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FCAN's 2026 State Policy Priorities Put Students First

~The statewide organization promotes expanding affordability as a key driver to ensuring all Florida students can earn a high-value credential or degree. ~

TAMPA, FL – The Florida College Access Network (FCAN) today released its 2026 State Policy Priorities: A Focus on Affordability, keeping students at the center of the statewide organization's policy engagement efforts.

FCAN's 2026 Policy Priorities highlight actionable steps that state leaders, education institutions, and communities can take to advance affordability for students and families seeking to cover the total cost of post-secondary education and training in Florida. They include:

- **Expanding Access to the Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG):** In the 2023-24 academic year, 41% of eligible students (39,189) could not receive FSAG aid due to a lack of state funding. FCAN recommends that all FSAG-eligible students receive the grant to improve retention and graduation rates.
- **Supporting Emergency Student Aid Programs:** A \$500 unplanned emergency expense can lead a student to drop out. In fact, over 75% of Florida students who left college before completing their degree said it was due to financial reasons. To keep students on track toward graduation, FCAN recommends strengthening or establishing emergency aid programs with state investments as a driving funding source.
- **Strengthening Dual Enrollment Financial and Outcome Reporting:** FCAN recommends that Dual Enrollment outcomes, specifically annual credits earned from successful completion and longer-term postsecondary enrollment and completion, be included in annual reporting to better understand return on taxpayer investment.

Florida has been ranked #1 for higher education by *U.S. News & World Report* for nine consecutive years, thanks to low tuition costs and strong graduation rates. However, the same rankings place Florida 33rd in terms of student debt at graduation, showing that tuition and fees alone fall short in defining affordability for students and families.

Expanding affordability and strengthening support systems can ensure Florida continues on its path to meeting its SAIL to 60 Goal. This goal aims to increase the percentage of Floridians, ages 25-64, with a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030.

For more information and to view FCAN's full 2026 State Policy Priorities, visit this [link](#).



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About Florida College Access Network

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. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org.

FCAN is a statewide independent organization hosted by the University of South Florida (USF). The statements and positions presented are those of FCAN and are not made on behalf of the USF Board of Trustees or intended in any way to be representative of USF.