

2025 Florida Legislative Session Policy Recap:



June 2025*

***as of 6/2/2025**

No Budget yet, but FAFSA Awareness, Measures to Increase Nursing Exam Passage Rates, Prioritized College and University Housing for Vulnerable Students, and other efforts to support College Access and Student Success Advanced this Session.

Introduction

The 2025 Legislative Session did not conclude within the regular 60-day timeframe and has been extended. Both chambers have agreed to extend the session until at least June 6th, 2025 to finalize negotiations on the General Appropriations Act (the state budget) and select bills outlined in the joint proclamation including funding for accelerated programs. All other bills that did not pass both chambers will not be considered this year.

This session recap provides an overview of higher education legislation, outlined in further detail below, that could impact Florida's students and postsecondary education system. As of the date of this recap's release, budget negotiations continue. Legislation passed through both chambers is in one of two stages: awaiting the Governor's signature or veto, or signed into law.

- **CS/SB 472 – Education in Correctional Facilities for Professional Licensure**
- **CS/CS/SB 584 – Young Adult Housing Support**
- **CS/HB 681 – Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding**
- **CS/CS/CS/HB 1105 – Education**
- **CS/HB 1145 – Workforce Education**
- **CS/CS/HB 1255 – Education**
- **CS/HB 1427 – Nursing Education Programs**

When a budget is passed by the legislature, FCAN will provide a relevant recap of the bill.

Legislation Impacting Postsecondary Education

CS/SB 472 – Education in Correctional Facilities for Professional Licensure

Status: Signed into law 5/22/25

Bill Sponsors: Senate Fiscal Policy Committee and Senator Keith Truenow (R – Tavares); House Bill sponsored by Representative Kevin Chambliss (D – Homestead) and Representative Rachel Plakon (R – Lake Mary)

Senate Bill 472 requires the Department of Corrections and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to ensure that incarcerated individuals who complete courses meeting licensure requirements receive credit.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

CS/CS/SB 584 – Young Adult Housing Support

Status: Awaiting Signature by Governor

Bill Sponsors: Senate Fiscal Policy Committee, Education Postsecondary Committee and Senator Ileana Garcia (R – Miami); House Bill sponsored by Representative Alex Rizo (R – Hialeah) and Representative Marie Woodson (D – Hollywood)

Senate Bill 584 requires colleges and universities to consult with the Department of Children and Families to develop plans to prioritize placement of students impacted by homelessness, foster care, and/or students eligible for tuition and fee exemptions into housing owned by the institution or university. The bill also directs the Department of Children and Families to oversee the federal Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative as well as other federal housing voucher programs. Additionally, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) will conduct a study on the housing challenges faced by homeless and former foster youth. The study is due by December 1, 2026.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

CS/HB 681 – Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding

Status: Awaiting Signature by Governor

Bill Sponsors: House Careers and Workforce Subcommittee and Representative Lauren Melo (R – Collier/Hendry County); Senate Bill sponsored by Senator Nick DiCeglie (R – Indian Rocks Beach)

House Bill 681 requires a school district or Florida College Institution and industry partner to use standardized contracts developed by the Department of Education for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs. The school district cannot receive more than 10% of funding if they provide solely administrative functions. An apprenticeship and preapprenticeship funding transparency tool would be developed by July 1, 2026.

District Workforce Education Funding Steering Committee meetings – if meeting for the purpose of funding model concerns – are now required to be publicly noticed 7 days in advance and open to the public.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1105 – Education

Status: Signed into law 5/30/25

Bill Sponsors: House Education & Employment Committee, Higher Education Budget Subcommittee, Careers & Workforce Subcommittee and Representative Kincart Jonsson (R – Lakeland)

House Bill 1105 is a large education bill. Highlights impacting postsecondary success include:

Creation of Job Engine Charter Schools

The bill specifies that a municipality may apply to convert an existing public school to a charter school to establish a “Job Engine” charter school. The purpose of this new type of charter school is to attract job-producing entities to a municipality.

Requires Counseling Materials to include Internship Information

Work-related internships approved by the State Board of Education, and used to satisfy high school graduation requirements, will be included in counseling materials and presented with courses required for graduation.

Eliminates the Certification of Completion

This bill deletes the certification of completion from the education code.

Document to Inform on Career Education, Credit Options, and other Pathways

The Department of Education will develop a document outlining the options available to students who do not earn a standard high school diploma. The options must include career education or credit programs, adult education to earn a standard high school diploma or its equivalent, apprenticeship programs, and the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program. This document must be developed by January 1, 2026. School districts can tailor the document.

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Awards

This bill adds that three-year plans between local school districts, local workforce development boards and others must include promotion of the Florida Vocational and CAPE Scholars award within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award must also be promoted within career academies and career-themed courses.

