

By Senator Grall

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30 institution or state university from admitting a
31 student who is not a citizen of the United States or
32 lawfully present therein; amending s. 1004.93, F.S.;
33 revising legislative intent; amending s. 1004.933,
34 F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for the
35 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE)
36 Program; amending s. 1005.06, F.S.; revising the list
37 of institutions that are not under the jurisdiction of
38 the Commission for Independent Education; amending s.
39 1006.71, F.S.; making a technical change; deleting
40 provisions requiring a gender equity plan in
41 intercollegiate athletics; deleting requirements for
42 the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the
43 State University System, and each applicable
44 institution's board of trustees to evaluate and assess
45 the gender equity plan and gender equity goals;
46 amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; revising the time period
47 for Florida College System institutions and state
48 universities to submit comments in response to a
49 specified notice of intent; prohibiting a Florida
50 College System institution or state university from
51 imposing certain graduation requirements; amending s.
52 1007.271, F.S.; revising the list of postsecondary
53 institutions that are eligible to participate in a
54 dual enrollment program; requiring that high school
55 grade point averages be weighted in a specified way;
56 amending s. 1008.30, F.S.; deleting a requirement for
57 the State Board of Education to adopt rules;
58 authorizing school district career centers to use

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59 alternative methods adopted by the board to assess
60 students in basic communication and computation skills
61 in lieu of common placement tests; authorizing Florida
62 College System institutions to request approval of
63 institution-specific alternative methods; making
64 conforming changes; amending s. 1008.44, F.S.;
65 deleting a provision limiting how supplemental funding
66 may be earned for the CAPE Industry Certification
67 Funding List; amending s. 1008.47, F.S.; providing
68 construction; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; revising
69 conditions for a student to meet the definition of
70 homeless children and youths for purposes of tuition
71 and fee exemptions; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.;
72 providing that a fee waiver only applies to a full-
73 time undergraduate student; revising requirements for
74 a fee waiver; amending s. 1009.40, F.S.; requiring
75 that a student be a United States citizen or be in the
76 United States legally to be eligible for financial aid
77 or tuition assistance; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.;
78 revising student eligibility requirements for the
79 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award;
80 authorizing a student to apply for the Florida Gold
81 Seal CAPE Scholars award within a specified timeframe;
82 amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the procedure to
83 determine Florida Education Finance Program funds;
84 providing a method for calculating additional full-
85 time equivalent membership based on advanced courses
86 and test scores; providing specified bonuses; amending
87 s. 1011.84, F.S.; revising the components that must be

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88 considered by the Legislature in determining an
89 apportionment to a Florida College System institution
90 from state funds; amending s. 1013.841, F.S.;
91 requiring all Florida College System institutions,
92 rather than only certain institutions, to maintain a
93 specified carry forward balance; providing that a
94 Florida College System institution may retain an
95 annual reserve amount exceeding the carry forward
96 balance; authorizing the inclusion in a carry forward
97 spending plan of the retention of a carry forward
98 balance as a reserve fund for a specified use;
99 amending s. 1009.895, F.S.; conforming a cross-
100 reference; providing an effective date.
101

102 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

103
104 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 251.001, Florida
105 Statutes, is amended to read:

106 251.001 Florida State Guard Act.—

107 (9) REIMBURSEMENT, BENEFIT, AND COMPENSATION.—

108 (a) The division shall reimburse members of the Florida
109 State Guard for per diem and travel expenses incurred to attend
110 required training or in the course of active service as provided
111 in s. 112.061.

112 (b) Members of the Florida State Guard may be compensated
113 for time spent training or in the course of active service at
114 rates established by the director, subject to appropriation.

115 (c) A member of the Florida State Guard may not make any
116 purchase or enter into any contract or agreement for purchases

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117 or services as a charge against the state without the authority
118 of the director.

119 (d) As a benefit to the active members of the Florida State
120 Guard, subject to approval by the director of the Division of
121 the State Guard, each Florida College System institution and
122 state university shall waive tuition and fees for active members
123 of the Florida State Guard to enroll for up to 6 credit hours of
124 courses per term on a space-available basis.

125 Section 2. Section 413.0114, Florida Statutes, is created
126 to read:

127 413.0114 Consumer disclosure for blind-related services.—

128 (1) Any individual, business, nonprofit, or other entity
129 offering fee-based services to individuals who are blind or
130 visually impaired shall, before entering into a contract or
131 accepting payment, disclose in writing whether equivalent or
132 substantially similar services may be available at no cost
133 through the Division of Blind Services or another public agency.

134 (2) The written disclosure must:

135 (a) Be provided in plain language and, upon request, in an
136 accessible format, such as braille, large print, or audio.

137 (b) Include contact information for the Division of Blind
138 Services.

139 (c) Be signed or electronically acknowledged by the
140 consumer or his or her representative.

