (18,505.71).

- $533,236,013 is requested to be paid from the State School Trust Fund (SSTF)
- $258,391,608 is funded from additional required local effort (RLE) revenue

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an overall increase of $791,627,621 in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) category for total state funding of $13,932,462,267 and total overall funding, including required local effort (RLE), of $28,295,367,352. Of the increase, $533,236,013 is requested from the State School Trust Fund and $258,391,608 from additional RLE revenue. The total full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment is projected to increase by 3,908.04 FTE students, or 0.12 percent, from 3,215,929.85 in Fiscal Year 2026-27 to 3,219,837.89 in Fiscal Year 2027-28. Of this projected FTE increase, 22,413.75 is attributed to Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) students, and a decrease of (18,505.71) FTE is attributed to district students.

The workload is distributed as follows:

ADJUSTMENT TO BASE FUNDING - $16,197,671,288
The total base Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding amount requested for Fiscal Year 2027-28 is $16,197,671,288, which includes $1,801,181,046 for the Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation. This request represents a decrease of ($2,801,270,656) from the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation. This decrease is because of removing Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) students from the main calculation of FEFP funds and moving them to a state funded allocation. Of this decrease, an estimated ($3,162,531,775) is due to the shift of FES students out of the main FEFP.

CLASSROOM TEACHER AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL SALARY INCREASE ALLOCATION - $1,801,181,046
The Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation (formerly the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation) provides school districts and charter schools with funds to provide salary increases of, at most, $3,000 to full-time classroom teachers with at least ten years of full-time teaching experience in Florida public schools. Funds remaining after these increases may be used to provide salary increases to other full-time classroom teachers or other full-time instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(b)-(d), F.S., or for the increased cost of personnel compensation. These funds are not a separate component of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and instead represent 11.12 percent of the total Base Funding allocation, increasing the Fiscal Year 2026-27 percentage of 8.20 percent by 2.92 percent. The request increases the allocation by $243,268,059 over the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation.

STATE-FUNDED DISCRETIONARY CONTRIBUTION - $64,314,742
The state provides each state university laboratory school, the Florida Virtual School and each college/university sponsored charter school with funds that, on a per- full-time equivalent (FTE) basis, are equivalent to the discretionary taxes the school districts in which they are located may collect. The increase in funds for these schools is due to enrollment and tax roll increases. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the total amount requested is $64,314,742, an increase of $11,843,752 over the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation.

DISCRETIONARY MILLAGE COMPRESSION FOR 0.748 OF A MILL - $516,639,647
If any school district levies the full 0.748 mill and it generates an amount of funds per unweighted full-time equivalent (FTE) that is less than the state average amount per unweighted FTE, the school district shall receive a discretionary millage compression supplement that, when added to the funds generated by the district's 0.748 mill levy, shall be equal to the state average as provided in section 1011.62(5), Florida Statutes. The state average levy per FTE for 0.748 mills is $1,124.18. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the total amount requested is $516,639,647, an increase of $40,479,576 over the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation because of raising districts to the state average FTE funding. The shift of scholarship students to their own funding line resulted in an estimated $89,038,802 in funds being removed from this line item.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (DJJ) SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATION - $2,444,154
The supplemental allocation provides class size reduction funds for students in juvenile justice education programs in each school district, pursuant to the formula provided in section 1011.62(9), Florida Statutes. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the total amount requested is $2,444,154, a decrease of ($66,206) from the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation because of the declining DJJ student population.

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE) GUARANTEED ALLOCATION - $1,141,795,086
The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Guaranteed Allocation provides exceptional student services for students formerly reported in ESE Support Levels I, II and III, pursuant to section 1011.62(1)(c)2, Florida Statutes. These funds are in addition to the funds appropriated based on full-time equivalent (FTE) student membership. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the total amount requested is $1,141,795,086, a decrease of ($352,326,725) from the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation to cover workload. This overall decrease is due to the removal of Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) FTE from the main calculation of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds. The shift of scholarship students to their own funding line resulted in an estimated $421,496,558 in ESE Guaranteed Allocation funds being removed from this line item.

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT ALLOCATION - $701,305,373
The Educational Enrichment (formerly the Supplemental Academic Instruction Allocation) funds provide flexible resources to schools for supplemental academic instruction at appropriate times throughout the school year, pursuant to section 1011.62(7), Florida Statutes, as well as funds for Turnaround schools. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the total amount requested for Educational Enrichment is $701,305,373, a decrease of ($142,447,872) from the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation. This overall decrease is because of removing Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) full-time equivalent (FTE) from the main calculation of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds. The shift of scholarship students to their own funding line resulted in an estimated $137,595,747 in Educational Enrichment Allocation funds being removed from this line item.

FEDERALLY CONNECTED STUDENT SUPPLEMENT - $17,472,259
The Federally Connected Student Supplement provides supplemental funding for school districts to support the education of students connected with federally owned military installations, National Aeronautics and Space Administration property and Indian Lands. There is a student allocation and an exempt property allocation for districts with students receiving Federal Impact Aid who meet the specific criteria described in section 1011.62(10), Florida Statutes. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the total amount requested is $17,472,259, which is an

increase of $83,063 over the Fiscal Year 2026-27 allocation because of the increase to the Base Student Allocation.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT SUPPLEMENT - $50,476,447
The Declining Enrollment Supplement provides funds to school districts that decline in public school unweighted FTE when compared to the previous year. A school district that qualifies for this funding receives the public school per-FTE amount of Base Funding applied to 30 percent of the decline in unweighted public school FTE. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the total amount requested for the Declining Enrollment Supplement is $50,476,447. This request establishes the Declining Enrollment Supplement within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ALLOCATION - $4,980,103,712
The Scholarship Funding Allocation funds all Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) students outside of the main Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) calculation.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0660)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1000.04, 1006.28, 1006.40, 1011.60-621, 1011.66-68, Florida Statutes
Section 1, Article IX of the State Constitution

PURPOSE:

In 1973, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and established the state policy on equalized funding to guarantee each student in the Florida public education system the availability of programs and services appropriate to his or her educational needs that are substantially equal to those available to any similar student notwithstanding geographic differences and varying local economic factors.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

To provide equalization of educational opportunity, the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) formula recognizes varying: (1) local property tax bases; (2) education program costs; (3) costs of living; and (4) costs for equivalent educational programs due to scarcity and dispersion of the student population. The FEFP is the primary mechanism for funding the operating costs of Florida school districts and is the foundation for financing Florida's K-12 education programs. A key feature of the FEFP is that it bases financial support for education upon the individual student participating in a particular education program rather than upon the number of teachers or classrooms. FEFP funds are primarily generated by multiplying the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students in each of the funded education programs by cost factors to obtain weighted FTE amounts. Weighted FTE amounts are then multiplied by a base student allocation and by a comparable wage factor and a small district factor to determine the base funding from state and local FEFP funds. Program cost factors are determined by the Legislature and represent relative cost differences among the FEFP programs.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $13,133,459,267
- 2024-25 - $12,720,432,199
- 2023-24 - $12,080,861,480

Item 6 and 89 - State Grants/K-12 Program/FEFP - G/A - Class Size Reduction

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,460,184,517	0	(21,104,946)	2,439,079,571	2,460,184,517	0	2,460,184,517	(21,104,946)	(0.86%)
Lottery (EETF)	103,776,356	0	0	103,776,356	103,776,356	0	103,776,356	0	0.00%
State Sch TF	86,161,098	0	0	86,161,098	86,161,098	0	86,161,098	0	0.00%
Total	2,650,121,971	0	(21,104,946)	2,629,017,025	2,650,121,971	0	2,650,121,971	(21,104,946)	(0.80%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$2,650,121,971 is requested to continue funding 2,629,193.52 full-time equivalent (FTE) students for Class Size Reduction (virtual education FTE, Department of Juvenile Justice FTE and Family Empowerment Scholarship FTE are not included in this FTE count).

WORKLOAD

($21,104,946) decrease is requested to provide for the estimated full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment decrease of (22,029.64) and to provide sufficient funding for school districts to meet the constitutional class size maximums in grades PreK-3, 4-8 and 9-12.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting a decrease of ($21,104,946) in recurring General Revenue funds in the Class Size Reduction category for total funding of $2,629,017,025. This funding will continue the implementation of policy to meet the constitutional class size maximums in grades PreK-3, 4-8 and 9-12. This is due to a projected decrease of (22,029.64) full-time equivalent (FTE) students, as determined by the August 11, 2026, Public Schools PreK-12 Enrollment Estimating Conference. The total funds requested will fund 2,607,163.88 FTE.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0660)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1002.31(5), 1002.33(16)(b)3., 1003.03, and 1011.685, Florida Statutes
Section 1, Article IX, Florida Constitution

PURPOSE:

To ensure the maximum number of students per classroom does not exceed the constitutional requirements of 18 students in grades PreK-3, 22 students in grades 4-8, and 25 students in grades 9-12.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds are used to carry out Florida's Constitutional Amendment to Reduce Class Size, approved by the electorate on November 5, 2002. The full text of the amendment to Section 1, Article IX of the Florida Constitution is cited below:

(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high-quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high-quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. To ensure children attending public schools obtain a high-quality education, the legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

1. The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for pre-kindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;
2. The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and
3. The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with reducing class size to meet these requirements is the responsibility of the state and not of local school districts. Compliance with class size reduction requirements is calculated at the classroom level for traditional public schools as required by section 1003.03(1), Florida Statutes, at the school level for charter schools as required by section 1002.33(16)(b)3., Florida Statutes, and at the school level for district-operated schools of choice as required by section 1002.31(5), Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to section 1011.685(2), Florida Statutes, class size reduction operating categorical funds shall be used by school districts to reduce class size as required in section 1003.03, Florida Statutes, and to ensure school districts that meet the maximum class size requirement use the funds for any lawful operating expenditure, giving priority to increasing salaries of classroom teachers.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $2,732,978,359
- 2024-25 - $2,771,299,363
- 2023-24 - $2,784,578,812

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2027-28 FEFP LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST - RUN H
STATEWIDE SUMMARY
COMPARISON TO 2026-27 SECOND CALCULATION

	2026-27 FEFP Second Calculation	2027-28 FEFP LBR Run H	Difference	Percentage Difference
MAJOR FEFP FORMULA COMPONENTS				
Unweighted FTE	3,215,929.85	3,219,837.89	3,908.04	0.12%
District Unweighted FTE	*2,722,530.60*	*2,704,024.89*	*(18,505.71)*	*-0.68%*
Family Empowerment Scholarship Unweighted FTE	*493,399.25*	*515,813.00*	*22,413.75*	*4.54%*
Weighted FTE	3,437,144.48	3,445,400.80	8,256.32	0.24%
District Weighted FTE	*2,902,053.15*	*2,883,353.64*	*(18,699.51)*	*-0.64%*
Family Empowerment Scholarship Weighted FTE	*535,091.33*	*562,047.16*	*26,955.83*	*5.04%*
School Taxable Value	3,965,077,619,591	4,143,688,403,611	178,610,784,020	4.50%
Required Local Effort Millage	3.057	3.057	0.000	0.00%
Discretionary Millage	0.748	0.748	0.000	0.00%
Total Millage	3.805	3.805	0.000	0.00%
Base Student Allocation	5,457.60	5,548.46	90.86	1.66%
FEFP DETAIL				
WFTE x BSA x CWF x SDF (Base FEFP Funding)	18,998,941,944	16,197,671,288	(2,801,270,656)	-14.74%
Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase (included in Base Funding)	*1,557,912,987*	*1,801,181,046*	*243,268,059*	*15.61%*
State-Funded Discretionary Contribution	52,470,990	64,314,742	11,843,752	22.57%
0.748 Mills Discretionary Compression	476,160,071	516,639,647	40,479,576	8.50%
DJJ Supplemental Allocation	2,510,360	2,444,154	(66,206)	-2.64%
Safe Schools Allocation	290,000,000	290,000,000	0	0.00%
ESE Guaranteed Allocation	1,494,121,811	1,141,795,086	(352,326,725)	-23.58%
Educational Enrichment Allocation	843,753,245	701,305,373	(142,447,872)	-16.88%
Student Transportation	570,872,976	580,872,976	10,000,000	1.75%
Federally Connected Student Supplement	17,389,196	17,472,259	83,063	0.48%
Mental Health Assistance Allocation	180,000,000	180,000,000	0	0.00%
Academic Acceleration Options Supplement	596,771,896	596,771,896	0	0.00%
Declining Enrollment Supplement	0	50,476,447	50,476,447	0.00%
TOTAL FEFP	23,522,992,489	20,339,763,868	(3,183,228,621)	-13.53%
Less: Required Local Effort	11,129,013,705	11,387,405,313	258,391,608	2.32%
GROSS STATE FEFP	12,393,978,784	8,952,358,555	(3,441,620,229)	-27.77%
Proration to Appropriation	0	0	0	0.00%
Educational Enrollment Stabilization Allocation	16,029	0	(16,029)	-100.00%
NET STATE FEFP	12,393,994,813	8,952,358,555	(3,441,636,258)	-27.77%
STATE CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS				
Class Size Reduction Allocation	2,650,121,971	2,629,017,025	(21,104,946)	-0.80%
State-Funded Discretionary Supplement	1,000,785,453	0	(1,000,785,453)	-100.00%
Scholarship Funding Allocation	0	4,980,103,712	4,980,103,712	0.00%
TOTAL STATE CATEGORICAL FUNDING	3,650,907,424	7,609,120,737	3,958,213,313	108.42%
TOTAL STATE FUNDING	16,044,902,237	16,561,479,292	516,577,055	3.22%
LOCAL FUNDING				
Total Required Local Effort	11,129,013,705	11,387,405,313	258,391,608	2.32%
Total Discretionary Taxes from 0.748 Mills	2,847,242,934	2,975,499,772	128,256,838	4.50%
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDING	13,976,256,639	14,362,905,085	386,648,446	2.77%
TOTAL FUNDING	30,021,158,876	30,924,384,377	903,225,501	3.01%
Total Funds per UFTE	9,335.14	9,604.33	269.19	2.88%

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State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP

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Item 90 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,500,000	0	0	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	6,500,000	0	0.00%
Total	6,500,000	0	0	6,500,000	6,500,000	0	6,500,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$6,500,000 is requested to continue funding The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Tim Hay (850) 245-5172

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 30.15(1)(k), Florida Statutes Section
1006.12(3), Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide funds to Sheriff offices for screening-related and training-related costs and provide a one-time stipend of $500 to district and charter school employees who participate in the school guardian program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 2018-003, LOF, (Senate Bill 7026), created the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program through the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. In its initial report, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission found that having school guardians in schools is the best way to ensure highly trained personnel are in place to respond immediately in the event of a school shooting. The 2023 Legislature passed House Bill 543, which amended the name to the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program. Guardians are armed personnel who aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises. They are either school employees who volunteer to serve in addition to official job duties or personnel hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian. School guardians must pass psychological and drug screenings and successfully complete a minimum of 144 hours of training.

Sheriff's offices that opt to participate in this program can apply for funding through this grant. In order to be considered for funding, the sheriff’s office must provide certification and supporting documents on file with the department that the sheriff’s office has elected to implement the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, that the sheriff’s office program is consistent with the requirements of section 30.15(1) (k), Florida Statutes, and has provided the following required information:

- Whether participation in the program has been approved by the local school board and, if not, when it is scheduled to be considered.
- The number of potential school guardians expected to participate in the program.
- Identification of the school guardian program contact person.
- Certification that the district has agreed to implement the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, established in section 30.15(1)(k), Florida Statutes, and per section 1006.12(3), Florida Statutes.
- Identification of measurable screening and training goals for participants who elect to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.
- A brief summary of the sheriff’s office’s screening protocols, training plan and other anticipated expenditures related to the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.
- An outline of the sheriff’s office’s plan to maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection and qualification records of each school guardian to be certified by the sheriff.

Project deliverables may include: the number of school guardian candidates screened, trained and certified by the sheriff’s office; training courses, course dates and participant logs; a list of trained school guardians, with their assigned school; and verification of each school guardian’s concealed weapon license issued under section 790.06, Florida Statutes, or eligibility to possess or carry a concealed firearm under section 790.06, Florida Statutes, and school guardian certificate issued under section 30.15(1)(k), Florida Statutes. For Fiscal Year 2025-26, 46 sheriff’s offices utilized grant funds for the Guardian Program. Currently, Guardian Programs are being implemented in 57 school districts.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $6,500,000
- 2024-25 - $6,500,000
- 2023-24 - $6,500,000 (Formerly the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, category 050550)

Item 91 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - School Recognition Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	135,000,000	0	0	135,000,000	135,000,000	0	135,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	135,000,000	0	0	135,000,000	135,000,000	0	135,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$135,000,000 is requested to continue funding eligible schools through the School Recognition Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0660)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1008.36, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Reward and recognize schools, faculty, and staff for the academic performance of their students.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to section 1008.36, Florida Statutes, the purpose of the School Recognition Program provides awards as performance-based incentives to public schools that receive a school grade of "A", or improve more than one letter grade compared to the previous fiscal year. School Recognition Program funds are to be used for nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff, nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials, or temporary personnel to assist the school in maintaining or improving student performance. The school's staff and the School Advisory Council (SAC) must agree on how to spend these funds by February 1, or the awards will be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Florida Department of Education is required to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by June 30 of each year that details how the funds were spent by each eligible school and school district.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $135,000,000
- 2024-25 - $200,000,000
- 2023-24 - $200,000,000

Item 91A - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Assistance to Low Performing Schools

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	4,000,000	0	0	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	4,000,000	0	0	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$4,000,000 is requested to continue funding for low-performing schools, including professional learning, community outreach and program evaluation, provided through the Florida Partnership.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1007.35, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this funding is to prepare, inspire, and connect all students to postsecondary success. This is accomplished through the delivery of teacher training and professional learning to increase the number of students enrolled in advanced courses, increase of the number of students who successfully complete and pass advanced course examinations and college preparatory assessments, and improve the skill level and ability of students to prepare them for admission to and completion of a postsecondary education.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

As authorized by section 1007.35, F.S., the Florida Partnership (FLP) provides a coordinated series of services and activities through various opportunities in Florida's secondary schools to expand access to advanced courses, improve exam success rates and prepare students for postsecondary education. The FLP delivers teacher training and professional learning to achieve student success.

The grant recipient, Palm Beach State College (PBSC), established partnerships that include nine directly funded school districts (Bay, Escambia, Gilchrist, Hernando, Highlands, Levy, Marion, Suwannee and University of Florida-

P.K. Yonge) and four contracted educational community partners [AVID Centers, Heartland Education Consortium (HEC), Northeast Florida Education Consortium (NEFEC) and Panhandle Area Education Consortium (PAEC)]. In addition, PBSC contracts with WorkED as the FLP third-party evaluator for the reporting and analysis functions for the partnership grant.

FLP accomplishments* through partnership efforts:

- 23,639 student services delivered statewide that included advising, enrollment guidance and college preparatory support.
- Supported 11,413 students and 503 staff members across the three Regional Educational Consortia (HEC, NFEC and PAEC).
- Supported 2,778 students enrolled in the AVID elective course across 24 schools in seven school districts.
- AVID served 260 educators across nine districts providing coaching, professional learning, tutoring support and materials.
- Continuous professional learning support:

    1. Summer 2025 - AP Summer Institute, AVID Summer Institute, AICE/Cambridge Summer Institute, ACT Instructional Mastery workshop, and a PAEC school counselor convening.
    2. Summer 2026 - HEC Career and Technical Education Professional Learning Workshop, the HEC AVID Professional Learning Workshop, and the AVID Summer Institute in Orlando.
    3. Spring 2026 FLP Virtual Conference held via Microsoft Teams webinar covering topics, such as AICE, CTE, Modern Classrooms, Advanced Coursework Success, ACT/SAT/CLT sessions, Florida Advanced courses and Testing (FACT).

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) professional learning activities for teachers through NEFEC's SkillsIgnite instructional skills series.
- Support of Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT) College Algebra Pilot implementation to pilot districts, schools and teachers.
- Support for college entrance exams and participation resources resulted in 24.9% of students participating in the SAT, 14.6% in the ACT and 14.3% in the Classic Learning Test (CLT).
- Partnership survey results confirmed AP students achieved a 56.1% pass rate (scores of 3 or higher), IB students achieved an 86.7% pass rate, AICE participation reached 28.2% and dual enrollment students demonstrated a 92.8% success rate.
- Teacher survey results indicate 88.4% agree increased knowledge and preparedness of advanced courses through FLP support.
- Student participation rates increased across AP (18.9%), AICE (28.2%), dual enrollment (10.2%) and CTE (63.1%).

[*Source: Florida Partnership at Palm Beach State College, 2026 Program Evaluation Report]

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $4,000,000
- 2024-25 - $4,000,000
- 2023-24 - $4,000,000

Item 92 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Take Stock In Children

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,125,000	0	0	6,125,000	6,125,000	0	6,125,000	0	0.00%
Total	6,125,000	0	0	6,125,000	6,125,000	0	6,125,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$6,125,000 is requested to continue funding for Take Stock in Children, which serves approximately 8,000 students.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

N/A

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this funding is to enhance and improve student performance of eligible students from low-income families and to increase graduation rates by providing additional learning opportunities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Take Stock in Children program enrolls approximately 6,000-8,000 students annually. The program promotes personal growth, personal responsibility, and academic success for eligible students who are from low-income families. Take Stock in Children provides a unique early intervention innovative model. Students in grades 6-9 enroll in the program and agree to a contract wherein they promise to fulfill academic and personal objectives. Partnering with community education foundations, state colleges, community nonprofits, and school districts throughout the state of Florida, Take Stock in Children delivers their program in over 839 Florida schools. Student services include mentoring, coaching, college readiness workshops and educational opportunities, scholarships, student advocacy, and long-term support.

Take Stock in Children program outcomes in 2025-2026:

- 99% of Take Stock in Children program graduates complete high school compared to 86% of their peers from low-income households.
- 91% of Take Stock in Children program graduates enroll in college compared to 52% of their peers from low-income households.
- 73% of Take Stock in Children program scholars graduate college compared to 29% of their peers from low-income households.

(*Source: Take Stock Accountability Report 2025-2026)

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $6,125,000
- 2024-25 - $6,125,000
- 2023-24 - $6,125,000

Item 93 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Mentoring - Student Assistance Initiatives

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	8,397,988	0	(300,000)	8,097,988	12,247,988	3,850,000	8,397,988	(4,150,000)	(33.88%)
Total	8,397,988	0	(300,000)	8,097,988	12,247,988	3,850,000	8,397,988	(4,150,000)	(33.88%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$8,397,988 is requested to continue funding for the following mentoring programs:

- $2,980,248 - Big Brothers Big Sisters
- $3,652,768 - Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
- $ 764,972 - YMCA State Alliance/YMCA Reads
- $ 700,000 - Best Buddies
- $ 300,000 - Teen Trendsetters

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$3,850,000 is not requested to be restored for the following programs:

- $ 350,000 - Best Buddies Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative
- $1,000,000 - Overtown Youth Center - College and Career Readiness
- $ 250,000 - Public Safety & Violence Prevention through Mentoring & Career Development
- $ 750,000 - YMCA State Alliance/YMCA Reads
- $1,500,000 - Youth Matter Mentorship Program

WORKLOAD

($300,000) in recurring General Revenue is requested to be reduced for the Teen Trendsetters program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509; Lindsey Brown (850) 245-0509

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested.

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting a reduction of ($300,000) in recurring General Revenue for the Teen Trendsetters program. This program no longer exists, and the organization turned down funding in Fiscal Years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

N/A

PURPOSE:

These programs support the efforts of community-based organizations and school districts to improve achievement for identified students and reduce dropout rates by providing additional learning opportunities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

BEST BUDDIES

Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. Best Buddies forms “buddy pairs” by matching middle and high school students with intellectual disabilities with other middle and high school students. Directors/coordinators work closely with each school district to match the students and activities.
Through their Best Buddies friendships, these students learn social skills, develop self-confidence, and in some cases learn leadership skills within the club.

- Served 7,979 students, including 6,552 buddy pairs.
- 148 active chapters provided services to targeted middle school and high school students.
- Provided mentoring activities to intellectually challenged students.
- Paired students with and without intellectual challenges in one-to-one friendships which resulted in 14,534 one-to-one activities between pairs.
- Provided training and support to mentors.
- Helped intellectually challenged students learn social skills and develop self-confidence.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

The Big Brothers Big Sisters mission is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with mentors. The Big Brothers Big Sisters program provides mentoring activities for at-risk and low-performing students, addresses unmet needs at low-performing schools, and provides training and support to the mentors. Mentors work within low-performing schools to provide academic assistance to students who are identified as at-risk in one of the statewide assessment subject. Students are assigned to a mentor, as well as a case manager who tracks the students’ progress. Activities include one-on-one mentoring, homework support, extended classroom learning, and identifying and addressing individual skill gaps.

- Served 3,148 students with 29,867 mentoring sessions.
- Targeted at-risk and low-performing students in low-performing schools.
- Students were assigned to a mentor and a case manager.
- Provided mentoring activities: one-on-one mentoring, homework support, and identification of skill gaps. These activities were conducted through virtual technology.

FLORIDA ALLIANCE OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Boys & Girls Clubs provide after school tutoring and mentoring services for at-risk and low-performing students by offering a range enrichment activities. Clubs are open each day after school, usually from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The programs and activities provided include: Power Hour (homework help and tutoring), Power Learn (reinforces and enhances skills and knowledge learned at school), Goals for Graduation (teaches students the concept of academic goal-setting), as well as other academic activities, parent involvement, and collaboration with schools. These programs engage young people in activities with adults, peers, and family members.

- 41,991 student assistance initiative sessions conducted on a monthly basis.
- 37,666 unduplicated club members participated in student assistance initiatives on a monthly basis.
- Targeted at-risk and low-performing students.
- Provided tutoring and mentoring services.
- Provided after school academic enrichment activities.

YMCA STATE ALLIANCE/YMCA READS

The Florida State Alliance of YMCAs implements the YMCA Reads! program. This program targets students from low-performing schools as well as schools in which high rates of students read below grade level. Each student enrolled in YMCA Reads! receives a minimum of two one-hour sessions per week with a trained mentor. Each student's reading level is assessed and monitored by periodic mastery tests and analysis of Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills scores. Using the Systematic Instruction in Phoneme Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words (SIPPS) Program, the volunteer mentors assist students in their reading mechanics and work to instill a love of reading and literature in the students. Site coordinators and volunteer mentors work with the students in small groups, on a one-to-one or one-to-two basis, mentoring the referred students in reading, character development, and building self-esteem. Florida YMCAs are volunteer-founded, volunteer-based, and volunteer-led.

- Served 550 students at 15 elementary schools.
- Targeted at-risk students in grades Kindergarten through third from low-performing schools or schools that have a high percentage of students scoring below grade level in reading.
- 202 volunteers provided 11,106 hours of one-to-one or one-to-two mentoring sessions and tutoring assistance in reading through YMCA Reads! Program.
- Used the SIPPS Program to increase reading scores.
- 492 students (89.4% of students) completed at least one SIPPS mastery check-in, and 99.2% of these students passed at least one mastery check-in.
- Mentors assisted students in reading mechanics and strive to instill in students a love for reading and literature.
- Provided character development and building self-esteem.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $12,397,988
- 2024-25 - $11,947,988
- 2023-24 - $13,180,988

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Item 93A - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - College Reach Out Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,000,000 is requested to continue funding activities and services provided by the College Reach-Out Program (CROP), which aims to increase the college and career readiness and access of identified students in grades 6-12, helping them pursue and successfully complete a postsecondary education.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1007.34, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

CROP aims to increase the college and career readiness and access of identified students in grades 6-12, helping them pursue and successfully complete a postsecondary education.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The College Reach-Out Program (CROP) aims to increase the college and career readiness and access of students from low-income families in grades 6-12, helping them pursue and successfully complete a postsecondary education. Students identified as needing academic improvement who participate in CROP must meet both academic and economic eligibility criteria, as outlined in Section 1007.34, F.S., and Rule 6A-6.05282, Florida Administrative Code. Since its establishment by the Legislature in 1983, CROP has served an estimated 204,300 students.

The department currently funds eight projects (two consortiums and six individual institutions) consisting of eleven postsecondary educational institutions. Funded institutions work with over 163 middle and high schools located across 11 counties school districts to provide tutoring, mentoring, preparation for standardized assessments, educational field trips and counseling, college tours, and summer residential programs to eligible students throughout the state of Florida.

The department conducts an annual statewide evaluation of CROP students' performance outcomes including academic promotions, graduations, standardized test scores and postsecondary enrollment. CROP projects consistently demonstrate a positive return on the state's investment in the program. The program's quality services drive high student achievement, maintaining the department's mission.

District data are available each February for the fiscal year two years prior. The data below represents the 2023-24 performance outcomes* of CROP students compared to a random sample of non-CROP students:

- A total of 1,340 students, with 585 new students joining the program, were served by CROP projects. The approximate cost per student was $746 for the project year.
- Over 62% of CROP students were determined eligible for the Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program.
- CROP students in grades 9-12 achieved a higher average GPA than those in the non-CROP sample (3.03 versus 2.77).
- 97% of CROP high school seniors graduated with a standard high school diploma compared to 85% of seniors in the non-CROP sample.
- CROP students continued to meet or exceed state test scores on the FAST and B.E.S.T. EOC Assessments compared to students in the non-CROP sample.
  1. 47% eighth-grade CROP students who completed the FAST English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics scored a Level 3 or higher (on grade level) in ELA and 48% in Mathematics, compared to the non-CROP sample who scored 44% in ELA and 40% in Mathematics.
  2. 51% tenth-grade CROP students who completed the FAST English Language Arts (ELA) scored a Level 3 or higher (on grade level), compared to the non-CROP sample who scored 41% in ELA.
  3. 49% of CROP students who took the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC scored at a Level 3 or higher (on grade level), compared to 38% of students in the non-CROP sample.
  4. 41% of CROP students who took the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC scored at a Level 3 or higher (on grade level), compared to 40% of students in the non-CROP sample.

Based on the most recent postsecondary data, the performance outcomes of CROP high school graduates show that:

- 32% of CROP 2022-23 student graduates enrolled in postsecondary education, compared to 31% of graduates in the non-CROP sample.
- 47% CROP 2022-23 student graduates attended a public college and 17% attended a public university, while 5% enrolled in a district career and technical center.

(**Source: Academic Outcomes of the 2023-24 Cohort, February 2026*)

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,000,000
- 2024-25 - $1,000,000
- 2023-24 - $1,000,000

Item 94 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	8,700,000	0	0	8,700,000	8,700,000	0	8,700,000	0	0.00%
Total	8,700,000	0	0	8,700,000	8,700,000	0	8,700,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$8,700,000 is requested to continue the provision of medical, physiological, psychological, and educational testing and other services designed to evaluate and identify exceptionalities of students with known or suspected disabilities, to make referrals for necessary instruction and services, and to facilitate the provision of instruction and services to students with disabilities.

$1,450,000 is provided to each of the state's six Multidisciplinary Educational Service Centers (MDC) located at the following institutions:

- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- Florida State University
- University of South Florida
- University of Florida Health Science Center at Jacksonville
- Keiser University

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1006.03, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To support a network of six regional centers that provide a range of services for children and youth at-risk for or identified as having complex problems and other risk factors for educational/academic outcomes. The centers also provide consultation, technical assistance, and pre-service and in-service training for educators, families, and others.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to section 1006.03, F.S., the FDLRS MDCs are a network of six centers established around the state to provide diagnostic evaluation services for children and youth at-risk for, or identified as having, complex medical, educational, emotional, or behavioral problems and other risk factors for educational/academic outcomes. The centers also provide consultation, technical assistance, and pre-service and in-service trainings for families, teachers, school district personnel, university students, and community providers working with students, children, and youth with complex medical, emotional or behavior problems. The six Multidisciplinary Educational Service Centers are located at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida State University, University of South Florida, University of Florida Health Science Center at Jacksonville, and Keiser University.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $8,700,000
- 2024-25 - $8,700,000
- 2023-24 - $8,700,000

Item 95 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - School District Matching Grants Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	7,000,000	0	0	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$7,000,000 is requested to continue providing matching funds to local education foundations for programs that strengthen academic achievement for low-performing students, strengthen teacher recruitment and retention efforts, and support career and technical education and other literacy initiatives.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1011.765, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Strengthen academic programs for low-performing students and teacher recruitment and retention efforts and support technical career education and other literacy initiatives.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The School District Education Foundation Matching Grants Program provides school district local education foundations a dollar-for-dollar match in state funds to private funds to address strengthening academic programs for low-performing students, improvement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, teacher recruitment and retention efforts, enhancements to career and technical education, and enhanced literacy initiatives in public school districts. Subgrants are solicited from all eligible foundations via email, and all application materials are available online at the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations' website: educationfoundationsfl.org.

The criteria used to evaluate subgrants are as follows:

- Funds match private cash contributions made to local education foundations for activities or programs designed to improve academic achievement of low-performing public school students.
- Report of measurable results is required and will include baseline data, expected outcomes, tangible and intangible evidence of objectives, and the academic increase (or decrease) for the students involved in the project.
- Certification of contributions from private sources must be submitted with the application. Funds cannot be expended for the construction or purchase of facilities or for the support of interscholastic athletics.

Subgrants are awarded based on the following:

- APPLICATION PACKET - Each education foundation submits an application packet to the consortium that consists of a project narrative, a budget narrative, certification of the cash pledged for the match from private business partners, and confirmation that the foundation is the designated school district local education foundation.
- DISBURSEMENT FORMULA - Matching grants shall be allocated on the basis of matching each dollar of state funds with one dollar of private funds.
- FINAL EVALUATION REPORT - Each participating foundation is required to submit a final evaluation. The evaluation includes an assessment of all project objectives in terms of measurable student achievement outcomes and tangible and intangible evidence that the objectives have been met, an explanation of the skills and knowledge that the students gained through the academic program, how the program is linked to the enriched learning of low-performing students, and a report on how the funds were spent.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $7,000,000
- 2024-25 - $7,000,000
- 2023-24 - $6,000,000

Item 96 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Public School Transportation Stipend

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0	0.00%
Total	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$3,000,000 in General Revenue funds is requested to be restored for the Public School Transportation Stipend program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $3,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for the Public School Transportation Stipend which is a component of the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) program.
The restored funding will continue to allow families to receive a $750 stipend to transport public school students enrolled in a school or a developmental research school that is different than the one to which they are assigned.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.31, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

The Public School Transportation Stipend provides $750 per household for the purpose of transporting students in kindergarten through grade 8 to a Florida nonvirtual public school that is different from the school to which the student is assigned or to a developmental research school authorized under section 1002.32, Florida Statutes.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This stipend was first funded in Fiscal Year 2021-22 as a new component to the Family Empowerment Scholarship. The funding allowed families to receive a $750 scholarship to transport public school students enrolled in a school that was different than the one the student was assigned or to a developmental research (university laboratory) school. To qualify for this scholarship, the school district must not have provided the student with transportation to the school. This component was funded by the Student Transportation Allocation within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

This option was maintained for Fiscal Years 2022-23 and 2023-24. However, the scholarship award amount was adjusted in Fiscal Year 2023-24 to be the greater of the previous $750 amount or the school district's expenditure per student riding a school bus, as determined by the department.