For background, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards are under the umbrella of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and provide scholarships for students to continue their education in a career or technical education program.

This bill allows any three high school and career and technical education credits to count towards the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. Both awards increase the required volunteer service for students entering grade 9 during the 2024-2025 school year and after, from 30 to 75 hours. The bill also allows all students to have the option of paid work to be eligible.

Establishes Workforce Credential for Students with Autism or Students on Modified Curriculum

This bill establishes a workforce credential program within the Department of Education to allow certain students to earn credentials that meet employer needs. The goal of the program is to help students acquire specific skills and find employment after they graduate. The Department of Education will develop this program by January 31, 2026.

Expands Eligibility for Bright Futures

A student's eligibility for Bright Futures is expanded to include those that earn a high school diploma from a non-Florida school if the parent retired from military service or public service within 12 months prior to the student's graduation. This is the same provision included in HB 1255.

Achieving an Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone designation from the College Board will also count towards eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholars award within Bright Futures, starting with the students graduating in the 2025-2026 school year. To achieve AP Capstone designation, a student must score a three or higher on six AP exams.

Providing Information on Dual Enrollment

Articulation agreements between school districts and career center dual enrollment programs must include notification of transportation options. Additionally, partners are encouraged to optimize access and student participation.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

CS/HB 1145 – Workforce Education

Status: Awaiting Signature by Governor

Bill Sponsors: House Higher Education Budget Subcommittee and Representative Jason Shoaf (R – Port St. Joe); Senate Bill sponsored by Senator Corey Simon (R – Tallahassee)

House Bill 1145 clarifies that charter schools are eligible recipients of the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program. This program provides grants to school districts and Florida College System institutions to fund the creation or expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that lead to industry certifications included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. Last year, this program received \$100 million dollars. The bill increases the money-back guarantees on workforce education programs offered by school districts and Florida Colleges from three to six programs.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

CS/CS/HB 1255 – Education

Status: Signed into law 5/30/25

Bill Sponsors: House Student Academic Success Subcommittee, Education & Employment Committee, and Representative Dana Trubuly (R – Ft. Pierce); Senate Bill sponsored by Senator Alexis Calatayud (R – Miami)

House Bill 1255 is a large scope PreK-12 education bill. Highlights impacting postsecondary education include:

Embeds Instruction on FAFSA within the Financial Literacy Course Curriculum

This bill embeds instruction on completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) within the Financial Literacy course curriculum students are required to take in order to graduate

from high school. Students will also be instructed on costs of postsecondary education, scholarships, grants, and student loans.

Expands Bright Futures Eligibility

A student's eligibility for Bright Futures is expanded to include those that earn a high school diploma from a non-Florida school if the parent retired from military service or public service within 12 months prior to the student's graduation.

Adds Classical Learning Test to University Preeminence

For preeminent state research universities programs, the average Classical Learning Test score of 83 or higher on a 120 score scale is added as an alternative test that can be utilized within one of the academic standards in the university earning preeminent status. Currently GPA, and SAT or ACT scores are considered.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

CS/HB 1427 – Nursing Education Programs

Status: Awaiting Signature by Governor

Bill Sponsors: House Health & Human Services Committee, Representative Philip Wayne "Griff" Griffiths, Jr. (R – Panama City Beach) and Representative Shane Abbott (R – DeFuniak Springs)

House Bill 1427 makes several changes to professional or practical nursing programs. Highlights include:

Admissions Criteria to Identify Students Likely to Need Additional Support

This bill requires nursing programs, in the admissions process, to identify students that are likely to need additional educational support. An individualized student academic support plan must be maintained for such students.

Establishes an Exit Exam or Preparation Course Requirement

Nursing programs are required to establish a comprehensive exit examination or a preparation course to prepare students for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) and offer it to all students before program completion. Passage of the exit exam or preparation course is not required for graduation unless specified by the program. The nursing programs' annual reports will now require the program's average exit examination or preparation course results. The average exit exam results will be posted on the program's website.

Remediation Offered to Students

Nursing Programs will offer remediation to students who do not pass the exit examination or preparation course, or who fail to pass the NCLEX as a first-time test taker within one calendar year after graduation.

Tuition Reimbursement

Programs must reimburse the total cost of tuition and fees for students that fail to pass the NCLEX as a first-time test taker, if the program's graduate passage rate is below 30% in a calendar year.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.









Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and a rewarding career. We envision a Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all. FCAN strives to expand knowledge of research, data, policies and practices that impact postsecondary access and attainment in Florida.

This report is intended as an educational resource and does not constitute an endorsement of or opposition to any specific bill or legislation.

For more research and data from FCAN, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org/research-and-data/.

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