141 (3) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or
142 deceptive trade practice under part II of chapter 501 and is
143 subject to penalties and enforcement as provided therein.

144 (4) The Department of Education may adopt rules to
145 implement this section.

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146 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 413.208, Florida
147 Statutes, is amended to read:

148 413.208 Service providers; quality assurance; fitness for
149 responsibilities; background screening.—

150 (1) Service providers must apply to ~~register with~~ the
151 division. To qualify for approval ~~registration~~, ~~The~~ division
152 ~~must ensure that the~~ ~~a~~ service provider must maintain ~~maintains~~
153 an internal system of quality assurance, have ~~has~~ proven
154 functional systems, meet the minimum qualifications, and be ~~is~~
155 subject to a due-diligence inquiry as to its fitness to
156 undertake service responsibilities.

157 (a) The division shall establish minimum qualifications for
158 service providers. The division may approve or deny any service
159 provider application. The division also shall establish an
160 annual application period for service providers to submit
161 applications. Beginning January 1, 2027, only service providers
162 that meet the minimum qualifications established by the division
163 and that have been approved to provide employment-related
164 services to individuals with disabilities may participate in the
165 vocational rehabilitation program.

166 (b) The division shall develop and make publicly available
167 an annual report of service provider effectiveness which
168 includes an evaluation system measuring the effectiveness of all
169 service providers that are approved by the division to provide
170 employment-related services to individuals with disabilities.

171 (c) In order to maintain approved status with the division,
172 service providers must meet minimum standards of effectiveness
173 in the provision of vocational rehabilitation services,
174 including placement of individuals in competitive and integrated

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175 employment.176 (d) Rates for vocational rehabilitation services must be
177 allocable, reasonable, and necessary, as determined by the
178 division.179 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1004.06, Florida
180 Statutes, is amended to read:

181 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.—

182 (3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs, campus
183 activities, or functions required for compliance with general or
184 federal laws or regulations; ~~for obtaining or retaining~~
185 ~~institutional or discipline specific accreditation with the~~
186 ~~approval of either the State Board of Education or the Board of~~
187 ~~Governors;~~ or for access programs for military veterans, Pell
188 Grant recipients, first generation college students,
189 nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer students from the
190 Florida College System, students from low-income families, or
191 students with unique abilities.192 Section 5. Section 1004.072, Florida Statutes, is created
193 to read:194 1004.072 Admission of students in public postsecondary
195 institutions.—A Florida College System institution or a state
196 university may admit as a student only an individual who is a
197 citizen of the United States or who is lawfully present therein.198 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
199 1004.93, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is
200 added to that subsection, to read:

201 1004.93 Adult general education.—

202 (1)

203 (b) It is further intended that adult general education

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204 programs offered by a public school district, a Florida College
205 System institution, or a state-funded community-based
206 organization be available to individuals who meet all of the
207 following requirements:

- 208 1. Are 16 years of age or older.
- 209 2. Are not currently enrolled in secondary school.
- 210 3. Do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- 211 4. Want to learn to speak, read, and write the English
212 language.
- 213 5. Are a United States citizen or lawfully present in the
214 United States.

215 (c) It is further intended that educational opportunities
216 be available for adults who have earned a diploma or high school
217 equivalency diploma but who lack the basic skills necessary to
218 function effectively in everyday situations, to enter the job
219 market, or to enter career certificate instruction.

220 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
221 1004.933, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

222 1004.933 Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education
223 (GATE) Program.—

224 (4) PAYMENT WAIVER; ELIGIBILITY.—

225 (b) To be eligible for participation in the GATE Program, a
226 student must:

- 227 1. Not have earned a standard high school diploma pursuant
228 to s. 1003.4282 or a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to
229 s. 1003.435 before enrolling in the GATE Program;
- 230 2. Have been withdrawn from high school;
- 231 3. Be a resident of this state as defined in s. 1009.21(1);
- 232 4. Be 16 to 21 years of age at the time of initial

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233 enrollment, provided that a student who is 16 or 17 years of age
234 has withdrawn from school enrollment pursuant to the
235 requirements and safeguards in s. 1003.21(1)(c);

236 5. Select the adult secondary education program and career
237 education program of his or her choice at the time of admission
238 to the GATE Program, provided that the career education program
239 is included on the Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4).
240 The student may not change the requested pathway after
241 enrollment, except that, if necessary for the student, the
242 student may enroll in an adult basic education program prior to
243 enrolling in the adult secondary education program;

244 6. Maintain a 2.0 GPA for career and technical education
245 coursework; and

246 7. Notwithstanding s. 1003.435(4), complete the programs
247 under subparagraph 5. within 3 years after his or her initial
248 enrollment unless the institution determines that an extension
249 is warranted due to extenuating circumstances; and

250 8. Complete at least 300 hours of volunteer service, paid
251 work experience, or a combination of both, before participation
252 in the program, as approved by the GATE Program provider or the
253 Department of Education. The hours of service or paid work must
254 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the
255 student, the student's parent or guardian if under 18 years of
256 age, and a representative of each organization for which the
257 student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

