

26 Student Education grants.—

27 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that independent
28 nonprofit colleges and universities eligible to participate in
29 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
30 Grant Program are an integral part of the higher education
31 system in this state and that a significant number of state
32 residents choose this form of higher education. The Legislature
33 further finds that a strong and viable system of high-performing
34 independent nonprofit colleges and universities reduces the tax
35 burden on the citizens of the state. Because the William L.
36 Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program is
37 not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon
38 which financial aid programs are based, but is instead based on
39 specified performance metrics for each eligible institution, it
40 is the intent of the Legislature that the William L. Boyd, IV,
41 Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program not be
42 considered a financial aid program but rather a tuition
43 assistance program for its citizens. Such tuition assistance
44 shall be tiered based on each eligible institution's performance
45 metrics.

46 (2) The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student
47 Education Grant Program shall be administered by the Department
48 of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
49 the administration of the program.

50 (3) An institution is eligible to participate in the

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51 ~~department shall issue through the program a~~ William L. Boyd,
52 IV, Effective Access to Student Education grant program if the
53 institution is to any full-time degree-seeking undergraduate
54 ~~student registered at~~ an independent nonprofit college or
55 university ~~which is~~ located in and chartered by the state; ~~which~~
56 is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
57 Association of Colleges and Schools; ~~which~~ grants baccalaureate
58 degrees; ~~which~~ is not a state university or Florida College
59 System institution; is in compliance with the reporting,
60 disclosure, and transparency requirements of this section and
61 other general law; and ~~which~~ has a secular purpose, so long as
62 the receipt of state aid by students at the institution would
63 not have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or
64 result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any
65 religious sect.

66 (4) A person is eligible to receive such William L. Boyd,
67 IV, Effective Access to Student Education grant if:

68 (a) He or she meets the general requirements, including
69 residency, for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40,
70 except as otherwise provided in this section.

71 (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate
72 student at an eligible college or university that is ranked Tier
73 1 or Tier 2 under paragraph (6)(a) in a program of study leading
74 to a baccalaureate degree.

75 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study leading

76 | to a degree in theology or divinity.

77 | 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress as
78 | defined by the State Board of Education.

79 | 4. He or she has not completed more than 110 percent of
80 | the degree program in which he or she is enrolled.

81 | (5)(a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective
82 | Access to Student Education Grant Program for eligible
83 | institutions shall be as provided in the General Appropriations
84 | Act. The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student
85 | Education grant may be paid on a prorated basis in advance of
86 | the registration period. The department shall make such payments
87 | to the college or university in which the student is enrolled
88 | for credit to the student's account for payment of tuition and
89 | fees. Institutions shall certify to the department the amount of
90 | funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the
91 | department any undisbursed advances or refunds within 60 days of
92 | the end of regular registration. A student is not eligible to
93 | receive the award for more than 9 semesters or 14 quarters,
94 | except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

95 | (b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV,
96 | Effective Access to Student Education grant issued pursuant to
97 | this act and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or
98 | fees exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and
99 | fees, the department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV,
100 | Effective Access to Student Education grant issued pursuant to

101 this act by an amount equal to such excess.

102 (c) By September 1 of each year, institutions ~~receiving~~
103 ~~funding as provided in the General Appropriations Act~~ must
104 submit an Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program
105 Accountability Report to the Department of Education, in a
106 format prescribed by the department. The institution's president
107 or chief administrative officer shall certify in the report,
108 that the institution is in compliance with the reporting,
109 disclosure, and transparency requirements of this section and
110 other general law and that the institution has provided each
111 resident student with data on its performance on the metrics
112 listed in this paragraph, the student's net cost to complete his
113 or her degree, and, for students that have declared a major, the
114 declared major's expected earnings outcomes 1, 5, and 10 years
115 after graduation. The report must also use the most recently
116 available information on Florida resident students and include,
117 at a minimum, the following performance metrics, by institution:

- 118 1. Access rate based upon percentage of Pell Grant-
119 eligible students.
- 120 2. Affordability rate based upon average student loan
121 debt; federal, state, and institutional financial assistance;
122 and average tuition and fees.
- 123 3. Graduation rate.
- 124 4. Retention rate.
- 125 5. Postgraduate employment or continuing education rate.

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126 6. Workforce graduation rate based upon the percentage of
127 grant recipient graduates in high-demand programs that are
128 included on the United States Department of Labor or Labor
129 Market Estimating Conference lists for statewide or regional
130 demand as a percentage of total grant recipient graduates.

131 7. Workforce employment rate based on the percentage of
132 grant recipient graduates who obtain employment in their field
133 of study within 120 days after graduation as a percentage of
134 total graduates employed within 120 days after graduation.

135
136 ~~The department shall recommend minimum performance standards~~
137 ~~that institutions must meet to remain eligible to receive grants~~
138 ~~pursuant to this section. Each eligible institution shall post~~
139 ~~prominently on its website, by October 1 of each year, its~~
140 ~~performance on these metrics, as reported to the department.~~

141 (d) By October 1 of each year, the department shall submit
142 a report to the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, the
143 chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Governor's
144 Office of Policy and Budget on the performance of each eligible
145 institution. The report must also recommend annual minimum
146 performance benchmarks for the performance metrics in paragraph
147 (c) and strategies to ensure continuous improvement of eligible
148 institutions and the program. The minimum performance benchmarks
149 included in the report must increase annually.

150 (e) For fiscal year 2023-2024, the benchmarks and minimum

151 standards for each benchmark are as follows:

- 152 1. An access rate of 32 percent.
- 153 2. An affordability rate of \$7,263.
- 154 3. A graduation rate of 45 percent.
- 155 4. A retention rate of 65 percent.
- 156 5. A postgraduate employment or continuing education rate
- 157 of 64 percent.

158 (f) Beginning with the 2024-2025 General Appropriations
 159 Act and thereafter, the Legislature must also consider each
 160 institution's workforce employment rate when determining
 161 institutional eligibility ~~institutions and the institutions that~~
 162 ~~have not met the minimum performance standards recommended by~~
 163 ~~the department.~~

164 (6) (a) Each year, the Legislature shall adopt benchmarks
 165 and minimum standards specified in the General Appropriations
 166 Act and shall evaluate each institution's performance based on
 167 such benchmarks and place each institution in one of three tiers
 168 for the purpose of determining award amounts. The tiers are
 169 established as follows:

- 170 1. Tier 1: an institution that meets the requirements of a
- 171 Tier 2 institution and also meets or exceeds a workforce
- 172 graduation rate of 56 percent.
- 173 2. Tier 2: an institution that meets or exceeds at least 3
- 174 out of 5 benchmarks.
- 175 3. Tier 3: an institution that meets no more than 2 out of

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176 5 benchmarks.

177 (b) The per student award amounts for each tier shall be
178 as follows:

179 1. Tier 1: \$500 more than the Tier 2 per student award
180 amount.

181 2. Tier 2: As specified in the General Appropriations Act.

182 3. Tier 3: \$0.

183 (7)-(6) If the number of eligible students exceeds the
184 total authorized in the General Appropriations Act, an
185 institution may use its own resources to assure that each
186 eligible student receives the full benefit of the grant amount
187 authorized.

188 (8)-(7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
189 implement this section.

190 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.