Since school district transportation costs per-student far exceeded the $750 award, the Florida Legislature removed the funding source for this scholarship option from the FEFP and funded it through a separate appropriation, named the Public School Transportation Stipend.

The Public School Transportation Stipend continues to provide funds to transport public school students that attend a school different than the one to which they were assigned, provided the school district does not offer transportation to that school. The program was limited in Fiscal Year 2024-25 to allow the stipend to be used only for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 8.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $3,000,000
- 2024-25 - $14,030,250
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 97 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Educator Professional Liability Insurance

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,021,560	0	0	1,021,560	1,021,560	0	1,021,560	0	0.00%
Total	1,021,560	0	0	1,021,560	1,021,560	0	1,021,560	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,021,560 is requested to continue funding the educator professional liability insurance program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1012.75, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide full-time instructional personnel with liability insurance benefits for potential monetary damages and costs of defending actions resulting from claims made against the instructional personnel arising out of occurrences in the course of activities within the instructional personnel's professional capacity.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds provide for liability insurance coverage of at least $2,000,000 to all full-time instructional personnel and at cost to part-time instructional personnel, administrative personnel and students enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation program pursuant to s. 1012.39(3), Florida Statutes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,021,560
- 2024-25 - $1,021,560
- 2023-24 - $1,021,560

Item 98 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Teacher and School Administrator Death Benefits

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	45,521	0	10,000	55,521	45,521	0	45,521	10,000	21.97%
Total	45,521	0	10,000	55,521	45,521	0	45,521	10,000	21.97%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$45,521 is requested to continue funding Teacher and School Administrator Death Benefits for current eligible recipients.

WORKLOAD

$10,000 increase in General Revenue funds is requested, for total funding of $55,521, to fund projected increases in insurance reimbursement costs for eligible recipients.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $10,000 in recurring General Revenue, for total funding of $55,521 to reimburse Palm Beach and Broward counties for eligible recipients of the Teacher and School Administrator Death Benefits in accordance with section 112.1915(3)(c)2., F.S. This request is a projection of increases for health insurance benefits for the eligible recipients of $5,000 per year for both Fiscal Year 2026-27 as well as Fiscal Year 2027-28.

For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the reimbursement requests from Palm Beach and Broward counties totaled $49,676, exceeding the available budget by $8,355. A budget amendment (B7075) was approved to obtain the additional funding.

For Fiscal Year 2026-27, additional funding was provided for total funds of $45,521. he reimbursement requests for Fiscal Year 2026-27 have not yet been received by the department and are projected to be in excess of the existing budget again. If so, another budget amendment request will be made in order to make the required payments.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Section 112.1915, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide each teacher and school administrator with special death benefits for surviving spouses and dependents if he/she is killed or dies while in the performance of his/her teaching/administrative duties.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Benefits are provided when a teacher or school administrator is killed or injured and dies as a result of an unlawful and intentional act while he/she is engaged in the performance of teaching duties or school administrator duties. Currently, funds are provided to the School District of Palm Beach County to pay health insurance premium for a spouse of a teacher who lost his life in 2000, as well as the School District of Broward County for one child and two spouses for two Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School staff members who lost their lives on February 14, 2018.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $41,321
- 2024-25 - $41,321
- 2023-24 - $41,321

Item 99 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Risk Management Insurance

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	557,876	0	0	557,876	557,876	0	557,876	0	0.00%
Admin TF	56,012	0	0	56,012	56,012	0	56,012	0	0.00%
Total	613,888	0	0	613,888	613,888	0	613,888	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$ 613,888 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

DOE: Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; FSDB: Tracie Snow, President (904) 827-2211

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provides business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds provide for Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriation amounts are recommended by the state's Division of Risk Management.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $613,888
- 2024-25 - $479,316
- 2023-24 - $421,317

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Item 100 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Autism Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	12,000,000	0	0	12,000,000	13,000,000	1,000,000	12,000,000	(1,000,000)	(7.69%)
Total	12,000,000	0	0	12,000,000	13,000,000	1,000,000	12,000,000	(1,000,000)	(7.69%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$12,000,000 is requested to continue funding nonresidential resources and training services provided by the state's seven Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARDs). The centers and their allocations are as follows:

- $1,386,508 - Florida Atlantic University
- $1,483,072 - Florida State University (College of Medicine)
- $2,467,195 - University of Central Florida
- $1,431,006 - University of Florida (College of Medicine)
- $1,276,630 - University of Florida (Jacksonville)
- $2,218,340 - University of Miami (Department of Psychology), including $499,979 for Nova Southeastern University in Broward County
- $1,737,249 - University of South Florida/Florida Mental Health Institute

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$1,000,000 is not requested to be restored in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Statewide Project for Missing Persons with Special Needs.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1004.55, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

The Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARDs) have seven regional autism centers that provide nonresidential resource and training services for persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and related disabilities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

In accordance with section 1004.55, Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-7.0335, Florida Administrative Code, the seven regional autism centers provide nonresidential resource and training services for persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism spectrum disorder, a pervasive developmental disorder, a dual sensory impairment, or a sensory impairment with other disabling conditions. Each center provides services within its geographical region of the state and service delivery shall be consistent for all centers. Each center is expected to coordinate services within and between state and local agencies and local educational agencies, but may not duplicate services provided by those agencies or school districts.

There are seven CARD centers that provide services within assigned geographic regions of the state. Funds are provided to the following universities for this purpose:

- Florida Atlantic University (FAU)
- Florida State University (FSU)
- University of Central Florida (UCF)
- University of Florida Gainesville (UF-GVL)
- University of Florida Jacksonville (UF-JAX)
- University of Miami (UM)/Nova Southeastern University
- University of South Florida (USF)

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $12,000,000
- 2024-25 - $12,000,000
- 2023-24 - $12,000,000

Item 101 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Articulated Health Care Programs

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$2,000,000 in General Revenue is requested to continue the lab school articulated health care programs.

$500,000 will go to each of the following universities with lab schools:

- University of Florida
- Florida State University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.32, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Each lab school is required to develop programs that accelerate the entry of enrolled lab school students into articulated health care programs at its affiliated university or at any public or private postsecondary institution, with the approval of the university president.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is part of the Live Healthy initiative meant to increase Florida’s healthcare workforce, increase access to training, and incentivize innovation. Each lab school will develop and implement a plan aligned with each university's strategic mission and/or priorities to increase their students’ access to study health care occupations through articulated pathways. As a result, each lab school's articulated health care program will differ from the others, reflecting programmatic strength and unique availability to each university. Each lab school is charged with sharing these innovative practices and providing technical assistance to districts around the state.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $2,000,000
- 2024-25 - $2,000,000
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 102 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Regional Education Consortium Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,800,000	0	0	6,800,000	6,800,000	0	6,800,000	0	0.00%
Total	6,800,000	0	0	6,800,000	6,800,000	0	6,800,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$6,800,000 is requested to continue funding cooperative efforts to provide educational services to small and rural districts, two lab schools and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind to improve student achievement.

Funds are provided to the following Consortiums and their allocations are as follows:

- $2,434,526 - Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
- $3,025,465 - North East Florida Educational Consortium
- $1,340,009 - Heartland Educational Consortium

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1001.451, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Conduct regional delivery of educational services to small and rural districts in order to improve student achievement through technical assistance and school improvement strategies.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Legislature recognizes the impact of a school district being small and rural on the quality of education available for its citizens. The consortia service organizations were an outcome of the early recognition by small and rural school superintendents and school boards in Florida that consortia are a way to take advantage of cooperative efforts. Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) was Florida's first regional educational service consortium, created in 1967. Since its inception and proven successes, two more educational consortia have been established, the North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC) and the Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC).

Small and rural districts face similar problems. Transportation costs have increased because students are dispersed throughout sparsely populated districts. Grants are harder to obtain because funding agencies want to sponsor programs that impact the greatest number of students and small districts do not always have grant writers. The low tax base of small and rural districts negatively impacts the funds available for competitive teacher and principal salaries or state-of-the-art facilities. Access to technology and other educational resources is limited due to multiple demands being placed on limited funds. Teacher training in specific subject areas is especially challenging because there may be only one or two educators teaching within the district in that curriculum subject. Implementation of state and federal initiatives is extremely challenging because of the few district-level staff available to manage the tasks required.

Recognizing the returns on investment consortia provide, the Florida Legislature established direct funding based on the number of districts that agree to participate annually. If a school district, including developmental research schools (DRS) and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, has 20,000 or fewer unweighted full-time equivalent students, it may enter into cooperative agreements to form a regional consortium service organization. Each regional consortium service organization shall provide, at a minimum, three of the following services:

- Exceptional student education
- Teacher education centers
- Environmental education
- Federal grant procurement and coordination
- Data processing
- Health insurance
- Risk management insurance
- Staff development
- Purchasing
- Planning
- Accountability

The consortia serve the following districts:

North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC): Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, Suwannee, Union, P.K. Yonge DRS, and Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC): Calhoun, FAMU DRS, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC): DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,750,000
- 2024-25 - $1,750,000
- 2023-24 - $1,750,000

Item 103 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Teacher Professional Development

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	9,779,426	0	0	9,779,426	9,779,426	0	9,779,426	0	0.00%
Total	9,779,426	0	0	9,779,426	9,779,426	0	9,779,426	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$9,779,426 is requested to continue funding training, recognition opportunities, and programs as follows:

- $3,000,000 - Computer Science Certification and Teacher Bonuses
- $5,500,000 - Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training
- $ 29,426 - Principal of the Year/Assistant Principal of the Year
- $ 370,000 - School-Related Employee of the Year
- $ 880,000 - Teacher of the Year

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Computer Science Certification and Teacher Bonuses, Principal of the Year/Assistant Principal of the Year, School-Related Employee of the Year, Teacher of the Year: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509
Youth Mental Health Awareness and Assistance Training: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1007.2616, Florida Statutes – Computer science and technology instruction
Section 1012.05, Florida Statutes – Specific programs and activities in recruitment and retention Section 1012.21(5), Florida Statutes – School-Related Employee of the Year Program
Section 1012.584, Florida Statutes – Continuing education and in-service training for youth mental health awareness and assistance
Section 1012.77, Florida Statutes – Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education (Teacher of the Year)
Section 1012.98, Florida Statutes – The School Community Professional Development Act
Section 1012.985, Florida Statutes – Statewide system of in-service professional development

Based upon a formula, a small percentage of the Title II-A (Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund Program) federal funds are directed to the states for activities specified in both the federal Title II-A grant and Florida Statutes for teacher and principal recruitment and professional development.

PURPOSE:

This funding will:

- Deliver and implement programs for the recruitment, recognition, and professional learning of high-quality educators.
- Deliver youth mental health awareness and assistance training to all school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

COMPUTER SCIENCE CERTIFICATION AND TEACHER BONUSES

The majority of this funding goes to districts to continue to enhance the capacity of schools to provide trained and certified staff as appropriate to meet the requirements of s. 1007.2616, F.S. Specifically, the funding will be used to deliver or facilitate training for classroom teachers to earn an educator certificate in computer science or for training that leads to an industry certification associated with a course identified in the Course Code Directory, to pay fees for examinations that lead to a relevant credential, or to deliver professional development that provides classroom teachers instruction in computer science courses and content. The allocation is based on student population as per statute. A smaller portion of the funds are to be used to reward appropriately certified teachers by providing a bonus after each year the individual completes teaching a general education computer science course or identified career and technical education course at a public middle or high school (for up to 3 years).

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Provides recognition and communication opportunities for high-performing principals and assistant principals across Florida. Individual principals, along with their associated schools, are recognized and honored through this program. Funds are used to provide cash awards to these recognized leaders, with an average award for the state winner of $3,000, finalists receive approximately $1,000, and district winners approximately $225. The award amounts vary dependent on the number of district-submitted nominees.

SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Provides recognition opportunities for high-performing school-related support personnel. High-performing school-related personnel who are nominated by their school districts are recognized by the department. Funds are used to provide cash awards to these recognized support personnel. The state winner receives $10,000, finalists receive a total award of up to $6,500, and district winners receive an award of up to $5,000. Award amounts for district and state-level finalists vary dependent on the number of district-submitted nominees.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Provides recognition and communication opportunities for high-performing teachers, with one teacher being recognized as the Florida Teacher of the Year/Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education. The recurring funds provide financial awards resulting in district winners receiving a minimum total award amount of $10,000; the selected finalists receiving a minimum total award of $20,000; and the Florida Teacher of the Year receiving a minimum total award of $50,000.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE TRAINING

The health, safety, and welfare of each student and employee at every school is of utmost importance. The department has established an evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training program to assist school personnel to identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, and substance use disorders, and provide such personnel with the skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing an emotional disturbance, mental health or substance use problem.

The department selected a national authority on youth mental health awareness and assistance to facilitate providing youth mental health awareness and assistance training, using a trainer certification model, to all school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools. Each school safety specialist shall earn, or designate one or more individuals to earn, certification as a youth mental health awareness and assistance trainer. The school safety specialist shall ensure that all school personnel within his or her school district receive youth mental health awareness and assistance training.

The training program shall include but is not limited to:

- An overview of mental illnesses and substance use disorders and the need to reduce the stigma of mental illness.
- Information on the potential risk factors and warning signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, or substance use disorders, including, but not limited to, depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating disorders and self-injury, as well as common treatments for those conditions and how to assess those risks.
- Information on how to engage at-risk students with the skills, resources and knowledge required to assess the situation, and how to identify and encourage the student to use appropriate professional help and other support strategies including, but not limited to, peer, social, or self-help care.

Each school district shall notify all school personnel who have received training pursuant to this section of mental health services that are available in the school district, and the individual to contact if a student needs services. The term "mental health services" includes, but is not limited to, community mental health services, health care providers, and services provided under ss. 1006.04 and 1011.62, F.S. Each school district shall certify to the department that at least 80 percent of school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools have received the required training by July 1 each year per s. 1012.584, F.S.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $12,246,153
- 2024-25 - $17,121,426
- 2023-24 - $26,969,426

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Item 104 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Strategic Statewide Initiatives

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	32,482,532	3,500,000	6,225,000	42,207,532	62,112,124	29,629,592	32,482,532	(19,904,592)	(32.05%)
Total	32,482,532	3,500,000	6,225,000	42,207,532	62,112,124	29,629,592	32,482,532	(19,904,592)	(32.05%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$32,482,532 is requested to continue funding the following projects:

- $4,702,500 - Charity for Change Program
- $1,000,000 - Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches
- $ 400,000 - Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program
- $7,000,000 - Florida Civics Seal of Excellence
- $2,000,000 - Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation
- $1,073,911 - Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)
- $3,306,121 - Florida Safe Schools Canine Program
- $3,000,000 - Florida School Safety Portal / Centralized Integrated Data Repository and Data Analytics Resources
- $5,000,000 - Regional Literacy Teams
- $5,000,000 - School District Threat Management Coordinators

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$2,000,000 is requested to be restored as recurring General Revenue for the Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains and Coaches program.

$1,500,000 is requested to be restored as nonrecurring General Revenue for the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative.

$26,129,592 is not requested to be restored for the following programs:

- $1,300,000 - All Pro Dad/iMOM Fatherhood Literacy and Family Engagement Campaign
- $2,000,000 - Big Brothers Big Sisters Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success
- $1,500,000 - Civics Professional Learning (Development)
- $2,500,000 - Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs - Workforce Development Programs
- $5,000,000 - Florida Arts and Tourism Economic Development Initiative
- $ 275,000 - Florida Council on Economic Education: Expanding Access to Financial Literacy Education Resources
- $2,400,000 - Florida Debate Initiative
- $ 500,000 - Growing the Game and Lifelong Values
- $ 206,855 - Hate Ends Now Traveling Holocaust Cattle Car Exhibit
- $ 725,000 - History of Communism Curriculum
- $1,500,000 - Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach - David Schaecter Holocaust Education Initiative
- $ 500,000 - Learning Through Listening/Dyslexia Awareness Professional Learning
- $ 750,000 - Maritime Workforce Development Instruction
- $2,000,000 - Mobile Museums of Tolerance-Florida
- $ 200,000 - Patriotic Displays In Classrooms
- $ 670,223 - School Bond Issuance Database
- $ 150,000 - Securing the Continuation of the State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida: Project Year 4 of 5

- $ 500,000 - Special Olympics Florida Unified Champions Schools
- $ 375,000 - Virtual College Tours for Every Florida High School Student
- $ 125,000 - Vision Is Priceless - Sight In Schools Program
- $2,952,514 - Workforce Development in High School Classrooms with 3DE by Junior Achievement

WORKLOAD
$1,925,000 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- $1,500,000 - Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation
- $ 425,000 - School District Threat Management Coordinators

$1,500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested for the Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics - Mathematics Instructional Coaching Team program.

NEW PROGRAM
$500,000 in recurring General Revenue is requested for the State Instructional Materials Adoption Process.

$2,300,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- $1,000,000 - Florida Center for Teaching Excellence
- $1,300,000 - Statewide Adolescent Literacy Initiative Partnership

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

* Florida School Safety Portal / Centralized Integrated Data Repository and Data Analytics Resources: Andre Smith (850) 245-9101
* Charity for Change Program, Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches, Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program, High Quality Instruction and Leadership Professional Learning, Florida Civics Seal of Excellence, Improving Student Outcomes in Mathematics - Mathematics Instructional Coaching Team, Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches, Florida Center for Teaching Excellence, State Instructional Materials Adoption Process: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509
* Florida Civics and Debate Initiative: Lindsey Zander (850) 245-7878
* Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation: Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631
* School District Threat Management Coordinators, Florida Safe School Assessment Tool, Florida Safe Schools Canine Program: Tim Hay (850) 245-5173
* Regional Literacy Teams, Statewide Adolescent Literacy Initiative Partnership: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Lindsey Brown (850) 245-0509

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

CIVICS LITERACY REGIONAL DIRECTORS/CAPTAINS AND COACHES

The department is requesting the restoration of $2,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring to continue the instructional support provided by the Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains and Coaches.

The Civics Literacy Instructional Coaching team provides civics and government instructional support to Florida's teachers and instructional leaders. Currently, the team is comprised of two (2) Directors, two (2) Instructional Coach Coordinators, and eighteen (18) Instructional Coaches.

This request will fund the salaries and travel expenses of team as they continue the work at current capacity.

- The Civics Literacy Directors (2 personnel) support and reinforce standards implementation and provide sustained professional learning. Additionally, they lead the Civics Literacy Instructional Coach Coordinators and Instructional Coaches in work associated with the development and facilitation of statewide and regional professional learning events, resource development, and school site coaching.
- The Civics Literacy Instructional Coach Coordinators (2 personnel) coordinate a team of Instructional Coaches who support Florida districts in the successful implementation of benchmarks-aligned, high-

- quality K-12 civics instruction.
- The Civics Literacy Instructional Coaches (18 personnel) support and reinforce standards implementation, provide sustained professional learning and contribute to the success of Florida's priorities for civic literacy.

The Civics Literacy Instructional Coaching team supports department civics initiatives and serves under the leadership of the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support.

$ 87,000 - Civics Literacy Regional Directors/Captains 1 position @ $87,000
$ 76,000 - Instructional Coach Coordinators 1 position @ 76,000
$ 936,000 - Instructional Coaches 13 positions @ $72,000 each
$ 692,583 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits
$ 2,500 - Shipping
$ 7,679 - Materials and Supplies
$ 8,000 - Data Software Non-Capitalized
$ 20,000 - Minor Equipment
$ 75,000 - Travel
$1,904,762 - Total Project Costs
$ 95,238 - Administrative Costs (5 percent of Project Costs)
$2,000,000 - Total Funds Requested to be Restored

FLORIDA CIVICS AND DEBATE INITIATIVE

The department is requesting the restoration of $1,500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative to continue providing statewide speech and debate programming that strengthens civic knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills for Florida students. Students, parents, teachers, coaches, and volunteers will continue to benefit from expanded access to competitive speech and debate opportunities, educator and volunteer/parent support, civic leadership experiences, statewide and national competitions, and resources that reduce financial barriers to participation on families and schools.

The requested $1,500,000 was determined based on projected program participation, past operating costs, historical demand for FCDI programming, and anticipated expenses associated with continuing to cultivate FCDI programming statewide.

The request includes:

- $530,000 in team support stipends: 100 awards of $3,000 for new or emerging programs, 200 awards of $2,000 for developing programs, and approximately 30 awards of $1,000 or less for established school and homeschool speech and debate programs.
- $160,000 towards a Program Manager funds a $160,000 compensation package, including a $70,639 salary and benefits.
- $575,000 in funding for high-impact civics and debate competitions and events, including the National Civics and Debate Initiative (NCDC), FCDI Day at the Capitol, FCDI Leadership Summer Camp, and the State Championship. The requested amount for each was determined based on historical program expenses and anticipated costs to enhance opportunities.
- $35,000 in travel funding for FCDI staff and contractors, including $3,750 in travel per month during the competition season, and $10,000 in travel for conferences and summits, partner meetings, school outreach, and other development activities that strengthen statewide engagement and support the expansion of statewide programming.
- $80,000 to support communications services and public engagement, including website design and maintenance, social media management, and the creation of recruitment tools and resources to increase awareness of FCDI programs, attract new participants, and strengthen statewide engagement.
- $120,000 in administrative fees.

WORKLOAD

FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR CHARTER SCHOOL INNOVATION

The department is requesting $1,500,000 in recurring General Revenue to strengthen charter school authorizing support across Florida, particularly as more colleges and universities are approved to serve as charter school sponsors. While these institutions are eager to fulfill this responsibility, they lack the infrastructure and financial capacity, especially in the early stages of this work, to meet the complex requirements of high-quality charter school authorizing. Unlike established school district sponsors, new college and university sponsors will not generate sufficient administrative fee revenue to fund essential services such as compliance oversight, policy development or exceptional education leadership.

To bridge this gap, the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation (the Institute) is developing a comprehensive suite of shared resources -- including a complete set of higher education institution (HEI) authorizing policies, procedural templates, compliance tools and operational guidance -- that will empower HEIs to establish themselves as effective charter sponsors. In tandem, the Institute has launched a statewide HEI Authorizing Consortium to facilitate cost-effective collaboration. The Institute will provide centralized support services such as a state-level ESE director who can assist multiples colleges acting as local educational agencies (LEAs), eliminating the impractical burden of each institution hiring dedicated staff for a small portfolio of schools.

Currently, five colleges and one university have been approved to serve as charter school sponsors: Tallahassee State College, Miami Dade College, Pasco Hernando State College, St. Johns River State College, Indian River State College and the University of West Florida. Miami Dade College, Pasco Hernando State College and the University of West Florida are opening new charter schools for the 2026-27 school year and are seeking to partner with the Institute to provide extensive back-office authorizing support.

The requested increase of $1,500,000 will break down as follows:

$ 476,587 - In-house staff
$ 461,554 - Consulting staff
$ 417,325 - Contracted services
$ 63,200 - Facilities
$ 75,400 - Supplies
$ 4,087 - Technology
$ 1,837 - Travel
$ 10 - Printing

$1,500,000 - Total Workload Request

IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES IN MATHEMATICS - MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING TEAM

The department is requesting $1,500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue the work of the Mathematics Instructional Coaching team. This work began in the 2025-26 school year, and was only included in the Back of the Bill section 36 for Fiscal Year 2026-27 of $250,000.

The Mathematics Instructional Coaching team, initiated during the 2025-2026 school year, provides mathematics instructional support to Florida's teachers and instructional leaders.

This request for funding in Fiscal Year 2027-28 would support the following:

- Mathematics Director (1 personnel) supports and reinforces benchmarks-aligned, high-quality instruction, provides sustained professional learning, leads and manages the team of Mathematics Instructional Coach Coordinators, and contributes to the success of Florida’s students.
- The Mathematics Instructional Coach Coordinators (2 personnel) coordinate a team of Instructional Coaches who support Florida districts in the successful implementation of benchmarks-aligned, high-quality K-12 mathematics instruction.
- The Mathematics Instructional Coaches (8 personnel) support and reinforce benchmarks-aligned, high-quality instruction, provide sustained professional learning, and contribute to the success of Florida's students.

The 2025-26 school year established funding to secure a team, develop a way of work and provide instructional practices to Florida teachers and instructional leaders. 1 Director and 6 Coaches provided targeted support in the 2025-26 school year reaching 61 districts, 74 schools and 530 teachers, including educators in public, charter and private schools. The team also hosted three Regional Mathematics Coaching Summits, which were designed to build capacity among K-12 mathematics coaches and teacher leaders across Florida. Across the three events, the team set an ambitious participation goal of 300 mathematics coaches and welcomed 301 participants from traditional public schools, private schools and public charter schools. Registration exceeded capacity and 157 educators were waitlisted and unable to attend, demonstrating a strong statewide need for structured mathematics coaching support. In addition, 290 participants requested continued support and ongoing communication with the B.E.S.T. Mathematics Coaches, further reinforcing the demand for sustained engagement.

Statewide assessment data released on June 26, 2026, indicates positive results for mathematics detailing an increase in overall student performance to a high of 62 percent, which is an 11 percent increase since 2024. Florida's students are on a clear upward trajectory. An investment in the Mathematics Instructional Coaching team will be a direct investment into the success of all Florida's students and ensure that Florida's mathematics scores become the B.E.S.T. in the nation.

$ 82,000 - Mathematics Regional Director (1)
$ 152,000 - Mathematics Instructional Coach Coordinators (2)
$ 536,000 - Mathematics Instructional Coaches (8)
$ 497,024 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits
$ 80,000 - Travel
$ 52,876 - Resource Development
$ 28,671 - Office expenses
$1,428,571 - Total Project Costs
$ 71,429 - Administrative Costs (5 percent of project costs)
$1,500,000 - Total Workload Requested

SCHOOL DISTRICT THREAT MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

The department is requesting $425,000 in recurring General Revenue to adequately fund the School District Threat Management Coordinator (DTMC) grant. The DTMC Grant provides recurring funding to support school districts in fulfilling statutory requirements related to threat management and the coordination of district threat assessment activities.

The DTMC Grant is currently funded with $5 million in recurring General Revenue. When the current appropriation was established, Florida had 76 school districts. Florida’s school district structure has since expanded, and the state will have 80 districts as four newly established districts become operational. The department anticipates that an additional four districts will become operational during the next school year, resulting in an estimated 84 school districts. Florida law establishes DTMC Grant allocations based on district size, with funding levels of $55,000 for small districts, $60,000 for medium districts, $75,000 for large districts, and $115,000 for very large districts. The existing $5 million recurring appropriation was established based on the number and size of school districts in existence at the time. The original 76 districts consisted of 31 small districts, 25 medium districts, 13 large districts, and 7 very large districts.

The statutory funding requirement for 84 districts is estimated at $5.425 million:

- 39 small districts × $55,000 = $2.145 million
- 25 medium districts × $60,000 = $1.5 million
- 13 large districts × $75,000 = $975,000
- 7 very large districts × $115,000 = $805,000

As additional school districts are established, each newly created district becomes an additional funding obligation under the DTMC Grant. The four districts currently coming online will be classified as small districts, requiring an additional $220,000 in recurring funding. The department anticipates that an additional four districts will become operational during the next school year (2027-28), and these districts will also be small districts, requiring an additional $220,000 in recurring funding. Since a small portion of the $5 million remains unallocated each year, the request is for $425,000 instead of $440,000 ($220,000 + $220,000). Therefore, the department anticipates a total of eight eligible small districts, with a statutory funding requirement for 84 districts estimated at $5.425 million.

NEW PROGRAM
STATEWIDE ADOLESCENT LITERACY INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP

The department is requesting $1,300,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Florida Center for Reading Research to develop and deploy evidence-based professional learning and resources that support school administrators, reading coaches, and other district designees in strengthening reading instruction and interventions for students in grades 4 through 12.

Florida has made significant progress in improving early literacy through statewide implementation of evidence-based instruction aligned to the science of reading. However, as students move into grades 4 through 12, literacy demands become increasingly complex across all academic disciplines. Students must comprehend increasingly complex texts, acquire discipline-specific vocabulary, build knowledge through content-rich reading, engage in discussions, and communicate understanding through written responses to text. Teachers, reading coaches, and school administrators need high-quality, evidence-based professional learning and implementation resources that support literacy instruction within content-area classrooms and intervention settings.

This request provides funding to the Florida Center for Reading Research to develop professional learning and resources focused on evidence-based reading instruction and interventions for grades 4 through 12. Resources will be designed for school administrators, reading coaches, and other district designees to support local implementation. The Just Read, Florida! Office will identify personnel to participate in professional learning focused on the delivery of reading instruction and interventions to students in grades 4 through 12.

FLORIDA CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The department is requesting $1,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to operationalize the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence, established in section 1012.981, F.S., but never funded. Funding will enable the Center to fulfill its statutory responsibilities by supporting implementation of House Bill 875 (2025), developing statewide teacher preparation resources, providing professional learning, and serving as Florida's hub for educator excellence.

The requested funding will support the increased workload associated with implementing House Bill 875 (2025) and carrying out the statutory responsibilities of the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence. Funds will support personnel responsible for administering the Center, developing exemplar teacher preparation coursework and instructional resources, coordinating statewide professional learning, providing technical assistance to educator preparation programs, school districts, and charter schools, supporting research and evaluation activities, and administering in-service points for educators not employed by a Florida school district. Funding will also support the development of instructional content and multimedia resources, regional workshops and conferences, travel for statewide implementation and technical assistance, meeting and outreach expenses, and other operating costs necessary to establish and sustain the Center's statewide operations.

The requested $1,000,000 was determined based on estimated annual operating costs, including approximately $650,000 for personnel and administrative support, $175,000 for curriculum and instructional content development, $100,000 for statewide professional learning and workshops, $50,000 for travel and technical assistance, and $25,000 for operating expenses and in-service administration.

STATE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION PROCESS

The department is requesting $500,000 in recurring General Revenue to provide funding for an entity to create rubrics and train reviewers on reviewing the materials submitted to the Florida Instructional Materials Adoption Process.

The Florida Instructional Materials Adoption Process includes a comprehensive review of potential instructional materials to ensure alignment with Florida Statute and State Board of Education Rule. Due to the volume and complexity of materials submitted for adoption, the department requires a consistent, standardized approach to support high-quality reviews. Developing uniform review rubrics aligned to Florida Statute and State Board of Education Rule, along with comprehensive training for expert reviewers, will promote consistency in the evaluation process, improve the quality of initial reviews, and facilitate a more efficient and streamlined instructional materials adoption cycle.

The department seeks an entity to develop standardized review rubrics aligned to Florida Statute and State Board of Education Rule and to develop and deliver training for expert reviewers participating in Florida's instructional materials adoption process. The rubrics and training will establish a consistent framework for evaluating instructional materials, strengthen the quality and reliability of reviews conducted at the beginning of the adoption process, and improve the overall efficiency of the department's instructional materials review cycle. Subject matter expertise in a specific instructional content area is not required for the selected entity.

This work will include, at a minimum, the following:

- Develop standardized instructional materials review rubrics aligned to Florida Statute and State Board of Education Rule.
- Develop comprehensive training materials and resources for expert reviewers on the use of the rubrics and Florida's instructional materials review process.
- Conduct training for expert reviewers prior to the instructional materials review cycle.
- Revise and update the rubrics and training materials, as requested by the department, to reflect changes in Florida Statute, State Board of Education Rule, or department priorities.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Florida School Safety Portal/Centralized Integrated Data Repository and Data Analytics Resources - section 1001.212, Florida Statutes
Charity for Change Program - section 1003.4206, Florida Statutes
School District Threat Management Coordinators - section 1006.07, Florida Statutes Florida
Safe Schools Assessment Tool - section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes
Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program - section 1003.481, Florida Statutes
Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation - section 1004.88, Florida Statutes Regional
Literacy Teams - section 1008.365, Florida Statutes
Florida Safe Schools Canine Program - section 1006.121, Florida Statutes
State Academic Standards/Required Instruction (Civics, Mathematics, Related Professional Learning) - sections 1003.41 and 1003.42, Florida Statutes
Statewide Adolescent Literacy Initiative Partnership - section 1004.645, Florida Statutes
Teacher Apprenticeship Program - section 1012.55, Florida Statutes
State Instructional Materials Adoption Process - sections 1006.28-1006.42, Florida Statutes Florida
Center for Teaching Excellence - section 1012.981, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

The purpose of these programs is to target resources for strategic initiatives to improve student safety and student achievement and enhance educator capacity.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

CHARITY FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

The capacity of the Charity for Change Program will be increased by further development of the infrastructure, including staff, curriculum platform updates, equipment, marketing and occupancy expenses. Ultimately, the goal is to serve every child in the state of Florida through Charity for Change in-school, after-school, or summer school programs building resiliency, character, civic and charitable engagement, and life skills critical to developing successful learners in school, future careers, and life.

CIVICS LITERACY CAPTAINS AND COACHES

Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches support benchmarks-aligned high-quality K-12 civics instruction in Florida. Funds are used for these personnel to support sustained professional learning to improve students' civics literacy.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

This program assists participating school districts in implementing comprehensive music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade two. A school district is eligible for participation in the program if the superintendent certifies to the department, in a format prescribed by the department, that specified elementary schools within the district have established a comprehensive music education program that:

- Includes all students at the school enrolled in kindergarten through grade two.
- Is staffed by certified music educators.
- Provides music instruction for at least 30 consecutive minutes two days a week.
- Complies with class size requirements under section (s.) 1003.03, Florida Statutes (F.S.).
- Complies with the department’s standards for early childhood music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade two.

FLORIDA CIVICS SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

The Civics Seal of Excellence program allows educators to enroll in and complete interactive, online professional learning coursework to earn a Florida Civics Seal of Excellence endorsement. This online coursework emphasizes the study of primary source documents on the American founding, American forms of government, and U.S. History. Funds are used to provide a $3,000 stipend to educators who successfully complete the entire course.

FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR CHARTER SCHOOL INNOVATION

The Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation is authorized in s. 1004.88, F.S. The institute is located at Miami Dade College with the purpose of analyzing charter applications to identify charter school best practices and provide training and assistance to charter school sponsors. The institute serves as an asset to charter schools, sponsors, operators, new applicants, the Florida department, and the State of Florida. The institute researches and provides insight on best practices and policies of charter schools and serves as support in reviewing charter applications and renewals. Additionally, the institute conducts research on charter school authorization and charter school performance statewide. Specific activities of the institute are to:

- Analyze charter school applications, identify best practices, and create a state resource for developing and reviewing charter school applications.
- Provide charter school sponsors with training, technical assistance, and support in reviewing initial and renewal charter applications.
- Conduct applied research on policy and practices related to charter schools.
- Conduct or compile basic research on the status of educational choice, charter authorizing, and charter school performance in this state and other topics related to charter schools.
- Collaborate with the department in developing the sponsor evaluation framework under s. 1002.33(5)(c), F.S.
- Disseminate information regarding research-based charter school teaching practices to teacher educators in this state.
- Host research workshops and conferences that allow charter school sponsors, charter school operators, students, and parents to engage in topics related to charter schools.

FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT TOOL (FSSAT)

The Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) is the primary physical site security assessment tool required by the Office of Safe Schools, which is used by school officials at each school district and public school site in the state in conducting security assessments. The FSSAT helps school officials identify threats, vulnerabilities, and appropriate safety controls for the schools that they supervise, pursuant to the security risk assessment requirements of s. 1006.07(6), F.S.

FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS CANINE PROGRAM

The Florida Safe Schools Canine Program was established to provide startup funds for the school districts located within the 29 fiscally constrained counties. Any appropriated funds that have not been designated for fiscally constrained districts by December 15, 2025, may be awarded to other school districts who apply to participate in the program. The school districts may use their allocated funds to purchase a canine, train the canine and the handler, provide veterinary care, as well as other costs associated with participating in the program. The canine must be trained to interact with children and must complete behavior and temperament training. A firearm detection canine may also be trained as an animal-assisted therapy canine. The school districts will partner with a local law enforcement agency to employ the canine for use in K-12 schools for the primary purpose of aiding in the detection of firearms and ammunition.

FLORIDA SCHOOL SAFETY PORTAL / CENTRALIZED INTEGRATED DATA REPOSITORY AND DATA ANALYTICS RESOURCES

The centralized integrated data repository known as the Florida School Safety Portal (FSSP) and data analytics resource are two separate tools. The first tool, centralized system, is similar to the State Courts Judicial Inquiry System, which is a system that allows authorized users to search across multiple criminal justice databases through a single-entry application. The FSSP provides a web-based system that enables users to access multiple data sources through one point of entry. The second tool, data analytics resource, is a monitoring tool that is intended to aid districts with social media monitoring services.

REGIONAL LITERACY TEAMS

State Regional Literacy Directors (SRLDs) engage with cross-divisional experts (Reading, Exceptional Student Education, English language learners, etc.) to provide professional learning and support evidence-based literacy coaching models and evidence-based reading practices, identified pursuant to s. 1001.215, F.S. SRLDs provide targeted services and supports to schools and LEAs with the largest reading achievement gaps, emphasizing services and supports for identified schools serving kindergarten through grade five students.

SCHOOL DISTRICT THREAT MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

These coordinators are part of the department's statewide behavioral threat management operational process. The threat management process is designed to identify, assess, manage, and monitor threats to schools, school staff, and students. The aim of threat management is to intervene at the earliest stage to assist students and alter or disrupt behavior for the benefit of the student and school. As identified within Florida’s Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model, each district must establish a District Threat Management Coordinator (DTMC), designated by the superintendent, to oversee the district’s threat management program. The DTMC is the direct liaison between the school district and the department’s Statewide Threat Management Coordinator. The DTMC is responsible for ensuring the fidelity of the district’s threat management program and ensuring that all district and school staff are appropriately trained. Currently, each district receives an amount based on its size: $55,000 (small), $60,000 (medium), $75,000 (large), or $115,000 (very large) as determined by the department. These funds are to be used for the salary and benefits of the DTMC.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $43,842,011
- 2024-25 - $-56,778,417
- 2023-24 - $251,749,538

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Item 105 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Schools of Hope

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	25,000,000	25,000,000	0	0	0	25,000,000	100.00%
Total	0	0	25,000,000	25,000,000	0	0	0	25,000,000	100.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

WORKLOAD

$25,000,000 is requested in nonrecurring General Revenue to support the planning and implementation costs of seven new Schools of Hope.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting $25,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Schools of Hope Program to aid in the planning and implementation costs of approximately seven new Schools of Hope anticipated in Fiscal Year 2027-28. The Schools of Hope Program provides critical start-up funding for proven high-performing public charter school operators to establish, open and operate high-quality public charter schools within the neighborhoods of Florida's chronically struggling public schools. Funds will be used to recruit and prepare teachers and staff; hire and compensate teachers, school leaders and specialized instructional support personnel; acquire supplies, training, equipment and educational materials; and provide one-time start-up costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the school.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.333, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To encourage and support the establishment of new high-quality public charter schools in the attendance areas of persistently low-performing public schools and Florida Opportunity Zones.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Under the Schools of Hope Program, the department may award funds to newly established Schools of Hope. The Schools of Hope are public charter schools established by an entity that has been designated by the State Board of Education as a Hope Operator. A School of Hope may receive funding if it opens a school in the attendance area of a persistently low-performing public school, or within a five-mile radius of such a school, or if it opens within a Florida Opportunity Zone. A School of Hope may be located outside of a Florida Opportunity Zone or persistently low-performing school attendance zone if the school district does not have underused, vacant or surplus property available for the Hope Operator to use within a Florida Opportunity Zone or persistently low-performing school attendance zone.

Schools of Hope funds may be used for preparing teachers, school leaders and specialized instructional support personnel; for acquiring supplies, training, equipment and educational materials; or for one-time start-up costs associated with providing transportation and community engagement activities. The funds may also be used to cover the non-voted ad valorem millage that would otherwise be required for the school, or to provide funds for the initial leasing costs of a school facility in the event the department determines that a suitable district-owned facility is unavailable or not leased in a timely manner.

The Schools of Hope Program also provides a revolving loan fund to meet the school building construction needs and expenses related to the start-up of a new charter school. Funds provided through this program may not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project, which shall be calculated based on 80 percent of the cost per student station.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $6,000,000
- 2024-25 - $6,000,000
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 106 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - New World School of the Arts

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST									
	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%
Total	500,000	0	0	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$500,000 is requested to continue funding for the New World School of the Arts (NWSA).

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.35, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To provide students with focused professional arts training in dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The NWSA offers a high-quality and extensive academic and arts curriculum encompassing high school, college, and university level programs in four major arts forms: visual arts, dance, music, and theater. The NWSA partners with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami Dade College to offer high school diplomas, Associate of Arts degrees, Bachelor of Music degrees, and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $500,000
- 2024-25 - $500,000
- 2023-24 - $500,000

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Item 107 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - SEED School of Miami

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	12,758,388	0	561,900	13,320,288	12,758,388	0	12,758,388	561,900	4.40%
Total	12,758,388	0	561,900	13,320,288	12,758,388	0	12,758,388	561,900	4.40%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$12,758,388 is requested to continue funding 400 students at an annual rate of $31,895.97.

WORKLOAD

$561,900 increase in recurring General Revenue is requested for the SEED School of Miami, pursuant to the contract the State Board of Education has with the school, which is an annual increase of $1,404.75 per student, from $31,895.97 to $33,300.72.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Adam Emerson (850) 245-9631; Cathy Russell (850) 245-9631

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $561,900 in recurring General Revenue for the SEED School of Miami, for total funding of $13,320,288. This request allows the SEED School to serve a maximum of 400 at-risk students during the 2027-28 school year at an annual per-student rate of $33,330.72, which is an annual increase of $1,404.75. This rate aligns with the current contract the State Board of Education has with the school.

The additional funds requested will address increased costs related to personnel, transportation and student services. Additionally, funds will be used for increased costs related to the boarding program and the full-time faculty that also reside on campus. Without this funding, not only is the operational capability of the SEED school at-risk, so are the students that it serves.

The SEED School of Miami wrapped up its twelfth year of operation during the 2025-26 school year serving students in grades 6-12. The school's primary mission is to provide an outstanding, intensive, educational program that empowers students both academically and socially, for success in college and beyond.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Section 1002.3305, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To improve student performance and promote excellence in education through student learning opportunities and teacher professional development.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

In 2011, the Florida Legislature directed the State Board of Education to establish the state’s first College Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program (program) for at-risk students. Section 1002.3305, F.S. defines the program’s academic and boarding components, funding model and governance structure, and outlines student eligibility requirements. The SEED School of Miami serves students in grades 6-12. The school's primary mission is to provide an outstanding, intensive, educational program that empowers students both academically and socially, for success in college and beyond.

The SEED School provides five days a week, 24-hour a day wrap-around services, which include mentors, counseling, academic supports, and exposure to enrichment activities for students who are most likely to be parented by a single parent, live in subsidized housing, have an immediate family member who is incarcerated, and/or live in communities with high rates of detentions and incarceration. For many of these children, a public boarding school, such as SEED School of Miami, is the solution to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. A boarding school provides a nurturing and supportive environment and simultaneously emphasizes rigorous educational standards and academic achievement as a pathway to college and career success. The unique, non-academic components of a boarding school, such as life skills training, mentoring, interpersonal and intrapersonal development, creative arts, and service-learning activities have a lasting impact on a student's academic performance and personal success.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $12,189,942
- 2024-25 - $12,189,942
- 2023-24 - $11,950,924

Item 108 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - School and Instructional Enhancements

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	11,806,168	0	0	11,806,168	51,078,951	39,272,783	11,806,168	(39,272,783)	(76.89%)
Total	11,806,168	0	0	11,806,168	51,078,951	39,272,783	11,806,168	(39,272,783)	(76.89%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$11,806,168 is requested to continue funding for the following projects:

- $1,100,000 - AMI Kids
- $ 100,000 - Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force
- $ 100,000 - Commissioner of Education's Holocaust Education Task Force
- $ 600,000 - Florida Holocaust Museum
- $ 267,635 - Girl Scouts of Florida
- $ 66,501 - Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach
- $2,000,000 - Safer, Smarter Schools
- $7,500,000 - Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools
- $ 72,032 - State Science Fair

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$39,272,783 is not requested to be restored for the following programs:

- $ 125,000 - ACT Expansion: Advancing Graduation & Career Readiness
- $ 250,000 - Aerospace & Technology Pathway - Jimmy Graham Foundation
- $2,000,000 - After-School All-Stars
- $ 527,863 - Afterschool Literacy and Activities Program
- $ 500,000 - Agricultural Technology & Workforce Education Initiative
- $ 775,000 - Applied Water Resource Technology Career Training Program
- $ 400,000 - ARI/Big Bend Historical and Archaeological Education Project
- $ 615,000 - ARK Innovation Center at Pinellas County Schools
- $ 350,000 - Boca Raton High School Robotics Lab and Teams Expansion – Palm Beach County School District
- $ 500,000 - Breakthrough Miami Inc.
- $ 500,000 - Busch Wildlife Sanctuary's Environmental Education Program
- $ 564,500 - Campus Guardian Angel Pilot Program
- $ 350,000 - Career Pathways - Building Florida's Workforce
- $ 991,758 - Cathedral Arts Project Education Programs
- $ 488,400 - Clay County District Schools - Health Science Programs
- $ 600,000 - Closing Florida’s Reading Gap: Building the Workforce of Tomorrow Through Early Literacy
- $ 250,000 - Crestview Robotics and STEM Hub (CRASH) --- STEM Expansion and Workforce Pipeline
- $ 500,000 - CrossTown After School Program and SIE
- $ 400,000 - Cuban Museum Inc. Public Humanities Programs Preservation & Expansion
- $ 400,000 - Empowered of Central Florida Expansion of the Rock Program into Levy, Citrus and Sumter Counties
- $ 250,000 - First Coast High School Maritime Academy
- $ 300,000 - First Tee Tallahassee Learning Center - Fairways to Futures: Character Development Program Expansion

- $ 370,000 - Florida Repertory Theatre Fine Arts Education Initiative
- $ 372,867 - Glades Workforce Expansion (West Technical Education Center)
- $ 594,810 - Hands of Mercy Everywhere Teen Moms and At-Risk Youth Prep Vocational Training
- $ 100,000 - High School Math Oncology Internship Program
- $ 150,000 - HSU Educational Foundation - Proposal for Non-public CTE Certification Program
- $ 82,500 - inSIGHT Through Education - Traveling Holocaust Exhibit
- $ 129,384 - Jackson County School District - JROTC Startup
- $ 200,000 - Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) - What A Leader (W.A.L.) Program
- $2,500,000 - Jewish Day School Student Transportation Safety Initiative
- $ 500,000 - K-12 Student Engagement at the Kennedy Space Center
- $ 75,000 - Lake Minneola High School - Robotics Program
- $ 30,000 - "Learning in Motion": The Crossroad Playground Project
- $ 585,000 - Links to Success
- $ 400,000 - Lubavitch Hebrew Academy Wellness Center
- $ 450,000 - Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Classical Education Model
- $ 500,000 - Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer
- $ 44,000 - Miami-Dade County Public Schools SpaceHUB @ Booker T. Washington High School
- $ 650,000 - National Flight Academy
- $ 500,000 - Nicklaus Children's Student - Athlete EKG Screening Program
- $ 490,000 - North Florida After School Agriculture and Arts Program
- $ 350,000 - Okaloosa County Schools Classroom Technology
- $ 150,000 - Parks & Police 4Kids Community Program for At-Risk Youth
- $ 200,000 - Pasco High School Athletic Complex
- $ 880,000 - Pinellas County: Expanding Access to Youth Athletics and Water Safety
- $ 400,000 - Powerhouse Youth Project
- $ 500,000 - Prevention First: Expanding School-Based Mental Health
- $ 125,000 - Project MPACT (Making Priorities Align for Community Transformation)
- $ 473,035 - Putnam County School District - Engineering Pathways and Aviation Maintenance
- $ 200,000 - READ USA Workforce Development Program Through Literacy Tutoring
- $ 440,000 - Roosevelt Elementary School Program Enhancements
- $1,000,000 - School District of Lee County - Student Transportation System and Safety Equipment Update
- $7,500,000 - Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools
- $ 250,000 - Soaring Forward: Soar in 4 Lab Expansion (Manatee)
- $ 525,000 - South Florida Autism Charter Schools - Expansion
- $ 125,000 - State Academic Tournament
- $ 250,000 - Taylor County School District Technology Upgrades
- $ 881,000 - The Center Presents Wonder Works - Florida Youth Innovation and Workforce Skills Initiative
- $ 300,000 - The Charlie Ward Champions Ranch Phase 1A: Multi-Sport Field, Cafe/Program Building and
- Programs
- $ 500,000 - The Dali: Expanding Education and Outreach
- $ 487,500 - The Last Ones of Auschwitz: Teaching Through Testimony (Book Program)
- $ 650,000 - The Shul of Bal Harbour Family Initiative: Jewish Mothers & Babies of South Florida
- $ 300,000 - Victory High Schools
- $ 250,000 - Virtual Tutoring Program Supporting Duval County Public School Students
- $ 475,000 - WOFT: Teacher Safety Training Program
- $ 100,166 - Young Dreams Community Outreach Center and Empowerment Hub
- $ 600,000 - Young Musicians Unite: Student Retention and Engagement Initiative
- $1,000,000 - ZeroEyes AI Firearm Detection - Miami Dade

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

AMI Kids, Girl Scouts of Florida: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509
Task Forces, Florida Holocaust Museum, Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, Safer, Smarter Schools, State Science Fair: Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Josey McDaniel (850) 245-0509
Jewish Day School Security Guard and Transportation Grant Program: Tim Hay (850) 245-5173

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

The purpose of these programs is to improve student performance and promote excellence in education through student learning opportunities and educator professional learning opportunities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

AMIKIDS

The AMIkids Workforce Development and Job Placement program provides comprehensive programming to help students determine and develop career pathways through career technical education and training, job placement, and follow-up services. Efforts focus on student enrollment figures, the number of workforce development certifications earned, the number of workforce development readiness experiences completed, the number of successful workforce placements, the percentage of youth being placed into education, and the percentage of youth receiving follow-up services. The target population for this program is middle school and high school students who are at risk for placement, or have been placed, in alternative education settings due to poor academic performance, disruptive behaviors, and/or juvenile justice system involvement. The program's goals are to improve academic outcomes and increase job readiness skills. Students who are disruptive in school or in the community are provided an opportunity to find vocational options to prepare them to make better choices.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TASK FORCE

The mission of the Commissioner's African American History Task Force is to support the teaching and learning of African American history throughout Florida according to required instruction per section (s.) 1003.42(2)(h), Florida Statutes (F.S.). The Task Force builds partnerships, provides educator professional learning, supports Florida's school districts, makes recommendations to the Commissioner, and raises awareness on the history of African Americans. The Task Force also helps identify and recommend state leadership action in the adoption of instructional resources on African American History to enhance educator preparation, improve student performance, and supports annual African American History initiatives.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S HOLOCAUST EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The mission of the Commissioner's Holocaust Education Task Force is to support the teaching and learning of the history of the Holocaust throughout Florida according to required instruction per s. 1003.42(2)(g), F.S. The Task Force builds partnerships, provides educator professional learning, supports Florida's school districts, makes recommendations to the Commissioner, and raises awareness on the history of the Holocaust. The Task Force also helps identify and recommend state leadership action in the adoption of instructional resources on Holocaust education to enhance educator preparation and improve student performance. Funding assists Holocaust education centers and school districts to provide a wide variety of programming to support the implementation of Florida's Holocaust Education standards and annual Holocaust Education initiatives.

FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

The primary purpose of this project is to improve student achievement by providing teaching and learning opportunities to students, teachers, administrators, and community members by supporting required instruction in the Holocaust in compliance with s. 1003.42(2)(g), F.S. Priorities include enhancing instruction and providing activities to improve student performance, increase student knowledge, and address unmet student needs, especially for at-risk students. The Florida Holocaust Museum will:

- Assist school districts in their implementation of state academic standards that can be applied to fulfilling the state mandate on Holocaust education.
- Develop, implement, and continue innovative training designed to assist with student academic achievement, and to provide models for potential replication which support and are based on state academic standards.
- Provide meaningful involvement and collaboration with external partners/service providers in the development and implementation of project goals designed to support initiatives designed to assist with Holocaust and genocide education.
- Provide meaningful educational experiences for the community.

GIRL SCOUTS OF FLORIDA

The “Get Real!” program connects at-risk middle school girls with community members that serve as mentors. The main goal of the program is to help the girls maintain or increase significant life skills. The program aims to increase school attendance and decrease the referral/suspension of the participating girls. The 30-week program stresses reading and writing skills by having the girls read and write in their journals each week. The “Get Real!” mentoring program takes place during the school day or after school and seeks to increase participating girls’ motivation and ability to make positive life choices.

- Served 800 students through four Girl Scout Councils.
- Targeted at-risk middle school girls.
- Provided 619 “Get Real!” mentoring program sessions.
- Provided reading and writing opportunities.
- Provided interactive activities to teach life skills.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MIAMI BEACH

The purpose of the Holocaust Memorial of Miami Beach Project is to support local educational agencies through programs and activities that offer well-rounded educational experiences for students and teachers. The project illuminates the history of the Holocaust and lessons learned through personal testimonies of survivors. The project provides resources and educational opportunities that align to s. 1003.42(2)(g), F.S.

SAFER, SMARTER SCHOOLS

The purpose of the Safer, Smarter Schools program is to increase students’ health education skills through awareness and education related to the prevention of childhood sexual abuse, the prevention of child trafficking, and information regarding mental health. The project distributes curriculum modules for grades prekindergarten through 12 to Florida educators and create resources to help children and parents cope with the aftermath of child sexual abuse.

SECURITY FUNDING IN JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

This program provides grants to full-time Jewish day schools and preschools for nonhardening security measures, specifically the hiring of security personnel as such schools continue to face security risks.

STATE SCIENCE FAIR

The goal of the project is to improve student achievement by providing opportunities for students in grades kindergarten through 12 to pursue research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Created more than 50 years ago, the State Science Fair (officially entitled the State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF)) provides an exciting opportunity to challenge, encourage, and reward the state's brightest and most creative secondary students. The primary purpose of the SSEF is to improve student performance by providing opportunities for students in grades six through 12 to pursue research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The SSEF is a three-day display of science project exhibits prepared by aspiring scientists and engineers. The Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (FFFS) is a non-profit organization authorized by the State of Florida in 1957 to promote and facilitate the SSEF of Florida. Nearly 950 finalists display their projects and illustrate their research in competition for awards annually.

The main objectives of the FFFS and the SSEF are to:

- Recognize scientific talent in young people and introduce students to organized research.
- Provide teachers a forum for the exchange of ideas.
- Focus attention on science, mathematics, and engineering, thereby stimulating students, their teachers and the general public's interest.
- Establish guidelines, rules, and procedures for local, regional, and statewide competitions.
- Reward scholarships, internships, and awards in science, engineering, and leadership youth programs.
- Coordinate industrial, professional, and educational activities related to careers in science and engineering.

All schools in Florida, public and private, are eligible to host school science fairs and send representatives to the regional competitions. Regional winners are eligible to compete at the SSEF, and state winners are eligible to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). The Intel ISEF is the premier global science competition for students in grades 9-12.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $52,825,943
- 2024-25 - $44,789,759
- 2023-24 - $45,470,079

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Item 109 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Exceptional Education

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,819,462	0	0	5,819,462	9,761,129	3,941,667	5,819,462	(3,941,667)	(40.38%)
Federal Grants TF	2,333,354	0	0	2,333,354	2,499,354	166,000	2,333,354	(166,000)	(6.64%)
Total	8,152,816	0	0	8,152,816	12,260,483	4,107,667	8,152,816	(4,107,667)	(33.50%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$8,152,816 is requested to continue funding the current level of services for multiple projects serving students, as follows:

$5,819,462 from General Revenue is requested to continue the current level of services for the following programs:

- $ 750,000 - Auditory-Oral Education Grants
- $1,750,000 - Bridge to Speech Program
- $ 350,000 - Family Cafe
- $ 577,758 - Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Associate Centers
- $1,141,704 - Learning through Listening
- $1,000,000 - School District Exceptional Student Evaluation grant program
- $ 250,000 - Special Olympics

$2,333,354 from the Federal Grants Trust Fund is requested to continue the current level of services for the following programs:

- $ 270,987 - Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired
- $ 750,322 - Multi-Agency Network for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities
- $ 786,217 - Portal to Exceptional Education Resources
- $ 191,828 - Resource Materials and Technology Center for Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing
- $ 334,000 - Very Special Arts of Florida (now Arts4All Florida)

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$3,941,667 is not requested to be restored in nonrecurring General Revenue for the following programs:

- $ 250,000 - Behavioral Challenges Therapeutic Inclusion Program - Creating Pathways to Possibilities for Individuals with Autism, Down syndrome & Developmental Disabilities
- $ 400,000 - Best Buddies Jobs Project
- $ 500,000 - Bridging the Gap: Therapeutic Education with the No Limits Method
- $ 500,000 - Broward Schools - Strengthening ESE Support
- $ 225,000 - Comprehensive Health and Mentoring Program (CHAMP) for At Risk and Developmentally Disabled Students and Young Adults (First Tee)
- $ 450,000 - Love Serving Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program
- $ 200,000 - Miami Lighthouse Academy
- $ 416,667 - Seffner Christian Academy School - Expansion for Children with Special Needs
- $1,000,000 - The Family Cafe

$166,000 is not requested to be restored in nonrecurring funds from the Federal Grants Trust Fund for the Very Special Arts Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Paul O. Burns (850) 245-0509; Peggy Aune (850) 245-0509

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1001.451, 1002.391, 1003.55, 1003.57, 1003.576, 1006.28(1), 1006.03, 1006.04, and 1011.75, Florida Statutes
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)
Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 300.172, 300.5, and 300.6

PURPOSE:

These programs provide an array of specific services to students with intellectual disabilities and students who are gifted.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

AUDITORY-ORAL EDUCATION GRANTS

These funds are awarded to Florida public or private nonprofit school programs serving deaf children from birth to age 7 in multiple counties, including rural areas. These schools must solely offer auditory-oral education programs, as defined in section (s.) 1002.391, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and have a supervisor and faculty members who are credentialed as Certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialists. The amounts of the grants are based on the specific needs of each eligible student. Each eligible school that has insufficient public funds to provide the educational and related services specified in the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) of eligible students may submit grant applications to the department. Applications must include an itemized list of total costs, the amount of public funds available for those students without the grant, and the additional amount needed for the services identified in each student's respective IEP or IFSP.

BRIDGE TO SPEECH PROGRAM

The Bridge to Speech Program will provide opportunities for families of students who are deaf or hard of hearing ages 3-6 to choose a private auditory oral program with faculty members who are credentialed as certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialists. Both center-based and virtual services will be available. The Bridge to Speech funding will include audiology services, evaluations, listening and spoken language therapy, family education, consultation, and technical assistance for students throughout Florida. Highly qualified educational specialists will address goals to create the foundation for lifelong success for students with hearing loss.

FAMILY CAFE

The Family Cafe is the leading source of information, resources, and networking for Floridians with disabilities. It hosts the largest statewide cross-disability event in the nation. The annual Family Cafe event connects attendees with resources and strategies they need to thrive in their communities. It also provides a platform for state agencies and policy makers to connect with the citizens they serve. The Family Cafe promotes leadership among youth with disabilities through its Florida Youth Council and supports the development of local family organizations through a Family-Run Organization Movement initiative, so Floridians can access the connections, resources, and natural supports that the annual Family Cafe offers on a local level throughout the year.

FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM ASSOCIATE CENTERS

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers (FACs) provide services to support exceptional student education in school districts statewide. The four central functions of each FAC are Child Find, Parent and Family Services, Human Resources Development, and Technology. The 18 FACs serve Florida's school districts, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Florida's university laboratory/developmental research schools, and charter schools. FACs collaborate with school districts, agency and support personnel, communities, families, and other educational personnel providing support services for educators, parents, school administrators, and students with exceptionalities.

FLORIDA INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

In accordance with s. 1003.55, F.S., the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) provides staff and resources for the coordination, cataloging, standardizing, producing, procuring, storing, and distribution of braille, large print, tangible apparatus, and other specialized educational materials needed by these students. The purpose of FIMC-VI is to serve as a statewide centralized collection of specialized accessible instructional materials including large print and braille textbooks and materials for students with visual impairments from birth through grade 12. It also serves as a resource center providing coordination and training in the selection and use of materials, equipment, and technological applications as well as appropriate instructional strategies. This project also assists in addressing the critical need for assistance in small and rural districts by the provision of technical assistance for these school districts.

LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING

Learning through Listening facilitates support services and training to administrators, teachers, and students on the use of digital audiobooks provided by Learning Ally. Learning Ally is an accessible media producer and is registered with the National Instructional Materials Access Center. The project will coordinate with Florida's appointed National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards authorized user to provide digital audio textbooks, playback software and mobile device applications to eligible students with reading deficits and print disabilities.

MULTI-AGENCY NETWORK FOR STUDENTS WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES

Pursuant to s. 1006.04, F.S., the Multi-Agency Network for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET) project assists students with severe emotional disturbance to learn appropriate behaviors, reduce dependency, and fully participate in all aspects of school and community living. This includes developing individual programs for students with severe emotional disturbance, including necessary educational, residential, and mental health treatment services; providing programs and services as close as possible to the student's home in the least restrictive manner consistent with the student's needs; and integrating a wide range of services necessary to support students with severe emotional disturbance and their families.

PORTAL TO EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION RESOURCES AND MEDICAID TRACKING SYSTEM

The Portal to Exceptional Education Resources (PEER) and Medicaid Tracking System (MTS) are web-based systems that are made available to school districts to use when implementing federal and state requirements related to exceptional student education. In PEER, the current functionality includes the development of Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities, Educational Plans (EPs) for students who are gifted, Service Plans (SPs) for parentally placed private school students with disabilities, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Plans for students with disabilities, amendments to an existing plan, parent notifications, progress reports, transportation documentation requirements, matrix of services documents, conference notes, prior written notices, consent notices for evaluation and reevaluation, consents for provision of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services, eligibility determination forms, and written summaries of groups' analyses. The system features internal compliance validations and citations to federal requirements and state regulations, supporting district-level oversight of ESE compliance. MTS 3.0 is an online application available to Florida school districts that enables users to document services and submit reimbursement requests for students eligible under the Medicaid Certified School Match Program (MCSMP). Eligible students include those with an IEP, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), Section 504 Plan, or qualifying Plan of Care (POC).

RESOURCE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING

Section 1003.55, F.S., established a coordinating unit and instructional materials center for deaf and hard of hearing students, the Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (RMTC-DHH). The center provides staff and resources for the coordination, cataloging, standardizing, producing, procuring, storing, and distributing of captioned media and other specialized educational materials needed by these students. The center’s major purpose is the improvement of instructional programs for deaf or hard of hearing students.
In addition to meeting these requirements, this project provides as training and technical assistance to educators and parents of students who are sensory impaired in accordance with Rules 6A-6.03013, 6A-6.03014, or 6A-6.03022, Florida Administrative Code, as well as statewide coordination for the delivery of specialized technology and instructional materials to students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EVALUATION GRANT PROGRAM

This program assists districts in complying with s. 1002.394(7)(b), F.S. School districts that wish to participate in the grant program must report the number of Individual Educational Plans and matrix of services developed, or in the process of being developed, for students with a Family Empowerment Scholarship. The department shall provide funding of no more than $2,000 per each Individual Educational Plan reported by a district. If the appropriation is not sufficient, funding must be prorated based on the number of plans reported by districts.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics Florida provides a year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people with intellectual disabilities who wish to participate, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. The ultimate objective of Special Olympics Florida is to help people with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large by offering them the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition and by increasing the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS OF FLORIDA - NOW ARTS4ALL FLORIDA

Arts4All Florida supports the development of programs and activities in the arts for students with disabilities from prekindergarten to age 21. These programs and activities provide opportunities for students to learn through the arts. Funding is utilized for direct service to students, technical assistance, professional learning, and coaching for program partners.

Note: All entitlement formula funds for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are appropriated in the Federal Grants and Aids budget entity and category.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $12,292,421
- 2024-25 - $8,750,795
- 2023-24 - $9,007,816

Item 110 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	76,757,907	0	0	76,757,907	76,757,907	0	76,757,907	0	0.00%
Admin TF	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	2,900,810	0	0	2,900,810	2,900,810	0	2,900,810	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	2,810,173	0	0	2,810,173	2,810,173	0	2,810,173	0	0.00%
Total	82,473,890	0	0	82,473,890	82,473,890	0	82,473,890	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$ 82,473,890 is requested to continue funding education, support services, residential activities, and outreach services for deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, deafblind, and career education programs for an estimated 2,012 children served by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB).

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

DOE: Paul Burns (850) 245-0509; FSDB: Tracie Snow, President (904) 827-2211

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To use all available talent, energy, and resources to provide free appropriate public education for eligible students who are sensory impaired.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported residential public school for students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, and deafblind in preschool through grade 12. The school is a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning – 20 education system and is funded through the department's budget. The school shall provide educational programs and support services appropriate to meet the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired and deafblind in the state who meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach basis for children up to 5 years old who are sensory impaired and to district school boards, upon request. As a school of academic excellence, the school strives to provide students an opportunity to access education services in a caring, safe, and unique learning environment and to prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent lifelong learners. The school provides outreach services that include collaboration with district school boards and encourages input from students, staff, parents, and the community.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $82,025,430
- 2024-25 - $70,085,112
- 2023-24 - $65,280,930

Item 111 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	209,785	0	0	209,785	209,785	0	209,785	0	0.00%
Admin TF	53,369	0	0	53,369	53,369	0	53,369	0	0.00%
Total	263,154	0	0	263,154	263,154	0	263,154	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$ 263,154 is requested to continue funding required payment of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services to the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

DOE: Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; FSDB: Tracie Snow, President (904) 827-2211

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to School Districts/Non-Florida Education Finance Program (ACT0695)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide for human resource management services for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (PeopleFirst) to manage the school's human resources.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $263,154
- 2024-25 - $247,678
- 2023-24 - $231,764

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Item 111A - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A (FCO) - Public Schools Special Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST									
	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	26,188,000	26,188,000	0	(26,188,000)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	26,188,000	26,188,000	0	(26,188,000)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$26,188,000 is not requested to be restored for the following projects:

- $ 200,000 - Bay County Schools - Deane Bozeman School Agriculture Center
- $ 3,000,000 - Duval County Schools - Jacksonville Classical Academy Expansion
- $ 200,000 - Duval County Schools - First Coast High School Maritime Academy
- $ 200,000 - Duval County Schools - Global Leadership Academy Athletic Facility Completion Project
- $ 10,000 - Gadsden County Schools - "Learning in Motion" The Crossroad Playground Project
- $ 15,000 - Lake County Schools - Lake Minneola High School - Robotics Program
- $ 56,000 - Miami-Dade County Schools - SpaceHub at Booker T. Washington High School
- $ 500,000 - Manatee County Schools - Soaring Forward: Soaring in 4 Lab Expansion
- $14,000,000 - Pasco County Schools - Academy at the Farm
- $ 5,300,000 - Pasco County Schools - Pasco High School Athletic Complex
- $ 385,000 - Pinellas County Schools - ARK Innovation Center
- $ 447,000 - Putnam County Schools - Engineering Pathways and Aviation Maintenance
- $ 1,875,000 - South Florida Autism Charter Schools – Expansion

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

Not requested.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

N/A

PURPOSE:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $10,136,090
- 2024-25 - $10,795,207 (Excluding Public School Hardening, reference category 140053)
- 2023-24 - $47,860,300 (Excluding Public School Hardening, reference category 140053)

Item 112 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - Public School Hardening

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	20,000,000	22,000,000	42,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	22,000,000	110.00%
Total	0	20,000,000	22,000,000	42,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	22,000,000	110.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$20,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested to be restored for the School Hardening Grant program to improve the physical security of school buildings based on the security risk assessment required by section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes.

ENHANCEMENT

$22,000,000 in additional nonrecurring General Revenue is requested for the School Hardening Grant program to improve the physical security of school buildings based on the security risk assessment required by section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $20,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue, to at least maintain the Fiscal Year 2026-27 funding level.

ENHANCEMENT

The department is requesting an additional $22,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue, which would provide, along with the prior year nonrecurring funding of $20,000,000, total funding of $42,000,000 to reestablish funds to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 funding level. Without the workload increase of $22,000,000, the reduction in funding will disproportionately impact medium and large school districts. While all districts receive a base grant of $100,000 for hardening projects, under the current $20,000,000 appropriation, 42 of the 75 eligible districts will see a reduction in funding; some by nearly 60 percent. These districts typically serve densely populated, urban areas, which are often considered higher-risk targets for violence and are also prioritized under federal domestic security funding programs such as the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI).

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
N/A

PURPOSE:

Funds are provided for the School Hardening Grant program to improve the physical security of school buildings based on the security risk assessment required by section 1006.1493, Florida Statutes.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The School Hardening Grant is used to improve the physical safety and security of school buildings.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $20,000,000
- 2024-25 - $42,000,000 (Formerly in Public Schools Special Projects, reference category 140006)
- 2023-24 - $42,000,000 (Formerly in Public Schools Special Projects, reference category 140006)

Item 113 - State Grants/K-12 Program/Non-FEFP - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	28,331,146	28,331,146	0	(23,331,146)	(82.35%)
Total	0	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	28,331,146	28,331,146	0	(23,331,146)	(82.35%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$5,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested to be restored for Security of Jewish Day Schools.