258 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
259 1005.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

260 1005.06 Institutions not under the jurisdiction or purview
261 of the commission.—

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262 (1) Except as otherwise provided in law, the following
263 institutions are not under the jurisdiction or purview of the
264 commission and are not required to obtain licensure:

265 (b) Any college or school, or course licensed or approved
266 for establishment and operation by another state agency.
267 Colleges or schools approved by another state agency to offer
268 one or more courses or programs under part I of chapter 464,
269 chapter 466, or chapter 475, or any other chapter of the Florida
270 Statutes may not qualify for exemption from the commission's
271 jurisdiction under this subsection requiring licensing or
272 approval as defined in this chapter.

273 Section 9. Section 1006.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to
274 read:

275 1006.71 Equality ~~Gender equity~~ in intercollegiate
276 athletics.—

277 (1) PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY GENDER EQUITY PLAN.—

278 (a) ~~Each Florida College System institution and state~~
279 ~~university shall develop a gender equity plan pursuant to s.~~
280 ~~1000.05.~~

281 (b) ~~The plan shall include consideration of equity in~~
282 ~~sports offerings, participation, availability of facilities,~~
283 ~~scholarship offerings, and funds allocated for administration,~~
284 ~~recruitment, comparable coaching, publicity and promotion, and~~
285 ~~other support costs.~~

286 (c) ~~The Commissioner of Education shall annually assess the~~
287 ~~progress of each Florida College System institution's plan and~~
288 ~~advise the State Board of Education and the Legislature~~
289 ~~regarding compliance.~~

290 (d) ~~The Chancellor of the State University System shall~~

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291 annually assess the progress of each state university's plan and
292 advise the Board of Governors and the Legislature regarding
293 compliance.

294 (e) Each board of trustees of a Florida College System
295 institution or state university shall annually evaluate the
296 presidents on the extent to which the gender equity goals have
297 been achieved.

298 (f) To determine the proper level of support for women's
299 athletic scholarships, an equity plan may determine, where
300 appropriate, that support for women's scholarships may be
301 disproportionate to the support of scholarships for men.

302 (g)1. If a Florida College System institution is not in
303 compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and
304 the Florida Educational Equity Act, the State Board of Education
305 must ~~shall~~:

306 1.a. Declare the Florida College System institution
307 ineligible for competitive state grants.

308 2.b. Withhold funds sufficient to obtain compliance.

310 The Florida College System institution shall remain ineligible,
311 and the funds may ~~shall~~ not be paid until the Florida College
312 System institution comes into compliance or the Commissioner of
313 Education approves a plan for compliance.

314 (b)2. If a state university is not in compliance with Title
315 IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Florida
316 Educational Equity Act, the Board of Governors must ~~shall~~:

317 1.a. Declare the state university ineligible for
318 competitive state grants.

319 2.b. Withhold funds sufficient to obtain compliance.

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320

321 The state university shall remain ineligible, and the funds may
322 ~~shall~~ not be paid until the state university comes into
323 compliance or the Board of Governors approves a plan for
324 compliance.

325 (2) FUNDING.—

326 (a) An equitable portion of all separate athletic fees
327 shall be designated for women's intercollegiate athletics.

328 (b) The level of funding and percentage share of support
329 for women's intercollegiate athletics for Florida College System
330 institutions shall be determined by the State Board of
331 Education. The level of funding and percentage share of support
332 for women's intercollegiate athletics for state universities
333 shall be determined by the Board of Governors. The level of
334 funding and percentage share attained in the 1980-1981 fiscal
335 year shall be the minimum level and percentage maintained by
336 each institution, except as the State Board of Education or the
337 Board of Governors otherwise directs its respective institutions
338 for the purpose of assuring equity. Consideration shall be given
339 by the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors to
340 emerging athletic programs at institutions which may not have
341 the resources to secure external funds to provide athletic
342 opportunities for women. It is the intent that the effect of any
343 redistribution of funds among institutions shall not negate the
344 requirements as set forth in this section.

345 (c) In addition to the above amount, an amount equal to the
346 sales taxes collected from admission to athletic events
347 sponsored by a state university shall be retained and utilized
348 by each university to support women's athletics.

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349 (3) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.—The State Board of Education
350 shall assure equal opportunity for female athletes at Florida
351 College System institutions and establish:

352 (a) Guidelines for reporting of intercollegiate athletics
353 data concerning financial, program, and facilities information
354 for review by the State Board of Education annually.

355 (b) Systematic audits for the evaluation of such data.

356 (c) Criteria for determining and assuring equity.

357 (4) BOARD OF GOVERNORS.—The Board of Governors shall ensure
358 equal opportunity for female athletes at state universities and
359 establish:

360 (a) Guidelines for reporting of intercollegiate athletics
361 data concerning financial, program, and facilities information
362 for review by the Board of Governors annually.

