

# 2025-26 Legislative Actions







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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2025-26 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES


### BUDGET REQUEST

Performance Incentives	
Performance-Based Funding Incentives	\$400,000,000
Preeminence Funding	\$140,000,000
Performance-Based Recruitment & Retention Initiative	\$100,000,000
Other Initiatives	
PSE Waiver Incentive Funding	\$20,924,303
State Fire Marshal Inspections	\$3,124,310
UF-1FAS Extension Workload Initiative	\$6,409,740
<b>Total 2025-2026 E&amp;G Budget Request</b>	<b>\$4,779,925,582</b>
<b>2024-2025 Beginning Base – State Support</b>	<b>\$4,109,467,229</b>
<b>Incremental Growth for 2025-2026</b>	<b>\$670,458,353</b>

-  **Performance-Based Funding Incentives** – Due to the effectiveness of PBF to drive improvement and enhance accountability, the Board recommends increasing the PBF state investment incentive by \$50 million, from \$350M to \$400M.
-  **Preeminence Funding** – Preeminent universities are Florida's highest performing state research universities. Funding of \$140M is being requested to recognize universities designated as preeminent pursuant to section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes.
-  **Performance-Based Recruitment & Retention** – \$100M is requested to reward universities that achieve maximum PBF scores. The funds will be used to support the recruitment and retention of world-class faculty.
-  **Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver Incentive** – The PSE waiver has grown with more than 18,000 students receiving the waiver and institutions

waiving over \$42.5M. Currently an appropriation of \$38M is provided to universities to offset the loss of revenue for the waiver. With the addition of mechanical engineering, an additional \$20.9M is being requested to offset expected revenue losses in support of the waiver.

 **State Fire Marshal Inspections** - Pursuant to Section 633.218, Florida Statutes, the State Fire Marshal (SFM) is required to inspect all state-owned buildings and high-hazard occupancies annually. The \$3.1M will reimburse the SFM for the cost of inspections at SUS institutions.

 **UF-IFAS Extension Workload Initiative** – UF/IFAS disseminate a wide range of research-based information to the public and community leaders in all 67 counties in Florida. The requested \$6/4M is based on an increased demand for UF/IFAS activities and research, using a cost-to-continue funding formula model that was approved by the Board in 2004.

## POLICY INITIATIVES

**HB 1255 (Trabulsy):** Modernizes K-20 education statutes by adding the Classic Learning Test as an SAT/ACT alternative, expanding emergency opioid antagonist definitions beyond Naloxone, and extending the LINE nursing education program to additional institutions.

**SB 584 (Garcia):** Mandates that FCS and SUS institutions prioritize housing for students who were in foster care or experiencing homelessness, while enhancing work-study opportunities for these populations.

**HB 1445 (Mayfield):** Requires state university trustees and Board of Governors members to be U.S. citizens who either reside in Florida or graduated from a state university, with residency requirements for government department executives.

**HB 1427 (Griffitts):** Strengthens the Board of Nursing's oversight of nursing education programs by tightening application requirements, enhancing accountability, and eliminating leniency for accreditation delays.

**SB 768 (Calatayud):** Prohibits genetic sequencing software from foreign countries of concern (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela under Maduro, Syria) in state laboratories and establishes comprehensive compliance measures.

**SB 118 (Brodeur):** Preempts local regulation of presidential libraries by transferring oversight authority to the state and federal government.

**HB 549 (Porras):** Mandates adoption of the federal "Gulf of America" designation (replacing "Gulf of Mexico") on all state maps and instructional materials by July 1, 2025.

**HB 1105 (Kincart Jonsson):** Expands educational pathways by allowing private schools to build facilities on FCS/university land in qualifying counties without rezoning requirements and extending Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility to students from non-Florida schools with parents in military or public service.

**HB 875 (Rizo):** Establishes the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence at Miami Dade College in collaboration with USF to develop evidence-based teacher preparation programs, design high-quality clinical experiences, and create a statewide mentorship network.

