

By Senator Grall

29-00650B-26

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to education; amending s. 251.001,
F.S.; requiring each Florida College System
institution and state university to waive tuition and
fees for members of the Florida State Guard if certain
conditions are met; creating s. 413.0114, F.S.;
requiring entities that offer fee-based services to
individuals who are blind or visually impaired to
disclose whether the service may be obtained elsewhere
at no cost; providing requirements for the disclosure;
authorizing the Department of Education to adopt
rules; amending s. 413.208, F.S.; requiring certain
service providers to apply to the Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation, rather than register;
requiring the division to establish minimum
qualifications for service providers; authorizing the
division to approve or deny any service provider
application; requiring the division to establish an
annual application period; providing that, as of a
specified date, only certain service providers may
participate in the vocational rehabilitation program;
requiring the division to develop and make publicly
available a certain annual report; requiring service
providers to meet certain standards to maintain
approved status; specifying that the rates for
vocational rehabilitation services meet certain
criteria; amending s. 1004.06, F.S.; revising
applicability for prohibited expenditures; creating s.
1004.072, F.S.; prohibiting a Florida College System

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

251.001 Florida State Guard Act.—

(9) REIMBURSEMENT, BENEFIT, AND COMPENSATION.—

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

413.0114 Consumer disclosure for blind-related services.—

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

(2) The written disclosure must:

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

(4) PAYMENT WAIVER; ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.a. ~~1.a.~~ Declare the state university ineligible for competitive state grants.

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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.

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

(c) Criteria for determining and assuring equity.

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

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

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

(c) Criteria for determining and ensuring equity.

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

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

(9)

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. An analysis of demand and unmet need for students

29-00650B-26

20261052__

entering the specialized field of study at the baccalaureate level.

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

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

f. Responses to the comments received under subparagraph 2.

(15) A Florida College System institution or state university may not impose an institution-wide graduation requirement that includes a course in conflict with subsection (3).

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

1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.—

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

may not be classified as a dual enrollment student.

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.44 CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.—

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

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

1008.47 Postsecondary education institution accreditation.—

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

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

1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

(e) A student who meets the definition of homeless children and youths in s. 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 11434a(2), as previously determined by a public school in this state, and whose physical presence is in this state for the duration of the tuition and fee exemption.

This includes a student who would otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph, as determined by a college or university, but for his or her residence in college or university dormitory housing. The State Board of Education may adopt rules and the Board of Governors may adopt regulations regarding documentation and procedures to implement this paragraph. Such rules and regulations must consider documentation of a student's circumstance to be adequate if such documentation meets the standards under 20 U.S.C. s. 1087uu-2(a). Any student who is determined to be a homeless child or youth for a preceding award year is presumed to be a homeless child or youth for each subsequent year unless the student informs the institution that the student's circumstances have changed or the institution has specific conflicting information about the student's independence, and has informed the student of this information.

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

1009.26 Fee waivers.—

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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 ~~e. 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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

and the student does both of the following:

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

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

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

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

1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

(3) DETERMINING THE APPORTIONMENT FROM STATE FUNDS.—

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

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

e. Regional cost differentials ~~Special Projects.~~

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

g. ~~Comparable wage factor.~~

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

1013.841, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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

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

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

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

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

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

1009.895 Open Door Grant Program.—

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

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

(b) Be enrolled in an adult secondary education program or an integrated education and training program in which institutions establish partnerships with local workforce development boards to provide basic skills instruction, contextually and concurrently, with workforce training that results in the award of credentials under s. 445.004(4) or a workforce education program as defined under s. 1011.80(1)(b)–

(f) that is included on the Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4); and

(c) Be enrolled at a school district postsecondary

29-00650B-26

20261052__

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.