363 (b) Systematic audits for the evaluation of such data.

364 (c) Criteria for determining and ensuring equity.

365 Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section
366 1007.25, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (15) is
367 added to that section, to read:

368 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
369 other degree requirements.—

370 (9)

371 (b) An associate in arts specialized transfer degree must
372 include 36 semester hours of general education coursework and
373 require 60 semester hours or more of college credit. Specialized
374 transfer degrees are designed for Florida College System
375 institution students who need supplemental lower-level
376 coursework in preparation for transfer to another institution.
377 The State Board of Education shall establish criteria for the

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378 review and approval of new specialized transfer degrees. The
379 approval process must require:

380 1. A Florida College System institution to submit a notice
381 of its intent to propose a new associate in arts specialized
382 degree program to the Division of Florida Colleges. The notice
383 must include the recommended credit hours, the rationale for the
384 specialization, the demand for students entering the field, and
385 the coursework being proposed to be included beyond the 60
386 semester hours required for the general transfer degree, if
387 applicable. Notices of intent may be submitted by a Florida
388 College System institution at any time.

389 2. The Division of Florida Colleges to forward the notice
390 of intent within 10 business days after receipt to all Florida
391 College System institutions and to the Chancellor of the State
392 University System, who shall forward the notice to all state
393 universities. State universities and Florida College System
394 institutions shall have 30 60 days after receipt of the notice
395 to submit comments to the proposed associate in arts specialized
396 transfer degree.

397 3. After the submission of comments pursuant to
398 subparagraph 2., the requesting Florida College System
399 institution to submit a proposal that, at a minimum, includes:

400 a. Evidence that the coursework for the associate in arts
401 specialized transfer degree includes demonstration of competency
402 in a foreign language pursuant to s. 1007.262 and demonstration
403 of civic literacy competency as provided in subsection (5).

404 b. Demonstration that all required coursework will count
405 toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

406 c. An analysis of demand and unmet need for students

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407 entering the specialized field of study at the baccalaureate
408 level.

409 d. Justification for the program length if it exceeds 60
410 credit hours, including references to the common prerequisite
411 manual or other requirements for the baccalaureate degree. This
412 includes documentation of alignment between the exit
413 requirements of a Florida College System institution and the
414 admissions requirements of a baccalaureate program at a state
415 university to which students would typically transfer.

416 e. Articulation agreements for graduates of the associate
417 in arts specialized transfer degree.

418 f. Responses to the comments received under subparagraph 2.
419 (15) A Florida College System institution or state
420 university may not impose an institution-wide graduation
421 requirement that includes a course in conflict with subsection
422 (3).

423 Section 11. Subsections (1), (16), and (18) of section
424 1007.271, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

425 1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

426 (1) The dual enrollment program is the enrollment of an
427 eligible secondary student in this state or home education
428 student in this state in a postsecondary course creditable
429 toward high school completion and a career certificate or an
430 associate or baccalaureate degree. Postsecondary institutions
431 that are eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program
432 are Florida public postsecondary institutions and eligible not-
433 for-profit independent colleges and universities pursuant to s.
434 1011.62(1)(i). A student ~~who is~~ enrolled in postsecondary
435 instruction that is not creditable toward a high school diploma

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436 may not be classified as a dual enrollment student.

437 (16) Students who ~~meet the eligibility requirements of this~~
438 ~~section and who choose to~~ participate in dual enrollment
439 programs are exempt from the payment of registration, tuition,
440 and laboratory fees.

441 (18) School districts and ~~postsecondary Florida College~~
442 ~~System~~ institutions ~~shall~~ ~~must~~ weigh dual enrollment courses the
443 same as advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and
444 Advanced International Certificate of Education courses ~~when~~
445 ~~grade point averages are calculated. High school grade point~~
446 ~~averages must be calculated based on the high school credit~~
447 ~~earned by the student in each course.~~ Alternative grade
448 calculation systems, alternative grade weighting systems, and
449 information regarding student education options that
450 discriminate against dual enrollment courses are prohibited.

451 Section 12. Subsections (2) and (3) and paragraphs (a) and
452 (b) of subsection (4) of section 1008.30, Florida Statutes, are
453 amended to read:

454 1008.30 Assessing college-level communication and
455 computation skills for public postsecondary education.—

456 (2) ~~By January 31, 2022, the State Board of Education shall~~
457 ~~adopt rules to develop and implement alternative methods for~~
458 ~~assessing the basic communication and computation skills of~~
459 ~~students who intend to enter a degree program at a Florida~~
460 ~~College System institution.~~ Florida College System institutions
461 and school district career centers may use ~~these~~ alternative
462 methods adopted by the State Board of Education for assessing
463 the basic communication and computation skills of students who
464 intend to enter a degree program at a Florida College System

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465 institution or school district career center in lieu of the
466 common placement tests under subsection (1) to assess student
467 readiness for college-level work in communication and
468 computation. Florida College System institutions may request
469 approval of institution-specific alternative methods in
470 accordance with State Board of Education rules.