**HB 681 (Melo):** Enhances transparency in apprenticeship program management through uniform standards, model contracts, and public reporting requirements for workforce education funding.

**SB 112 (Harrell):** Creates the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to administer grant programs for autism charter schools and specialized summer programs, while coordinating statewide autism services and developing micro-credentials for educators.

**HB 907 (Anderson):** Establishes the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases at FSU College of Medicine and launches the five-year Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program for voluntary newborn genetic screening using whole genome sequencing.

**SB 892 (Simon):** Creates the Florida State University Election Law Center within the FSU College of Law to conduct non-partisan research, develop educational programming, and serve as a resource on electoral processes.

**SB 312 (Gaetz):** Modifies the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition's governance by transferring subsidiary creation authority from the Board of Governors to the institute's board of directors and adjusting board composition.

**SB 1768 (Leek):** Expands Florida's prohibition on Israel boycotts by broadening definitions, restricting university investments and endowments, and establishing comprehensive divestment requirements from entities on the Scrutinized Companies List by July 1, 2025.

All initiatives include comprehensive implementation frameworks with phased approaches, mandatory reporting requirements, and stakeholder responsibilities to ensure successful execution and compliance.

## **SYSTEMWIDE INITIATIVES**

**HB 1255 Education** – sponsored by Representative Trabulsy, Modernize Florida's K-20 and teacher-related statutes by revising recruitment and membership provisions, restricting expenditures to certain organizations, modifying academic instruction standards, and updating accountability requirements for schools and employees.




Section 13 – 1001.7065 - Adds the Classic Learning Test score of 83 or higher on a 120 score scale as an alternative to the SAT/ACT for fall semester for incoming freshmen, as reported annually (Line 363-364)

Section 32 – 1004.0971 – Expands the Emergency Opioid Antagonist beyond the brand Naloxone to any drug that blocks the effects of opioids administered from outside the body and approved by the USFDA.

Section 36 -1007.27 -National Consortia, the department may join or establish a national consortium as an alternative method to develop and implement advanced placement courses that align with s. 1007.25.


Section 41 -1009.8962 – Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) expands participation to an institution authorized under s. 1009.521

### **Implementation:**

-  Effective immediately upon legislative approval
-  Annual reporting requirements for admissions testing alternatives
-  Expands program participation, and enhances industry-education collaboration in nursing training.

**SB – 1768 – Entities that Boycott Israel** – sponsored by Senator Leek, Expands Florida's prohibition on boycotts regarding Israel to include additional entities, imposes stricter restrictions on public investments, revises contracting standards, and establishes compliance requirements for state educational institutions.

Section 1. Prohibited investments companies and other entities that boycott Israel

-  Section 1(b) "Boycott of Israel" means discriminatorily refusing or terminating business with Israel, Israeli entities, or those doing business in Israel or

Israeli-controlled territories. Statements by any organization (**educational institution or nonprofit**) or entity confirming participation in an Israel boycott, especially in response to boycott calls, may be considered evidence of boycott participation by the State Board of Administration. (Line 80)

- 🌐 Section 1(b) defines academic boycotts where educational institutions implement policies restricting academic relationships based on ties to Israel or its academic institutions, or by collectively holding Israeli-affiliated researchers, students, lecturers, or artists responsible for actions of the Israeli state. An institution is considered engaged in academic boycott if any of its departments, centers, or recognized faculty unions participates in such boycott activities. (Lines 95-109)
- 🌐 Divestment (c) Prohibition, State University System endowments and retirements funds may not acquire or hold debt from foreign governments that appear on the Scrutinized Companies or Other Entities that Boycott Israel List, or from foreign governments with sovereign wealth funds on this list where the government actively controls or manages the fund. (Lines 222-229)
- 🌐 State University System Compliance - University endowment and retirement funds must divest from and not acquire securities of entities on the Scrutinized Companies or Other Entities that Boycott Israel List. They receive the same exemption as provided in paragraph (Lines 299 – 306)






### Implementation:

- 🌐 Immediate identification of prohibited investments upon effective date
- 🌐 Development of divestment strategies within 90 days of identification and complete divestment within 12 months of identification, subject to fiduciary duty considerations
- 🌐 Educational institutions must conduct comprehensive portfolio reviews
- 🌐 Training of procurement and investment personnel on revised requirements

**SB 584 Young Adult Housing Support** – sponsored by Senator Garcia, Expands housing support and prioritization for young adults who are or were in foster care and those experiencing homelessness. Requires Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS) institutions to prioritize housing for these students, while also enhancing work-study opportunities for these vulnerable populations.