$23,331,146 is not requested to be restored for the following projects:

- $ 121,116 - Achievement Centers: Safe and Secure Learning Environment
- $ 212,500 - Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County Capital Project - Basketball Pavillion
- $ 995,000 - Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County Lincoln Park Clubhouse
- $1,500,000 - Boys & Girls Clubs & Teen Workforce Readiness Center of West Palm Beach
- $ 500,000 - Carol Boies Teen Center/Facility Improvements
- $3,000,000 - Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation - Chi Chi Academy Upgrade & Expansion
- $ 150,000 - Cuban Museum Inc. Public Humanities Programs Preservation & Expansion
- $ 187,500 - FCS School Safety Upgrade
- $1,000,000 - First Tee Tallahassee Center - Building a Home FORE our Future: Youth Character and Development Program Expansion
- $ 250,000 - Florida Dyslexia Literacy Center
- $ 750,000 - Hobe Sound Boys & Girls Club Construction
- $ 500,000 - Holy Trinity Episcopal School (HTES) Expansion Project
- $ 200,000 - Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) - What a Leader (W.A.L.) Program
- $ 115,000 - Links to Success
- $4,583,333 - Seffner Christian Academy School - Expansion for Children with Special Needs
- $ 666,697 - The Charlie Ward Champions Ranch Phase 1A: Multi-Sport Field, Cafe/Program Building and Programs
- $ 750,000 - The Children's Roof Replacement
- $ 500,000 - Thrive Academy - Babcock Ranch
- $ 350,000 - Treasure Coast Wildlife Education Center
- $7,000,000 - Grants to Private Schools in a Financially Disadvantaged Community

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $5,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue providing the Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools at the Fiscal Year 2026-27 level. These funds will be used to provide security and counter-terrorism upgrades at Florida Jewish day schools

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

N/A

PURPOSE:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide capital improvements and/or physical security improvements.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $14,021,350
- 2024-25 - $10,106,318
- 2023-24 - $30,181,250

Federal Grants K-12 Program

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Item 114 - Federal Grants K-12 Program - G/A - Projects, Contracts and Grants

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Grants & Donations TF	3,999,420	0	0	3,999,420	3,999,420	0	3,999,420	0	0.00%
Total	3,999,420	0	0	3,999,420	3,999,420	0	3,999,420	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$3,999,420 is requested to continue funding for potential grant awards received by the department from private entities and non-federal funds from other state entities.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development [ ]
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
Projects, Contracts, and Grants (ACT0950)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Sections 561.025 and 569.11, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide budget authority for grant awards and other receipts from private entities and other state agencies. These awards and receipts are to be distributed as projects, contracts or grants.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This category provides a method for the distribution of projects, contracts or grants funded by private entities and non-federal funds from other state agencies. Currently this budget authority is only used for the distribution of grants to provide teacher training to reduce and prevent the use of tobacco and tobacco related (vape) products by children. These funds are received from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation as penalties collected from the sale of tobacco and tobacco related products (vape) to minors.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $3,999,420
- 2024-25 - $3,999,420
- 2023-24 - $3,999,420

Item 115 - Federal Grants K-12 Program - G/A - Federal Grants and Aids

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Admin TF	353,962	0	0	353,962	353,962	0	353,962	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	2,546,067,351	0	0	2,546,067,351	2,546,067,351	0	2,546,067,351	0	0.00%
Total	2,546,421,313	0	0	2,546,421,313	2,546,421,313	0	2,546,421,313	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$2,546,421,313 is requested to continue funding as follows:

- $2,546,067,351 for federal grants awarded for K-12 programs aimed at improving student academic performance.
- $353,962 from federal indirect cost earnings for programs such as the salary for Teacher of the Year and Superintendents Supplements/Training.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Federal Funds for School Districts (ACT0865)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1010.05 and 1011.01, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide budget authority for the disbursement of federal grant awards to school districts, other local education agencies and other eligible sub-recipients, as well as the disbursement of grants and aids for special projects funded from indirect cost earnings on federal grant awards. The priorities of this category are to enhance and increase instruction opportunities to improve student academic performance.

These programs are established by federal law and appropriations. In order to receive federal funds, the state must sub-award the funds to various project recipients, such as school districts, universities, state colleges and community-based organizations, for the purposes specified in the authorizing federal statutes and rules. In addition, pursuant to section 1010.05, Florida Statutes, the department shall maximize the available federal indirect cost allowed on all federal grants.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Federal grant awards consist of two main types: entitlement and discretionary. There are two major programs included in the entitlement category: programs authorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), as well as programs authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The discretionary category includes smaller programs primarily authorized under ESSA. The following list provides a brief explanation of the federal grants received by the department that are expected to continue.

ENTITLEMENT GRANTS

Title I, Part A, Basic Grants for Disadvantaged Children - Assistance Listing Number (ALN) # 84.010
To provide all children a significant opportunity to receive a fair and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. These funds provide financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. School Improvement grants and College and Career Ready grants are part of this funding.

Title I, Part C, Migrant Education - ALN # 84.011A
To ensure that migratory children have the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and performance standards that all children are expected to meet.

Title I, Part D, Subpart I, Grants for Neglected and Delinquent Children - ALN # 84.013
To meet the special educational needs of adjudicated youth confined as a result of a criminal offense, including youth under 21 years of age who have experienced numerous disruptions in their education. Also, to meet the educational needs of children in local institutions or community day programs for neglected or delinquent children. The program provides supplemental funds in addition to the Title I Basic Entitlement program to local educational agencies to support children ages 5-17 who face unique educational barriers.

Title II, Part A, Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund - ALN # 84.367
To provide for increased student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher and principal quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom and highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools.

Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students - ALN # 84.365
To provide funds for English language acquisition and language enhancement to ensure children with limited English proficiency achieve higher levels of academic attainment in English and meet the same challenging state academic standards as all children are expected to meet. To improve language instruction programs by promoting increased accountability for programs serving children with limited English proficiency and developing programs that improve professional training of educational personnel.

Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants - ALN # 84.424
To improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, local educational agencies, schools, and local communities to: (1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education; (2) improve school conditions for student learning; and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. The Stronger Connections grant is part of this funding.

Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers - ALN # 84.287
To provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers for academic enrichment; and to offer families of participants opportunities for literacy and related educational development. Includes After School Learning Centers grants.

Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) - ALN # 84.358A
To provide additional personnel and resources for small and rural school districts to meet the objectives of the No Child Left Behind Program in any or all of the following areas: teacher recruitment and retention, teacher professional development, educational technology, parental involvement activities or other activities authorized under the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, the Title I Basic Program or the Language Instruction Program for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students.

Title IX, Part A, Education of Homeless Children and Youth - ALN # 84.196A
To ensure that all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. This program provides educational support in terms of teachers, programs, materials and supplies to eligible children through local school districts.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B - ALN # 84.027A
To ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living. To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected. To assess and ensure the effectiveness of educational delivery systems for children with disabilities.

IDEA, Part B, Section 619 - Preschool - ALN # 84.027A
The purpose is the same as Part B; however, funds must be directed to students with disabilities between ages 3 and 5.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Apprenticeship USA Grants - ALN # 17.285
To support the expansion of the National Apprenticeship System enhancing capacity to register programs and support apprentices and employers. Recipients must spend these funds on activities that will create or assist in the creation of Registered Apprenticeship Programs, support apprentices and employers, and bolster a state's capacity to expand Registered Apprenticeship.

Florida Charter Schools Program - ALN # 84.282
To increase the national understanding of the charter school model by (1) expanding the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools, and (2) by evaluating the effects of charter schools, including their effects on students, student academic achievement, staff and parents.

Florida Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program - ALN # 84.371
To improve language and emergent literacy skills of birth to age 5 children and significantly increase the percentage of elementary and secondary students mastering the state's language and literacy standards.

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program (US Department of Labor) - ALN # 17.264
To help farmworkers and their dependents acquire necessary skills to either stabilize or advance in their agricultural jobs or obtain employment in new industries. To support better economic outcomes for farmworkers, housing grant recipients work to meet a critical need for safe and sanitary permanent and temporary housing.

Stronger Connections ALN #84.424F
To establish and support safer and healthier learning environments in school communities through the implementation of programs to support safe and healthy students under section4108 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Specifically, programs must prioritize the provision of safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for only English Language Learners (ELLs) and/or Students with Disabilities (SWD) to improve their academic achievement and resiliency and/or reduce absenteeism.

PROGRAMS FUNDED FROM INDIRECT COST EARNINGS

Teacher of the Year/Christa McAuliffe Ambassador of Education
To provide salary, travel and other related expenses annually for an outstanding Florida teacher to promote the positive aspects of teaching as a career. The Florida Teacher of the Year serves as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education. In this role, the appointed teacher serves as a goodwill ambassador representing the department and teachers throughout the state. The Teacher of the Year may conduct workshops; address fellow teachers, parents, and business and community leaders at conferences and meetings; and talk to student groups about careers in education.

Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development Program
To provide a leadership development and performance compensation program for elected district school superintendents. Eligible elected district school superintendents shall be issued a Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development Certificate, and the department shall pay an annual performance salary incentive of not less than $3,000 and no more than $7,500, based upon his or her performance evaluation.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $2,546,421,313
- 2024-25 - $2,832,619,171
- 2023-24 - $2,622,937,941

Item 116 - Federal Grants K-12 Program - Domestic Security

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	5,409,971	0	0	5,409,971	5,409,971	0	5,409,971	0	0.00%
Total	5,409,971	0	0	5,409,971	5,409,971	0	5,409,971	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$5,409,971 is requested to continue providing budget authority for potential federal grant awards related to domestic security enhancements for Florida's school districts and higher education institutions.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Domestic Security (ACT0710)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 943.0313 and 1011.01, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide federal budget authority for potential federal grant awards for school districts and higher education institutions. In the past, funds have been received for initiatives such as the acquisition of mass notification and/or communications equipment to provide a continuous flow of critical information that will maximize effective and swift communication with Florida citizens, visitors and the campus community.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Federal Domestic Security projects are funded based on the recommendation of the Domestic Security Oversight Board. This recommendation becomes part of the state's application. After the funds are awarded to the state and allocated to each agency, the department enters into a subgrant agreement with the Division of Emergency Management to administer its allocation of the grant. Before the funds are awarded to the department's subrecipients, each subrecipient must complete and submit a detailed plan. Funding is provided to the department for K-12 Target Hardening and Higher Education Emergency Communications projects. An award has not been made to the department since Fiscal Year 2017-18.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $5,409,971
- 2024-25 - $5,409,971
- 2023-24 - $5,409,971

Educational Media and Technology Services

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Item 117 - Educational Media & Technology Services - Capitol Technical Center

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	224,624	0	0	224,624	224,624	0	224,624	0	0.00%
Total	224,624	0	0	224,624	224,624	0	224,624	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$224,624 is requested to continue funding the Capitol Technical Center's space and equipment needs for the production of the Florida Channel.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
Capitol Technical Center (ACT0885)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Sections 1001.26, and 1013.18, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Keep Floridians abreast of the daily activities of Florida state government.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Capitol Technical Center is located in room 901 of the Capitol Building and houses the facilities for the production of public television programming, televised coverage of the Florida Legislature, and production assistance for the department. This facility provides coverage of the State Board of Education meetings, as well as year-round coverage for House and Senate meetings, Florida Supreme Court hearings, Public Service Commission hearings and statewide emergencies. The center also produces the Florida Channel and Florida Crossroads programs, which are appropriated through the department's Public Broadcasting budget. Funds are used to acquire and maintain digital audio/video capture, processing and distribution equipment.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $224,624
- 2024-25 - $224,624
- 2023-24 - $224,624

Item 118 - Educational Media & Technology Services - G/A - Public Broadcasting

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,168,721	0	0	5,168,721	5,168,721	0	5,168,721	0	0.00%
Total	5,168,721	0	0	5,168,721	5,168,721	0	5,168,721	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$5,168,721 is requested to continue funding the broadcast of statewide governmental and cultural affairs programming on the Florida Channel and statewide educational broadcasting as follows:

- $ 497,522 - Florida Channel Statewide Governmental and Cultural Affairs Programming (Florida Crossroads and Capitol Report)
- $ 390,862 - Florida Channel Closed Captioning
- $3,224,067 - Florida Channel Year-Round Coverage
- $ 800,000 - Florida Channel Satellite Transponder Operations
- $ 256,270 - Florida Public Radio Emergency Network Storm Center

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Janice Brown (850) 245-0819

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Public Broadcasting (ACT0910)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1001.26, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide free educational and governmental resources to the citizens of Florida.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

FLORIDA CHANNEL STATEWIDE GOVERNMENTAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING

Supports the production of the Florida Crossroads television program, which is an award-winning, half-hour documentary series that looks at the people, places and events shaping Florida. The series explores a wide variety of environmental, political and social issues across the state. Funding also supports the Capitol Report, a radio broadcast providing timely news and information from around Florida on legislative issues, the economy, environmental issues, tourism, business and the arts affecting the lives of Floridians.

FLORIDA CHANNEL CLOSED CAPTIONING

Provides closed captioning of broadcasted programs as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission. Closed captioning provides access to citizens, teachers and students with hearing impairments.

FLORIDA CHANNEL YEAR-ROUND COVERAGE

Supports the production of a daily 12-hour block of programming covering the Legislature, Governor's Office, Supreme Court, education, statewide emergencies and other programming of statewide interest.

FLORIDA CHANNEL SATELLITE TRANSPONDER OPERATIONS

Provides statewide delivery of governmental and educational broadcast services. These services include the Florida Channel, the Florida Lottery and emergency management information.

FLORIDA PUBLIC RADIO EMERGENCY NETWORK STORM CENTER (FPREN)

Florida's public radio stations have created the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) to communicate emergency information statewide through a seamless system of free over-the-air FM radio and multiple mobile applications. The FPREN Storm Center provides localized hurricane, tropical storm and other severe weather information and serves the visually impaired. The FPREN Storm Center is operated by the University of Florida's WUFT - FM providing local 24/7 weather, data and storm updates.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $5,068,721
- 2024-25 - $11,366,913
- 2023-24 - $11,030,852

Workforce Education
(Career and Adult Education)

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Item 119 - Workforce Education - Performance Based Incentives

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	8,500,000	0	4,000,000	12,500,000	8,500,000	0	8,500,000	4,000,000	47.06%
Total	8,500,000	0	4,000,000	12,500,000	8,500,000	0	8,500,000	4,000,000	47.06%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$8,500,000 is requested to continue funding performance incentives of $1,000 per certification for 8,500 certifications to school district technical centers for eligible industry certifications.

WORKLOAD

$4,000,000 is requested in recurring General Revenue to meet the increased workload of school districts by fully funding the statutory $1,000 per industry certification without proration for 4,000 certifications.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $4,000,000 in recurring General Revenue for Performance-Based Incentives for total funds of $12,500,000. This increase will fund 4,000 additional certifications for a total of 12,500 certifications at the statutory amount of $1,000 each. For the past three fiscal years, the total number of fundable certifications has exceeded the appropriation. As a result, awards have been prorated, as authorized in proviso, to a lesser amount. For Fiscal Year 2025-26 the award was reduced to $677; for Fiscal Year 2024-25 the award was reduced to $809; for Fiscal Year 2023-24 the award was reduced to $928; and for Fiscal Year 2022-23 the award was reduced to $821. Based on recent levels of proration and industry certification productivity, it is projected that the funds per certification will continue to be prorated at $677 or lower. With the creation of other related initiatives such as the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant, programs leading to industry certifications are expected to expand.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1011.80 and 1008.44, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Reward program outputs and outcomes in district workforce education programs by providing performance-based incentive funding for industry certifications.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Since Fiscal Year 2018-19, all performance-based incentive allocations must be made based on student attainment of industry certifications from the Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List in section 1008.44, Florida Statutes, and approved by the State Board of Education. The eligible industry certifications are identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List adopted annually by the State Board of Education. If the number of eligible certifications exceeded the total funds provided, then the awards are pro-rated. Beginning with the Fiscal Year 2024-25 fiscal year, the awards were pro-rated based upon funding tiers. Priority in the distribution of funds must be given to certifications earned in the highest tier, based upon the anticipated average wages of all occupations to which each certification is linked on the Master Credentials List, as reported annually to the Legislature pursuant to section 1011.80, Florida Statutes.

Recent, and projected, disbursements of funds for industry certifications and adult general education performance are as follows:

- 2025-26: 12,549 projected industry certifications funded at $677 per certification
- 2024-25: 10,501 industry certifications funded at $809 per certification
- 2023-24: 9,152 industry certifications funded at $928 per certification
- 2022-23: 7,918 industry certifications funded at $821 per certification
- 2021-22: 6,273 industry certifications funded at $1,000 per certification
- 2020-21: 5,073 industry certifications funded at $1,000 per certification
- 2019-20: 6,278 industry certifications funded at $1,000 per certification
- 2018-19: 5,951 industry certifications funded; awards were pro-rated to $756 per certification

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $8,500,000
- 2024-25 - $8,500,000
- 2023-24 - $8,500,000

Item 120 - Workforce Education - G/A - Adult Basic Education

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	61,288,749	2,000,000	0	63,288,749	63,288,749	2,000,000	61,288,749	0	0.00%
Total	61,288,749	2,000,000	0	63,288,749	63,288,749	2,000,000	61,288,749	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$61,288,749 is requested to continue funding to school districts, Florida College System institutions and community-based organizations for Adult Basic Education and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education programs provided by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$2,000,000 is requested for the restoration in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for funds received from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy
.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $2,000,000 in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for the Workforce Adult Basic Education Program for total funding of $63,288,749. This request allows the agency to fully obligate the federal Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II projected award for Fiscal Year 2027-28. Without additional budget authority, the department may not be able to fully utilize these funds for the benefit of adult learners.

Although the exact federal grant award is not known at this time, the award has increased in recent years and is anticipated to remain stable or continue to grow. Federal funds are available for a 27-month period, allowing the carry forward of funds from one fiscal year to the next as authorized under the federal Tydings Amendment (Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b)).

The funds are distributed to secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at school districts, Florida College System institutions, and community-based organizations. The remaining funds are retained by the department for state leadership and administration costs.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act – Title II Adult Education and Literacy (Federal)
Sections 1004.93 – 1004.98, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Assist adults in becoming literate and obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency; assist parents in obtaining the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and assist adults in the completion of a secondary education.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Each year, Florida receives an allocation of federal funds for two programs: Adult Basic Education and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education. For each program, about 85 percent of funds are distributed to school districts, the Florida College System, and community-based organizations on a competitive basis to support the purposes of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Grants are awarded in a geographic competition for a four-year funding cycle.

The remaining funds are held at the department for state leadership and state administration costs. Remaining budget beyond the annual grant award amounts carries over as provided under the federal Tydings Amendment, Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b). It states that any funds not obligated at the end of the federal funding period specified on the award shall remain available for obligation for an additional period of 12 months.

For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the federal award funding of $52,364,163 included the following programs:

- $34,645,196 Adult Basic Education
- $ 9,146,642 English Literacy and Civics Education
- $ 3,300,000 Corrections

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $63,288,749
- 2024-25 - $61,288,749
- 2023-24 - $61,288,749

Item 7 and 121 - Workforce Education - Workforce Development

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	338,676,217	5,005,724	24,205,299	367,887,240	343,681,941	5,005,724	338,676,217	24,205,299	7.04%
Lottery (EETF)	129,828,034	0	0	129,828,034	129,828,034	0	129,828,034	0	0.00%
Total	468,504,251	5,005,724	24,205,299	497,715,274	473,509,975	5,005,724	468,504,251	24,205,299	5.11%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$468,504,251 is requested to continue funding for 75,919,328 preliminary Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) in school district workforce students at the state funds current average of $6,171.08 per FTE student.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$5,005,724 is requested for the restoration of nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring to maintain the operating costs associated with career, technical, and adult education programs offered by 9 school districts.

WORKLOAD

$24,205,299 in additional recurring General Revenue is requested to address cost increases and unmet needs.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $5,005,724 of nonrecurring General Revenue as recurring for Workforce Development programs to maintain the operating costs associated with career, technical, and adult education programs offered by 9 school districts. The request, along with the workload request, will provide total funding of $497,715,274. These funds are used to provide for the basic operation of the school district adult programs, including instruction (teachers' salaries), student services and school-level administration. Adult programs include postsecondary career and technical education and adult general education. Career Certificate, Applied Technology Diploma, and Registered Apprenticeship programs are also offered by school districts.

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an additional $24,205,299 in recurring General Revenue for Workforce Development programs. This request, along with the restoration of nonrecurring request, will provide total funds of $497,715,274. This request is based on the most recent district workforce funding model that demonstrates the need for additional funding to support the current enrollment activity. Inflationary increases require additional funds just to maintain the current level of service. Funds are allocated to 56 school districts for operating costs associated with career, technical, and adult education programs.

The additional funds requested will be used to support the following:

- $68,344,278 - Unmet need as demonstrated by the district workload funding model.
- $ 9,470,200 - Inflationary cost increase of 2% over the current appropriation level.

The additional funding will allow school districts to meet the needs in their communities for Adult General Education programs, Career Certificate and Applied Technology Diploma programs, and Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapter 446 and Sections 1004.02, 1004.92, 1004.93 and 1011.80, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Enables students to attain and sustain employment while maintaining economic self-sufficiency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Workforce Education Program provides for the basic operation of the school district adult programs, including instruction (teachers’ salaries), student services and school-level administration. Adult programs include postsecondary career and technical education and adult general education. Career Certificate, Applied Technology Diploma and Registered Apprenticeship programs are offered by school districts. School district workforce education programs include the following program types:

- Adult General Education programs: Assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment, self-sufficiency and the completion of a secondary education diploma (adult high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma based upon the GED test). Adult general education programs are provided by 56 districts.
- Career Certificate and Applied Technology Diploma programs: Provide a course of study leading to occupational competencies that qualify a person to enter an occupation. Certificate career-technical training programs are provided by 39 districts.
- Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs: Provide course instruction with an industry sponsor and program standards approved and registered with the Department of Education's Office of Apprenticeship. Apprenticeship certificate career-technical training programs are provided by 20 districts.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $467,346,826
- 2024-25 - $451,201,797
- 2023-24 - $426,584,919

Item 122 - Workforce Education - G/A - Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	40,000,000	60,000,000	100,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	0	60,000,000	150.00%
Total	0	40,000,000	60,000,000	100,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	0	60,000,000	150.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$40,000,000 is requested in nonrecurring General Revenue to continue funding for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.

WORKLOAD

$60,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue is requested for total funds of $100,000,00.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $40,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program. This request along with the workload request will provide total funding of $100,000,000. These funds are used to provide grants to school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to fund some or all the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education workforce development programs that serve secondary students and lead to industry certifications included on the Career and Professional Education Act list. School districts and FCS institutions need resources to create, expand and upgrade to industry standards. These funds will also allow for the expansion of these programs in high-demand areas.

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $60,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program. This request along with the restoration of nonrecurring request will provide total funding of $100,000,000. This request will provide grants to school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to fund some or all the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education workforce development programs that serve secondary students and lead to industry certifications included on the Career and Professional Education Act list. School districts and FCS institutions need resources to create, expand, and upgrade to industry standards. These funds will also allow for the expansion of these programs in high demand areas.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Section 1011.801, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Expand opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Florida's population and fill the demand for skilled workers for Florida's economy. Funds must be used to implement a program expansion or new program development, which increases the number of CTE training opportunities in Florida.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program was funded during the 2023 legislative session after not being funded for more than twenty years. The original statutory language was amended to provide grants to school districts and Florida College System institutions to fund some or all the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education that led to industry certifications included on the Career and Professional Education Act Industry Certification Funding List. Funds can be used for expenses associated with the creation or expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs which serve secondary students. The allowable expenses include instructional equipment, laboratory equipment, supplies, personnel, student services, or other expenses associated with the creation or expansion of the programs.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $40,000,000
- 2024-25 - $100,000,000
- 2023-24 - $100,000,000

Item 123 - Workforce Education - G/A - Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$20,000,000 is requested to continue funding for the following Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program (PCOG) programs:

- $15,000,000 – Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program
- $ 5,000,000 – Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program Expansion

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1011.802, Florida Statutes
Section 446.021, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Expand opportunities for apprenticeship training for Florida's population and fill the demand for skilled workers for Florida's economy. Funds must be used to implement a program expansion or new program development, which increases the number of apprenticeship training opportunities in Florida.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The department is required to administer all grants and to conduct a discretionary procurement for the grant selection. Eligible applicants for grants are the following: high schools, school district career centers, school district charter technical career centers, Florida College System institutions, or other entities authorized to sponsor an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program, as defined in section 446.021, Florida Statutes. The department must give priority to apprenticeship programs with demonstrated regional demand.

Grant funds may be used for instructional equipment, supplies, personnel, student services, and other expenses associated with the creation, operation, or expansion of an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program. Grant funds may not be used for administrative costs or for indirect costs. Grant recipients must submit quarterly reports to the department.

Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program

The Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program is a sub-initiative of the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant. Its purpose is to create a teacher pipeline for Florida's school districts and to encourage innovative partnerships between public educator preparation programs (EPP) and school districts to provide innovative, no cost pathways to the teaching profession by increasing the supply of qualified teachers.

The department will administer the grant, identify projects, solicit proposals and make funding recommendations to the Commissioner of Education, who is authorized to approve grant awards. Eligible applicants are: Public Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS) institutions, and Florida independent college and university (ICUF) institutions with baccalaureate-level state-approved educator preparation programs approved by the Florida Department of Education that will prepare teacher apprentices for initial teacher preparation. This opportunity requires that eligible applicants partner with school districts that commit to participating in the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program, registered and sponsored by the department.

During the Fiscal Year 2025-26 program year, a separate funding opportunity was held for the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant and Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program, resulting in the award of 421 grants. The grants included awards ranging from $22,600 to just over $1,218,776.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $20,000,000
- 2024-25 - $20,000,000
- 2023-24 - $20,000,000

Item 124 - Workforce Education - G/A - Vocational Formula Funds

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Federal Grants TF	92,363,333	2,000,000	0	94,363,333	94,363,333	2,000,000	92,363,333	0	0.00%
Total	92,363,333	2,000,000	0	94,363,333	94,363,333	2,000,000	92,363,333	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$92,363,333 is requested to continue providing budget authority for federal flow-through funds for the Federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) grant award to support Florida's goal of building an effective career and technical education system.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$2,000,000 is requested for restoration in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for funds received from the Federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $2,000,000 of nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for Vocational Formula grants, provided through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, for total funding of $94,363,333. This request will provide sufficient budget authority for any carry forward funds as well as any potential increases in federal awards for Fiscal Year 2027-28. This request allows the department to maintain the Fiscal Year 2026-27 level of funding for grant awards. Federal award allocations not spent within a state fiscal year carry over as provided under the federal Tydings Amendment, Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b). It states any funds not obligated at the end of the federal funding period specified in block six shall remain available for obligation for an additional period of 12 months. The funds are distributed to secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at school districts and Florida College System institutions.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Federal)
Section 1004.92, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Keep America competitive in the global economy of the 21st century and make Florida #1 in workforce education by 2030.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) was signed into law in July 2018. The State Board of Education approved Florida's State Plan in February 2020. The state of Florida receives an allocation of funds each year to support the purposes of the Perkins V Grant. About 90 percent of the total state allocation of federal funds are distributed to secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at school districts and community colleges. Funds are provided for activities in Title I - Career and Technical Education Assistance to the States.

Activities supported by the act include the following:

- Develop challenging academic and technical standards and related integrated instruction.
- Increase opportunities for individuals to keep America competitive.
- Focus on high-skill, high-wage and high-demand occupations.
- Conduct and disseminate research and information on best practices.
- Promote partnerships (education, workforce boards, business, industry, etc.).
- Provide technical assistance and professional development.

Exact federal allocations for the upcoming year are not yet known. Federal budget beyond the annual grant award amounts carry over as provided under the federal Tydings Amendment, Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b). It states any funds not obligated at the end of the federal funding period specified on the award shall remain available for obligation for an additional period of 12 months. This Fiscal Year 2026-27 Federal Award is $83,105,534.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $94,363,333
- 2024-25 - $92,363,333
- 2023-24 - $82,363,333

Item 125 - Workforce Education - G/A - Nursing Education

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$20,000,000 is requested to continue the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1009.897, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers offering a licensed practical nurse program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The legislature established the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learner through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund to reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers offering a licensed practical nurse program.

The department administers this grant program in accordance with the requirements in section 1009.897, F.S., and Rule 6A-10.0351, F.A.C.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $20,000,000
- 2024-25 - $20,000,000
- 2023-24 - $20,000,000

Item 126 - Workforce Education - G/A - Strategic Statewide Initiatives

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,500,000	0	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	0.00%
Total	2,500,000	0	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$2,500,000 is requested to continue funding the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) program pursuant to section 1011.804, Florida Statutes, as follows:

- $2,000,000 - GATE Startup grants
- $ 500,000 - GATE Program Performance Fund

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 446.54, Florida Statutes; Section 1011.80, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Keep America competitive in the global economy of the 21st century and make Florida #1 in workforce education by 2030.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program – Startup

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 7032 to create the GATE Startup Grant Program. The GATE Startup Grant Program provides grants to school district career and adult education centers, charter technical career centers, and Florida College System institutions to fund some or all the initial costs associated with the creation of the GATE Startup Grant Program pursuant to section 1011.804, Florida Statutes.

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program - Performance Fund

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 7032 to create the GATE Program Performance Fund, in addition to the GATE Scholarship Program and the GATE Startup Grant Program. The GATE Program Performance Fund established pursuant to section 1011.8041, Florida Statutes awards incentive funds to school districts and Florida College System institutions based on student performance outcomes achieved by GATE program students. Ten school districts and two Florida College System institutions have received program approval to offer the GATE program. Two school districts reported GATE participation in the 2025-26 academic year. To date, no performance awards have been made as most programs have only recent been approved for operation.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $5,000,000
- 2024-25 - $7,500,000
- 2023-24 - $11,500,000

Item 126A - Workforce Education - G/A - School and Instructional Enhancements

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	8,238,000	8,238,000	0	(8,238,000)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	8,238,000	8,238,000	0	(8,238,000)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$8,238,000 for the following projects is not requested to be restored for the following projects:

- $ 375,000 - Achieve Miami - Teacher Accelerator Program
- $2,000,000 - Associated Builders and Contractors - ABC Institute Flagship Apprenticeship Training Academy
- $1,500,000 - Charlotte County Public Schools - Southwest Florida Welding Workforce Development Program
- $ 500,000 - CodeBoxx: Building Florida's Technology Workforce
- $ 500,000 - Fort Lauderdale Aviation Technical Training Program
- $ 250,000 - Jacksonville Sports Foundation - Florida Sports Workforce Apprenticeship Initiative
- $ 175,000 - JAX Chamber Foundation - The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative
- $ 900,000 - Jewish Culinary Program - The Shul of Downtown / Brickell & Groot Hospitality
- $ 100,000 - Miami-Dade Public Schools - George T. Baker Aviation and Aerospace Technical College - Equipment
- $ 250,000 - Project BUILD SWFL - Heavy Equipment Simulator Workforce Training
- $ 500,000 - Ring Power Corporation - Technician Apprenticeship Program and Education Partnership
- $1,000,000 - ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative
- $ 188,000 - Southwest Florida Service Academy - Critical First Responder Facility, Safety & Security Updates

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Ashley Yopp Meros (850) 245-9062; Tara Goodman (850) 245-9002

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$8,238,000 for the following projects is not requested to be restored for the following projects:

- $ 375,000 - Achieve Miami - Teacher Accelerator Program
- $2,000,000 - Associated Builders and Contractors - ABC Institute Flagship Apprenticeship Training Academy
- $1,500,000 - Charlotte County Public Schools - Southwest Florida Welding Workforce Development Program
- $ 500,000 - CodeBoxx: Building Florida's Technology Workforce
- $ 500,000 - Fort Lauderdale Aviation Technical Training Program
- $ 250,000 - Jacksonville Sports Foundation - Florida Sports Workforce Apprenticeship Initiative
- $ 175,000 - JAX Chamber Foundation - The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative
- $ 900,000 - Jewish Culinary Program - The Shul of Downtown / Brickell & Groot Hospitality
- $ 100,000 - Miami-Dade Public Schools - George T. Baker Aviation and Aerospace Technical College - Equipment
- $ 250,000 - Project BUILD SWFL - Heavy Equipment Simulator Workforce Training

- $ 500,000 - Ring Power Corporation - Technician Apprenticeship Program and Education Partnership
- $1,000,000 - ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative
- $ 188,000 - Southwest Florida Service Academy - Critical First Responder Facility, Safety & Security Updates

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[ ] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1004.93, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Support the community's efforts to expand adult education programs throughout Florida.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative

ReUp Education provides engagement and success coaches to delivery one-on-one coaching to students. ReUp achieves this goal by creating a marketplace of curated credentials from in-state institutions that align with the needs of business and industry. The grant provides funds for the managing director, success coaches and technology/data analytics costs for ReUp’s predictive modeling, analytics and reporting tool.

The Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative

The goal of this initiative is to advance entrepreneur education in high school and college programming. JAX Bridges helps small and medium sized businesses build strategy, gain access to capital & contract opportunities, and connect to other entrepreneurs to grow their businesses by providing entrepreneurial education/training opportunities. There are 3 components to the program: (1) technology leading entrepreneur education to prepare small business owners, (2) assist in educating procurement professionals and enterprises in implementing Know Your Business protocols and (3) assist entrepreneurs in leveraging artificial intelligence and agentic networks to make Florida a model for educating and supporting small business communities. Funds are provided for the associated salary/benefits and operational costs for the JAX Chamber Foundation.

