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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Directors
School District Technical College Directors
District Adult Education Directors
Sponsors of Registered Apprenticeship Programs
Sponsors of Registered Preapprenticeship Programs

FROM: Kevin O'Farrell, Ph.D.

DATE: July 29, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Legislation Affecting Career, Technical and Adult Education Partners and Apprenticeship Partners

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed legislation that will impact school district career and technical education (CTE) and adult general education (AGE) programs, in addition to apprenticeship programs. Because many of the bills impact multiple offices and functions, each institution should read the bills giving thorough attention to each section. Unless otherwise specified, all new legislative requirements are effective July 1, 2024. A summary of action required of school districts is provided below and in the appendix. An appropriation by district summary is provided in Appendix B.

APPROPRIATIONS

School District Workforce Development Funding Sources in the General Appropriations Act (HB 5001)

- Workforce Development Program funds of \$451.2 million.
 - An increase of \$24.6 million (5.8 percent) over the current year.
- Industry Certifications Performance-Based Incentive funds of \$8.5 million.
 - Nonrecurring additional funds of \$725,000 for certifications earned during the 2022-23 academic year. The Department will calculate allocations and distribute these funds later this fall.
- Student Success in Career and Technical Education Incentive funds of \$2.5 million.
- Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) in the amount of \$20 million.

Kevin O'Farrell, Ph.D.
Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE):
 - Startup Grant funds of \$4 million.
 - Performance Funding of \$1 million.
 - Scholarship Program funds of \$7 million.
- Open Door Grant Program funds: \$15 million.
- Workforce Capitalization funds: \$100 million.

NURSING EDUCATION

Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) (HB 5001)

The 2024-25 General Appropriations Act provided \$20 million for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund to reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers that offer a licensed practical nurse program pursuant to s. 1009.897, F.S. This is the third year which funding was provided for this program.

FDOE will release a separate district workforce education finance summary with information on the calculation of funds. See Appendix B for by district allocations for 2024-2025. FDOE will release funds via direct transfer of funds in four increments, allowing for the efficient use of these resources to benefit the programs. The first disbursement is expected to be released after August 15, 2024.

APPRENTICESHIP

Definition of Journeyworker (HB 917)

House Bill 917 updates the definition of a “journeyworker” in s. 446.021, F.S., to include “state-approved” apprenticeship program(s). It also adds that if required for the specific industry, the journeyworker must have passed the state-approved industry test.

To implement this change, the Department will update Rule 6A-23.002, F.A.C., to conform to the updated statutory language. Sponsors of registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs have the following responsibilities:

- For each apprenticeable occupation, determine if there is a state-approved industry test required by industry.
- If required by the specific industry, ensure all journeyworkers have passed the test.

POSTSECONDARY CTE PROGRAMS

Basic Skills Requirements for Clock Hour Programs (HB 917)

Additional exemptions to the basic skills requirements for clock hour programs of 450 hours or more are added to s. 1004.91, F.S., as follows:

- A student who possesses a high school diploma from a private school that is in compliance with s. 1002.42, F.S., or, for a student in a home education program or a personalized education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal guardian attesting that the student has completed a home education program pursuant to the requirements of s. 1002.41, F.S., or a personalized education program pursuant to the requirements of s. 1002.395, F.S.

The Department will update Rule 6A-10.040 Basic Skills Requirements for Postsecondary Career Certificate Education, F.A.C., to reflect these changes.

The Department will be updating the reporting data elements for basic skills to include these new exemptions. For school districts, the data element is Career and Technical Education Basic Skills Examination (No. 184625)

Automotive Service Technology Education Programs (SB 7004)

The entirety of Section 1004.925, F.S., is repealed. This removes a requirement that automotive service technology education programs be industry certified. It is important to note that formal education at a National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, ASE-accredited program remains an important pathway toward student ASE certification attainment.

The division will be updating the Automotive Service Technology curriculum frameworks in Rule 6A-6.0571, (F.A.C.), to reflect the repeal of this statutory provision. Rule 6A-6.05731, (F.A.C.), will be repealed at a future State Board of Education meeting.

ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) (SB 7032)

The Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program is created in a new s. 1004.933, F.S. In addition to the creation of the program, the GATE Scholarship Program (s. 1009.711, F.S.) GATE Startup Grant Program (s. 1011.804, F.S.), and GATE Program Performance Fund (s. 1011.8041, F.S.) are created. The GATE program aims to re-engage students who have withdrawn from high school by providing an alternative pathway to earn valuable career education credentials while also completing a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.

For students to be eligible for participation in the GATE program, a student must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Have been withdrawn from high school.
- Be a resident of this state as defined in s. 1009.21(1), F.S. for tuition purposes.
- Be 16 to 21 years of age at the time of initial enrollment, and if 16 or 17 years of age has withdrawn from school enrollment pursuant to the requirements and safeguards of s. 1003.21, F.S., which require for example, written parental permission and counseling to remain in school.
- 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. The student must remain in their chosen pathway after enrollment, except that, if necessary, the student may enroll in an adult basic education program prior to enrolling in the adult secondary education program.
- Maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) for career and technical education coursework.
- Complete the adult secondary education program and the career education program within three years unless the institution determines that an extension is warranted due to extenuating circumstances.

The program exempts students enrolled in the GATE program from paying tuition, specified fees and the costs of instructional materials.

To assist Florida College System (FCS) institutions, school districts and charter technical career centers in administering the GATE Program, the GATE Scholarship and GATE Startup Grant Programs provide funds for implementing the programs and reimbursing participating institutions for the tuition, fees and instructional materials for students enrolled in the GATE program.

Additionally, program performance funding may be provided to institutions through the GATE Program Performance Fund (HB 5001). Program funding is provided based on the number of students enrolled in the GATE program who earn a standard high school diploma or equivalent credential and a career certification that is on the Master Credentials List.

FDOE will engage in rule development to implement the GATE Scholarship Program, GATE Startup Grant Program and Gate Performance Fund. Once these rules are effective, FDOE will provide additional technical assistance and guidance. This will be a new rule, therefore a rule number has not yet been assigned.

One-stop Delivery Program (SB 7032)

The One-stop Delivery Program services are amended in s. 445.009(1)(g), F.S., to include Integrated Education and Training as well as the GATE Program in the one-stop delivery system.

Notification of the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education program (SB 7032)

Section 1003.21(1)(c), F.S., on school attendance is amended to add to the requirement that a student's certified school counselor or other school personnel must inform students who withdraw from high school of opportunities in the GATE Program.

Tuition and Fee Changes: Open Door Grant Program and GATE Scholarship Program (SB 7032)

After applying any aid received from the Open Door Grant Program, students participating in the GATE Program are eligible for a tuition and fee waiver.

The bill amends s. 1009.895(2)(b), F.S., to include enrollment in an adult secondary education program among the programs qualifying students for an Open Door Grant Program award.

Adult High School Co-Enrollment (SB 7032)

The Adult high school co-enrollment provisions in s. 1011.80(1), F.S., are amended as follows:

- Repeals the requirement that co-enrollment is limited to core curricula courses on a list identified by the Department, and
- Increases the maximum number of courses reported for funding from two to four.

The division will be updating all documentation in curriculum frameworks related to these provisions. The Department will engage in rule development to 6A-6.014, (F.A.C.), to reflect these changes.

High School Equivalency Diploma Program – Notification requirements (SB 7032)

A new requirement is added to s. 1003.435(3)(b), F.S. Each district school board must notify candidates for the high school equivalency diploma about the adult secondary and postsecondary education options available in or near the district, including the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program. Additionally, candidates must be informed of the eligibility requirements and any minimum academic requirements for each available option.

Underage Eligibility for the High School Equivalency Diploma Program (SB 7004)

Section 1003.435, F.S., is amended to change the eligibility of individuals beyond the compulsory age to take the high school equivalency exam. With this amendment, a candidate who has filed a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c), F.S., may take the exam after reaching the age of 16, without additional conditions from the district. Rule 6A-6.0201, F.A.C., will be updated to amend provisions related to underage testing. Once the rule is effective, FDOE will provide additional technical assistance and guidance.