Section 1 – 409.1452, housing assistance. The SUS, in consultation with the State Office of Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families, develop plans for prioritizing the placement of students who are or were formerly in foster care and those experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness, including but not limited to, students eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(c) 1.-4 or (e), in residence halls and dormitory residences owned by the institution or university (Lines 47 – 75) Additionally, this prioritizes work-study opportunities as well (Line 70).

**Implementation:**

-  Develop institutional housing priority protocols, Allocate appropriate housing units. Provide wrap-around support services
-  Align work-study program policies
-  Mandate: SUS, in consultation with the State Office of Homelessness (Department of Children and Families), must develop housing prioritization plans
-  Specific Focus: Students eligible for tuition/fee exemptions under s. 1009.25(1)(c)1.-4 or (e)
-  Priority status for campus work-study positions

**HB 1445 Public Officers and Employee** - sponsored by Representative Mayfield, Requires members of state university boards of trustees and the Board of Governors to be U.S. citizens who either reside in Florida or graduated from a state university, while mandating that government department executives,

secretaries, and officials live in the same county as their department headquarters to promote engagement and accessibility. Additionally, the bill defines the term "office" for purposes of the constitutional dual office-holding prohibition, with noncompliance of residency requirements creating a vacancy.

Section 1 Section 20.71 – Effective January 6, 2027, each member of a state university board of trustees and Board of Governors must be a United State citizen and either a resident of this state or a graduate of the state university, (Lines 79-91)

**SB 118 Regulation of Presidential Libraries** sponsored by Senator Brodeur, preempts local regulation of presidential libraries by deferring oversight to the Federal Government.

Section 1 – 257.51, transfers all regulatory authority over presidential libraries to the state and defer authority to the Federal Government.

**HB 1105 Education** – sponsored by Representative Kincart Jonsson, Expands and refine Florida's education pathways by adding internship requirements revising scholarship eligibility, updating graduation pathways, institutional land use provisions, and removes obsolete language.

Section 8 – 1002.42 any land owned by a FCS or university may be used by a private school in a county with four incorporated municipalities may build new facilities (temporary or permanent) on property. These facilities can be built under existing zoning without rezoning, special exceptions, land use changes, or mitigation requirements. The property must be used solely for these purposes and must meet applicable health, safety, and welfare standards.

Section 21 -1009.531 modifies Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to include a student who earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on or, within 12 months before the student's high school graduation, has retired from military or public service.

Implementation:



- 🌐 Expands scholarship eligibility to include students who earn a high school diploma from a non-Florida school.
- 🌐 Additionally, the criteria includes parents or guardians who is currently are in the military or public service, or retired military or public service within 12 months of student's high school graduation.

**SB 768 Foreign Countries of Concern** - sponsored by Senator Calatayud, Prohibit genetic sequencing software from foreign countries of concern in state laboratories and clarify licensure requirements regarding controlling interests from those countries.

Section 1 subsection (5) is added to 381.0202 (Lines 22-33) Prohibits genetic sequencing software from foreign countries of concern in state laboratories and clarify licensure requirements regarding controlling interest from those countries. Specifies that 'foreign country of concern' includes China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Maduro's Venezuela, or Syria and their agencies.