CodeBoxx: Building Florida's Technology Workforce

The CodeBoxx Foundation seeks to address Tampa Bay’s need for skilled tech talent and creates pathways for individuals to transition from low-wage jobs to high-paying careers in technology. Funds are provided for the associated salary/benefits for the campus director and program manager, in addition to consultants to serve as teachers, mentors and cohort leads. Additional costs include wrap around support, student support, technology needs, learning management systems, travel, and supplies.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $5,675,192
- 2024-25 - $3,236,342
- 2023-24 - $1,139,045

Item 126B - Workforce Education - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	1,686,000	1,686,000	0	(1,686,000)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	1,686,000	1,686,000	0	(1,686,000)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$1,686,000 is not requested for the following projects:

- $1,500,000 - Heights CareerTech Institute
- $ 186,000 - Southwest Florida Service Academy - Critical First Responder Facility, Safety & Security Updates

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$1,686,000 is not requested for the following projects:

- $1,500,000 - Heights CareerTech Institute
- $ 186,000 - Southwest Florida Service Academy - Critical First Responder Facility, Safety & Security Updates

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1013.64 Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide capital improvements for workforce education projects.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide capital improvements for workforce education projects.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $2,750,000
- 2024-25 - $703,000
- 2023-24 - $3,500,000

District Career and Adult Education
Sector Sheet
FY 2027-28 LBR

	2026-27 Appropriation	2027-28 LBR	2027-28 LBR Over/(Under) 2026-27 Appropriations	% 2027-28 LBR Over/(Under) 2026-27 Appropriation
Operating Budget				
Workforce Development Funds	$473,509,975	$497,715,274	$24,205,299	5.11%
Performance-Based Incentive Funds	$8,500,000	$12,500,000	$4,000,000	47.06%
Total Operating Budget	**$482,009,975**	**$510,215,274**	**$28,205,299**	**5.85%**
Grants and Aids				
Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (CAP)	$40,000,000	$100,000,000	$60,000,000	150.00%
Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant	$20,000,000	$20,000,000	$0	0.00%
Nursing Education (PIPELINE)	$20,000,000	$20,000,000	$0	0.00%
Total Grants and Aids	**$80,000,000**	**$140,000,000**	**$60,000,000**	**75.00%**
School and Instructional Enhancements				
Achieve Miami's Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP)	$375,000	$0	($375,000)	-100.00%
Associated Builders and Contractors - Flagship Apprenticeship	$2,000,000	$0	($2,000,000)	-100.00%
Charlotte County Public Schools - SW Fla Welding Program	$1,500,000	$0	($1,500,000)	-100.00%
CodeBoxx: Building Florida’s Technology Workforce	$500,000	$0	($500,000)	-100.00%
Fort Lauderdale Aviation Technical Training Program	$500,000	$0	($500,000)	-100.00%
Jax Sports Foundation - Sports Workforce Apprenticeship	$250,000	$0	($250,000)	-100.00%
JAX Chamber - Bridges Competitive Small Business	$175,000	$0	($175,000)	-100.00%
Jewish Culinary: The Shul of Downtown/Brickell & Groot Hospitality	$900,000	$0	($900,000)	-100.00%
Miami-Dade - George T. Baker Aviation/Aerospace Tech - Equipment	$100,000	$0	($100,000)	-100.00%
Project BUILD SWFL - Heavy Equipment Simulator Training	$250,000	$0	($250,000)	-100.00%
Ring Power Corp. - Technician Apprenticeship Program	$500,000	$0	($500,000)	-100.00%
ReUp's College & Credential to Workforce Initiative	$1,000,000	$0	($1,000,000)	-100.00%
SW Fla Service Academy - Critical First Responders	$188,000	$0	($188,000)	-100.00%
Total School and Instructional Enhancements	**$8,238,000**	**$0**	**($8,238,000)**	**-100.00%**
Strategic Statewide Initiatives				
Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$0	0.00%
Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program Performance Fund	$500,000	$500,000	$0	0.00%
Total Strategic Statewide Initiatives	**$2,500,000**	**$2,500,000**	**$0**	**0.00%**
Local Governments and Nonstate Entities - FCO Public Schools Special Projects				
Heights CareerTech Institute	$1,500,000	$0	($1,500,000)	-100.00%
Southwest Florida Service Academy - Critical First Responder Facility, Safety & Security Updates	$186,000	$0	($186,000)	-100.00%
Total FCO	**$1,686,000**	**$0**	**($1,686,000)**	**-100.00%**
Other Fund Requests				
Adult Basic Education Funds (Federal)	$63,288,749	$63,288,749	$0	0.00%
Vocational Formula Funds (Federal)	$94,363,333	$94,363,333	$0	0.00%
Total Other Funds	**$157,652,082**	**$157,652,082**	**$0**	**0.00%**
Grand Total	**$732,086,057**	**$810,367,356**	**$78,281,299**	**10.69%**

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Florida Colleges

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Item 127 - Florida Colleges - Performance Based Incentives

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$20,000,000 is requested in recurring General Revenue to continue performance-based incentives of $1,000 per Florida College System (FCS) student for eligible industry certifications.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Sections 1011.81(2)(b), 1008.44, 1004.65, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Performance-based incentives reward outcomes from programs that embed industry certifications within their curriculum. The Florida College System (FCS) places emphasis on increasing output that focuses on technology and computer certifications to prepare students for future workforce needs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Performance-based incentives were established by the Legislature to reward students for acquiring industry certifications. Funding is based on the number of students who earn industry certifications with a college postsecondary funding designation on the Florida Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) Industry Certification Funding List. The list identifies eligible certifications for additional funding throughout the state.

For the last several years, proviso language has allowed the department to distribute the award above or below the $1,000 statutory amount based on the number of eligible industry certifications achieved.

Recent disbursements of funds for industry certifications are as follows:

- 2025-26: 19,653 awarded; $1,018 per certification
- 2024-25: 17,725 awarded; $1,128 per certification
- 2023-24: 16,366 awarded; $1,222 per certification

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $20,000,000
- 2024-25 - $20,000,000
- 2023-24 - $20,000,000

Item 128 - Florida Colleges - Student Success Incentive Funds

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST									
	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	30,000,000	0	0	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	30,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	30,000,000	0	0	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	30,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$30,000,000 in recurring General Revenue is requested to continue funding the Student Success Incentive Funds offered at Florida College System (FCS) institutions accordingly:

- $17,000,000 - 2+2 Student Success Incentive
- $13,000,000 - Work Florida Student Success Incentive

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1004.65, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Student Success Incentive Fund programs reward institutions within the Florida College System (FCS) for outcomes in the areas of associates degree completions and transfers, workforce training programs, and transitioning students toward in-demand occupations. These programs provide vital pathways that streamline students toward tangible goals.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Student Success Incentive Funding is based on a formula defined in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) that rewards colleges based on student success outcomes. On-time graduation, gateway course completion, job placement, and wages that articulate higher educational goals are all examples of the desirable output these funds support. Strategically, this funding supports economic development by ensuring that workforce training leads to employment, encouraging aligned curricula with local labor market demands, and promoting accountability.

The 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund supports college efforts to improve the success of students enrolled in associate of arts degree programs in completing critical gateway college courses, graduating with associates of arts degrees in a timely manner, and transferring to baccalaureate degree programs.

The Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund supports college strategies and initiatives to align career education programs with statewide and regional workforce demands and high paying job opportunities. It supports college efforts to improve workforce program students' graduation times, job placement outcomes, and the wage level of the job obtained.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $30,000,000
- 2024-25 - $30,000,000
- 2023-24 - $30,000,000

Item 8 and 129 - Florida Colleges - G/A - Florida College System Program Fund

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,470,481,691	0	100,000,000	1,570,481,691	1,489,535,259	19,053,568	1,470,481,691	80,946,432	5.43%
Lottery (EETF)	239,728,417	0	0	239,728,417	239,728,417	0	239,728,417	0	0.00%
Total	1,710,210,108	0	100,000,000	1,810,210,108	1,729,263,676	19,053,568	1,710,210,108	80,946,432	4.68%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,710,210,108 is requested in General Revenue to continue funding operations for 28 Florida College Systems (FCS) institutions that support 322,188 full-time equivalent (FTE) students through the Fiscal Year 2027-28.

WORKLOAD

$100,000,000 in General Revenue recurring base funding is requested by the department. This 5.85 percent increase will enable institutions to increase workforce programs, recruit, and retain top employees for industry in-demand areas, and invest in infrastructure, facilities, and technology that support student success.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting a recurring appropriation of $100,000,000 in General Revenue for total annual funding of $1,810,210,108 in the Florida College System (FCS) Program Fund. These additional funds will enable institutions to increase workforce programs, recruit, and retain top employees for industry in-demand areas, and invest in infrastructure, facilities, and technology that support student success. Institutions may also use the funding for operations, program creation and enhancement, and other specific purchases or functions needed to meet growing demand statewide.

Enrollment in the Florida College System grew by 5.8 percent in 2025-26, and has grown 19.49 percent since 2023, while program funds have only increased 7.68 percent since 2023-24. During these years, colleges have reorganized, redistributed workloads, and increased class sizes to maximize their capacity to enroll and support students using existing faculty and support staff. Despite these efforts, students may still be turned away.

The additional funding will be used to support:

- Investment and implementation of programs that meet the evolving needs of industries and communities, contributing to state development. This includes programs such as the teacher apprenticeship program, cyber security, artificial intelligence (AI), law enforcement, and a range of critical need health care occupations.
- Initiatives and support systems that enhance services for increasing student enrollment, completion, and to continue to increase graduation rates. This includes employing enough qualified and skilled faculty to provide targeted advising, innovative academic and workforce programs, and career preparation for Florida's leaders of the future in a manner especially flexible for the working adults who comprise 2/3 of the FCS student body.
- Investment in infrastructure, facilities and technology, including unified systems and artificial intelligence driven tools, that support and ensure student success. This will also foster lifelong learners who continue to upskill and reskill in sophisticated technological advances and contribute to society past their foundations.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Florida College System Program Fund (ACT0571), State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1004.65 and 1011.81-1011.84, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Provide community-based access to postsecondary education by continuing to fund operations for Florida College System (FCS) institutions.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

A majority of Florida's high school graduates begin their postsecondary education in the FCS. A substantial percentage of the juniors and seniors with the State University System are students from the FCS. Florida's colleges are statutorily open admissions and offer a variety of academic and workforce programs specifically to meet the needs of their regions and the state.

As such, they play an essential role in the growth and success of Florida's economy and local industries, as well as maintaining the position of the number one state in the nation for workforce education. Florida colleges are also number one in two-year degree completions in the nation, as well as some of the most affordable education offered nationwide. The FCS and the State University System together make up Florida's number one ranked education system in the nation for ten years in a row.

The FCS consists of 28 locally governed public colleges operating 175 instructional sites and serving students from all levels of society. The colleges have statutorily defined service districts to provide educational opportunities within commuting distance to all Florida residents. Governed by local boards of trustees and led by their presidents, the State Board of Education supervises the colleges.

College program funds are used for the operations of the FCS institutions based on multiple specific categories, many of which can be considered accounted for in a college's FTE enrollment. The colleges provide undergraduate instruction, award associate and baccalaureate degrees, prepare students for Florida's workforce demands, provide student development services, and promote economic development both regionally and statewide.

College program funds are used for the operations of the FCS institutions based on multiple specific categories, many of which can be considered accounted for in a college's FTE enrollment. The colleges provide undergraduate instruction, award associate and baccalaureate degrees, prepare students for Florida's workforce demands, provide student development services, and promote economic development both regionally and statewide.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,678,420,508
- 2024-25 - $1,610,294,595
- 2023-24 - $1,606,206,848

Item 130 - Florida Colleges - G/A - Post Secondary Guardian Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	4,200,000	0	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	0	0	0.00%
Total	0	4,200,000	0	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	0	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$4,200,000 in recurring General Revenue is requested to continue funding the Postsecondary Guardian Program for Florida College System (FCS) institutions.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $4,200,000 in recurring General Revenue for the Postsecondary Guardian Program. These funds will allow colleges to partner with sheriff's offices that have established Guardian Training Programs to train Florida College System (FCS) Guardians upon request of the institution presidents.

This request will utilize the recurring dollars by distributing the funding via the department's Office of Safe Schools (OSS) to any sheriff's office that has been requested to train Guardians for FCS institutions. Funds may also maintain existing, qualifying contracts entered during Fiscal Year 2026-27, such as local agreements for Class D and G licensed security guards.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 30.15, 1006.601, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Provide funds for Florida College System (FCS) institutions to partner with sheriff's offices that have established Guardian Training Programs for training purposes.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

During the 2026 legislative session, House Bill (HB) 757, Campus Safety and Security, was passed and signed by Governor DeSantis. The bill established specific requirements for implementation in all state colleges and universities to keep students, staff and visitors safe.

The bill also allows public postsecondary educational institutions to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, and to appoint certified School Guardians per Section 30.15 (1)(k) F.S. - Sheriff's Duties in School Guardian Programs. The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program was established in 2018 through the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, which found in its initial report that having Guardians in schools is the best way to ensure highly trained personnel are in place to respond immediately in the event of a school safety threat.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

NA

Item 131 - Florida Colleges - G/A - Nursing Education

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	64,000,000	0	0	64,000,000	64,000,000	0	64,000,000	0	0.00%
Total	64,000,000	0	0	64,000,000	64,000,000	0	64,000,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$64,000,000 in recurring General Revenue is requested to continue funding operations for Florida College System (FCS) nursing education incentive programs.

This includes:

- $40,000,000 for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) program, which supports FCS institutions by rewarding performance and excellence among public postsecondary nursing education programs.
- $24,000,000 for the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) program, which awards funds to FCS institutions that partner with professional organizations to recruit faculty and clinical preceptors, increase capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increase the number of nursing education graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1009.896, 1009.897, F.S.

PURPOSE:

To reward performance and excellence among public postsecondary nursing education programs and incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and statewide healthcare partners.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Prepping Institution, Programs, Employers and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) and the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) programs, established in 2021, provide funding to the FCS institutions that offer nursing education programs.

The PIPELINE program rewards performance and excellence among public postsecondary nursing education programs. Allocations are based on the number of nursing education programs completed, and the first-time National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination passage rate of the institutions' nursing education program graduates.

The LINE program is a competitive grant award process that provides matching funds to participating institutions that partner with a healthcare provider to recruit faculty and clinical preceptors, increase capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increase the number of nursing education graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $64,000,000
- 2024-25 - $64,000,000
- 2023-24 - $59,000,000

Item 132 - Florida Colleges - G/A - Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	10,903,169	0	0	10,903,169	10,903,169	0	10,903,169	0	0.00%
Total	10,903,169	0	0	10,903,169	10,903,169	0	10,903,169	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$10,903,169 is requested in recurring base General Revenue to continue funding the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network (Network) for the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) library services that serve students at the Florida College System (FCS) and state universities.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1004.65, 1006.73, F.S.

PURPOSE:

These funds provide essential services for libraries and institutions such as e-resources, technical support, and distance learning tools.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funded by the state as the Network, the FLVC is under the joint oversight of the Florida Board of Governors and the department.

The Network delivers specified services to public postsecondary education institutions in the FCS, which includes the provision of information, access to distance learning courses and degree programs, and coordination to provide online academic support services such as FloridaShines, an information-rich website of free online tools and resources to help students and adult learners succeed in school, earn a college degree, and embark on rewarding career paths.

The Network administers a single library automation system used to support learning, teaching, and research needs. The Network provides coordination with the institution's library staff for the negotiation of statewide licensing of electronic library resources and preferred pricing agreements and contracts for the acquisition of library support needs. It also provides recommendations concerning the use of low cost, no cost, or open-access textbooks and education resources that would otherwise be unavailable to students statewide.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $11,024,746
- 2024-25 - $11,028,169
- 2023-24 - $11,078,169

Item 132A - Florida Colleges - G/A - Florida College System Campus Safety and Security

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	50,000,000	50,000,000	0	0	0	50,000,000	100.00%
Total	0	0	50,000,000	50,000,000	0	0	0	50,000,000	100.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

NEW PROGRAM

$50,000,000 ($30,000,000 nonrecurring to allow colleges to take care of needs already identified) is requested for the Florida College System (FCS) Campus Safety and Security initiative.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

NEW PROGRAM

The department is requesting $50,000,000 ($30,000,000 nonrecurring to allow colleges to take care of needs already identified) for the Florida College System (FCS) Campus Safety and Security initiative. Funds will be used for items such as interior door locks, rapid mass communication systems, additional outdoor lighting, security cameras and subscriptions to ongoing maintenance of some of these systems.

Of the requested recurring funds of $20,000,000, $7,000,000 will be distributed to each of the 28 colleges as a base allocation of $250,000 per year, and the remaining $13,000,000 will be distributed to each college based on the institution's percentage share of students (headcount) in the FCS. The recurring funds will also pay for the ongoing subscriptions needed to maintain the safety and security systems once they are put in place. All nonrecurring dollars would be distributed through institution grant applications. This amount will support colleges as they work to implement all of House Bill (HB) 757 passed during the 2026 legislative session.

The bill includes requirements for FCS to adopt new:

- Threat management processes, including documentation, records retention, and submission.
- Active assailant plans.
- Family reunification plans.
- Mental and behavioral health resources and processes for students.
- Policies and procedures to support students, faculty, and staff who are victims of violence, attempted violence, or credible threats.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Sections 30.15, 1006.601, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Provide resources to colleges to address the results of their annual security risk assessments and implement the threat management and student records processes.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

During the 2026 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed and Governor DeSantis signed HB 757, Campus Safety and Security, into law establishing specific requirements that must be implemented in all state colleges and state universities to keep students, staff, and visitors safe.

The bill ties specific grant opportunities (if appropriated) to risk assessments, which colleges will complete and submit to the department by December 1, 2026, and annually by October 1 each year after. Colleges must submit comprehensive annual security risk assessments of their sites and facilities.

Through these facilities and procedural risk assessments that are conducted with their required law enforcement and other public safety partners, areas are identified where security risks exist and to what extent remediation is needed. This request is to provide FCS institutions with the resources needed to address the results of their security risk assessments and implementation of the new threat management and student records processes put in place with HB 757.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

N/A

Item 133 - Florida Colleges - Commission on Community Service

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	1,483,749	0	0	1,483,749	1,483,749	0	1,483,749	0	0.00%
Total	1,483,749	0	0	1,483,749	1,483,749	0	1,483,749	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,483,749 in recurring General Revenue is requested to continue providing matching funds necessary to utilize federal AmeriCorps grant funds administered by the Commission on Community Service, also known as Volunteer Florida.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050), Academic and Student Affairs (ACT3000)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1004.65, 14.29, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Support administrative costs of the Commission on Community Service which promotes volunteerism in the state by maximizing opportunities for service in a collaborative way through use of volunteerism and community engagement as a cost-effective way to meet critical needs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Commission on Community Service, known as Volunteer Florida, is the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (the Commission). The Commission administers the AmeriCorps and other volunteer service programs throughout the state.

Volunteer Florida serves as the Governor’s lead agency for volunteerism that includes coordination of donations and volunteers before, during and after times of disaster, and national other service programs. It has the unique role of promoting volunteerism across the state, administering high-quality programming, preparing communities to be more disaster-resilient and building the capacity of the nonprofit sector.

Volunteer Florida also awards grants to local community agencies from federal funding that comes through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Funding received from CNCS and the Florida Legislature supports thirty AmeriCorps programs that address critical education, public safety, and human and environmental needs in local communities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,483,749
- 2024-25 - $1,483,749
- 2023-24 - $983,182

Item 133AA - Florida Colleges - G/A - Strategic Statewide Initiatives

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	436,800	436,800	0	0	0	436,800	100.00%
Total	0	0	436,800	436,800	0	0	0	436,800	100.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

NEW PROGRAM

$436,800 is requested in recurring General Revenue to add an application to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) for Florida College System (FCS) institutions.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Kathy Hebda (850) 245-0891; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9439; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

NEW PROGRAM

The department is requesting $436,800 in recurring General Revenue to add an application to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) for Florida College System (FCS) institutions in accordance with House Bill (HB) 757 implementation. The FSSAT is a statutorily required, web-based platform currently designed to assist school officials in conducting security risk assessments for public K-12 educational facilities across the state. If funded, this tool would be available to eligible post-secondary institutions.

The FSSAT helps school districts identify threats and vulnerabilities, assess existing safety measures, and determine the most appropriate strategies to enhance the physical security of school campuses. With the passage of HB 757 in 2026, section 1006.601, F.S., the Active Response and Mitigation of On-campus Risks (ARMOR) Act was created. This act officially requires the use of the FSSAT at public postsecondary institutions.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

State Grants to Districts and Florida Colleges (ACT3050)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1006.1493, 1006.601 F.S.

PURPOSE:

The FSSAT supports a standardized, statewide approach to school safety assessments, ensuring consistency in how institutions evaluate site-specific risks and prioritize mitigation efforts. The tool is currently used by all school districts annually, and this funding request is for the addition of colleges to the FSSAT platform

The breakdown below is based on the addition of all 28 public postsecondary college institutions. The funding request for Florida College System (FCS) has been determined by using the final 2025-26 FTE.

FCS FTE for 2025-26: 322,188

The Office of Safe Schools provided the following breakdown of services and estimated prices from current vendors.

Subscription services	$240,000
Support personnel	$ 79,200
Building specific assessments (3)	$ 86,400
Best practices assessment	$ 9,600
Classroom and online training	$ 21,600
Estimated totals for FCS	$436,800

This investment in the FSSAT for FCS institutions is essential to ensure all schools have the tools they need to maintain secure learning environments and comply with Florida law. Without this funding, the FCS will not have the resources needed to be added to the FSSAT.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The FSSAT supports a standardized, statewide approach to school safety assessments, ensuring consistency in how institutions evaluate site-specific risks and prioritize mitigation efforts. The tool is currently used by all K-12 school districts, and this request is for the addition of the FCS institutions to the FSSAT platform.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

NA

Item 133A - Florida Colleges - G/A - Higher Education Projects Nonstate Entities

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	1,400,000	1,400,000	0	(1,400,000)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	1,400,000	1,400,000	0	(1,400,000)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$1,400,000 is not requested for the following programs:

- $500,000 - Greater Miami Jewish Federation - Miami Alliance Against Antisemitism: Higher Education Initiative
- $900,000 - Jewish Campus Life Initiative - Standing Against Antisemitism Across Florida

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is not requesting nonrecurring General Revenue funding in the amount of $1,400,000 for the following programs:

- $500,000 - Greater Miami Jewish Federation - Miami Alliance Against Antisemitism: Higher Education Initiative
- $900,000 - Jewish Campus Life Initiative - Standing Against Antisemitism Across Florida

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[x] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[x] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[x] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[x] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

NA

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1004.0962, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Funding provides project support for higher education nonstate entities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funding provides project support for higher education nonstate entities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

NA

Item 133B - Florida Colleges - G/A - Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	3,655,027	3,655,027	0	(3,655,027)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	3,655,027	3,655,027	0	(3,655,027)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$3,655,027 in General Revenue is not requested for the following Florida College System (FCS) institutions:

- $ 182,837 - Dale Mabry Army Airfield Museum - American Liberty Plaza
- $3,200,000 - Pasco-Hernando State College - West Campus YMCA
- $ 250,000 - Pensacola State College - Expanding Military and Veterans Service Center
- $ 22,190 - Seminole State College - AMplify @ SSC: Advanced Manufacturing

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is not requesting restoration of nonrecurring General Revenue funding in the amount of $3,655,027 for the following Florida College System (FCS) institutions:

- $ 182,837 - Dale Mabry Army Airfield Museum - American Liberty Plaza
- $3,200,000 - Pasco-Hernando State College - West Campus YMCA
- $ 250,000 - Pensacola State College - Expanding Military and Veterans Service Center
- $ 22,190 - Seminole State College - AMplify @ SSC: Advanced Manufacturing

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[x] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[x] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[x] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[x] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

NA

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1004.0962, F.S.

PURPOSE:

Provide facility maintenance and repairs to FCS institutions and programs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide facility maintenance and repairs to FCS institutions and programs.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $650,000
- 2024-25 - $0
- 2023-24 - $5,400,000

The Florida College System
Sector Sheet
FY 2027-28

	2026-27 Appropriation	2027-28 LBR	Difference	Percentage Difference
Florida College System Program Fund Appropriations				
Program Fund	$1,663,303,837	1,763,303,837	$100,000,000	
Operational Support	50,506,271	46,906,271	(3,600,000)	
Special Projects	$15,453,568	$0	($15,453,568)	
Total Program Fund	**$1,729,263,676**	**$1,810,210,108**	**$80,946,432**	**4.68%**
Non-Program Fund Appropriations				
Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund	$13,000,000	$13,000,000	$0	
2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund	$17,000,000	$17,000,000	$0	
Academic Library Network	$10,903,169	$10,903,169	$0	
College System Projects - Operating	$1,400,000	$0	($1,400,000)	
College System Projects - FCO	$3,655,027	$0	($3,655,027)	
Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners Through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund	$40,000,000	$40,000,000	$0	
Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund	$24,000,000	$24,000,000	$0	
Commission on Community Service	$1,483,749	$1,483,749	$0	
Performance Based Incentives	$20,000,000	$20,000,000	$0	
Post Secondary Guardian Program	$4,200,000	$4,200,000	$0	
Strategic Statewide Initiatives - FSSAT	$0	$436,800	$436,800	
Campus Safety and Security	$0	$50,000,000	$50,000,000	
Total Non-Program Funds	**$135,641,945**	**$181,023,718**	**$45,381,773**	**33.46%**
Total Operating Budget Appropriations	**$1,864,905,621**	**$1,991,233,826**	**$126,328,205**	**6.77%**

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State Board of Education

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Item 134 - State Board of Education - Salaries and Benefits

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	34,396,206	0	172,174	34,568,380	34,396,206	0	34,396,206	172,174	0.50%
Admin TF	9,105,060	0	0	9,105,060	9,105,060	0	9,105,060	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	3,834,540	0	0	3,834,540	3,834,540	0	3,834,540	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	3,800,153	0	0	3,800,153	3,800,153	0	3,800,153	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	16,844,430	0	0	16,844,430	16,844,430	0	16,844,430	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	4,189,578	0	0	4,189,578	4,189,578	0	4,189,578	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	3,427,711	0	0	3,427,711	3,427,711	0	3,427,711	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	98,948	0	0	98,948	98,948	0	98,948	0	0.00%
Operating TF	376,390	0	0	376,390	376,390	0	376,390	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	517,120	0	0	517,120	517,120	0	517,120	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	7,476,505	0	0	7,476,505	7,476,505	0	7,476,505	0	0.00%
Total	84,066,641	0	172,174	84,238,815	84,066,641	0	84,066,641	172,174	0.20%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$84,066,641 is requested to continue to fund salaries and benefits for 904 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees of the State Board of Education.

WORKLOAD

$172,174 is requested in recurring General Revenue for operating costs associated with two new FTE for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $172,174 in recurring General Revenue and two FTE to support critical operations necessary for compliance and efficient reporting for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive (CAP) Grant Program. In addition to compliance and reporting functions of the positions, funding will assist with implementation and programmatic oversight of the statutorily required programs ensuring the efficient delivery of services to the citizens of Florida.

The two additional FTE will be Program Specialist IV-DOE, class code 4118, with a salary of $50,585 each. This is part of an overall request of $225,712, of which $11,560 is nonrecurring. The overall request is below:

FTE	2.0
Salaries and Benefits	$172,174 (Salary Rate $101,170)
Expenses	$ 25,224 ($11,560 nonrecurring)
Human Resources	$ 712
Education Technology and Information Systems	$ 27,602
Total request	$225,712

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapters 216 and 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide executive direction and management of state educational programs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funding provides for the salaries and benefits of State Board of Education employees.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $84,196,568
- 2024-25 - $89,525,264
- 2023-24 - $84,882,236

Item 135 - State Board of Education - Other Personal Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	315,328	0	0	315,328	315,328	0	315,328	0	0.00%
Admin TF	199,054	0	0	199,054	199,054	0	199,054	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	103,040	0	0	103,040	103,040	0	103,040	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	44,160	0	0	44,160	44,160	0	44,160	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	489,396	0	0	489,396	489,396	0	489,396	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	235,298	0	0	235,298	235,298	0	235,298	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	26,507	0	0	26,507	26,507	0	26,507	0	0.00%
Operating TF	5,311	0	0	5,311	5,311	0	5,311	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	61,251	0	0	61,251	61,251	0	61,251	0	0.00%
Total	1,479,345	0	0	1,479,345	1,479,345	0	1,479,345	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$1,479,345 is requested to continue funding for temporary assistance on time-limited projects in the department.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide temporary assistance to meet deadlines for critical projects and time-limited work products for a variety of educational programs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide funding for hourly employees, such as graduate and undergraduate students, as well as contract employees.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,471,088
- 2024-25 - $1,356,983
- 2023-24 - $1,353,421

Item 136 - State Board of Education - Expenses

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	3,689,386	0	25,224	3,714,610	3,689,386	0	3,689,386	25,224	0.68%
Admin TF	1,406,375	0	0	1,406,375	1,406,375	0	1,406,375	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	858,980	0	0	858,980	858,980	0	858,980	0	0.00%
Ed Media & Tech TF	133,426	0	0	133,426	133,426	0	133,426	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	898,664	0	0	898,664	898,664	0	898,664	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	1,703,663	0	0	1,703,663	1,703,663	0	1,703,663	0	0.00%
Grants & Donations TF	48,433	0	0	48,433	48,433	0	48,433	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	514,776	0	0	514,776	514,776	0	514,776	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	800,556	0	0	800,556	800,556	0	800,556	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	26,050	0	0	26,050	26,050	0	26,050	0	0.00%
Operating TF	295,667	0	0	295,667	295,667	0	295,667	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	135,350	0	0	135,350	135,350	0	135,350	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	606,077	0	0	606,077	606,077	0	606,077	0	0.00%
Total	11,117,403	0	25,224	11,142,627	11,117,403	0	11,117,403	25,224	0.23%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$11,117,403 is requested to continue funding for administrative and operating expenses that support the functions of the department such as building rent, travel, supplies, telecommunications, subscriptions, dues, fees, and postage.

WORKLOAD

$25,224 is requested in recurring General Revenue for operating costs associated with two new FTE for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $25,224 in recurring General Revenue and two FTE to support critical operations necessary for compliance and efficient reporting for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive (CAP) Grant Program. In addition to compliance and reporting functions of the positions, funding will assist with implementation and programmatic oversight of the statutorily required programs ensuring the efficient delivery of services to the citizens of Florida.

The two additional FTE will be Program Specialist IV-DOE, class code 4118, with a salary of $50,585 each. This is part of an overall request of $225,712, of which $11,560 is nonrecurring. The overall request is below:

FTE	2.0
Salaries and Benefits	$172,174 (Salary Rate $101,170)
Expenses	$ 25,224 ($11,560 nonrecurring)
Human Resources	$ 712
Education Technology and Information Systems	$ 27,602
Total request	$225,712

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide executive direction and management of state educational programs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The department's current cost to continue budget (recurring base) for the Expense category is provided to pay for the following obligations.

Building Rent - $4.5 million, 41% of budget
This is the largest expenditure for the department.

Day to Day Operations - $2.2 million, 20% of budget
These expenditures include items such as travel, supplies, telecommunications, subscriptions, dues, fees, and postage.

Information Technology - $0.7 million, 6% of budget
These expenditures include annual software license renewals and laptop purchases based on the department's refresh schedule.

Trust Fund Budget Authority for Specific Program Activities - $3.7 million, 33% of budget
This budget is available as needed for specific program activities funded from trust funds such as Federal Grant

Administration activities, Student Loan activities, Educator Certification activities, and Educational Facilities activities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $11,117,403
- 2024-25 - $11,508,058
- 2023-24 - $12,578,482

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Item 137 - State Board of Education - Operating Capital Outlay

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	45,970	0	0	45,970	45,970	0	45,970	0	0.00%
Admin TF	144,428	0	0	144,428	144,428	0	144,428	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	7,440	0	0	7,440	7,440	0	7,440	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	15,000	0	0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	241,756	0	0	241,756	241,756	0	241,756	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	16,375	0	0	16,375	16,375	0	16,375	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	55,960	0	0	55,960	55,960	0	55,960	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	6,000	0	0	6,000	6,000	0	6,000	0	0.00%
Operating TF	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	3,150	0	0	3,150	3,150	0	3,150	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	47,921	0	0	47,921	47,921	0	47,921	0	0.00%
Total	589,000	0	0	589,000	589,000	0	589,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$589,000 is requested to continue funding for Operating Capital Outlay purchases of tangible property in excess of $5,000 with a life expectancy of over one year to support the administrative and operating functions of the department.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide for the replacement of office equipment, fixtures, servers and other tangible property exceeding $5,000 and with a life expectancy of at least one year.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funds the replacement of equipment, fixtures, servers and other tangible property of a non-consumable and nonexpendable nature to support the administrative functions of the department.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $589,000
- 2024-25 - $589,000
- 2023-24 - $589,000

Item 138 - State Board of Education - Assessment and Evaluation

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	77,410,590	628,928	5,423,310	83,462,828	78,039,518	628,928	77,410,590	5,423,310	6.95%
Admin TF	2,315,367	0	0	2,315,367	2,315,367	0	2,315,367	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	40,153,877	0	555,112	40,708,989	40,153,877	0	40,153,877	555,112	1.38%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	7,322,185	0	0	7,322,185	7,322,185	0	7,322,185	0	0.00%
Total	127,202,019	628,928	5,978,422	133,809,369	127,830,947	628,928	127,202,019	5,978,422	4.68%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$127,202,019 is requested to continue funding PreK-12 and Postsecondary assessments for students and educators as outlined below:

- $105,353,394 - Statewide Standardized Assessments and Other Supporting Costs
- $ 8,000,000 - College Entrance Assessments
- $ 13,848,625 - Postsecondary Assessments for Educators and Leadership

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$628,928 is requested to be restored as recurring General Revenue for the Florida Teacher Excellence Exam (FTEE).

WORKLOAD

$5,978,422 in recurring funds is requested for the following programs; $5,423,310 in General Revenue and $555,112 in Federal Grants budget authority:

- $3,807,350 - Statewide Standardized Assessments and Other Supporting Costs
- $1,500,000 - Articulated Acceleration – Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT)
- $ 671,072 - Florida Teacher Excellence Exam (FTEE)

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Juan Copa (850) 245-0744; Susan Lee (850) 245-0785; Jason Gaitanis (850) 245-9618
Kathy Hebda (850) 245-9449; Jose Arevalo (850) 245-9903 - Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT)

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

FLORIDA TEACHER EXCELLENCE EXAM (FTEE)

The department is requesting the restoration of $628,928 in General Revenue for the Florida Teacher Excellence Examination (FTEE) in the Assessment and Evaluation category. These funds will be used to begin Phase Two of aligning the exam with statutory changes that occurred during the 2025 legislative session. This request, along with the workload request, will provide total funding of $1,300,000 to complete Phase Two.

During the 2025 legislative session, HB 875 passed requiring the department to begin development of the FTEE by July 1, 2027. As with similar large-scale assessments, work must begin in advance of the required development begin date. The funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 2026-27 will be used for ramp up work involving contractors and subject matter experts and include items such as travel, stipends, materials, space, etc. These funds will be used to address required changes in state statute and enable the department to lead full test development of this new assessment for state-approved teacher preparation programs and teacher candidates at the level of service and quality expected for similar large-scale assessments.

The restoration of funds requested for Fiscal Year 2027-28 will be used to begin Phase Two which includes program planning and organization costs as well as the development and implementation of new test item banks, test forms, Test Information Guides (TIG), new score reporting infrastructure, program specific website, eCommerce, examinee eligibility, invoicing, and systems set activities; however, the restoration of funds will only fund approximately half of the costs. A workload request will be made for the remaining funds needed.

