

2025

July 17, 2025

General Session Highlights

- ▶ Although originally scheduled to adjourn sine die on May 2, the 2025 Florida Legislature extended its session through June 6 to finalize budget allocations. As of now, the General Appropriations Act and overall state budget have not yet been approved. This session, a total 1,982 bills were filed, with 269 bills having been approved by both chambers and presented to the Governor. Only 246 of those were approved by the Governor and signed into law.
- ▶ Unlike previous sessions, the 2025 Legislature did not enact sweeping policy changes directly affecting FSW or the Florida college System as a whole. Instead, the few bills that did move forward centered around targeted updates such as enhancements to apprenticeship pathways, revisions to teacher preparation frameworks, expanded access to Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grants, and the formal recognition of Classic Learning Test (CLT) scores as a valid alternative to other standardized assessments.
- ▶ The Legislature has since approved a final budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, following weeks of negotiations between both chambers. The adopted spending plan totals approximately \$115.1 billion and represents a compromise between the Senate's higher initial proposal and the more austere version passed by the House. As of this writing, the budget awaits action by the Governor, who must sign the General appropriations Act by July 1 for it to take effect.

General Appropriations Act (GAA) 2025-26

(Pending Approval of Governor)

Background

- ▶ The Legislature has three methods to reflect funding decisions made in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) process.
 - ◆ "Proviso" is language in the General Appropriations Act attached to a specific appropriation that directs or authorizes how the funds can be expended.
 - ◆ An "implementing bill" is a substantive bill that provides instructions to enact specific provisions for a GAA appropriation or proviso by changing the law (Florida Statutes) temporarily for one year. This is necessary because the courts have ruled the GAA cannot contradict current law; however, there may be a need to suspend some provision of law.
 - ◆ A "conforming bill" is also a substantive bill that may "travel" with the GAA. It differs from the implementing bill in that it makes permanent changes to Florida Statutes.
- ▶ In summary, proviso language and implementing bills are law for only one year and then they expire, while a conforming bill makes a permanent change in Florida law.

- ▶ While the Governor may veto the entire appropriations act or exercise his veto by “line item,” he does not have “line item” veto in a conforming, implementing, or general bill but must act on the entire bill. Bills that are passed by the Legislature are sent to the Governor for further action. The Governor may sign, veto, or allow a bill to become law without his signature. Because the Legislature has now adjourned the 2025 Session, the Governor has fifteen consecutive days from the date he receives a bill to act on that bill. Leadership of the Legislature usually staggers sending bills to the Governor in order to provide time to review the bills.
- ▶ When a bill is passed and sent to the Governor while the Legislature is still in session, the timeline is different; the Governor must act within seven days from the time his office receives the bill.
- ▶ The following are the 2025 appropriations bills:
 - ◆ *Conference Report on SB 2500 – 2025 General Appropriations Act*
 - ◆ *Conference Report on SB 2502 - Implementing the 2025 General Appropriations Act*

FSW Funding 2025-2026

Funding Category	Selected System Funding Matters	FSW Funding 24-25
Program Fund-General Revenue & Lottery (Combined)	Funding Formula Model \$1,681,117,508	\$50,967,854
2+2 Program Incentive	\$17 million allocated to the FCS	\$513,097
Workforce Incentive	\$13 million allocated to the FCS	\$329,164
Nursing PIPELINE Program	\$40 million allocated to the FCS	\$1,157,822
Charlotte Campus - Bldg E Health Professions (PECO Funding)		\$2,464,530
Innovation Lab		\$1,750,000
Charlotte Campus - Nursing Simulation Lab Equipment		\$460,400
Total		\$57,642,867
Additional Funding Opportunities	Available to State Universities, Tech Colleges, and FCS Institutions	
Nursing LINE Program	\$24 million allocated to the FCS	TBD

How to Find the Final Version of a Bill

The simplest way to see the final version of a bill is to go to www.flsenate.gov and enter the bill number in the space provided on the top of the homepage or go to www.flhouse.gov and click on the top tab “Bills.” Senate bills are always even numbers (SB 00), and House bills are always odd numbers (HB 11). On the House site, note that you may choose either chamber or choose “both.” When you enter the bill number, the history of the bill will appear. For bills that have passed, go to the section on “Bill Text” and choose the entry followed by “ER,” which is the most recent, enrolled version of the bill. An enrolled bill is the one being sent to the Governor. For bills that have not passed, go to the section on “Bill Text” and choose the entry with the latest date, which is the final version of the bill before it failed. Staff analyses for bills are also found on the bill sites.