**Implementation:**

- 🌐 **Software Inventory:** Complete comprehensive audit of all genetic sequencing software currently in use across state laboratories
- 🌐 **Risk Assessment:** Evaluate security vulnerabilities in current laboratory systems and procedures
- 🌐 **Compliance Gap Analysis:** Identify laboratories with potential compliance issues based on initial assessment
- 🌐 Submission to security audit procedures

**HB 681 – APPRENTICESHIP AND PREAPPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

**FUNDING**, sponsored by Representative Melo, improves transparency and consistency in how apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs are managed by school districts and their registered partners. It directs the Department of Education to set uniform standards, create a model contract for program

agreements, and develop a public tool to show past apprenticeship funding by district and college. It also updates reporting requirements and mandates that funding-related meetings by the District Workforce Education Funding Steering Committee be public, with all materials published. Lastly, the bill requires the DOE to give the Legislature a proposed funding model at least two months before session begins. Once signed by the Governor, the bill will take effect on July 1, 2025.

**HB 549 – GULF OF AMERICA**, sponsored by Representative Porras, requires the state of Florida to adopt the new federal designation of the “Gulf of Mexico” as the “Gulf of America.” State agencies must update maps and other geographic materials to reflect this change. Additionally, starting July 1, 2025, all newly adopted or acquired instructional materials and library media center collections in public schools and charter schools must use the updated name. The Governor signed the bill on April 14, 2025, and it will go into effect on July 1, 2025. (Chapter No. 2025-7)

**HB 1427 – NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**, sponsored by Representative Griffitts, Nursing Education Program Reform House Bill 1427 strengthens accountability for nursing education programs by revising application requirements and enforcement mechanisms for the Board of Nursing (Lines 42-59). The legislation requires the Board to deny applications from programs previously terminated in other jurisdictions (Lines 205-208) and establishes stricter remediation protocols for programs with inadequate graduate passage rates, including mandatory program termination if a program fails to meet benchmarks after probationary status (Lines 248-302). Additional accountability measures include requiring programs with graduate passage rates below 30% to reimburse students who fail licensing examinations (Lines 334-341), mandating remediation at no additional cost for students from programs on probation (Lines 320-327), and authorizing the Department of Health to conduct onsite evaluations to verify compliance (Lines 341-350).

## Implementation:

- 🌐 Board of Nursing adopting rules by December 31, 2025, to conduct investigations and enforce the new accountability measures (Lines 352-358).
- 🌐 Programs will be required to submit comprehensive annual reports by November 1 of each year, including student application data, retention rates, accreditation status, and examination results (Lines 226-242).
- 🌐 The Florida Center for Nursing will conduct annual implementation studies evaluating program-specific data and Board accountability processes, with reports due to the Governor and Legislature by January 30 each year (Lines 373-398).
- 🌐 Programs must achieve graduate passage rates within 10 percentage points of national averages or face progressive interventions, culminating in potential program termination if benchmarks aren't met within established timeframes (Lines 248-302).






## UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES

**HB 875 Educator Prep** - sponsored by Representative Rizo, Modernizes teacher preparation programs and certification requirements by introducing new pathways, updating core curricula, and revising mentor and clinical experience standards. Establishes the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence at Miami Dade College and created mandatory collaboration with the **Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at the University of South Florida**. Creates a statewide hub for teacher preparation excellence and ongoing professional development.

Section 5 -1012.981 The Florida Center for Teaching Excellence established at Miami Dade College in collaboration with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at the University of South Florida shall develop evidence-based professional learning aligned with Florida Educator Accomplished Practices and

educator training programs integrating state-approved instructional materials that emphasize knowledge-based curricula, intervention strategies, and science-based reading comprehension. The center must design models of high-quality clinical experiences for aspiring teachers to demonstrate mastery in authentic settings, collaborate with districts to identify needs and align programs, and establish a statewide mentorship network. Additionally, it must conduct research on high-impact teaching practices, report professional learning completion to the department, and may submit learning systems for approval and apply for grants to support these initiatives. (Lines 21-74)

**Implementation:**

-  **University of South Florida:** Research collaboration, instructional design, evaluation
-  **Educator Preparation Programs:** Alignment with center methodologies, clinical experience coordination
-  Appointment of leadership team and key personnel, development of organizational structure, allocation of physical and technological resources
-  Establishment of advisory board with stakeholder representation.
-  Annual reporting to Department of Education

**SB 112 Children with Developmental Disabilities** - sponsored by Senator Harrell, Expand and enhance services and supports for children with developmental disabilities, with specific emphasis on autism spectrum disorder, by extending the Early Steps Program and creating new grants, programs, and educator requirements to better serve these children and their families.