WORKLOAD

FLORIDA TEACHER EXCELLENCE EXAMINATION (FTEE)

The department is requesting a workload increase of $671,072 in General Revenue to ensure the department is able to carry out the full Phase Two costs related to the Florida Teacher Excellence Examination (FTEE) in the Assessment and Evaluation category. These funds, along with the restoration of funds in the amount of $628,928, will provide total recurring General Revenue funds of $1,300,000 to complete Phase Two of aligning the exam with statutory changes that occurred during the 2025 legislative session.

The funds will be used for costs associated with Phase Two of FTEE which includes program planning and organization costs as well as the development and implementation of new test item banks, test forms, Test Information Guides (TIG), new score reporting infrastructure, program specific website, eCommerce, examinee eligibility, invoicing, and systems set activities.

FLORIDA ADVANCED COURSES AND TESTS (FACT)

The department is requesting $1,500,000 in General Revenue for the development and implementation of FACT assessments. The funds will be used to complete the assessment and start the pilot for the U.S. Government advanced assessment. During the 2023 legislative session, the legislature passed and the governor signed House Bill 1537, which amended sections 1007.35(6)(a) and 1007.27, Florida Statutes. Section 1007.35(6)(a), F.S., requires the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors respectively to "partner with higher education institutions to develop advanced courses and provide teacher training." The statute also permits the department to partner with a third party to develop and administer assessments associated with each of the courses. These courses and associated assessments are intended to enable high school students in Florida to earn college credits that are transferable to Florida public colleges and universities as an acceptable acceleration mechanism.

To date, Florida has developed advanced high school courses and assessments that award students credit in FACT College Algebra and U.S. History. The FACT College Algebra course and assessment were piloted around the state in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and are currently available to all eligible students statewide in 2026-27. A passing score on the College Algebra assessment will allow a student to obtain credit for MAC 1105, one of the math gateway courses, at a Florida Public postsecondary institution. The FACT U.S. History course and assessment are being piloted in 2026-27 and will be made available to all students statewide in 2027-28. A passing score on the FACT U.S. History assessment will allow a student to obtain college credit for AMH 2010 and AMH 2020, the two core general education history courses. Passing scores will also obtain for students their completion of Florida's Civic Literacy postsecondary course and assessment requirement and meet several high school graduation requirements.

STATEWIDE STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER SUPPORTING COSTS
The department is requesting a workload increase of $3,807,350 to provide funds necessary to fund projected vendor contract increases for Fiscal Year 2027-28. The request is for $3,252,238 in recurring General Revenue and $555,112 in recurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority. This request, along with the recurring base, will provide total funding of $109,160,744. These funds will be used to fund the following: Statewide Standardized Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments, and Alternate Assessments for students with cognitive or language assistance.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Assessment and Evaluation (ACT0635)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

GENERAL ASSESSMENT STATUTES:
• Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes - Student assessment program for public schools (includes procurement authorization).
• Section 1008.23, Florida Statutes - Confidentiality of assessment instruments.
• Section 1008.24, Florida Statutes - Test administration and security; public records exemption.
• Section 1008.25, Florida Statutes - Public school student progression; student support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting requirements.
• Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes - Florida's Early Learning-20 education performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission, goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.
• Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes - School grading system; school reports cards; district grade.

SPECIFIC PROGRAM ASSESSMENT STATUTES:
• Section 1012.55, Florida Statutes - Positions for which certificates required.
• Section 1012.56, Florida Statutes - Educator certification requirements.
• Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes - Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program accountability.
• Section 1003.41, Florida Statutes - State academic standards.
• Section 1003.4156, Florida Statutes - General requirements for middle grades promotion.
• Section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes - Requirements for a standard high school diploma.
• Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes - General education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements.
• Section 1007.27(2)(b), Florida Statutes - Advanced Assessment – FACT.
• Section 1007.35(6)(a), Florida Statutes - Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement - Advanced Assessment – FACT.

PURPOSE:

Improve public schools by enhancing the learning gains of all students and inform parents of the educational progress of their public school children.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Statewide, Standardized Science and Social Studies Assessments
Provides for the services and products necessary for statewide, standardized assessments in science and social studies, including test item development, accommodated versions, and the scoring and reporting of grades 5 and 8 Science, end-of-course (EOC) Science and Social Studies assessments, and the Florida Civic Literacy Exam.

College Entrance Assessments (ACT/SAT/CLT)
Provides products and services necessary to administer the ACT, SAT and CLT to grade 11 students to expand postsecondary opportunities and potentially serve as the state's high school assessment for satisfying federal requirements.

Articulated Acceleration – Advanced Assessments – Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT)
Provides for the costs to develop, administer, score, and report new advanced K-12 assessments aligned with statutory changes that occurred during the 2023 Florida legislative session. The department may partner with an independent third-party testing or assessment organization to develop assessments that measure competencies consistent with the required course competencies identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.

Test Development and Audit Activities
Provides for assessment development activities in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Includes managing the test development work of the department's contractors under the overall direction of the department and organizing and coordinating meetings of Florida educators related to development and hand scoring. Also provides an external, technical review of annual K-12 ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies assessments results and related tasks, as well as alignment and concordant studies.

Materials for the Visually Impaired
Provides for the review and proof-reading of large print and Braille materials for K-12 English Language Arts ELA, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies assessments.

Other K- 12 Assessments
English Language Proficiency/World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Measures the English proficiency and progress of English Language Learners.

Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA)
Measures and reports on the achievement of students with significant cognitive disabilities.
Pre-College Entrance Assessments - Measures the readiness of 10th grade students for advanced coursework.

Student Learning Growth Analysis
Provides for models designed to measure student learning growth using standardized statewide assessments and the impact of a teacher on student learning.

Assessment Database Administration
Provides support for multiple internal database administration activities and technology needs.
Certification Assessments

Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE)
To ensure that all teacher candidates demonstrate the necessary content and pedagogical knowledge necessary to effectively instruct students in Florida. The purpose of the Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE) is to ensure that all school administrator candidates demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively lead in Florida’s schools.

Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE)
To measure prospective school administrators’ achievement of the benchmarks established by the department and published in the Competencies and Skills Required for Certification in Educational Leadership in Florida. The FELE consists of three subtests covering 13 domains of core curriculum in Educational Leadership.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $132,202,019
- 2024-25 - $129,202,019
- 2023-24 - $127,202,019

Item 139 - State Board of Education - Transfer to Division of Administrative Hearings

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	400,391	0	0	400,391	400,391	0	400,391	0	0.00%
Total	400,391	0	0	400,391	400,391	0	400,391	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$400,391 is requested to continue funding the department's share of services from the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH).

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 120.595, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide for administrative hearings and related services.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) schedules cases for pre-hearing conferences, motion hearings, and canceled/continued hearings and final hearings, and bills all state agencies using these services on a prorated basis.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $480,627
- 2024-25 - $463,272
- 2023-24 - $404,792

Item 140 - State Board of Education - Contracted Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	29,276,593	4,346,000	16,899,655	50,522,248	35,622,593	6,346,000	29,276,593	14,899,655	41.83%
Admin TF	739,054	0	0	739,054	739,054	0	739,054	0	0.00%
Child Care and Dev TF	300,000	0	0	300,000	300,000	0	300,000	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	1,396,609	0	0	1,396,609	1,396,609	0	1,396,609	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	488,200	0	0	488,200	488,200	0	488,200	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	2,376,770	0	1,500,000	3,876,770	2,376,770	0	2,376,770	1,500,000	63.11%
Grants & Donations TF	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	405,405	0	0	405,405	405,405	0	405,405	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	14,009,208	0	0	14,009,208	14,009,208	0	14,009,208	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	19,893	0	0	19,893	19,893	0	19,893	0	0.00%
Operating TF	374,193	0	0	374,193	374,193	0	374,193	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	42,250	0	0	42,250	42,250	0	42,250	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	1,043,604	0	0	1,043,604	1,043,604	0	1,043,604	0	0.00%
Total	50,521,779	4,346,000	18,399,655	73,267,434	56,867,779	6,346,000	50,521,779	16,399,655	28.84%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$50,521,779 is requested to continue funding contracted services within the State Board of Education which includes $21,245,186 in Trust Fund budget authority and $29,276,593 in General Revenue funds.

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$4,346,000 is requested to be restored in General Revenue for the following programs:

- $ 846,000 – Statewide Educator Recruitment Tool
- $3,500,000 – Transparency Tool - Parent Plus Portal

WORKLOAD

$4,354,000 is requested in recurring General Revenue is requested for the following programs:

- $ 154,000 – Statewide Educator Recruitment Tool
- $2,200,000 – School Choice Online Portal - My Florida Schools
- $ 500,000 – Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program
- $1,500,000 – Articulated Acceleration – Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT)

ENHANCEMENT

$158,405 is requested in General Revenue funding ($120,960 nonrecurring) is requested for the following programs:

- $ 158,405 – School Choice Web Applications and Database Update ($120,960 nonrecurring)

NEW PROGRAM

$12,387,250 is requested in General Revenue ($11,330,000 nonrecurring) and $1,500,000 in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for the following programs:

- $ 1,500,000 – State Apprenticeship Expansion (all nonrecurring)
- $11,330,000 – Enterprise Mainframe Modernization (Feasibility Study) (all nonrecurring)
- $ 942,250 – FL WINS System Integration
- $ 115,000 – Sunshine State Debate

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

STATEWIDE EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT TOOL

The department is requesting the restoration of $846,000 in recurring General Revenue funding for the Statewide Educator Recruitment Tool to continue the work in support of section 1012.05(2)(a), Florida Statutes, in which the department must maintain a statewide system for posting teaching vacancies and a database of teacher applicants. This request, along with the workload request of $154,000, will provide total General Revenue funds of $1,000,000.

In the past, some costs have been supported through federal Title II funds which are no longer sustainable. Title II funds are needed for professional learning and educator preparation efforts. To meet statutory requirements and ensure the long-term viability of the recruitment system, a state appropriation is requested to fund the database and reallocate federal dollars toward other priority initiatives.

TRANSPARENCY TOOL - PARENT PLUS PORTAL

The department is requesting the restoration of $3,500,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funding for the Transparency Tool / Parent Plus Portal to continue the work in support of House Bill 1557 (2022), Parental Rights in Education. The funds will be used to provide: a secure content management system with portal and web interface; system-based training; system security, user authentication, and access control; help desk support for district and school users; and quarterly reports for the department. This investment provides transparency, access, and partnership.

The department has identified a statewide solution to provide a statewide, centralized, easily accessible solution for access to these materials which will allow for across-the-board consistency in how the materials are searched, displayed, reviewed and accessed by users. Districts are currently making the materials available in various formats and platforms. Centralizing this process ensures that parents, districts, school staff and the general public have access to the same information.

WORKLOAD

STATEWIDE EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT TOOL

The department is requesting a workload increase of $154,000 in recurring General Revenue funding for the Statewide Educator Recruitment Tool to continue the work in support of section 1012.05(2)(a), Florida Statutes, in which the department, must maintain a statewide system for posting teaching vacancies and a database of teacher applicants. This request, along with the request to restore nonrecurring funds of $846,000, will provide total recurring General Revenue funds of $1,000,000.

In the past, some costs have been supported through federal Title II funds which are no longer sustainable. Title II funds are needed for professional learning and educator preparation efforts. To meet statutory requirements and ensure the long-term viability of the recruitment system, a state appropriation is requested to fund the database and reallocate federal dollars toward other priority initiatives.

SCHOOL CHOICE ONLINE PORTAL - MY FLORIDA SCHOOLS

The department is requesting $2,200,000 in recurring General Revenue funds for the My Florida Schools - School Choice Online Portal. These funds will be used to ensure continued access to a user-friendly online tool that supports parents in their search for preK-12 school options. The requested funds will be used for annual licensing and maintenance costs of approximately $1,900,000 as well as approximately $300,000 for annual updates needed based on statutory changes and enhancements for parents and families.

My Florida Schools is an online platform designed to help families explore early learning, child care, and K-12 education options across Florida. The platform allows early learning providers, child care providers, and public and private schools to showcase their programs in one searchable location, making it easier for parents and caregivers to discover educational choices that meet their child's needs.

Families can use My Florida Schools to search for nearby child care centers, family child care homes, and public schools that offer early learning programs. Program pages provide useful information such as services offered, unique program features, provider contact details, and options to book a facility tour. These features help families compare programs and make more informed decisions about care and education.

The platform also includes advanced search filters that allow users to narrow results by location, services, Voluntary Prekindergarten participation, ages served, program type, and other criteria. By offering flexible search options and detailed program information, My Florida Schools improves visibility for providers while giving families a convenient way to find early learning and child care options in their area.

In 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill (HB) 1, expanding school choice for all Florida families. As part of this law, the department worked collaboratively to create a user-friendly online tool that supports parents in their search for preK-12 school options. My Florida Schools stores information about 10,000 K-12 schools across Florida so that parents have access to all the necessary information as they choose a school for their child.

TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The department is requesting a workload increase of $500,000 in recurring General Revenue, which with the recurring funds will provide total funding of $1,000,000 for the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program. The department has been unable to find a vendor that can provide the requested services for $500,000. Without the recurring funds and the workload request for total of $1,000,000, the department will be unable to procure the desired services.

The funds are requested for the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance program to provide an online marketplace for teachers to make eligible purchases while easing the administrative burden for schools and districts under the current paper-driven process. The intent is for it to be a mobile-friendly interface that will allow teachers to shop conveniently with administrator-selected purchasing guidelines for qualified purchases.

Administrators will be able to manage approvals and access with real-time audit ready reporting. This online system will create spending rules, establish approved vendors and service providers, pre-approve purchases, and authorize payments. It will also store images and receipts for up to five years, reducing the administrative burden of managing documents and digital/paper receipts.

FLORIDA ADVANCED COURSES AND TESTS (FACT)

The department is requesting $1,500,000 in General Revenue for the development and implementation of Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT) courses. The funds will be used to complete the course and start the pilot for the Western Civilization and Literature courses. During the 2023 legislative session, the legislature passed and the governor signed House Bill 1537, which amended sections 1007.35(6)(a) and 1007.27, Florida Statutes. Section 1007.35(6)(a), F.S., requires the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors respectively to "partner with higher education institutions to develop advanced courses and provide teacher training." The statute also permits the department to partner with a third party to develop and administer assessments associated with each of the courses. These courses and associated assessments are intended to enable high school students in Florida to earn college credits that are transferable to Florida public colleges and universities as an acceptable acceleration mechanism.

To date, Florida has developed advanced high school courses and assessments that award students credit in FACT College Algebra and U.S. History. The FACT College Algebra course and assessment were piloted around the state in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and is available to all eligible students statewide in 2026-27. A passing score onthe College Algebra assessment will allow a student to obtain credit for MAC 1105, one of the math gateway courses, at a Florida Public postsecondary institution. The FACT U.S. History course and assessment are being piloted in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and will be made available to all students statewide in 2027-28. A passing score on the FACT U.S. History assessment will allow a student to obtain college credit for AMH 2010 and AMH 2020, the two core general education history courses. Passing scores will also obtain for students their completion of Florida's Civic Literacy postsecondary course and assessment requirement and meet several high school graduation requirements.

ENHANCEMENT

SCHOOL CHOICE WEB APPLICATION AND DATABASE

The department is requesting additional General Revenue funds in the amount of $158,405 ($120,960 nonrecurring) for the School Choice Web Application and Database, which is a tool used to administer all aspects of the Family Empowerment Scholarship and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship. It allows for the transfer of student files and payment information between the department and the state's scholarship funding organizations (SFOs). It provides the vehicle for SFOs to provide required data reporting and to view which schools the department has approved to participate in the scholarship program. It also provides access to school districts and the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to view who within their jurisdictions are receiving a scholarship. The request here is to enhance the cross-check process with school districts and FLVS as well as partly automate the student withdrawal process from school districts to the Family Empowerment Scholarship.

The department has worked with the current vendor to develop a methodology and justification to enhance the cross-check process with school districts and FLVS as well as partly automate the student withdrawal process from public schools to the scholarship program. Of the funds requested, $120,960 is for one-time, nonrecurring enhancements and the remaining funds of $37,445 will be used for additional recurring costs as a result of the increased volume of users.

The nonrecurring funds of $120,960 for enhancements will be used as follows:

Enhancement 1: District Portal File Validation - $34,560

Enhance the District Portal to validate file formats and data prior to submission, reducing manual effort and errors

Enhancement 2: Student Withdrawal Form Validation and Authorization - $14,400

Provide district users with the ability to confirm that the student withdrawal date listed on the submitted withdrawal form is accurate

Enhancement 3: School Occupancy Tracking and Reporting - $14,400

Support tracking and reporting of school occupancy data for fire inspection purposes. This includes creating new fields on the Private School Account to capture occupancy count. Additionally, the system would provide the ability to generate reports that include the occupancy count for students at each school.

Enhancement 4: Florida Virtual School -- New Portal and Reporting - $57,600

Provide Florida Virtual School (FLVS) users with on-demand access to reporting capabilities, eliminating the need for the department to manually generate reports. Reports would not be limited by district and would present a comprehensive, statewide view of the data. FLVS users will be provided with a dedicated portal to ensure appropriate data access controls and maintain system security.

NEW PROGRAM

STATE APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION

The department is requesting $1,500,000 in nonrecurring Federal Grants Trust Fund budget authority for a new federal grant beginning July 1, 2026, for a three-year period, awarded through the U.S. Department of Labor’s State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula 4 grant. The total award amount is $3,237,869 and the majority of the funds are expected to be expended in Fiscal Years 2027-28 and 2028-29. The three-year initiative will strengthen Florida’s Registered Apprenticeship system and support the state’s goal of reaching 50,000 active apprentices by 2030.

The grant funds additional staff through a sub-award to an educational intuition and three contracts through June 30, 2029. Grant activities will expand apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities in Florida’s targeted industries, including aerospace and aviation, advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences, maritime, energy, and military and defense. Funding will support temporary grant-funded personnel, statewide employer and participant outreach, training and technical assistance, process improvements, program quality and compliance, apprenticeship sponsor development, and enhanced alignment with CareerSource Florida, technical colleges, Florida College System institutions, and industry partners.

The initiative will also improve the efficiency of apprenticeship program registration and monitoring, strengthen the capacity of local Apprenticeship Navigators, expand high-quality preapprenticeship programs, and increase the number of active apprentices in targeted industries from approximately 2,100 to 5,000 by the end of the grant period.

ENTERPRISE MAINFRAME MODERNIZATION (FEASIBILITY STUDY)
The department is requesting $11,330,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for Year 1 of Phase 1 which represents the initial phase of a comprehensive enterprise effort to modernize the department's aging mainframe applications that support student data collection, education funding calculations, financial reporting, transcript exchange, assessment reporting, school identification, and capital outlay management. A feasibility study was completed in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and concluded that these systems face increasing operational, cybersecurity, workforce, and sustainability risks due to their dependence on legacy COBOL technologies and a shrinking pool of specialized technical resources. The study identified this modernization initiative to take six years, be completed in three phases with two years per phase, and cost $151,202,000. This request addresses Year 1 of Phase 1.

The requested funds will support the following Major Activities in Year 1:

Program Management Office (PMO) Establishment
A significant portion of Year 1 funding supports creation of the governance and management structure required to oversee a multi-year modernization effort. Activities include:

- Establishment of the PMO.
- Development of program governance and oversight structures.
- Procurement of implementation vendors and Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) services.
- Creation of integrated project schedules, risk registers, and communication plans.
- Development of organizational change management and training plans.
- Creation of business process documentation and modernization roadmaps.

Legacy System Discovery and Documentation
Funding supports detailed analysis and documentation of existing applications, including:

- COBOL and DB2 code inventory.
- Business rule extraction.
- Dependency mapping.
- Data architecture documentation.
- Knowledge transfer activities with existing technical staff before retirement or attrition occur.

Cloud Infrastructure Preparation
Year 1 funding establishes the modern technology environment required for future migrations, including:

- Secure cloud platform provisioning.
- Network architecture development.
- Cybersecurity controls compliant with Chapter 60GG-2, F.A.C.
- Identity management and authentication services.
- Development and testing environments.

Data Migration and Integration Planning
Funding supports:
- Data conversion planning.
- Database assessment and mapping.
- Integration architecture design.
- API strategy development.
- Legacy interface analysis and replacement planning.

The requested funds will also support the following Modernization Deliverables in Year 1:

Master School Identification (MSID) Modernization
The modernization of MSID will:
- Replace ColdFusion and mainframe components with cloud-native architecture.
- Resolve current district numbering limitations.
- Implement automated approval workflows.
- Provide API-based integration for dependent applications.
- Eliminate manual email-driven school identifier processes.

Assessment Score Repository Platform (ASRP) Modernization
ASRP modernization will:
- Consolidate multiple assessment databases.
- Automate score ingestion from ACT, SAT, and CLT providers.
- Improve auditability and data security.
- Eliminate manual score file processing.
- Support future assessment expansions through configurable integrations.

Public Education and Capital Outlay (PECO) Modernization
PECO modernization will:
- Replace the legacy CICS application with a commercial off-the-shelf solution.
- Eliminate paper- and spreadsheet-driven workflows.
- Improve project tracking and transparency reporting.
- Provide modern workflow automation and document management capabilities.

Expected Outcomes from the Year 1 Investment:
The first year of funding establishes the critical foundation needed for the entire modernization effort by:
- Launching the enterprise modernization program.
- Reducing risk associated with aging mainframe infrastructure.
- Preserving institutional knowledge before key staff retire.
- Establishing cloud-based architecture standards.
- Creating reusable integration and security frameworks.
- Beginning retirement of several legacy applications.
- Positioning the department for modernization of larger systems such as FEFP and the K-12 Student Database in subsequent years.

FL WINS SYSTEM INTEGRATION

The department is requesting $942,250 in recurring General Revenue appropriation to support the operations and maintenance of system integrations for the Division Early Learning, the Division of Blind Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation with the Florida Workforce Integrated Networking Systems (FL WINS) Solution managed by the Department of Commerce. This funding would be used to ensure both operational integrity, enhanced citizen access through seamless integration and adequate completion of "an automated consumer first workforce system that improves coordination among required one-stop partners", as referenced in Chapter 2021-164, Laws of Florida, House Bill 1507.

FL WINS is a multi-agency initiative and the amount requested will be used for operations and maintenance including staff augmentation to build a team of developers, business analysts, and testers. Also, funding will provide for additional support and services of the [In-Scope System] system vendor and any additional licensing or software to support the integration. A staff augmentation team, including developers, a project manager, and trainers, is needed to collaborate with the FL WINS vendor partners and maintain integration between the Enhanced Field System – Modification (EFS-Mod), the Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education

(AWARE) systems and the FL WINS Customer Portal, and Data Integration Solution.

The FL WINS Program is an innovative, consumer-first workforce development system that seeks to provide Floridians with improved access to workforce programs and services through interoperable systems and shared integrated data. The strategic alignment and coordination of education and workforce initiatives include an online opportunity portal, allowing access to available state, federal, and local services, resources, and tools. This will provide Floridians with broader access to education and training options, labor market information, career planning tools, workforce training, and education support.

SUNSHINE STATE DEBATE

The department is requesting $115,000 in recurring General Revenue to maintain and expand a debate initiative for Florida College System (FCS) students known as the Sunshine State Debate. The requested funds would allow for three events to be held every year: two regional debates held in the Fall semester and a system-wide event, to be held in the spring on President's Day. The cost for the two regional events is expected to be $30,000 each and the cost for the system-wide debate is $55,000, which is based on the cost of the first debate.

The first FCS system-wide debate, dubbed the Sunshine State Debate, was held on February 16th, 2026, President's Day. It was hosted by Tallahassee State College and the final rounds of the debate occurred in Florida's Historic Capitol. This debate was funded by donations through the Florida College System Foundation in partnership with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Foundation and St. Petersburg College's Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions. Due to limitations in budget, the number of participants was limited to a maximum of four per college, resulting in 56 total student participants plus an additional 40 coaches and judges. Based on feedback from participating coaches and students the two regional debates are also being requested. The requested recurring funds would serve to continue these annual events, and in partnership with other funders, create additional regional debates to expand the number of opportunities available to college students.
Florida has a robust record of supporting and promoting speech and debate in high school. The legislature has appropriated funds the last few years for high school speech and debate initiatives. Additionally, current Florida Statutes encourage high school speech and debate (section 1003.4282, F.S.), allow participation in speech and debate to be counted towards the credit needed to graduate high school (section 1003.44, F.S.) and allow for participation in the Florida Debate Initiative to count toward the service work requirements for Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

However, when a student begins college, this support drops off precipitously. Students do not earn college credit for speech and debate and there is no state funding for postsecondary debate programs. Because of this, most FCS institutions do not have speech and debate programs or even clubs. An attempt to remedy this deficiency is already underway. This past year the first debate was organized for the whole Florida College System, and 21 of the 28 colleges participated in this debate. Maintaining and expanding these events would encourage our colleges to invest in establishing their own debate programs, giving many of our college students the opportunity to cultivate and grow the seeds of speech and debate planted in high school.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide expertise in a variety of areas that is more advantageous for the department to acquire from the private sector.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The department's current cost to continue budget (recurring base) for Contracted Services is provided to carry out the following primary functions and responsibilities.

Student Loan Operating Services ($14 million, 28% of budget)
Provides funds for the collection and recovery services of defaulted student loans to perform activities designed to prevent a default by a borrower, as well as administrative and programmatic expenses.

Safe Schools Initiatives ($7.8 million, 15% of budget)
- Alyssa's Alert / Panic Button - $6,400,000
- Alyssa's Alert / Panic Button Centralization $450,000
- Active Shooter Training - $100,000
- School Safety Training - $815,000

Legal Services to Address Legal Challenges ($5 million, 10% of budget)
Provides funds to address legal challenges made against the department and the state related to education issues.

Collaborate, Plan, Align, Learn, Motivate, Share (CPALMS) ($4.9 million, 10% of budget)
Provides funds for the maintenance of this online tool which allows access to 13,000 freely available, high-quality instructional and educational materials for teachers, parents, and students to use as well as teachers to plan their instruction, collaborate, and engage in online professional development courses.

Career Planning and Work Based Learning ($4 million, 8% of budget)
Provides funds for a career readiness system that walks students through a process of career exploration, planning, and preparation. The system will guide the student through a process of plan formation leading towards career success, including selecting and preparing for postsecondary training options, apprenticeship, technical college, Florida College System institution, State University System institution, or national service.

Federal Grant Award Administration ($3.1 million, 6% of budget)
Provides federal budget authority to support the operating costs associated with implementing federal grant awards.

School Choice Initiatives - ($1.7 million, 3% of budget)
- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program - $250,000
- Family Empowerment Scholarship Programs - $150,000
- Florida Charter School Review Commission - $455,000
- School Choice Portal - $845,250

Educator Certification System ($1.4 million, 3% of budget)
Provides funds to maintain and operate the Educator Certification System and operating funds needed to review and process professional practices complaints against educators.

Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP) - Workforce Dashboard ($1 million, 2% of budget)
Provides funds to carry out the requirements of section 1008.40, F.S., to develop a workforce development metrics dashboard that measures the state's investments in workforce development. The dashboard is referred to as the Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP). The dashboard uses statistically rigorous methodologies to estimate, assess, and isolate the impact of programs on participant outcomes. The workforce development metrics dashboard uses existing available data and resources that are currently collected and accessible to state agencies.

Department-wide Technology Purchases ($1 million, 2% of budget)
Provides funds to obtain department-wide technology needs such as software renewals and maintenance.

Grants System ($.5 million, 1% of budget)
Provides a reliable and consistent system to process grant applications from entities receiving state and/or federal funds and facilitates receiving and processing applications.

Teacher Classroom Supply ($.5 million, 1% of budget)
Provides an online marketplace for teachers to make eligible purchases while easing the administrative burden for schools and districts with a mobile-friendly interface that allows teachers to shop conveniently.

Funds for Various Day to Day Operations ($5.6 million, 10.8% of budget)
Provides funds for administrative costs needed to carry out day to day activities for programs such as: Public Education and Capital Outlay (PECO), Commission for Independent Education, General Educational Development (GED), Grants Management, equipment maintenance, customer service, and security for the Turlington Building.

The following items are funded in Fiscal Year 2026-27 as Back of the Bill Appropriations but are not part of the cost to continue budget or as a request for nonrecurring.

Development of New Advanced Courses - $1,105,300
Provides funds for the development of core courses identified by the Articulation Coordinating Committee for general education.

School Choice Portal - $1,800,000
Provides funds for the My Florida Schools - School Choice Online Portal platform that allows all Florida K-12 schools to list their programs online. Families can use My Florida Schools to search and discover various school options available in their area, including public and charter schools, virtual school options, private school options including schools with a military focus, religious or secular programs, and day schools.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $58,589,912
- 2024-25 - $46,616,912
- 2023-24 - $72,965,012

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Item 141 - State Board of Education - Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) System Replacement

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	483,189	0	483,189	483,189	483,189	0	0	0.00%
Total	0	483,189	0	483,189	483,189	483,189	0	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

$483,189 is requested to be restored as nonrecurring in General Revenue for PALM-FLAIR System Replacement.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406, Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

RESTORATION OF NONRECURRING

The department is requesting the restoration of $483,189 as nonrecurring General Revenue to transition from the state's current accounting system (FLAIR) to the new Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) System. The requested funds will ensure that the department has all the necessary systems ready for the PALM implementation during the January 2027 go live date. The next major implementation will be the transition of financials, payroll, and the data warehouse. The funds will be used by staff in the Division of Technology and Innovation (DTI).

The requested restoration of $483,189 will be used to contract for the following purposes:

- $181,440 - DTI - Business Analyst
- $301,749 - DTI - Application Developers (2)

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Finance and Accounting (ACT 0100)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 215.94(2), F.S.

PURPOSE:

Provides funds to replace the state's current accounting and cash management systems.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) System Replacement category provides funds to agencies to transition the state's current accounting and cash management systems (CMS) to the new Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) System. PALM will provide an integrated, enterprise financial management solution that will allow the state to organize, define, and standardize its financial management processes.

The PALM project is a multi-year endeavor that began in 2014 with the Department of Financial Services establishing a Project Team. In July 2018, a contract was executed to design, build, and implement Florida PALM. The first implementation, CMS, went live in July 2021 with cash management functionality.

The next major implementation will be the transition of financials, payroll, and the data warehouse which will go live in January 2027. The requested funds will be used to continue the department's efforts to transition to PALM. Funding was provided in Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27 for this initiative.

PALM's goals include:

- Reducing the state's risk exposure by harnessing modern financial management technology built on the premises of scalability, flexibility, and maintainability.
- Improving state and agency specific decision making by capturing a consistent and an expandable set of data.
- Improving the State's financial management capabilities to enable more accurate oversight of budget and cash demands today and in the future.
- Increasing internal controls by enabling standardization and automation of business processes within and between the Department of Financial Services and agencies.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $850,000
- 2024-25 - $725,000
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 142 - State Board of Education - Cloud Computing Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	5,500,000	0	1,000,000	6,500,000	5,500,000	0	5,500,000	1,000,000	18.18%
Total	5,500,000	0	1,000,000	6,500,000	5,500,000	0	5,500,000	1,000,000	18.18%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$5,500,000 is requested to continue funding cloud computing services within the State Board of Education for the following Safe Schools Threat Management Initiatives:

- $4,000,000 - Statewide Information Sharing System (Threat Management Portal)
- $1,500,000 - School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System (SESIR)

ENHANCEMENT

$1,000,000 is requested in recurring General Revenue for the Statewide Information Sharing System (Threat Management Portal)

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Tim Hay (850) 245-5171; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

ENHANCEMENT

The department is requesting $1,000,000 in recurring General Revenue to support the Florida Safety and Threat Management Portal (FSTMP), a statutorily required, cloud-based tool designed to assist school officials in conducting, managing, and sharing threat assessments for public K - 12 students across the state.

The request is for targeted system enhancements to improve user functionality, data reporting, and overall system performance. These improvements include: updating the electronic threat management workflow to match changes made to the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument, such as extensions to the case timelines, the addition or removal of certain workflow form questions, and updates to verbiage; the implementation of dropdown fields where applicable; improved student demographic visibility while filling out forms within the workflow; improved reporting functionality for case information and monthly meeting minutes; workflow case closure option for students transferring out of the public school system; modular workflow case timelines that follow district calendars; improved printing functionality for one or all documents of a case; and automatically attaching Student Support Management Plans (SSMPs) to the current month's meeting minutes templates.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:
Safe Schools Initiatives (ACT3300)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:
Sections 1003.25(2)(a) and 1006.07, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To provide a cloud-based secure statewide information sharing system for threat management.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Although the department currently has several systems located in the cloud, the following two are currently the only ones appropriated from this particular line item.

School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System (SESIR)
A statewide portal for school districts to submit SESIR data. The system currently collects incident data from public and public charter schools on 26 incident categories, most of which are crimes, but also include disruptive behaviors and disciplinary offenses that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus school-sponsored events, during any 24-hour period, 365 days per year. Incidents are reported by schools to the districts which, in turn, provide the data to the department.

Statewide Information Sharing System (**Threat Management Portal)**
A portal that is a Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument for use by each school district, school, and charter school. The portal facilitates the electronic threat assessment reporting and documentation as required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument to evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or students and to coordinate intervention and services for such students.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $6,500,000
- 2024-25 - $6,500,000
- 2023-24 - $15,000,000

Item 143 - State Board of Education - Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	30,175	0	0	30,175	30,175	0	30,175	0	0.00%
Admin TF	85,882	0	0	85,882	85,882	0	85,882	0	0.00%
Total	116,057	0	0	116,057	116,057	0	116,057	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$116,057 is requested to maintain the current level of office productivity software licenses, related security and cloud-based services equivalent to the services previously provided through the Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency category within the Department of Management Services.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Network Operations (ACT 0340)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 282.318, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Funds are provided to maintain the current level of office productivity software licenses, related security, and cloud-based services equivalent to the services previously provided through the Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency category within the Department of Management Services (DMS).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Following Governor Ron DeSantis’ call to modernize state government, the Florida Legislature created the Florida Digital Service (FLDS) in 2020 to develop and implement the state’s enterprise-wide cybersecurity, data interoperability, and cloud-first initiatives to support Florida's government and the constituents who access its critical services. Until FY 2025-26, FLDS leveraged the state's volume purchasing authority to deliver taxpayer savings in technology procurement and to improve agencies' cybersecurity posture and resiliency. In the 2025 Legislative Session, the legislature included appropriations to individual agencies to maintain the current level of services provided under the FLDS Enterprise Agreement and required agencies to transfer specific Microsoft licenses to the agency tenant.