General Bills of Note that Passed

(All bills noted below are pending approval of the Governor unless stated otherwise)

▶ [HB 2C](#) (Gruters) Immigration (*Approved; Chapter 2025-1*)

- ◆ Modifies Florida law to allow out of state fee waivers to apply only to students who are citizens of the United States or lawfully present in the United States.
- ◆ Requires students who have been given the waiver to be reevaluated for eligibility by July 1, 2025.
- ◆ Effective Date: Upon becoming law.

▶ [HB 681](#) (Melo) Apprenticeship/Preapprenticeship Program Funding (*Approved; Chapter No. 2025-139*)

- ◆ Changes the annual apprenticeship report publication date from September 1 to November 30 and expands the data it must include, such as detailed cost allocations, administrative hours, and wage progression.
- ◆ Requires training providers and local educational agencies to determine an equitable split of apprenticeship funding and formalize their partnerships in written agreements, preventing additional fees or withheld funds beyond the agreed amount.
- ◆ Directs the Department of Education to develop a standard model contract template detailing the parties' responsibilities, funding division, and compliance requirements for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship program.
- ◆ Mandates creation of an apprenticeship funding transparency tool by July 1, 2026, displaying historical funding amounts for apprenticeship programs by funding source and institution.
- ◆ Establishes public notice and participation requirements for District Workforce Education Funding Steering Committee meetings, permits the use of communications media technology, and requires timely submission of the workforce education funding model to the Legislature.
- ◆ Effective Date: July 1, 2025

▶ [HB 875](#) (Education & Employment Committee, et.al.) Educator Preparation (*Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2025-107*)

- ◆ Among other requirements:
- ◆ Modernizes teacher preparation, certification, and counseling pathways to improve teacher readiness and enhance professional learning.
- ◆ Requires the Department of Education to convene a workgroup to revise the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices by 2026 and develop a new Florida Teacher Excellence Examination aligned to the revised standards.
- ◆ Creates a flexible pathway for postsecondary school counseling students, including a reduced internship requirement for full-time teachers meeting specified experience and evaluation criteria.
- ◆ Authorizes the hiring of certain nondegree fine and performing arts teachers and sets minimum qualification for those positions.
- ◆ Establishes uniform core criteria for teacher preparation programs aligned with Florida Educator Accomplished Practices, including required introduction to education and classroom management courses.
- ◆ Effective Date: July 1, 2025

▶ **HB 1105** (Education & Employment Committee, et.al.) Education (*Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2025-109*)

- ◆ Among many other provisions affecting K-12 institutions:
- ◆ Restructures Florida Bright Futures requirements to allow paid work hours or volunteer service, updates the Florida Gold Seal Vocational and CAPE Scholars requirements, and clarifies the Advanced Placement Capstone designation.
- ◆ Alters board membership requirements and leadership election processes for Florida ABLE, Inc., and allows district revenues to cover certain liability insurance costs under a modified levy.
- ◆ Expands eligibility for Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grants to include charter schools and considers job engine charter school applications, requires the department to establish mathematics endorsement competencies by a specified date.
- ◆ Effective Date: July 1, 2025

▶ **HB 1105** (Higher Education Budget Subcommittee; Shoaf) Workforce Education (*Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2025-144*)

- ◆ Expands eligibility for workforce grants to charter schools, increases the number of programs requiring money-back guarantees, and enhances reporting and tuition reimbursement criteria.
- ◆ Makes charter schools eligible for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.
- ◆ Requires school districts and Florida College System institutions to offer money-back guarantees on three additional programs by July 1, 2026, and report these programs to the State Board of Education.
- ◆ Sets additional requirements for student eligibility to receive tuition reimbursement under the money-back guarantee, limiting work search requirements to those specified under s. 443.091, F.S.
- ◆ Directs the Department of Education to include eligibility criteria for tuition reimbursement in its annual performance results report.
- ◆ Effective Date: July 1, 2025

▶ **HB 1255** (Education & Employment Committee, et.al.) Education (*Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2025-110*)

- ◆ Renames Hillsborough Community College to Hillsborough College
- ◆ Allows Classic Learning Test scores as an acceptable alternative to other standardized tests for college readiness and advanced course placement.
- ◆ Effective Date: July 1, 2025



If you have questions or need additional information, please contact
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