471 (3) The rules adopted under subsection (2) must specify the
472 following:

473 (a) A student who ~~entered 9th grade in a Florida public~~
474 ~~school in the 2003-2004 school year, or any year thereafter,~~ and
475 earned a Florida standard high school diploma and who
476 demonstrated readiness for college-level communication and
477 computation skills by any of the approved common placement tests
478 or alternative methods pursuant to this section or a student who
479 is serving as an active duty member of any branch of the United
480 States Armed Services is not required to be assessed for
481 readiness for college-level work in communication and
482 computation and is not required to enroll in developmental
483 education instruction in a Florida College System institution or
484 a school district career center. However, a student who is not
485 required to be assessed for readiness for college-level work in
486 communication and computation and is not required to enroll in
487 developmental education under this paragraph may opt to be
488 assessed and to enroll in developmental education instruction,
489 and the college or school district career center shall provide
490 such assessment and instruction upon the student's request.

491 (b) A student who earned a Florida standard high school
492 diploma and has not demonstrated readiness for college-level
493 courses pursuant to subsection (1) or subsection (2) must be

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494 offered the opportunity to be is assessed for readiness for
495 college-level communication and computation and, if the
496 student's whose assessment results indicate a need for
497 developmental education, he or she must be advised of all the
498 developmental education options offered at the institution. and,
499 After advisement, the student may enroll in the developmental
500 education option of his or her choice.

501 (c) A student who demonstrates readiness by achieving or
502 exceeding the test scores established under subsection (1) by
503 the state board and enrolls in a Florida College System
504 institution or a school district career center within 2 years
505 after achieving such scores may shall not be required to retest
506 or complete developmental education when admitted to any Florida
507 College System institution or school district career center.

508 (4) (a) Each Florida College System institution and school
509 district career center shall implement the developmental
510 education strategies defined in s. 1008.02 and rules established
511 by the State Board of Education.

512 (b) Each Florida College System institution and school
513 district career center shall use placement test results or
514 alternative methods as established by the State Board of
515 Education to determine the extent to which each student
516 demonstrates sufficient communication and computation skills to
517 indicate readiness for his or her chosen meta-major. Florida
518 College System institutions and school district career centers
519 shall counsel students into college credit courses as quickly as
520 possible, with developmental education limited to that content
521 needed for success in the meta-major.

522 Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 1008.44, Florida

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523 Statutes, is amended to read:

524 1008.44 CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.—

525 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt, at least
526 annually, based upon recommendations by the Commissioner of
527 Education, the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List that
528 assigns categories of certificates and certifications as
529 provided for in s. 1003.4203 to certifications identified in the
530 Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4) which meet a
531 statewide, regional, or local demand. ~~Supplemental funding for~~
532 ~~regional and local demand certifications may only be earned in~~
533 ~~those areas with regional or local demand as identified by the~~
534 ~~Credentials Review Committee.~~

535 Section 14. Subsection (3) of section 1008.47, Florida
536 Statutes, is amended to read:

537 1008.47 Postsecondary education institution accreditation.—

538 (3) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
539 law, an accrediting agency or association, including
540 programmatic accreditors, may not compel any public
541 postsecondary institution to violate state law, and any adverse
542 action upon the institution based upon the institution's
543 compliance with state law constitutes a violation of this
544 section that may be enforced through subsection (4), except to
545 the extent that state law is preempted by a federal law that
546 recognizes the necessity of the accreditation standard or
547 requirement.

548 Section 15. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section
549 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

550 1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

551 (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of

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552 tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that
553 provides workforce education programs, Florida College System
554 institution, or state university:

555 (e) A student who meets the definition of homeless children
556 and youths in s. 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
557 Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 11434a(2), as previously determined by a
558 public school in this state, and whose physical presence is in
559 this state for the duration of the tuition and fee exemption.
560 This includes a student who would otherwise meet the
561 requirements of this paragraph, as determined by a college or
562 university, but for his or her residence in college or
563 university dormitory housing. The State Board of Education may
564 adopt rules and the Board of Governors may adopt regulations
565 regarding documentation and procedures to implement this
566 paragraph. Such rules and regulations must consider
567 documentation of a student's circumstance to be adequate if such
568 documentation meets the standards under 20 U.S.C. s. 1087uu-
569 2(a). Any student who is determined to be a homeless child or
570 youth for a preceding award year is presumed to be a homeless
571 child or youth for each subsequent year unless the student
572 informs the institution that the student's circumstances have
573 changed or the institution has specific conflicting information
574 about the student's independence, and has informed the student
575 of this information.