All Microsoft licenses provided by FLDS to the agencies expired at the end of fiscal year 2024-25. Azure Sentinel, an Azure Log Analytics Workspace (LAW), was used by some agencies to provide additional security for some Microsoft environments. This LAW was previously housed in a subscription linked to the Florida Digital Service (FLDS) Enterprise Agreement, and the LAW itself was linked to the FLDS Enterprise Cluster for billing purposes. In fiscal year 2025-26, agencies were required to link the LAW to each agency's Microsoft environment and to transfer the subscription to the individual agency's Microsoft Enterprise Agreement.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $116,057
- 2024-25 - $0
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 144 - State Board of Education - Educational Facilities Research and Development Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Div Univ Fac Const TF	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%
Total	200,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$200,000 is requested to continue providing research, technical assistance and training to public school districts, state colleges and state universities related to planning, constructing, developing and operating educational facilities as needed.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Educational Facilities (ACT0535)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1013.03 and 1013.64, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provides research, technical assistance and training related to educational facilities to the education agencies. Additionally, research projects are undertaken to provide boards and their consultants with needed information relating to the planning, design, construction and operation of educational facilities as needed.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Office of Educational Facilities (OEF) provides technical assistance and training to public school districts, state colleges and state universities on a variety of facilities-related issues. To provide valuable technical assistance and training to the education agencies, and to keep abreast of the latest laws, rules and industry standards, technical assistance equipment and training programs are required to be updated periodically.

The funds are provided for these types of expenditures:

- Replacement of training modules that have become worn and outdated.
- Updates to the Florida Building Code Handbook for public educational facilities to stay current with the latest changes to the Florida Building Code.
- New equipment to enable the delivery of technical assistance, as well as address new environmental and safety issues encountered in today's schools.
- Training aides to teach the educational agencies' staff about new technologies and techniques used to maintain and keep educational facilities safe for students and personnel.
- New literature and training programs reflecting today's issues and requirements.
- Contracts with nationally recognized experts to teach district personnel about important facility issues.

Research projects provide boards and their consultants with needed information relating to the design, cost, construction and operations of educational facilities. Research projects are proposed by legislators, OEF, boards, consultants and other individuals involved in developing and operating educational facilities. Research is conducted on relevant issues affecting educational agencies' ability to fulfill their statutory obligation for providing safe, healthy and economically constructed and maintained educational facilities. Research projects completed in the past few years include:

- Florida Building Code Handbook
- Disaster and Crisis Management Guidelines
- Florida Safe School Design Guidelines
- Maintenance and Operations Administrative Guidelines for School Districts and Community Colleges
- Life Cycle Cost Guidelines documents

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $200,000
- 2024-25 - $200,000
- 2023-24 - $200,000

Item 145 - State Board of Education - Risk Management Insurance

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	290,888	0	0	290,888	290,888	0	290,888	0	0.00%
Admin TF	81,261	0	0	81,261	81,261	0	81,261	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	39,883	0	0	39,883	39,883	0	39,883	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	18,536	0	0	18,536	18,536	0	18,536	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	157,978	0	0	157,978	157,978	0	157,978	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	27,632	0	0	27,632	27,632	0	27,632	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	35,895	0	0	35,895	35,895	0	35,895	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	764	0	0	764	764	0	764	0	0.00%
Operating TF	2,291	0	0	2,291	2,291	0	2,291	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	2,827	0	0	2,827	2,827	0	2,827	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	66,827	0	0	66,827	66,827	0	66,827	0	0.00%
Total	724,782	0	0	724,782	724,782	0	724,782	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$724,782 is requested to continue funding coverage for Risk Management Insurance premiums for the State Board of Education.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapters 1000-1013, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provides business insurance to cover potential state liability for state workers and property.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These funds provide for Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Liability Insurance, Federal Civil Rights Insurance and Auto Liability Insurance premiums. Annual appropriation amounts are recommended by the state's Division of Risk Management.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $724,782
- 2024-25 - $449,266
- 2023-24 - $422,763

Item 146 - State Board of Education - Transfer to DMS - Human Resource Services/State Contract

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	122,252	0	712	122,964	122,252	0	122,252	712	0.58%
Admin TF	22,216	0	0	22,216	22,216	0	22,216	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	16,082	0	0	16,082	16,082	0	16,082	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	12,072	0	0	12,072	12,072	0	12,072	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	76,116	0	0	76,116	76,116	0	76,116	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	9,476	0	0	9,476	9,476	0	9,476	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	45,692	0	0	45,692	45,692	0	45,692	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	314	0	0	314	314	0	314	0	0.00%
Operating TF	2,966	0	0	2,966	2,966	0	2,966	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	1,849	0	0	1,849	1,849	0	1,849	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	27,370	0	0	27,370	27,370	0	27,370	0	0.00%
Total	336,405	0	712	337,117	336,405	0	336,405	712	0.21%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$336,405 is requested to continue funding the current level of human resource services provided by the Department of Management Services for the State Board of Education.

WORKLOAD

$712 is requested in recurring General Revenue for operating costs associated with two new FTE for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Lou Anne Standley (850) 245-1983

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $712 in recurring General Revenue and two FTE to support critical operations necessary for compliance and efficient reporting for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive (CAP) Grant Program. In addition to compliance and reporting functions of the positions, funding will assist with implementation and programmatic oversight of the statutorily required programs ensuring the efficient delivery of services to the citizens of Florida.

The two additional FTE will be Program Specialist IV-DOE, class code 4118, with a salary of $50,585 each. This is part of an overall request of $225,712, of which $11,560 is nonrecurring. The overall request is below:

FTE	2.0
Salaries and Benefits	$172,174 (Salary Rate $101,170)
Expenses	$ 25,224 ($11,560 nonrecurring)
Human Resources	$ 712
Education Technology and Information Systems	$ 27,602
Total request	$225,712

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

All Activities

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Chapters 1000 – 1013, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide human resource management services for the department.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

These costs are associated with the administrative functions provided by the Department of Management Services (PeopleFirst) to manage agency human resources.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $336,405
- 2024-25 - $337,716
- 2023-24 - $342,359

Item 147 - State Board of Education - Education Technology and Information Services

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	6,328,506	0	27,602	6,356,108	6,328,506	0	6,328,506	27,602	0.44%
Admin TF	1,812,778	0	0	1,812,778	1,812,778	0	1,812,778	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	1,182,628	0	0	1,182,628	1,182,628	0	1,182,628	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	359,082	0	0	359,082	359,082	0	359,082	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	4,020,431	0	0	4,020,431	4,020,431	0	4,020,431	0	0.00%
Institute Assess TF	367,808	0	0	367,808	367,808	0	367,808	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	1,304,995	0	0	1,304,995	1,304,995	0	1,304,995	0	0.00%
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness TF	31,540	0	0	31,540	31,540	0	31,540	0	0.00%
Operating TF	101,291	0	0	101,291	101,291	0	101,291	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	74,885	0	0	74,885	74,885	0	74,885	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	1,330,164	0	0	1,330,164	1,330,164	0	1,330,164	0	0.00%
Total	16,914,108	0	27,602	16,941,710	16,914,108	0	16,914,108	27,602	0.16%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$16,914,108 is requested to continue the current level of services to meet the department's critical technology needs and programs related to Information Technology (IT) services, Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS), Education Data Warehouse (EDW) and Department-wide Technology Purchases.

WORKLOAD

$27,602 is requested in recurring General Revenue for operating costs associated with two new FTE for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

WORKLOAD

The department is requesting an increase of $27,602 in recurring General Revenue and two FTE to support critical operations necessary for compliance and efficient reporting for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive (CAP) Grant Program. In addition to compliance and reporting functions of the positions, funding will assist with implementation and programmatic oversight of the statutorily required programs ensuring the efficient delivery of services to the citizens of Florida.

The two additional FTE will be Program Specialist IV-DOE, class code 4118, with a salary of $50,585 each. This is part of an overall request of $225,712, of which $11,560 is nonrecurring. The overall request is below:

FTE	2.0
Salaries and Benefits	$172,174 (Salary Rate $101,170)
Expenses	$ 25,224 ($11,560 nonrecurring)
Human Resources	$ 712
Education Technology and Information Systems	$ 27,602
Total request	$225,712

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Education Data Warehouse
Information Technology – Application Development/Support (ACT0320)

Primary Data Center Services - Northwest Regional Data Center
Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)
Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

Technology and Information Services
Information Technology – Administrative Services (ACT0310)
Information Technology – Application Development/Support (ACT0320)
Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)
Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)
Information Technology - Desktop Support (ACT0350)

Department-Wide Technology Purchases
Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)
Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)
Information Technology - Desktop Support (ACT0350)
Information Technology – Asset Acquisition (ACT0370)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Education Data Warehouse
Sections 1001.02(2)(s), 1001.03(9), 1001.11(4) and 1008.385, Florida Statutes

Technology and Information Services and Department-Wide Technology Purchases
Section 216.272, Florida Statutes

Northwest Regional Data Center/State Data Center
Sections 1004.649 and 282.201 Florida Statutes

Disaster Recovery
Section 282.318, Florida Statutes

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) - State
Section 1008.385, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

- Provide the technological resources needed to carry out the mission and goals of the Department of Education.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Technology services used by the department/customer are acquired from both internal and external service providers. Some providers are directly funded, while others charge for their services, as required. Below is a description of the technology and information services acquired by the department.

TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENTAL STAFF
These services are provided to employees and specific program areas for which the department/customer is charged in accordance with section 216.272, F.S..These services are provided by the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS).

District Support Services:
Provides vision and leadership for developing and implementing information technology initiatives that support the strategic initiatives of the department. Provides overall management of the department's technology and information systems and services related to district data and technology needs.

Infrastructure and Support Services (Direct and Indirect Support):
Provides direct services that interface with and support technology end users. End users utilize a help desk to receive desktop and laptop hardware and software support, as well as batch and production report assistance. Additionally, end users have access to a broad range of media web conferencing services. Provides indirect services that support and maintain the internal network infrastructure necessary for internal and external connectivity for the end users, the centralized telephone system, database administration, server administration, disaster recovery processes and access management.

Enterprise Strategic Project Delivery & Data Management:
Provides industry-standard project management and governance services for information technology (IT) capital projects, IT projects with high visibility and IT projects with high risk due to a broad impact. Also provides data governance and classification strategies for department data. These services are provided to ensure technology solutions are delivered on time, within budget, meet or exceed the expectations as defined by the department and the department remains in compliance with Florida Statutes and Division of State Technology administrative rules.

Applications Development & Support:
Provides development and maintenance of software products to support the business of the department, including legacy mainframe applications, web applications, the Intranet and Internet web sites. The following is a representative list of the major applications:

- Bright Futures Scholarship Program
- Charter School Accountability
- Educational Facilities Information System (EFIS)
- FASTER Transcript Transmittal System
- Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP)
- Teacher Certification System (Versa)
- Florida Grants System (FLAGS)
- General Education Development (GED) System
- K-12 Public Schools Finance System
- K-12 Public Schools Student and Staff System
- Workforce Apprenticeship
- School Bus Inventory

- School Grades
- Individual Educational Plan (IEP)
- Florida School Choice Programs
- Statewide Course Numbering System

DEPARTMENT- WIDE TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES

Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) makes technology purchases that are needed on a department-wide scale. These purchases are charged back to the department/customer as required in section 216.272, F.S..The department-wide purchases include, but are not limited to, those related to hardware maintenance, software license renewals, software maintenance, network equipment maintenance, media services, data center services, data governance and information security tools and services, and the department's Continuity of Operations Program (including disaster recovery services).

EDUCATION DATA WAREHOUSE

The Education Data Warehouse (EDW) was designed and developed to provide an accessible means to retrieve information from the department's prodigious data resources longitudinally. The Division of Early Learning (DEL) Data Warehouse, the K-12 student and staff data collection and the Florida College System (FCS) data collection system (CCTMIS) were designed to collect and edit data required to administer Florida's education programs. This includes state and federally mandated reporting requirements. State and federal funding are also administered through all of these data systems. The EDW repository uses state-of-the-art technology that is leveraged to improve the processing environments for the DEL, K-12, and FCS data systems to better integrate them into the enterprise vision of the department.

STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM (SLDS)

In 2003, the department launched the nation's first integrated statewide longitudinal education data system. In this context, "integrated" means that the system contains comprehensive data that spans education sectors ranging from pre-kindergarten through public schools, postsecondary education and into workforce experiences over relatively long periods of time. The system includes data used by early learning providers, school districts, colleges, workforce development programs and universities. Also included is state-level data for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten through grade 12 reporting, the Florida College System, the Florida Education Training Placement Information Program, Teacher Certification and related systems, the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the state university system, student transcripts, course code directories, educational facilities, and finance systems.

EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Funds are used to carry out the requirements of section 1008.31(3), F.S., which instructs the department to provide data required to implement education performance accountability and measures in state and federal law. The statute also instructs the Commissioner to initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality and timeliness and determine standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and measure improvements.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $16,872,684
- 2024-25 - $16,661,411
- 2023-24 - $16,451,804

Item 148 - State Board of Education - Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC)

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	2,443,728	0	0	2,443,728	2,443,728	0	2,443,728	0	0.00%
Admin TF	106,140	0	0	106,140	106,140	0	106,140	0	0.00%
Ed Certif TF	92,106	0	0	92,106	92,106	0	92,106	0	0.00%
Div Univ Fac Const TF	12,227	0	0	12,227	12,227	0	12,227	0	0.00%
Federal Grants TF	429,212	0	0	429,212	429,212	0	429,212	0	0.00%
Student Loan Oper TF	782,203	0	0	782,203	782,203	0	782,203	0	0.00%
Teacher Cert Exam TF	39,999	0	0	39,999	39,999	0	39,999	0	0.00%
Working Capital TF	5,602,912	0	0	5,602,912	5,602,912	0	5,602,912	0	0.00%
Total	9,508,527	0	0	9,508,527	9,508,527	0	9,508,527	0	0.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$9,508,527 is requested to continue funding for data center and computer facilities services provided by the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC).

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Andre Smith (850) 245-9101

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

Information Technology - Computer Operations (ACT0330)
Information Technology - Network Operations (ACT0340)

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 282.201, 282.318, 1004.649 and 1008.385, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide funds for a statutorily designated data center and computer facility services to the department through a Primary Data Center.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This category provides funds to pay Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) for three main services/functions: Primary Data Center, Mainframe Environment, and Open Systems Environment.

Primary Data Center -
The NWRDC is the department's designated Primary Data Center and provides data center and limited contract management services for the mainframe and server environments. The NWRDC is required to charge the department/customer for the services provided, in accordance with section 215.422, Florida Statutes.

Mainframe Environment –
The NWRDC mainframe environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- DB2 database management system and its maintenance and upgrades
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Online documentation for the operating system, utility software and DB2 database management system
- Coordination of mainframe disaster recovery exercises
- Support coordination for resolving questions with vendors when problems occur

Mainframe legacy systems were designed and programmed to run on an IBM mainframe. The mainframe environment is used for test, development and production of batch and online mainframe applications. The applications hosted at NWRDC are typically large applications that perform better on a mainframe.

The following is a list of the major mainframe applications and processes hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the State Board of Education and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- Comptroller/Accounting processes
- Course Data Survey, Student, Staff and Teacher Surveys
- FASTER Electronic Transcript System (and its interstate transcript SPEEDE/ExPRESS interface)
- Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Funding and Financial Tracking
- Master School ID System
- Statewide College Entrance Assessments Test Score Repository (ACT/SAT/CLT)
- Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) and Educational Facilities Processing
- Statewide Staff, Student and Finance databases
- Workforce Development Information System

Open Systems Environment -
The NWRDC has responsibility of managing of the department's server environment. Current department development efforts have focused on browser-based technologies.

The NWRDC Open Systems Environment provides the following services:

- Central Processing Units (CPUs)
- Database management for Oracle database servers, maintenance and upgrades (located at SSRC)
- Operating system and software utilities, and related maintenance and upgrades
- Disaster recovery services

The following is a list of web applications hosted at the NWRDC that are used by the State Board of Education and paid from this line item in whole or part:

- ARTS Budget Tracking System - LBR Greenbook
- Bright Futures and other State of Florida Scholarship Eligibility and Disbursement Systems
- Civil Rights Data Collection
- Commission for Independent Education Database
- PreK-20 Education Data Warehouse
- Educational Facilities Information System
- Exceptional Student Systems (PEER, IDEA, Restraint Seclusion, etc.)
- Florida Grants System (FLAGS)
- Instructional Materials

- Migrant Student Information System (MSIX)
- Office of School Safety Systems (Bullying Compliance, etc.)
- Public Schools Transportation-Related Systems
- School Choice and Charter School systems
- Statewide Course Numbering System
- Student Loan Forgiveness Programs
- Teacher Certification System (VERSA, Teacher Certification Fee Waiver, FileNet, etc.)

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $10,520,811
- 2024-25 - $9,777,250
- 2023-24 - $10,512,719

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Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO)

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Fixed Capital Outlay

Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Allocation
PECO - Distribution Based on August 3, 2026 Revenue Estimating Conference
[Cash amount: $1,237,400,000 Bond Proceeds: $0]

PECO Priorities		K-12	FCS		SUS	Total 2027-28 Allocation
	Off-The-Top Allocations					
I	Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind - Maintenance					$ 2,911,829
I	Division of Blind Services					$ 795,000
I	Public Broadcasting					$ 7,137,558
	Total Off-The-Top Allocations					**$ 10,844,387**
	Distributions to Public Schools, Colleges & Universities	**K-12**	**FCS**		**SUS**	
I	Amount for Maintenance/Repair/Renovation/Remodeling	$ -	$ 167,719,215		$ 133,620,968	$ 301,340,183
I	Amount for Charter School Capital Outlay	$ 274,107,224				$ 274,107,224
II	Amount for Local Millage Equivalent Funding for University Developmental Research Schools	$ 12,247,749				$ 12,247,749
II	Special Facility Construction Account Projects	$ 144,166,047				$ 144,166,047
I	Amount for First Year of Three-Year Project Priority Lists	$ -	$ 62,995,896	$ 52,095,051	$ 431,698,514	$ 494,694,410
	Total PECO	**$ 430,521,020**	**$ 230,715,111**		**$ 565,319,482**	**$ 1,237,400,000**
	Percent of PECO Appropriation by Division: (Net of Off-The-Top Allocations)	**35.10%**	**18.81%**		**46.09%**	

Other Capital Outlay Needs

Educational Facilities Security Grant	$ 42,000,000
Jewish Day Schools Security Grant	$ 5,000,000
State University System - Statewide Hardening of Facilities' Security for Emergencies	$ 20,000,000
State University System Capital Improvement Fee Projects	$ 59,571,000
Special Facility Construction Account Projects Additional Amount	$ 115,750,191
Public Education Capital Outlay - Debt Service	$ 434,118,514
Capital Outlay & Debt Service - Debt Service	$ 7,041,118
State University System Capital Improvement Fee Trust Fund - Debt Service	$ 6,957,686
Education Facilities - Debt Service	$ 6,332,490
Class Size Reduction Lottery Capital Outlay Program - Debt Service	$ 40,701,003
Grant & Aid Distribution (Capital Outlay and Debt Service Program)	$ 146,024,066
Total Other Capital Outlay Needs	**$ 883,496,068**
Total 2027-28 Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request	**$ 2,120,896,068**

Overview of the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Distribution

Amount for K-12 Programs		
• Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, and Remodeling	$	-
• Charter School Maintenance, Repair, Renovation and Remodeling	$	274,107,224
• Special Facility Construction Account Projects	$	144,166,047
• Survey Recommended/Local Millage Equivalent for University Developmental Research Schools and Charter Schools	$	12,247,749
K-12 Subtotal	***$***	***430,521,020***
Allocable Amount for the Florida College System		
• Maintenance, Repair, Renovation and Remodeling	$	167,719,215
• Three-Year Project Priority List	$	62,995,896
Florida College System Subtotal	***$***	***230,715,111***
Allocable Amount for the State University System		
• Maintenance, Repair, Renovation and Remodeling	$	133,620,968
• Three-Year Project Priority List	$	431,698,514
State University System Subtotal	***$***	***565,319,482***
Off-the-Top Allocations		
• Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind	$	2,911,829
• Division of Blind Services	$	795,000
• Public Broadcasting Projects	$	7,137,558
Off-the-Top Subtotal	***$***	***10,844,387***
Total Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Request	**$**	**1,237,400,000**

Summary of Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Appropriations
(Fiscal Years 2018-19 through 2027-28)

Fiscal Year	K-12 Appropriations	Florida College System Appropriations	State University System Appropriations	Off the Top Appropriations[1]	Total Appropriations[2]
2018-19	$ 368,348,253	$ 78,535,725	$ 159,783,259	$ 5,996,480	$ 612,663,717
2019-20	$ 247,729,673	$ 11,279,721	$ 105,245,000	$ 6,145,606	$ 370,400,000
2020-21	$ 261,942,895	$ 10,650,533	$ 92,700,352	$ 10,344,650	$ 375,638,430
2021-22	$ 244,705,640	$ 26,049,234	$ 37,833,473	$ 9,037,263	$ 317,625,610
2022-23	$ 254,383,472	$ 8,500,000	$ 115,200,000	$ 8,500,000	$ 386,583,472
2023-24	$ 412,107,413	$ 223,797,462	$ 622,019,394	$ 5,147,878	$ 1,263,072,147
2024-25	$ 452,836,768	$ 189,438,962	$ 366,959,399	$ 18,870,854	$ 1,028,105,983
2025-26	$ 452,410,158	$ 108,565,327	$ 421,827,378	$ 15,181,311	$ 997,984,174
2026-27	$ 494,187,722	$ 200,994,911	$ 463,080,666	$ 12,702,154	$ 1,170,965,453
2027-28	$ 430,521,020	$ 230,715,111	$ 565,319,482	$ 10,844,387	$ 1,237,400,000
Totals	**$ 3,619,173,014**	**$ 1,088,526,986**	**$ 2,949,968,403**	**$ 102,770,583**	**$ 7,760,438,986**

[1] Includes amounts for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Division of Blind Services and Public Broadcasting Stations.
[2] Analysis excludes appropriations for debt service; includes General Revenue supplements and appropriations.

Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Revenue Estimates
Maximum Possible PECO Trust Fund Appropriation
(Based Upon the August 3, 2026 Revenue Estimating Conference)

No Bonding
(In millions)

Fiscal Year	Bonded Projects	Non-Bonded Projects	Total
2027-28	$ -	$ 1,237.4	$ 1,237.4
2028-29	$ -	$ 1,148.4	$ 1,148.4
2029-30	$ -	$ 1,154.2	$ 1,154.2
2030-31	$ -	$ 1,167.9	$ 1,167.9
2031-32	$ -	$ 1,183.4	$ 1,183.4
2032-33	$ -	$ 1,216.3	$ 1,216.3
2033-34	$ -	$ 1,265.4	$ 1,265.4

With Bonding
(In millions)

Fiscal Year	Bonded Projects	Non-Bonded Projects	Total
2027-28	$ 14,195.5	$ 633.4	$ 14,828.9
2028-29	$ 403.1	$ 494.1	$ 897.2
2029-30	$ 323.4	$ 326.3	$ 649.7
2030-31	$ 350.3	$ 203.4	$ 553.7
2031-32	$ 271.3	$ 187.8	$ 459.1

Item 14 - Fixed Capital Outlay - SUS Capital Improvement Fee Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
CITF	0	0	59,571,000	59,571,000	53,789,000	53,789,000	0	5,782,000	10.75%
Total	0	0	59,571,000	59,571,000	53,789,000	53,789,000	0	5,782,000	10.75%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$59,571,000 is requested in the Capital Improvement Trust Fund as part of the Board of Governors' fixed capital outlay legislative budget request for construction projects at state universities.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Kevin Pichard (850) 245-0059

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Board of Governors met on September 2, 2026, and approved $59,571,000 for construction projects at state universities.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1010.86, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To construct or renovate student-selected facilities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Capital Improvement Fee is a self-generating source of revenue. It is an existing user fee charged to students for capital improvements. Proceeds from the fee are used to construct or renovate student-selected facilities such as student unions, wellness centers, student advising centers, recreational opportunities, etc. Fee revenues are collected by the universities and remitted to the state in order to satisfy annual debt service requirements. The fee may only be used for university facilities recommended by students, the university boards of trustees and the Board of Governors when it is appropriated by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $50,384,000
- 2024-25 - $50,546,000
- 2023-24 - $44,022,800

Item 15 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, and Remodeling

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	575,447,407	575,447,407	260,235,971	260,235,971	0	315,211,436	121.13%
Total	0	0	575,447,407	575,447,407	260,235,971	260,235,971	0	315,211,436	121.13%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

$575,447,407 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for the remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair and site improvements of educational facilities. Allocations will be made to state colleges, universities and charter schools as follows:

- $167,719,215 - Florida College System
- $133,620,968 - State University System
- $274,107,224 - Charter Schools

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

$575,447,407 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for the remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair and site improvements of educational facilities. Allocations will be made to public schools, state colleges, universities and charter schools as follows:

- $167,719,215 - Florida College System
- $133,620,968 - State University System
- $274,107,224 - Charter Schools

PECO funding is based on estimated available revenues. Allocations to state colleges and universities are determined by a statutory formula that considers building age and value. Disbursements of cash occur monthly to over 100 K-20 education agencies for maintenance, repair, renovation and remodeling projects. Approximately 686 eligible charter schools received a monthly distribution during Fiscal Year 2025-26 for capital outlay purposes.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1013.62 and 1013.64(1), Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To assist education agencies with remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair and site improvement projects; to expand or upgrade current educational plants; to prolong the useful life of the facilities; and to assist eligible charter schools in providing educational facilities to enhance the learning experience of their students.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to section 1013.62, Florida Statutes, funds for remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repairs and site improvements for existing satisfactory facilities are to be given priority consideration by the Legislature for appropriations allocated to the education sectors from the total amount of the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) revenues. Funds appropriated from the PECO revenues for these purposes are to be used for projects that will expand or upgrade current educational plants to prolong the useful life of the plant. Additionally, at least one-tenth of an agency's allocation of these funds is to be spent to correct unsafe, unhealthy or unsanitary conditions in its educational facilities. Pursuant to section 1013.62(7), Florida Statutes, the annual Legislative Budget Request of the Department of Education includes a request for capital outlay funding for charter schools.

Eligible charter schools must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have been in operation for two or more years;
- The governing board operates both charter and conversion charter schools and has been located in Florida for two or more years;
- Be part of an expanded feeder chain of another currently eligible charter school located in the same district;
- Be accredited by a regional accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education rule; or
- Serve students in facilities that are provided by a business partner for a charter school-in-the-workplace pursuant to section 1002.33(15)(b), Florida Statutes.
- Be operated by a hope operator pursuant to section 1002.333, Florida Statutes.

In addition, they must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have an annual audit that does not reveal any of the financial emergency conditions provided in section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, for the most recent fiscal year for which such audit results are available;
- Have not earned two consecutive grades of "F", three consecutive grades below a "C", or two consecutive school improvement ratings of "Unsatisfactory".
- Have received final approval from its sponsor pursuant to section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, for operation during that year.
- Serve students in facilities that are not provided by the charter school's sponsor.
- Attesting in writing to the department that if the charter school is nonrenewed or terminated, any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property purchased with public funds shall revert pursuant to section 1013.62(5) F.S.
- Is not created by the conversion of a public school and operates in facilities provided by the charter school's sponsor for a nominal fee, or at no charge, or if it is directly or indirectly operated by the school district.
- Is not a developmental research (laboratory) school that receives state funding for capital improvement purposed pursuant to section 1002.32(9)(e), F.S.
- A member of the governing board, or his or her family member as defined in s. 440.13(1)(b), does not have an interest in or is an employee of the lessor, excluding charter schools operating pursuant to section 1002.33(15), F.S.
- Is not a Florida College System institution or state university sponsored charter school that receives state funding for capital improvement purposes pursuant to s. 1002.33(17)(b)2.d.

Charter schools, including charter schools-in-the-workplace, may use these funds for the following purposes:

- Purchases of real property;
- Construction of school facilities;
- Purchase, lease-purchase or lease of permanent or relocatable school facilities;
- Purchase of vehicles to transport students to and from the charter school;
- Renovation, repair and maintenance of school facilities that the charter school owns or is purchasing through a lease-purchase or long-term lease of five years or longer;
- Payment of the cost of premiums for property and casualty insurance necessary to insure the school facilities;
- Purchase, lease-purchase or lease of driver's education vehicles; motor vehicles; motor vehicles used for the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment; security vehicles; or vehicles used in storing or distributing materials and equipment;
- Purchase, lease-purchase or lease of computer and device hardware and operating software necessary for gaining access to or enhancing the use of electronic or digital instructional content and resources; and enterprise resource software applications that are classified as capital assets in accordance with definitions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, have a useful life of five years and are used to support school- wide administration or state-mandated reporting requirements, which may be acquired by annual license fees, maintenance fees or lease agreement; and
- The payment of the cost of the opening day collection for the library media center of a new school.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $248,623,329
- 2024-25 - $230,810,199
- 2023-24 - $213,453,885

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Item 16 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Survey Recommended Needs - Public Schools

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	12,247,749	12,247,749	11,569,642	11,569,642	0	678,107	5.86%
Total	0	0	12,247,749	12,247,749	11,569,642	11,569,642	0	678,107	5.86%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$12,247,749 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for capital outlay needs at the university developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $12,247,749 is requested in the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund for capital outlay need at the university developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution. These funds are the equivalent of the revenues generated by the non-voted capital outlay discretionary millage in the district within which the school is located.

Funds distributed to a university developmental research school or charter school sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution are to be expended on needed projects as supported by an educational plant survey under the rules of the State Board of Education. University developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution complete an education plant survey identifying the need for the construction of new educational facilities, as well as major additions, renovations or repair necessary to extend the useful life of buildings.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1002.32(9)(e), 1013.64(3), and 1002.33(17)(b)2.d, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Assist public school districts and university developmental research schools in providing sufficient and safe educational facilities in support of the academic programs provided for students.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Sections 1002.32(9)(e) and 1002.33(17)(b)2.d, Florida Statutes, requires the state to provide capital improvement funds to developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution equivalent to the per-student revenue amount that would be generated in the school district in which the developmental research school or charter school is located by the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary levy for capital improvements, pursuant to section 1011.71(2), Florida Statutes.