OTHER WORKFORCE TOPICS

Minors Participating in Residential Building Construction Work-Based Learning (HB 917)

Section 450.061, F.S., is amended to bring clarity to the requirements for student participation in work-based learning related to residential building construction. Minors that are 16 or 17 years may be employed on any residential building construction if they have earned their Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10 certification (OSHA 10) and are not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure or ladder above 6 feet. In addition, the minor 16 or 17 years of age must be directly supervised by a person who has earned his or her OSHA 10 certification, is 21 years of age or older and has at least 2 years of work experience related to the work he or she is supervising. The work performed by the minor must comply with all federal laws or rules related to workplace safety and minors in the workplace. Districts should evaluate existing local policies and procedures for work-based learning opportunities and construction programs which may be impacted by this change.

Florida First Responder Scholarship Program (HB 917)

Section 1009.896, F.S., is amended to expand eligibility for the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to include career preparatory programs related to emergency medical technicians, paramedics and firefighters. Correspondingly, the name of the scholarship is updated to the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program to reflect this larger purview. Contact osfa@fldoe.org or visit the [Office of Student Financial Assistance's website](#) for more information on eligibility and the application process.

Thank you for implementing these important changes.

KO/es

Appendix A – School District Actions for Workforce Education Programs Following the 2024 Legislative Session

Issue (Bill Number)	May require local policy and/or procedures review	May require data or information to be submitted to the state
Workforce Development Program funds (HB 5001)	None expected.	None expected.
Industry Certifications Performance-Based Incentive funds (HB 5001)	None expected.	None expected.
Student Success in Career and Technical Education Incentive funds (HB 5001)	None expected.	None expected.
Open Door Grant Program funds (HB 5001)	Yes. The district will be required to review finance procedures for disbursement of funds within the district.	Yes.
Workforce Capitalization funds (HB 5001)	None expected.	Dependent on the grant.
Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) (HB 5001)	None expected.	None expected.
Basic Skills Requirements (HB 917)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	Yes.
Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) (SB 7032)	Yes, based on FDOE rulemaking.	Yes, based on FDOE rulemaking.
One-stop Delivery Program (SB 7032)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	None expected.
Notification of the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education program (SB 7032)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	None expected.

Tuition and Fee Changes: Open Door Grant Program and GATE Scholarship Program (SB 7032)	Yes. The district will be required to review finance procedures for disbursement of funds within the district.	None expected.
Adult High School Co-Enrollment (SB 7032)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	None expected.
High School Equivalency Diploma Program – Notification requirements (SB 7032)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	None expected.
Underage Eligibility for the High School Equivalency Diploma Program (SB 7004)	Yes, based on rulemaking.	None expected, subject to change based on rulemaking.
Automotive Service Technology Education Programs (SB 7004)	None expected, subject to change based on rulemaking.	None expected, subject to change based on rulemaking.
The Employment of Minors in Residential Building Construction (HB 917)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	None expected.
Florida First Responder Scholarship Program (HB 917)	Yes. The district will be required to review finance procedures for disbursement of funds within the district.	Yes.

Appendix B – Appropriation by District Summary

Summary of Total Workforce Education Funds by District, 2024-25
Workforce Development, PIPELINE, Student Success in CTE
As provided in 2024 General Appropriations Act, Chapter 2024-XXX Laws of Florida