576 Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (20) of section
577 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

578 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

579 (20) (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 ~~2022-2023~~ academic
580 year, a state university shall waive the out-of-state fee for a

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581 full-time undergraduate student who:

582 1. Has a grandparent who is a legal resident as defined in
583 s. 1009.21(1). For purposes of this subsection, the term
584 “grandparent” means a person who has a legal relationship to a
585 student’s parent as the natural or adoptive parent or legal
586 guardian of the student’s parent.

587 2. Earns a high school diploma comparable to a Florida
588 standard high school diploma, or its equivalent, or completes a
589 home education program.

590 3.a. Achieves an SAT combined score no lower than the 89th
591 national percentile on the SAT; or

592 b. Achieves an ACT score concordant to the required SAT
593 score in sub-subparagraph a., using the latest published
594 national concordance table developed jointly by the College
595 Board and ACT, Inc.; or

596 c. ~~If a state university accepts the Classic Learning Test
597 (CLT) for admission purposes, achieves a CLT score concordant to
598 the required SAT score specified in sub-subparagraph a., using
599 the latest published scoring comparison developed by Classic
600 Learning Initiatives.~~

601 4. Beginning with students who initially enroll in the 2022
602 fall academic term and thereafter, enrolls as a full-time
603 undergraduate student at a state university in the fall academic
604 term immediately following high school graduation.

605 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
606 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

607 1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility for
608 state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants.—

609 (1) (a) The general requirements for eligibility of students

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610 for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants
611 consist of the following:

612 1. United States citizenship or lawful presence in the
613 United States.

614 2. Achievement of the academic requirements of and
615 acceptance at a state university or Florida College System
616 institution; a nursing diploma school approved by the Florida
617 Board of Nursing; a Florida college or university which is
618 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State
619 Board of Education; a Florida institution the credits of which
620 are acceptable for transfer to state universities; a career
621 center; or a private career institution accredited by an
622 accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education.

623 3.2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year
624 preceding the award of aid or a tuition assistance grant for a
625 program established pursuant to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.505, s.
626 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.521, s. 1009.53, s. 1009.60, s.
627 1009.62, s. 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.75, s. 1009.77, s.
628 1009.89, or s. 1009.894. Residency in this state must be for
629 purposes other than to obtain an education. Resident status for
630 purposes of receiving state financial aid awards is ~~shall be~~
631 determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition
632 purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21.

633 4.3. Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy,
634 completeness, and correctness of information provided to
635 demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive state financial
636 aid awards or tuition assistance grants. Falsification of such
637 information shall result in the denial of a pending application
638 and revocation of an award or grant currently held to the extent

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639 that no further payments shall be made. Additionally, students
640 who knowingly make false statements in order to receive state
641 financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants commit a
642 misdemeanor of the second degree subject to the provisions of s.
643 837.06 and shall be required to return all state financial aid
644 awards or tuition assistance grants wrongfully obtained.

645 Section 18. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and subsection
646 (2) of section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

647 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida
648 Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards.—The Florida Gold Seal Vocational
649 Scholars award and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award are
650 created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to
651 recognize and reward academic achievement and career preparation
652 by high school students who wish to continue their education.

653 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
654 Vocational Scholars award if he or she meets the general
655 eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
656 Scholarship Program and:

657 (c)1. For a student earning a Florida Gold Seal Vocational
658 Scholars award, earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
659 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
660 subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding
661 elective courses.

662 2. For students earning a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars
663 award, earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average
664 of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

665 (2) (a) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE
666 Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility
667 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,

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668 and the student does both of the following:

669 1.(a) Earns a minimum of 3 ~~5~~ postsecondary credits ~~credit~~
670 ~~hours~~ through CAPE industry certifications approved pursuant to
671 s. 1008.44 which articulate for college credit.~~;~~ and

672 2.(b) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service, or
673 75 hours of volunteer service for students entering grade 9 in
674 the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, or 100 hours of paid
675 work, approved by the district school board, the administrators
676 of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home
677 education program students, or 100 hours of a combination of
678 both. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a
679 professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan
680 for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or
681 learning about the area. The student must, through papers or
682 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her
683 experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but
684 is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work
685 for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on
686 behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer
687 service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the
688 document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or
689 guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the
690 student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

691 (b) Before or within 3 months after completion of the GATE
692 Program as provided in s. 1004.933, a student may apply for the
693 Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award.

