

2026 Florida Legislative Recap

June 23, 2026



Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R – Polk)



**Careers and Workforce Subcommittee
Health & Human Services Committee
Health Care Facilities & Systems
Subcommittee
Health Care Budget Subcommittee
Insurance and Banking Subcommittee**

Representative Kincart Jonsson was elected to the Florida House in 2024 to represent House District 49. She is a 2x alumna of the University of Florida.



Nicole Washington
Founder
Washington Education
Strategies



Sarah Foster
Policy Analyst
Florida College Access
Network

Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the box
- Share on social media
Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
#FCAN
#TalentStrongFL

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording



What's On Your Mind?

In the Chat, please let us know:

- *Name/Organization*
- *City/County*
- *What you hope to learn today*

-or-

- *What College Access and/or Student Success policy is most important to you?*



Our mission:

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school towards a rewarding career.

Our vision:

A Florida working together, where education is the pathway to economic mobility and a prosperous economy for all.

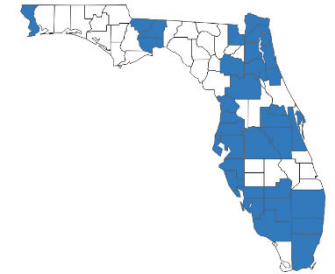
FCAN's Work

Achieving Florida's **SAIL to 60 Goal** to strengthen Florida's workforce and talent by 2030. Established in CS/HB 7071 (2019).



Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs support 83% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that provides schools and community organizations resources to help students continue their education after high school.



FCAN's Work

7 Conditions for Success

Opportunity for everyone: To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

Clear information and guidance: Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

Affordability: Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

Multiple pathways to success: Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

Lifelong learning: No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

Effective use of data: Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

Community collaboration: When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.

2026 Florida Legislative Recap



University Performance Based Funding

- 4- year graduation metric adjusted to accommodate longer engineering programs degree requirements
- Access Metric adjusted to pertain to fall, first-time in-college, Pell recipients

Bonuses to Florida Advanced Course Teachers

- \$50 per student that receives a minimum score on a Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT) Exam; \$500 to teachers in D or F school with at least one student achieving score

Creates Uniform Weighted Grading System for Honors and Accelerated Courses

- State Board of Education to develop

Creates Applied Algebra Courses

- FDOE to develop by January 1, 2027; Available for district implementation 2029-2030

CS/CS/HB 753 – School Counselors

- Removes testing barriers to the field of School Counseling
- Evaluates School Counselors Based on Florida School Counseling Standards

CS/CS/HB 757 – School Safety

- Expands the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, Coach Scott Beige Guardian Program to Florida Colleges and State Universities if they elect to participate
- Allocates funding to institutions

CS/SB 1246 – Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund

- Allows nonmonetary contributions from a person or entity to qualify for matching grants from the state to nursing programs

CS/CS/CS/HB 1081 – Cybersecurity Experiential Learning (Presented to Governor)

- Student internships and curriculum to advance Florida cybersecurity workforce

CS/HB 1343 – Insurance Customer Representative Licensing Qualifications (Signed into Law)

- FDOE to develop a half credit course in insurance and personal finance available to school districts in 2027-2028; Counts toward Customer Representative License

CS/CS/HB 325 – Education and Workforce Development for Current and Former Inmates (Presented to Governor)

- Programming for those incarcerated to obtain a commercial driver license (CDL)

What's Next?

Implementation

- New laws effective July 1, 2026

Midterm Elections

- Primary: Aug 18
- General: Nov 3

Preparing for 2027 Committee Weeks and Session

- Committee weeks begin in January
- Session begins in March



Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R – Polk)



FLORIDA'S TOTAL FY 2026-27 BUDGET: \$ 114.5 BILLION

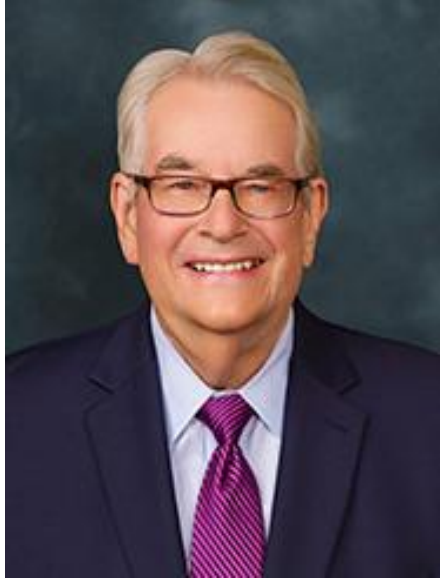
Program	FY 2026-27	FY 2025-26
State University System	\$3.8 Billion	\$3.9 Billion
Florida College System • <i>Additional \$30M in Program Fund</i>	\$1.7 Billion	\$1.68 Billion
Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) • <i>Last increase in 2017</i>	\$269 Million	\$269 Million
Bright Futures	\$705.2 Million	\$637.7 Million
Academic Acceleration Options Supplement	\$596.7 Million	\$596.7 Million
Postsecondary Guardian Program (NEW)	\$6 Million	

No In-State Tuition Increases, but university boards will have additional authority to set graduate program and non-resident tuition

Policy and Budget Questions?

Legislative FAFSA Champion Award Launch

Inaugural 2026 Winners:



Recognizes legislators that demonstrate a commitment to raising awareness of the FAFSA as well as House and Senate districts with highest FAFSA completion rates, and highest FAFSA growth rate. The Legislative FAFSA challenge begins in October and concludes March 31.

Conclusion