Additionally, Establishes the **University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment** as a coordinating entity for statewide autism services.



Section 6 – 1003.5711, Startup grant for autism charter schools. The Legislature finds that students identified as having autism spectrum disorder may require highly specialized educational environments and resources to achieve their full










potential. (Lines 312-315) The University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment shall oversee the application, evaluation, and distribution of grants under this section. The center shall develop guidelines for grant administration (Lines 321-368).

Section 7 -1003.5712, the Legislature finds that many children with autism spectrum disorder face challenges during the summer months due to limited access to extend school year programs, summer school, and traditional summer campus that can accommodate their needs (Lines 400-404). The University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment shall administer a grant program to fund specialized summer programs for children with autism spectrum disorder who have significant emotional or behavior disorders or cognitive disabilities (Lines 410-474).

Section 8 – 1004.551, University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment. The center shall collaborate with state and local agencies that provide early intervention, educational, medical, employment, financial, and daily living services. The center shall also collaborate with other entities that provide autism research and services, including but not limited to, the Florida State University Autism Institute, each Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS), the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families. University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment shall coordinate information and resources related to research, best practices, training, and public awareness to better support families of children with autism. (Lines 477-553) Develop a micro-credential to provide specialized training in supporting students with autism (Lines 506-531)

Implementation:

-  Formalization of the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment
-  Appointment of leadership team and essential personnel

-  Establishment of advisory board with stakeholder representation
-  Micro-credential development
-  Grant Program Announcement
-  Creation of a centralized information repository
-  Explore capacity building and quality assurance by canvassing for geographical expansion and development of continuous improvement protocols.
-  Annual legislative progress reports
-  Biannual grant program status reports
-  Monthly service delivery metrics
-  Continuous online dashboard maintenance

**SB 312 Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.** - sponsored by Senator Gaetz, Requires the board of directors of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc., rather than the Board of Governors, to authorize the creation of a subsidiary of the corporation and limits the Board of Governors approval to the creation of new subsidiary corporations. Removes the chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida, increases representation from nine public representatives to ten.

**SB 892 Florida State University Election Law Center** - sponsored by Senator Simon, Establishes the Florida State University Election Law Center within the FSU College of Law, creating a comprehensive academic entity with appointed faculty and executive directors, while defining "election law" broadly to encompass voter registration, ballot access, election administration, campaign finance, redistricting, and related constitutional principles. The Center's structure emphasizes academic freedom protections for its faculty and researchers, enabling them to conduct non-partisan research, develop educational programming, and serve as a resource for policymakers and the public on electoral processes and governance.

Section 1 – 1004.421 The Florida State University Law Center is created for the purposes of defining election law, conducting objective, nonpartisan research on broadly defined election law issues while offering educational programming, training, and assistance to students, government entities, and election officials. The center would operate under a faculty director with academic freedom protections, be authorized to develop courses and host events, and could receive and handle election data subject to confidentiality requirements.

**HB 907 Florida Institute for Pediatric Research** – sponsored by Representative Anderson, Establishes the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases at the Florida State University College of Medicine to improve pediatric rare disease research, diagnosis, treatment, and advocacy through enhanced research capabilities and collaborative frameworks. Additionally, it launches the five-year Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program, which implements voluntary newborn genetic screening using whole genome sequencing to advance early detection and intervention for rare genetic conditions.

Section 1 – 1004.4211 The Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases; the Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program; the Sunshine Genetics Consortium, the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases is established within the Florida State University College of Medicine as a statewide resource for pediatric rare disease research and clinical care (Lines 30-167)