694 Section 19. Paragraph (o) is added to subsection (1) of
695 section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, to read:

696 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual

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697 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
698 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
699 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
700 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
701 follows:

702 (1) COMPUTATION OF THE BASE FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE
703 PROGRAM.—The following procedure shall be followed in
704 determining the base Florida Education Finance Program funds for
705 each district:

706 (o) Calculation of additional full-time equivalent
707 membership based on Florida advanced courses and test scores of
708 students.—A value of 0.16 full-time equivalent student
709 membership shall be calculated for each student in a Florida
710 advanced course who achieves a minimum score on an assessment
711 identified by the Department of Education pursuant to s.
712 1007.27(2) and added to the total full-time equivalent student
713 membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the
714 subsequent fiscal year. Each district shall allocate at least 80
715 percent of the funds provided to the district for Advanced
716 Placement instruction, in accordance with this paragraph, to the
717 high school that generates the funds. The school district shall
718 distribute to each classroom teacher who provided Advanced
719 Placement instruction:

720 1. A bonus in the amount of \$100 for each student taught by
721 the Florida advanced course teacher in each Florida advanced
722 course who achieves a minimum score on an assessment identified
723 by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1007.27(2).

724 2. An additional bonus of \$500 to each Florida advanced
725 course teacher in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F"

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726 who has at least one student who achieves a minimum score on an
727 assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to
728 s. 1007.27(2), regardless of the number of classes taught or of
729 the number of students who achieve a minimum score on an
730 assessment identified by the Department of Education pursuant to
731 s. 1007.27(2).

732

733 Bonuses awarded under this paragraph shall be in addition to any
734 regular wage or other bonus the teacher received or is scheduled
735 to receive. For such courses, the teacher shall earn an
736 additional bonus of \$100 for each student who has a qualifying
737 score.

738 Section 20. Paragraphs (b) and (e) of subsection (3) of
739 section 1011.84, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

740 1011.84 Procedure for determining state financial support
741 and annual apportionment of state funds to each Florida College
742 System institution district.—The procedure for determining state
743 financial support and the annual apportionment to each Florida
744 College System institution district authorized to operate a
745 Florida College System institution under the provisions of s.
746 1001.61 shall be as follows:

747 (3) DETERMINING THE APPORTIONMENT FROM STATE FUNDS.—

748 (b) The apportionment to each Florida College System
749 institution from the Florida College System Program Fund shall
750 be determined annually in the General Appropriations Act. In
751 determining each college's apportionment, the Legislature shall
752 consider the following components:

753 1. Base budget, which includes the state appropriation to
754 the Florida College System Program Fund in the current year plus

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755 the related student tuition and out-of-state fees assigned in
756 the current General Appropriations Act.

757 2. The cost-to-continue allocation, which consists of
758 incremental changes to the base budget, including salaries,
759 price levels, and other related costs allocated through a
760 funding model developed by the Florida College System presidents
761 in consultation with the Department of Education and approved by
762 the Legislature. The model must which may recognize a minimum
763 level of funding per FTE and differing economic factors arising
764 from the individual educational approaches of the various
765 Florida College System institutions, including, but not limited
766 to:

767 a. Program offerings, weighting workforce FTE to account
768 for priorities and costs ~~Direct Instructional Funding, including~~
769 ~~class size, faculty productivity factors, average faculty~~
770 ~~salary, ratio of full-time to part-time faculty, costs of~~
771 ~~programs, and enrollment factors.~~

772 b. Completion of credentials, including certificates,
773 certifications, and degrees ~~Academic Support, including small~~
774 ~~colleges factor, multicampus factor, and enrollment factor.~~

775 c. Size of the college Student Services Support, including
776 ~~headcount of students as well as FTE count and enrollment~~
777 ~~factors.~~

778 d. Economies of scale Library Support, including volume and
779 ~~other materials/audiovisual requirements.~~

780 e. Regional cost differentials Special Projects.

781 f. ~~Operations and Maintenance of Plant, including square~~
782 ~~footage and utilization factors.~~

783 g. ~~Comparable wage factor.~~

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784 3. Students enrolled in a recreation and leisure program
785 and students enrolled in a lifelong learning program who may not
786 be counted as full-time equivalent enrollments for purposes of
787 enrollment workload adjustments.

788 4. ~~Operating costs of new facilities adjustments, which~~
789 ~~shall be provided, from funds available, for each new facility~~
790 ~~that is owned by the college and is recommended in accordance~~
791 ~~with s. 1013.31.~~

792 5. New and improved program enhancements, which shall be
793 determined by the Legislature.

794
795 ~~Student fees in the base budget plus student fee revenues~~
796 ~~generated by increases in fee rates shall be deducted from the~~
797 ~~sum of the components determined in subparagraphs 1.-5. The~~
798 ~~amount remaining shall be the net annual state apportionment to~~
799 ~~each college.~~

800 (e) If at any time the unencumbered balance in the general
801 fund of the Florida College System institution board of trustees
802 approved operating budget goes below ~~7~~ 5 percent for a Florida
803 College System institution ~~with a final FTE less than 15,000 for~~
804 ~~the prior year, or below 7 percent for a Florida College System~~
805 ~~institution with a final FTE of 15,000 or greater for the prior~~
806 ~~year, the president must shall provide written notification to~~
807 the State Board of Education. By September 30 of each year, the
808 chief financial officer of each Florida College System
809 institution shall certify the unexpended amount of state funds
810 remaining in the general fund of an institution as of June 30 of
811 the previous fiscal year.