To determine the discretionary capital improvement funds, the maximum allowable nonvoted discretionary millage is multiplied by the value of 96 percent of the district's current-year taxable value for school purposes. The result is divided by the total full-time equivalent student membership of the district and then multiplied by the full-time equivalent student membership of the university developmental research school or charter school. The amount obtained is the discretionary capital improvement funds for the university developmental research school or charter school.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $10,044,628
- 2024-25 - $ 9,223,318
- 2023-24 - $10,038,597

The Fiscal Year 2027-28 estimated local millage equivalent allocation for university developmental research schools and charter schools sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution:

School	County	2027-28 Estimated 1.5-Mill Value	2027-28 Estimated District FTE	Dollar Value Per FTE	2027-28 Estimated Lab School FTE	2027-28 Appropriation Request
University of Florida	Alachua	$ 44,456,998	31,907.64	$ 1,393.30	1,384.39	$ 1,928,874
Florida State University	Bay	$ 54,622,098	28,765.40	$ 1,898.88	390.78	$ 742,045
Florida State University	Broward	$ 535,545,130	275,272.66	$ 1,945.51	724.59	$ 1,409,696
Florida State University	Leon	$ 45,553,035	34,618.81	$ 1,315.85	1,809.95	$ 2,381,616
Florida A&M University	Leon	$ 45,553,035	34,618.81	$ 1,315.85	526.32	$ 692,556
Florida Atlantic University	Palm Beach	$ 605,593,553	209,813.22	$ 2,886.35	1,329.61	$ 3,837,715
Tallahassee State College	Leon	$ 45,553,035	34,618.81	$ 1,315.85	388.63	$ 511,377
Miami-Dade College	Dade	$ 889,144,659	383,910.69	$ 2,316.02	166.00	$ 384,459
Pasco-Hernando College	Pasco	$ 107,360,477	96,354.27	$ 1,114.23	250.00	$ 278,557
University of West Florida	Escambia	$ 55,328,340	41,058.06	$ 1,347.56	60.00	$ 80,854
Total		**$ 2,428,710,360**	**1,170,938.37**	**$ 16,849.40**	**7,030.27**	**$ 12,247,749**

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Item 16A - Fixed Capital Outlay - Florida College System Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	6,994,803	6,994,803	0	(6,994,803)	(100.00%)
PECO	0	0	62,995,896	62,995,896	190,345,081	190,345,081	0	(127,349,185)	(66.90%)
Total	0	0	62,995,896	62,995,896	197,339,884	197,339,884	0	(134,343,988)	(68.08%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$62,995,896 is requested from the Public Educational Capital Outlay (PECO) trust fund for renovation, remodeling, and new construction projects for the 28 Florida colleges.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Lisa Cook (850) 245-9487

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $62,995,896 is requested from the Public Educational Capital Outlay (PECO) trust fund for renovation, remodeling and new construction projects or the 28 Florida colleges. The appropriation is the primary source of capital outlay funding for the Florida colleges to provide educational facilities that meet the educational needs of the students. The amount allocated to the Florida College System's PECO projects is based on a five-year average of fixed capital outlay appropriations to each level of public education. The calculations for the allocation are based upon revenue projections adopted at the August 3, 2026, PECO Revenue Estimating Conference.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1013.64(4)(a), Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To construct and maintain a capital outlay program for the Florida colleges to serve the educational needs of their communities and a vast array of workforce/vocational programs for the economic viability of the state and its citizens.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Almost every Florida college has new academic programs as a result of remodeled space or a new building funded through PECO appropriations. Each year, Florida colleges complete a five-year capital improvement plan identifying the need for construction of new educational facilities, as well as major additions, renovations or repairs necessary to extend the useful life of buildings. These plans are reviewed by the Division of Florida Colleges' staff, and recommendations are made to fund specific projects within the limits of available funds earmarked for public educational facilities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $107,915,327
- 2024-25 - $100,273,178
- 2023-24 - $218,397,462

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Florida Colleges - Office of Financial Policy
Florida College System
Fixed Capital Outlay 2026-27 (per s. 1013.64(4)(a), F.S.)
August 18, 2026

		2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Total PECO Cash K-20	Based on EDR PECO Est Conf on August 3, 2026	$ 1,237,400,000	$ 1,148,400,000	$ 1,154,200,000
Total PECO Cash Allocation for FCS	Based on 5-year Average of Appropriations (provided by Commissioner of Education)	$ 230,715,111	$ 213,982,560	$ 215,073,540

FCS Priority			Maintenance Request (PECO Sum-of-the-digits)	Request for Year 1 2027-28	Request for Year 2 2028-29	Request for Year 3 2029-30
1		Florida College System	Maintenance, Repair, Renovation & Remodeling	$ 167,719,215	$ 155,555,424	$ 156,348,516

FCS Project Priority	Coll #	College Name	Project	College Priority	First Year Funded	Project Cost	Prior State Funding	Other Funding Available	Total $ State Request (Remaining PECO Need)	Request for Year 1 2027-28 $62,995,896	Request for Year 2 2028-29 $58,427,136	Request for Year 3 2029-30 $58,725,024	Request for Year 4 2029-30 and beyond
										$ 62,995,896	$ 58,427,136	$ 58,725,024	
1	2	Broward College	North Campus Building 56 & Building 57 Remodel into STEM and Nursing Expansion	1	2023-24	$ 46,100,437	$ 26,702,219	$ 15,696,000	$ 3,702,218	$ 3,702,218			
2	22	St. Johns River State College	Renovation, Classroom Building and Workforce Training Center Addition	1	2024-25	$ 28,773,926	$ 19,386,963	$ -	$ 9,386,963	$ 9,386,963			
3	9	Gulf Coast State College	Multipurpose Teaching Labs Facility	2	2025-26	$ 8,760,000	$ 1,000,000	$ -	$ 7,760,000	$ 7,760,000			
4	11	Indian River State College	Deferred Maintenance Collegewide	1	2023-24	$ 9,279,950	$ 6,189,975	$ -	$ 3,089,975	$ 3,089,975			
5	9	Gulf Coast State College	HVAC & Other Infrastructure Improvements	1	2026-27	$ 16,104,629	$ 4,000,000	$ -	$ 12,104,629	$ 12,104,629			
6	28	Valencia College	Lake Nona Building 2	1	2023-24	$ 54,076,848	$ 9,000,000	$ 2,146,934	$ 42,929,914	$ 26,952,111	$ 15,977,803		
7	10	Hillsborough College	Campus Improvements-Dale Mabry	1	2026-27	$ 215,002,462	$ 50,000,000	$ -	$ 165,002,462		$ 42,449,333	$ 58,725,024	$ 63,828,105
8	25	Seminole State College of Florida	Workforce, Science, and Technology Building B-Altamonte Springs	1	2023-24	$ 60,333,945	$ 24,376,555	$ -	$ 35,957,390				$ 35,957,390
9	16	North Florida College	Renovate Campus-wide Fire and Security Alarms	1		$ 800,000	$ -	$ 100,000	$ 700,000				$ 700,000
10	3	College of Central Florida	Agricultural Sciences Classroom Building-Vintage Farm	1	2025-26	$ 9,858,994	$ 4,929,497	$ -	$ 4,929,497				$ 4,929,497
11	6	Florida SouthWestern State College	Charlotte Campus - Bldg E Health Professions (Nursing) Remodel	1	2024-25	$ 7,329,060	$ 4,864,530	$ -	$ 2,464,530				$ 2,464,530
12	19	Pasco-Hernando State College	Remodel Buildings A thru E w/Addition & Chiller Plant-West	3	2017-18	$ 25,000,000	$ 13,801,797	$ -	$ 11,198,203				$ 11,198,203
13	13	Lake-Sumter State College	Construct South Lake Campus Center for Health and Innovation	1		$ 20,323,805	$ -	$ 11,000,000	$ 9,323,805				$ 9,323,805
14	12	Florida Gateway College	Renovate Existing Fire and Security Systems-Sites 1,3	1		$ 2,300,000	$ -	$ -	$ 2,300,000				$ 2,300,000
15	4	Chipola College	Renovate Facility 700 - McLendon Fine Arts	1		$ 1,993,496	$ -	$ -	$ 1,993,496				$ 1,993,496
16	27	Tallahassee State College	Emergency Diesel Generator Modernization	1		$ 4,185,000	$ -	$ -	$ 4,185,000				$ 4,185,000
17	19	Pasco-Hernando State College	Construct Nursing & Health Sciences Building and Remodel Building 4-Porter	1		$ 51,221,136	$ -	$ -	$ 51,221,136				$ 51,221,136
18	2	Broward College	South Campus B99 Aviation Building Remodel and Expansion	2		$ 29,769,215	$ -	$ 1,850,000	$ 27,919,215				$ 27,919,215
19	15	Miami Dade College	STEM Center for Excellence (Kendall)	4	2025-26	$ 26,500,000	$ 23,676,064	$ 1,500,000	$ 1,323,936				$ 1,323,936
20	21	Polk State College	Safety, Security and Utilities Enhancements (WH, LK, ATC)	1		$ 8,042,000	$ -	$ -	$ 8,042,000				$ 8,042,000
21	18	Palm Beach State College	Emergency Response Training Center	2	2023-24	$ 16,966,723	$ 5,050,000	$ 500,000	$ 11,416,723				$ 11,416,723
22	28	Valencia College	Remodel West HSB for Nursing Simulation Lab	2		$ 17,256,000	$ -	$ 13,148,400	$ 4,107,600				$ 4,107,600
23	8	College of the Florida Keys	Chiller Plant Infrastructure-Site 1	1		$ 8,053,500	$ -	$ -	$ 8,053,500				$ 8,053,500
24	20	Pensacola State College	Remodel Building 21 for Training Center-Main	2		$ 6,176,482	$ -	$ 2,499,648	$ 3,676,834				$ 3,676,834
25	7	Florida State College at Jacksonville	Cecil Center Workforce Hub	1		$ 34,028,897	$ -	$ 14,944,866	$ 19,084,031				$ 19,084,031
26	14	State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	Collegiate School-Venice	2	2025-26	$ 16,100,000	$ 3,500,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 10,600,000				$ 10,600,000
27	8	College of the Florida Keys	Bathroom Renovations/Bldg A,C,D, TWFAC Dive/Hyperbaric Pool-Site 1	2		$ 550,152	$ -	$ -	$ 550,152				$ 550,152
28	5	Daytona State College	Welding and Advanced Welding Expansion-ATC	2		$ 19,281,971	$ -	$ -	$ 19,281,971				$ 19,281,971
29	15	Miami Dade College	Various Deferred and Capital Renewal - Phase 1 (Collegewide)	1		$ 35,583,671	$ -	$ 10,583,671	$ 25,000,000				$ 25,000,000
30	10	Hillsborough College	Workforce Education Center - SouthShore	2		$ 38,931,398	$ -	$ 4,000,000	$ 34,931,398				$ 34,931,398
31	12	Florida Gateway College	Construct completion and renovation of storm water management systems-Sites 1,3	2		$ 1,300,000	$ -	$ -	$ 1,300,000				$ 1,300,000
32	21	Polk State College	Ren Chiller Replacement (CPS, LTB, LLC & ATC)	2		$ 1,950,000	$ -	$ -	$ 1,950,000				$ 1,950,000
33	20	Pensacola State College	Construct South Santa Rosa Health Science and Nursing Building	1		$ 16,321,633	$ -	$ -	$ 16,321,633				$ 16,321,633
34	14	State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	Miscellaneous Maintenance & Repairs - College Wide	1		$ 25,836,000	$ -	$ -	$ 25,836,000				$ 25,836,000

FCS Project Priority	Coll #	College Name	Project	College Priority	First Year Funded	Project Cost	Prior State Funding	Other Funding Available	Total $ State Request (Remaining PECO Need)	Request for Year 1 2027-28 $62,995,896	Request for Year 2 2028-29 $58,427,136	Request for Year 3 2029-30 $58,725,024	Request for Year 4 2029-30 and beyond
35	4	Chipola College	Renovate Facility 300- Natural Science/Math	2		$ 4,055,182	$ -	$ -	$ 4,055,182				$ 4,055,182
36	19	Pasco-Hernando State College	Construct Fire Academy Center and Site Improvements-East	2		$ 5,142,765	$ -	$ -	$ 5,142,765				$ 5,142,765
37	5	Daytona State College	Construct Aero Space Technology, Avionics, Semi Conductor, HVAC and Welding Technology - New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater	1		$ 27,105,262	$ -	$ -	$ 27,105,262				$ 27,105,262
38	13	Lake-Sumter State College	Leesburg Campus Library Remodel	2		$ 3,000,050	$ -	$ -	$ 3,000,050				$ 3,000,050
39	22	St. Johns River State College	College Wide - Building Automation Systems Upgrades	2		$ 5,500,000	$ -	$ -	$ 5,500,000				$ 5,500,000
40	26	South Florida State College	Citrus Center-EMS Remodel	1		$ 5,983,845	$ -	$ -	$ 5,983,845				$ 5,983,845
41	1	Eastern Florida State College	Construct Business School-Melbourne	1		$ 26,527,593	$ -	$ -	$ 26,527,593				$ 26,527,593
42	11	Indian River State College	STEM Classroom Ren/Rem Buildings Pruitt Campus (A,B,C,D,E,F,J & S)	2		$ 10,880,736	$ -	$ 55,736	$ 10,825,000				$ 10,825,000
43	15	Miami Dade College	Rem/Ren Classrooms, Labs, Support Services in Facilities 1,2,3,5,7,8,13 and Site (North)	2	2008-09	$ 43,700,000	$ 17,071,003	$ -	$ 26,628,997				$ 26,628,997
44	18	Palm Beach State College	REM AD 102 - Student Enrollment Center, Boca Raton	1		$ 8,298,919	$ -	$ -	$ 8,298,919				$ 8,298,919
45	27	Tallahassee State College	Gadsden Center Expansion	2	2025-26	$ 10,600,000	$ 6,822,500	$ 100,000	$ 3,677,500				$ 3,677,500
46	24	Santa Fe College	Central Utilities and Campus Infrastructure Updates (All Sites)	2		$ 10,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 10,000,000				$ 10,000,000
47	25	Seminole State College of Florida	Student Services Center-Altamonte Springs	2	2023-24	$ 5,166,595	$ 377,665	$ -	$ 4,788,930				$ 4,788,930
48	3	College of Central Florida	Property Acquisition and Development-Criminal Justice, EMS & Truck Driving	2		$ 9,860,604	$ -	$ -	$ 9,860,604				$ 9,860,604
49	7	Florida State College at Jacksonville	Deferred Maintenance-All sites	2		$ 41,562,660	$ -	$ 2,178,160	$ 39,384,500				$ 39,384,500
50	24	Santa Fe College	Workforce Innovation Training Center-Blount	1		$ 21,740,640	$ -	$ 4,000,000	$ 17,740,640				$ 17,740,640
51	23	St. Petersburg College	Allied Health and Student Success Center - Clearwater	1		$ 89,721,563	$ -	$ 9,969,063	$ 79,752,500				$ 79,752,500
52	17	Northwest Florida State College	Construct Skilled Trades Center-Niceville	1		$ 12,113,282	$ -	$ -	$ 12,113,282				$ 12,113,282
53	1	Eastern Florida State College	Dental Program Move Remodel Building 3	2		$ 6,639,123	$ -	$ -	$ 6,639,123				$ 6,639,123
54	26	South Florida State College	Remodel Building L - HCL	2		$ 3,114,009	$ -	$ -	$ 3,114,009				$ 3,114,009
55	6	Florida SouthWestern State College	Charlotte Campus - Bldg G Yarger Science Hall STEM Remodel	2		$ 8,210,218	$ -	$ -	$ 8,210,218				$ 8,210,218
56	17	Northwest Florida State College	Remodel Building 360 for STEM-Niceville	2		$ 6,310,752	$ -	$ -	$ 6,310,752				$ 6,310,752
57	15	Miami Dade College	Hialeah Campus Expansion	3	2025-26	$ 6,000,000	$ 4,000,000	$ -	$ 2,000,000				$ 2,000,000
58	24	Santa Fe College	Renovate/Remodel M Building (NW Campus)	3	2026-27	$ 13,246,054	$ 2,500,000	$ 1,279,250	$ 9,466,804				$ 9,466,804
			FCS Subtotal Projects			**$ 1,248,571,182**	**$ 227,248,768**	**$ 97,551,728**	**$ 923,770,686**	**$ 62,995,896**	**$ 58,427,136**	**$ 58,725,024**	**$ 743,622,630**

FCS TOTAL PECO Maintenance, Repair, Renovation & Remodeling (Sum-of-the-digits) and Projects	**$ 230,715,111**	**$ 213,982,560**	**$ 215,073,540**	**$ 743,622,630**

Item 17 - Fixed Capital Outlay - State University System Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	(2,500,000)	(100.00%)
PECO	0	0	431,698,514	431,698,514	460,466,594	460,466,594	0	(28,768,080)	(6.25%)
Total	0	0	431,698,514	431,698,514	462,966,594	462,966,594	0	(31,268,080)	(6.75%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$431,698,514 is requested for fixed capital outlay projects at state universities.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Kevin Pichard (850) 245-0059

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $431,698,514 is requested for fixed capital outlay projects at state universities. The appropriation from the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) fund is the primary source of capital outlay funding for the state universities to provide educational facilities that meet the educational needs of the students. The amount allocated for State University System PECO projects is based on a five-year average of fixed capital appropriations to each level of public education. The calculations for the allocation are based upon revenue projections adopted at the August 3, 2026, PECO Revenue Estimating Conference.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1013.64(4)(a), Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

To construct and maintain a capital outlay program for the State University System educational facilities that serves the higher education needs of the state of Florida.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

State universities have documented that remodeled space or a new building funded through PECO appropriations have resulted in the implementation of new academic programs and increased enrollment. Each year, the state universities complete a capital improvement plan identifying the need for construction of new educational facilities, as well as major additions, renovations or repairs necessary to extend the useful life of buildings. These plans are reviewed by the Board of Governors staff, and recommendations are made to fund specific fixed capital outlay projects within the limits of available funds earmarked for public educational facilities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $421,069,045
- 2024-25 - $572,906,035
- 2023-24 - $616,491,744

Item 18 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Special Facility Construction Account

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	115,750,191	115,750,191	2,907,551	2,907,551	0	112,842,640	3881.02%
PECO	0	0	144,166,047	144,166,047	142,556,067	142,556,067	0	1,609,980	1.13%
Total	0	0	259,916,238	259,916,238	145,463,618	145,463,618	0	114,452,620	78.68%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$259,916,238 is requested to provide funding for construction of Special Facility projects located in school districts, as approved by the Special Facilities Construction Committee.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $259,916,238 is requested to provide funding for construction of Special Facility projects. The following allocations represent a portion of the total funding for a three-year plan. Allocations will be made to public school districts as follows:

- $51,600,209 - Hardee County - Hardee Senior High School - Replacement School (year two of project)
- $43,841,171 - Lafayette County - Lafayette PK-12 Combination School (year two of project)
- $34,020,144 - Baker County - Baker Middle School (year three of project)
- $36,307,690 - DeSoto County - DeSoto High School (year three of project)
- $28,609,661 - Union County - PK-5 Lake Butler Elementary School (year three of project)
- $33,130,317 - Hendry County - LaBelle High School (year four of project)
- $32,407,046 - Wakulla County - Wakulla High School (year four of project)

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1013.64(2), Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Funding for Hardee County School District will be utilized for the construction of Hardee Senior High School. The new facility will have a total of 1,417 student stations.

Funding for Lafayette County School District will be utilized for the construction of Lafayette PK-12 Combination School. The new facility will have a total of 1,278 student stations.

Funding for Baker County School District will be utilized for the construction of Baker Middle School. The new facility will have a total of 1,417 student stations.

Funding for DeSoto County School District will be utilized for the construction of DeSoto High School. The new facility will have a total of 1,379 student stations.

Funding for Union County School District will be utilized for the construction of PK-5 Lake Butler Elementary School. The new facility will have a total of 1,093 student stations.

Funding for Hendry County School District will be utilized for the construction of LaBelle High School. The new facility will have a total of 1,499 student stations.

Funding for Wakulla County School District will be utilized for the construction of Wakulla High School. The new facility will have a total of 955 student stations.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Special Facility Construction Account is used to provide necessary construction funds to school districts that have urgent construction needs, but lack sufficient resources, and cannot reasonably anticipate sufficient resources within the next three years from current sources of capital outlay revenue. The project must be deemed a critical need and must be recommended by the Special Facilities Construction Committee, comprised of representatives from the Executive Office of the Governor, Florida Department of Education, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida School Boards Association.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $144,669,602
- 2024-25 - $193,182,160
- 2023-24 - $ 88,590,239

Department of Education
2027-28 Special Facility Construction Account

	Priority Ranking	Total Estimated Costs	LBR
Columbia - Columbia High School	1	$159,976,003	
Total		**$159,976,003**	**$0**

In accordance with section 1013.64, Florida Statutes, a statewide priority list for special facilities construction must be submitted with the Legislative Budget Request.

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Item 19 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Debt Service

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
CITF	6,958,997	0	(1,311)	6,957,686	6,958,997	0	6,958,997	(1,311)	(0.02%)
PECO	469,946,651	0	(35,828,137)	434,118,514	469,946,651	0	469,946,651	(35,828,137)	(7.62%)
CO&DS TF	6,840,061	0	201,057	7,041,118	6,840,061	0	6,840,061	201,057	2.94%
Total	483,745,709	0	(35,628,391)	448,117,318	483,745,709	0	483,745,709	(35,628,391)	(7.37%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

483,745,709 is requested to continue the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund fixed capital outlay programs.

DEBT SERVICE

A decrease of $35,628,391 is requested to more closely align with the estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees for Fiscal Year 2027-28.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

DEBT SERVICE

A decrease of $35,628,391 is requested for debt service payments based on the total current outstanding and estimated debt service obligations of $448,117,318. This total amount will provide for the payment of the estimated Fiscal Year 2027-28 debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund projects pursuant to the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO), Capital Outlay and Debt Service (CO&DS) and University System Improvement Revenue Bond Programs.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1010.62 and 1013.65, Florida Statutes
Section 11(d), Article VII of the Florida Constitution

Section 9(a)(2), Article XII of the Florida Constitution
Section 9(d), Article XII of the Florida Constitution

PURPOSE:

Provide for the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund capital outlay programs that provide facilities for the delivery of educational programs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Bond Program is funded from gross receipts tax revenues and through the issuance of bonds. These bonds are issued by the state to fund educational facility building programs for public school districts, Florida colleges, state universities and other education agencies. The estimated annual debt service requirements are based on the most current PECO Revenue Estimating Conference outstanding debt service obligations. Estimated State Board of Administration (SBA) fees are also included.

The Capital Outlay and Debt Service Bond Program is funded from motor vehicle license tax revenues and through the issuance of bonds. This program assists with the funding of educational facility projects undertaken by the Florida colleges and public school districts. The annual debt service amount requested is based upon the outstanding debt service obligations and estimated debt service requirements associated with additional bonds to be issued during the current and subsequent fiscal years, and the amount requested includes estimated SBA fees.

The University System Improvement Revenue Bonds are supported by student building fees and capital improvement fees. These bonds are issued to provide funds for the building programs of the state universities. The estimated annual debt service requirements are based upon outstanding debt service obligations and estimated debt service requirements associated with the issuance of additional bonds, and include estimated SBA fees.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $523,809,503
- 2024-25 - $541,295,449
- 2023-24 - $713,367,901

Item 20 - Fixed Capital Outlay - G/A - School District And Community College

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST									
	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
CO&DS TF	128,000,000	0	18,024,066	146,024,066	128,000,000	0	128,000,000	18,024,066	14.08%
Total	128,000,000	0	18,024,066	146,024,066	128,000,000	0	128,000,000	18,024,066	14.08%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$128,000,000 is requested to continue funding fixed capital outlay projects pursuant to approved project priority lists provided by the public school districts and Florida colleges.

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$18,024,066 is requested to be increased for flow-through revenue to the public school districts and Florida colleges. This increase was the result of a decrease in the debt service obligations, thereby increasing the flow-through revenue. The $146,024,066 will continue to fund fixed capital outlay projects pursuant to approved project priority lists provided by the public school districts and Florida colleges.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An increase of $18,024,066 is requested for flow-through revenue to the public school districts and Florida colleges. This increase was the result of a decrease in the debt service obligations, thereby increasing the flow-through revenue. The $146,024,066 will continue to fund fixed capital outlay projects pursuant to approved project priority lists provided by the public school districts and Florida colleges.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 9(d), Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Florida

PURPOSE:

Acquire, construct, alter, remodel, improve, enlarge, furnish, equip, maintain, renovate or repair educational facilities to enhance the learning environments of the public school districts and Florida colleges.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Capital Outlay & Debt Service Program receives motor vehicle license tax revenues for educational facilities. Public school districts and Florida colleges may use these funds to acquire, construct, alter, remodel, improve, enlarge, furnish, equip, maintain, renovate or repair educational facilities that are included on a project priority list approved by the Department of Education. Public school districts and Florida colleges may also elect to bond their share of the motor vehicle license tax revenue, if they have sufficient bonding capacity after the deduction of debt service obligations and administrative fees.

Revenues are allocated to all school districts and Florida colleges based upon a constitutional funding formula. This formula provides $600 for each instruction unit for the 1967-68 base year and $800 for each growth instruction unit (the increase of the current year from the 1967-68 base year) for school districts. Both base units and growth units for the colleges are valued at $400.

The annual appropriation requested reflects the cash from motor vehicle license tax revenues that a local school district or Florida college is eligible to receive after debt service payments and administrative fees have been paid (flow-through revenue). Funds remaining after the deduction of administrative fees and debt service amounts are transferred to the public school districts and colleges as flow-through funds available for capital outlay projects that are included on a project priority list approved by the Department of Education.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $128,000,000
- 2024-25 - $127,776,555
- 2023-24 - $112,000,000

Item 1 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Debt Service - Class Size Reduction Lottery Capital Outlay Program

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Lottery (EETF)	72,559,186	0	(31,858,183)	40,701,003	72,559,186	0	72,559,186	(31,858,183)	(43.91%)
Total	72,559,186	0	(31,858,183)	40,701,003	72,559,186	0	72,559,186	(31,858,183)	(43.91%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$72,559,186 is requested to continue the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund the class size reduction projects undertaken by the public school districts in accordance with constitutional provisions.

DEBT SERVICE

A decrease of $31,858,183 will more closely align with the estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees for Fiscal Year 2027-28.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

DEBT SERVICE

A decrease of $31,858,183 is requested for debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees estimated to be $40,701,003 for Fiscal Year 2027-28. The program obligations include estimated debt service requirements and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to provide funding for class size reduction project appropriations.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1003.03, 1013.71(2), 1013.735, and 1013.737, Florida Statutes
Sections 11(d) and (f), Article VII of the Florida Constitution, as amended
Section 1, Article IX of the Florida Constitution, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide for the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to assist public school districts in meeting constitutional class size reduction requirements, as stipulated in the Florida Constitution.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Class size reduction projects were funded through the issuance of bonds supported by lottery revenues. Funding has been provided to public school districts to meet constitutional class size reduction requirements, as stipulated in the Florida Constitution. The annual amount requested is based upon outstanding debt service obligations and estimated State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds.

Pursuant to section 1013.71(2), Florida Statutes, lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital outlay and debt service purposes are to be transferred from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund. This transfer is accomplished during the budgetary start-up process at the beginning of the fiscal year.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $ 86,823,158
- 2024-25 - $ 98,684,514
- 2023-24 - $113,299,755

Item 2 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Educational Facilities

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Lottery (EETF)	6,328,962	0	3,528	6,332,490	6,328,962	0	6,328,962	3,528	0.06%
Total	6,328,962	0	3,528	6,332,490	6,328,962	0	6,328,962	3,528	0.06%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

COST TO CONTINUE

$6,328,962 is requested to continue the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund projects undertaken by the Florida colleges and state universities.

DEBT SERVICE

A increase of $3,528 will more closely align with the estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees for Fiscal Year 2027-28.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

DEBT SERVICE

A increase of $3,528 is requested in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund for debt service payments based on total funding of $6,332,490 to provide for the payment of the Fiscal Year 2027-28 program obligations. The amount includes estimated debt service requirements and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to fund authorized projects of the Florida colleges and state universities.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1013.71(2) and 1013.737, Florida Statutes
Sections 11(d) and (f), Article VII of the Florida Constitution, as amended

PURPOSE:

Provide for the payment of estimated debt service obligations and State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds to assist public school districts in meeting constitutional class size reduction requirements, as stipulated in the Florida Constitution.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Class size reduction projects were funded through the issuance of bonds supported by lottery revenues. Funding has been provided to public school districts to meet constitutional class size reduction requirements, as stipulated in the Florida Constitution. The annual amount requested is based upon outstanding debt service obligations and estimated State Board of Administration fees associated with the issuance of bonds. Pursuant to section 1013.71 (2), Florida Statutes, lottery funds appropriated for fixed capital outlay and debt service purposes are to be transferred from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to the Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund. This transfer is accomplished during the budgetary start-up process at the beginning of the fiscal year.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $6,334,412
- 2024-25 - $6,334,090
- 2023-24 - $6,333,498

Item 21 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind - Capital Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	2,911,829	2,911,829	11,882,154	11,882,154	0	(8,970,325)	(75.49%)
Total	0	0	2,911,829	2,911,829	11,882,154	11,882,154	0	(8,970,325)	(75.49%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$2,911,829 is requested to fund preventative maintenance and capital projects at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $2,911,829 is requested to fund preventative maintenance and capital projects at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

- $2,911,829 - Maintenance and Repair - The funds will be used to correct conditions that directly affect the educational mission of the school and will be used for preventative maintenance contracts that cannot be executed in-house. These preventative service contracts, as well as the in-house work orders, extend the building component replacement life of the campus facilities.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1002.36, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide facilities for approximately 1,000 visually impaired and hearing-impaired students attending the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a Florida public school for eligible hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in pre-school through grade 12. Boarding and post-secondary programs are also available to students. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is the largest school of its type in the United States. As a school of academic excellence, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind strives to provide students an opportunity to access educational services in a caring, safe and unique learning environment to prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent lifelong learners. The school awards standard and special diplomas, preparing graduates for a wide range of professional careers and trades. Each year, the majority of the graduating class continues their education at colleges, universities and technical training centers. Funds are requested to accomplish projects included in the Campus Master Plan, Facilities Master Plan and educational plant survey, as required in section 1002.36, Florida Statutes.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $13,707,311
- 2024-25 - $13,545,443
- 2023-24 - $ 4,552,330

Item 22 - Fixed Capital Outlay - Division of Blind Services - Capital Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	795,000	795,000	820,000	820,000	0	(25,000)	(3.05%)
Total	0	0	795,000	795,000	820,000	820,000	0	(25,000)	(3.05%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$795,000 is requested for the Division of Blind Services for projects at the Daytona facility which is owned and operated by the State of Florida.

- $400,000 - Replace aging generator and its related components.
- $150,000 - Replace obsolete computer equipment and upgrade components within the four recording booths.
- $175,000 - Replace all door locks inside the Dormitory Residence Hall.
- $ 70,000 - Replace and upgrade drinking fountains.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $795,000 for the Division of Blind Services for repair and maintenance at the Daytona facility. The funds will be used to extend the useful life of the campus and building including: replacing generators, computer equipment, door locks, and drinking fountain projects.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 413.011 and 1013.64(3), Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide safe and adequate facilities for the instruction and training of visually impaired individuals.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Division of Blind Services provides services to persons with visual disabilities that will enable them to maximize employment opportunities, independence and self-sufficiency. The Division of Blind Services strives to empower people who are visually impaired to reach self-determined goals through training in foundational and independent skills and career development.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $1,474,000
- 2024-25 - $ 627,000
- 2023-24 - $ 595,548

Item 22AA - Fixed Capital Outlay - Public Broadcasting Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	7,137,558	7,137,558	0	0	0	7,137,558	100.00%
Total	0	0	7,137,558	7,137,558	0	0	0	7,137,558	100.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$7,137,558 is requested for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies and project renovations. The following projects are included in the request:

- $1,085,312 - WJCT-TV/FM, Jacksonville - Replace HVAC System - Phase II
- $ 531,178 - WJCT-TV/FM - Jacksonville - Renovate Restrooms - Phase II
- $5,521,068 - WMFE-FM, Orlando - Replace Roof - Phase II

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $7,137,558 is requested for public broadcasting stations to correct health and safety issues, correct building deficiencies and project renovations. The following projects are included in the request:

WJCT-TV/FM, Jacksonville, located at 100 Festival Park Avenue in Jacksonville, Florida, is licensed to the community and governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Community Advisory Board.

- $1,085,312 - Replace HVAC System - Phase II
- This project is to complete the replacement of the second chiller. This request includes the additional funding required to complete the replacement of the second chiller, replace rooftop units, and address building control issues affecting all areas of the building (this is the final phase of the project). WJCT's HVAC system is critical to maintaining a safe and stable working and technical environment for the people and the technology serving WJCT's mission.
- $531,178 -Renovate Restrooms - Phase II
- This project is to complete the final phase of the restroom renovations. This request includes the additional funding required to complete the construction phase. Funds will be used for the ground floor facilities, include replacement of commodes/urinals, sinks, partitions, flooring, lighting, and sheetrock/painting.

WMFE-FM, Orlando, serving the counties of Orange, Brevard, Seminole, Flagler, Lake, Osceola, Sumter and Volusia, is a Federal Emergency Alert System LP-2 broadcasting station. WMFE covers news and information during hurricanes and other emergencies. As an LP-2 station, they are responsible for relaying emergency information to other radio and TV stations in each of those counties. The station is also part of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN).

- $5,521,068 - Replace Roof - Phase II
- This project is to complete the replacement of the 34-year-old roof for the headquarters and studios of Community Communications, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization, license holder of WMFE-FM and WMFV-FM, operating as Central Florida Public Media.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1001.26, and 1013.18(2), Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide statewide delivery of governmental and educational broadcast services.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Education has been authorized to establish and support public broadcasting networks for the primary purpose of providing educational television programming for the citizens of Florida. These funds are used for the maintenance and renovation of state-owned public broadcasting facilities that provide continuous year-round coverage of Florida governmental affairs, legislative sessions and Supreme Court hearings that address issues of critical state concern and are produced and broadcast statewide over the public broadcast system. In addition, education programs are delivered via these stations in support of statewide and local educational goals.

Florida public broadcasting facilities allow educational television stations to provide local and state programming of interest and importance to their communities. Florida teachers, students, parents and citizens obtain greater access and receive better services in a cost-effective manner by providing local public television stations with the resources to cover local events and issues while providing educational services and support, especially for reading and literacy, to the school districts and communities in their coverage area.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $0
- 2024-25 - $6,325,998
- 2023-24 - $0

Item 22A - Fixed Capital Outlay - Public School Projects

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	0	0	720,000	720,000	0	(720,000)	(100.00%)
PECO	0	0	0	0	23,524,491	23,524,491	0	(23,524,491)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	24,244,491	24,244,491	0	(24,244,491)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

Not requested is $24,244,491 for the following programs:

- $ 640,000 - Brevard County Public Schools - Firefighting Program at Cocoa High School
- $ 300,000 - Calhoun County Public Schools - Blountstown High School Track Restoration
- $ 500,000 - Dixie County Public Schools - Consolidation - Old Town Elementary Classroom Addition
- $ 826,991 - Glades County Public Schools - Air Handling System Repair and Retrofit
- $ 4,500,000 - Glades County Public Schools - Roofing Project
- $12,000,000 - Hardee County Public Schools - Renovation of 1948 High School to Consolidate District Office
- $ 1,500,000 - Highlands County Public Schools - Roof and HVAC Renovations
- $ 120,000 - Liberty County Public Schools - School Safety Window Hardening
- $ 1,750,000 - Monroe County Public Schools - Renovation of Historic Bruce Hall and Historic Reynolds School
- $ 1,357,500 - Taylor County Public Schools - Critical Facility Needs
- $ 750,000 - Walton County Public Schools - Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment and Workforce Center Expansion

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

Not requested is $24,244,491 for the following programs:

- $ 640,000 - Brevard County Public Schools - Firefighting Program at Cocoa High School
- $ 300,000 - Calhoun County Public Schools - Blountstown High School Track Restoration
- $ 500,000 - Dixie County Public Schools - Consolidation - Old Town Elementary Classroom Addition
- $ 826,991 - Glades County Public Schools - Air Handling System Repair and Retrofit
- $ 4,500,000 - Glades County Public Schools - Roofing Project
- $12,000,000 - Hardee County Public Schools - Renovation of 1948 High School to Consolidate District Office
- $ 1,500,000 - Highlands County Public Schools - Roof and HVAC Renovations
- $ 120,000 - Liberty County Public Schools - School Safety Window Hardening
- $ 1,750,000 - Monroe County Public Schools - Renovation of Historic Bruce Hall and Historic Reynolds School
- $ 1,357,500 - Taylor County Public Schools - Critical Facility Needs
- $ 750,000 - Walton County Public Schools - Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment and Workforce Center Expansion

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1013.64 Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provides capital improvements for school districts.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provides capital improvements for school districts.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $10,536,509
- 2024-25 - $13,444,309
- 2023-24 - $34.050.392

Item 22B - Fixed Capital Outlay - Vocational-Technical Facilities

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
PECO	0	0	0	0	4,800,000	4,800,000	0	(4,800,000)	(100.00%)
Total	0	0	0	0	4,800,000	4,800,000	0	(4,800,000)	(100.00%)

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

Not requested is $4,800,000 for the following projects:

- $ 600,000 - First Coast Technical College - Public Safety - Firefighter Workforce Expansion Initiative
- $3,700,000 - Lake Technical College - Workforce Education Center South
- $ 500,000 - Volusia County Schools - Aviation Hangar - Aerospace

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

Not requested is $4,800,000 for the following projects:

- $ 600,000 - First Coast Technical College - Public Safety - Firefighter Workforce Expansion Initiative
- $3,700,000 - Lake Technical College - Workforce Education Center South
- $ 500,000 - Volusia County Schools - Aviation Hangar - Aerospace

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[ ] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[ ] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[ ] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[x] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Sections 1004.93-98, Florida Statutes

PURPOSE:

Provide capital improvements for vocational-technical facilities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide capital improvements for vocational-technical facilities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

- 2025-26 - $ 5,650,000
- 2024-25 - $ 7,225,000
- 2023-24 - $11,614,000

Item 22C - Fixed Capital Outlay - Post Secondary School Hardening

2027-28 BUDGET REQUEST

	2027-28				2026-27				
Fund Source	2026-27 Recurring Base	Restoration of Nonrecurring	Requested Increase/ (Decrease)	Total Request	Appropriation	Nonrecurring	Recurring Base	Funding Change Over Current Year	%Change Over Current Year
Gen Rev	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0	0	20,000,000	100.00%
Total	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0	0	20,000,000	100.00%

REQUEST NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

$20,000,000 is requested in General Revenue for the State University System (SUS) Campus Hardening.

KEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE AND ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Suzanne Pridgeon (850) 245-0406; Gina Jones (850) 245-9865; Kevin Pichard (850) 245-0059

ISSUE NARRATIVE:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

An amount of $20,000,000 is requested for the State University System for campus hardening. The funds will be used for security hardening of facilities.

GOALS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOALS (1008.31(2)(c), FS):

[X] 1. Highest Student Achievement
[X] 2. Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access
[X] 3. Skilled Workforce and Economic Development
[X] 4. Quality Efficient Services

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN:

N/A

STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Section 1006.601(4) Florida Statutes (aka: ARMOR Act)

PURPOSE:

Provide a safe and secure environment for the State University System facilities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Provide a safe and secure environment for the State University System facilities.

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING:

N/A

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