District #	District	Workforce Development (a)	PIPELINE (b)	Student Success in CTE (c)	TOTAL
1	Alachua	\$ 275,816	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 275,816
2	Baker	\$ 256,748	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 256,748
3	Bay	\$ 3,081,600	\$ 461,539	\$ 26,346	\$ 3,569,485
4	Bradford	\$ 1,077,686	\$ 511,398	\$ 13,587	\$ 1,602,671
5	Brevard	\$ 3,740,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,740,107
6	Broward	\$ 83,628,392	\$ 2,156,729	\$ 417,431	\$ 86,202,552
7	Calhoun	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
8	Charlotte	\$ 4,286,913	\$ 463,815	\$ 28,682	\$ 4,779,410
9	Citrus	\$ 3,549,534	\$ 724,284	\$ 38,404	\$ 4,312,222
10	Clay	\$ 1,136,452	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,136,452
11	Collier	\$ 13,704,357	\$ 967,933	\$ 67,230	\$ 14,739,520
12	Columbia	\$ 301,280	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 301,280
13	Miami-Dade	\$ 91,315,004	\$ 1,705,841	\$ 314,572	\$ 93,335,417
14	DeSoto	\$ 653,679	\$ 545,868	\$ -	\$ 1,199,547
15	Dixie	\$ 85,362	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,362
16	Duval	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Escambia	\$ 5,435,952	\$ -	\$ 51,267	\$ 5,487,219
18	Flagler	\$ 1,071,009	\$ -	\$ 13,560	\$ 1,084,569
19	Franklin	\$ 88,148	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88,148
20	Gadsden	\$ 449,348	\$ 501,264	\$ 2,929	\$ 953,541
21	Gilchrist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22	Glades	\$ 91,167	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,167
23	Gulf	\$ 91,222	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,222
24	Hamilton	\$ 88,270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88,270
25	Hardee	\$ 190,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,107
26	Hendry	\$ 971,251	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 971,251
27	Hernando	\$ 657,252	\$ -	\$ 2,207	\$ 659,459
28	Highlands	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
29	Hillsborough	\$ 53,261,250	\$ 313,845	\$ 217,438	\$ 53,792,533
30	Holmes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
31	Indian River	\$ 1,379,150	\$ 410,171	\$ 10,823	\$ 1,800,144
32	Jackson	\$ 241,677	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 241,677
33	Jefferson	\$ 89,082	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89,082
34	Lafayette	\$ 88,148	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88,148

2024 Legislation Affecting Career, Technical and Adult Education Partners and Apprenticeship Partners

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35	Lake	\$	7,049,801	\$	890,966	\$	79,635	\$	8,020,402
36	Lee	\$	11,333,576	\$	1,373,728	\$	155,588	\$	12,862,892
37	Leon	\$	9,463,519	\$	651,106	\$	65,050	\$	10,179,675
38	Levy	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
39	Liberty	\$	202,901	\$	-	\$	-	\$	202,901
40	Madison	\$	88,061	\$	-	\$	-	\$	88,061
41	Manatee	\$	10,347,179	\$	787,778	\$	127,826	\$	11,262,783
42	Marion	\$	4,706,422	\$	618,464	\$	69,157	\$	5,394,043
43	Martin	\$	1,267,400	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,267,400
44	Monroe	\$	655,483	\$	-	\$	-	\$	655,483
45	Nassau	\$	605,448	\$	-	\$	-	\$	605,448
46	Okaloosa	\$	2,893,150	\$	636,714	\$	29,747	\$	3,559,611
47	Okeechobee	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
48	Orange	\$	34,345,785	\$	574,765	\$	188,270	\$	35,108,820
49	Osceola	\$	9,265,559	\$	333,036	\$	45,044	\$	9,643,639
50	Palm Beach	\$	19,024,135	\$	-	\$	28,098	\$	19,052,233
51	Pasco	\$	3,678,659	\$	-	\$	28,448	\$	3,707,107
52	Pinellas	\$	27,911,793	\$	938,253	\$	157,300	\$	29,007,346
53	Polk	\$	9,987,838	\$	832,753	\$	75,581	\$	10,896,172
54	Putnam	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
55	Saint Johns	\$	4,539,130	\$	673,024	\$	58,097	\$	5,270,251
56	Saint Lucie	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
57	Santa Rosa	\$	2,509,771	\$	294,273	\$	18,573	\$	2,822,617
58	Sarasota	\$	11,036,901	\$	713,380	\$	84,267	\$	11,834,548
59	Seminole	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
60	Sumter	\$	233,273	\$	-	\$	-	\$	233,273
61	Suwannee	\$	2,206,186	\$	713,133	\$	11,630	\$	2,930,949
62	Taylor	\$	2,025,025	\$	506,158	\$	20,096	\$	2,551,279
63	Union	\$	95,795	\$	-	\$	-	\$	95,795
64	Volusia	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
65	Wakulla	\$	122,430	\$	-	\$	-	\$	122,430
66	Walton	\$	1,650,094	\$	287,439	\$	19,316	\$	1,956,849
67	Washington	\$	2,670,520	\$	412,343	\$	33,801	\$	3,116,664
	Total	\$	451,201,797	\$	20,000,000	\$	2,500,000	\$	473,701,797