812 Section 21. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section

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813 1013.841, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

814 1013.841 End of year balance of Florida College System
815 institution funds.—

816 (2) (a) Each Florida College System institution ~~with a final~~
817 ~~FTE less than 15,000 for the prior year~~ shall maintain a minimum
818 carry forward balance of at least 7 5 percent of its state
819 operating budget; however, a Florida College System institution
820 may retain and report to the State Board of Education an annual
821 reserve balance exceeding that amount. If a Florida College
822 System institution fails to maintain a 7 5 percent balance in
823 state operating funds, the president ~~must~~ shall provide written
824 notification to the State Board of Education.

825 (b) Each Florida College System institution ~~with a final~~
826 ~~FTE less than 15,000 for the prior year~~ that retains a state
827 operating fund carry forward balance in excess of the 7 5
828 percent minimum shall submit a spending plan for its excess
829 carry forward balance. The spending plan ~~must~~ shall include all
830 excess carry forward funds from state operating funds. The
831 spending plan ~~must~~ shall be submitted to the Florida College
832 System institution's board of trustees for approval by September
833 30 of each year, 2020, and each September 30 thereafter. The
834 State Board of Education shall review and publish each Florida
835 College System institution's carry forward spending plan by
836 November 15 of each year, 2020, and each November 15 thereafter.

837 (3) (a) Each Florida College System institution ~~with a final~~
838 ~~FTE of 15,000 or greater for the prior year~~ shall maintain a
839 minimum carry forward balance of at least 7 percent of its state
840 operating budget. If a Florida College System institution fails
841 to maintain a 7 percent balance in state operating funds, the

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842 institution shall submit a plan to the State Board of Education
843 to attain the minimum balance.

844 (b) Each Florida College System institution with a final
845 FTE of 15,000 or greater for the prior year that retains a state
846 operating fund carry forward balance in excess of the 7 percent
847 minimum shall submit a spending plan for its excess carry
848 forward balance. The spending plan shall include all excess
849 carry forward funds from state operating funds. The spending
850 plan shall be submitted to the Florida College System
851 institution's board of trustees for approval by September 30,
852 2020, and each September 30 thereafter. The State Board of
853 Education shall review and publish each Florida College System
854 institution's carry forward spending plan by November 15, 2020,
855 and each November 15 thereafter.

856 (4) A Florida College System institution identified in
857 paragraph (2) (b) (3) (b) must include in its carry forward
858 spending plan the estimated cost per planned expenditure and a
859 timeline for completion of the expenditure. A carry forward
860 spending plan may include retention of the carry forward balance
861 as a reserve fund to be used for authorized expenses in
862 subsequent years. Authorized expenditures in a carry forward
863 spending plan may include:

864 (a) Commitment of funds to a public education capital
865 outlay project for which an appropriation was previously
866 provided, which requires additional funds for completion, and
867 which is included in the list required by s. 1001.03(18)(d);

868 (b) Completion of a renovation, repair, or maintenance
869 project that is consistent with s. 1013.64(1) or replacement of
870 a minor facility;

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871 (c) Completion of a remodeling or infrastructure project,
872 if such project is survey recommended pursuant to s. 1013.31;

873 (d) Completion of a repair or replacement project necessary
874 due to damage caused by a natural disaster for buildings
875 included in the inventory required pursuant to s. 1013.31;

876 (e) Operating expenditures that support the Florida College
877 System institution's mission;

878 (f) Any purpose approved by the state board or specified in
879 the General Appropriations Act; and

880 (g) A commitment of funds to a contingency reserve for
881 expenses incurred as a result of a state of emergency declared
882 by the Governor pursuant to s. 252.36.

883 Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 1009.895, Florida
884 Statutes, is amended to read:

885 1009.895 Open Door Grant Program.—

886 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for the program, a
887 student must:

888 (a) Meet the requirements under s. 1009.40(1)(a)3. and 4.
889 ~~s. 1009.40(1)(a)2. and 3.~~;

890 (b) Be enrolled in an adult secondary education program or
891 an integrated education and training program in which
892 institutions establish partnerships with local workforce
893 development boards to provide basic skills instruction,
894 contextually and concurrently, with workforce training that
895 results in the award of credentials under s. 445.004(4) or a
896 workforce education program as defined under s. 1011.80(1)(b)–
897 (f) that is included on the Master Credentials List under s.
898 445.004(4); and

899 (c) Be enrolled at a school district postsecondary

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900 technical career center under s. 1001.44, a Florida College
901 System institution under s. 1000.21(5), or a charter technical
902 career center under s. 1002.34.

903

904 An institution may not impose additional criteria to determine a
905 student's eligibility to receive a grant under this section.

906 Section 23. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.