

# 2019 Florida Legislative Session Preview:

CTE, early access to college and career pathways, and other proposals impacting college students



MARCH 2019

## Introduction

The 2019 Florida Legislative Session starts March 5, and building Florida's talent pipeline through access to high quality credentials and degrees beyond high school remains a priority for policymakers. Which of the 3,062 proposed bills are poised to impact postsecondary access and attainment for Florida students?

This preview includes some of the top budget priorities and proposals to watch this session.

## Budget

The general revenue forecast for FY 2019-20 remains positive, with a projected surplus of \$223.4 million. However, lawmakers have expressed an intention to be cautious with spending this year, as impacts of Hurricane Michael and increasing healthcare costs will continue to impact the budget.<sup>1</sup>

Governor Ron DeSantis' recommended budget—*Bold Vision for a Brighter Future*—includes more than \$26 billion for education in a total budget of \$91.3 billion for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.<sup>2</sup> Governor DeSantis' recommendations include \$1.28 billion in state operating funds for the Florida College System, \$2.6 billion for the State University System, and \$12.3 billion in state funding for K-12, increasing the per student funding to \$7,653. There are no tuition increases in the Governor's recommended budget.

In January, Governor DeSantis issued [Executive Order 19-31](#), titled *Charting a Course for Florida to Become Number 1 in the Nation for Workforce Education by 2030 and Ensuring Florida Students are Prepared for the Jobs of the Future*.<sup>3</sup> The governor's recommended budget prioritizes funding to expand current and new initiatives for career and technical education and college completion, including:

- *Incentive funding for high quality industry certifications in school district technical centers and state colleges.* The governor's budget provides additional funding to school districts (\$2 million increase; \$6.5 million total) and the Florida College System (\$4 million increase; \$14 million total) to increase the number of students who earn high quality industry certifications.

- *Performance funding for state colleges and universities:* The governor also recommends increasing the state's and institutions' investments in the performance-based incentive models by \$30 million each for public colleges (\$120 million total) and universities (\$620 million total).
- *Pathways to career opportunity grants:* The governor proposes \$10 million in grants to school districts and Florida College System institutions to develop high-quality, industry-specific learning opportunities for students, including apprenticeships.
- *The Work Florida Initiative:* This proposal would invest \$26 million to support statewide efforts to align Florida College System workforce program to the job market by utilizing job growth reports and industry partners.
- *The Last Mile College Completion Program:* This program would provide \$1.5 million for FCS institutions to provide tuition waivers to up to 1,000 students who have completed 90% of their program but stopped out before completion.

## Policy

### SB 190: Education

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kelli Stargel (R - Lakeland)

The bill modifies the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, including removing the annual credit hour cap of 45 college credits, extending the enrollment requirement for initial awards from three to five years after high school graduation, and aligning eligibility test scores to set percentile scores beginning in 2020-21. Additionally, the bill codifies the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship as an official Bright Futures Scholarship Program award.

### SB 194: Higher Education

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kelli Stargel (R - Lakeland)

The bill requires each FCS institution to implement at least one "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreement with at least one state university to help their associate's degree earners transfer and complete a bachelor's degree. Additionally, it requires school boards to notify students in accelerated mechanisms of credit-by-examination and dual enrollment equivalency options.

### CS/HB 217: Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel

**Bill Sponsors:** Higher Education and Career Readiness Subcommittee, Representatives Adam Hattersley (D - Riverview) and Mel Ponder (R - Destin)

Requires the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to utilize national best practices to develop a uniform system to award credit for experience and training obtained for military service. Additionally, public secondary, college and university institutions will be required to waive transcript fees for active duty service members or honorably discharged veterans and their immediate family members.

## **CS/HB 257: Excess Credit Hour Surcharges**

**Bill Sponsors:** House Higher Education and Career Readiness; Representative Amber Mariano (R - Hudson)

Increases the excess credit hour surcharge threshold from 110% to 120% of the number of credit hours required for any student who switches degree programs and as a result, must complete a higher number of credit hours in the new degree program compared to the original degree program.

## **SB 456/458: Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Program/Trust Fund**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Audrey Gibson (D - Jacksonville)

Establishes the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship within the Department of Education. Subject to the \$2 million appropriation requested for 2019-20, each of Florida's four HBCUs would be eligible to draw down up to \$500,000 for student scholarships.

## **HB 457: Student Eligibility Requirements for State Financial Aid Awards and Tuition Assistance Grants**

**Bill Sponsors:** Representatives Carlos Smith (D- Orlando) and Fentrice Driskell (D- Tampa)

Outlines criteria for the state to classify certain immigrant students (those granted temporary protected status or deferred action for childhood arrivals status) as residents for the purposes of state financial aid and tuition assistance eligibility.

## **HB 593: Postsecondary Fee Waivers**

**Bill Sponsor:** Representative Jay Trumbull (R - Panama City)

Allows FCS institutions with service regions impacted by a hurricane to waive out-of-state fees in an effort to recruit students. Students who qualify can receive the fee waiver for up to 110% of required credits for a degree or certificate program.

## **HB 839: Organization and Operation of State Universities**

**Bill Sponsor:** Representative Ray Rodrigues (R - Ft. Myers)

Includes several provisions related to state universities. Requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to enter into an agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to access individual reemployment assistance wage records. Amends state university performance metrics to include 2-year graduation rate for full-time AA transfers from the FCS and replaces the Pell-eligible enrollment metric with 6-year graduation rates for Pell-eligible students. The bill also codifies new allocation methodology approved by the BOG in November 2018. Requires that, as part of the USF consolidation, USF-St. Petersburg and USF-Sarasota Manatee be classified as branch campuses. Requires "reverse transfer" for students who complete a majority of their AA

requirements at an FCS institution then transfer to an SUS institution to be awarded the AA upon completion of the AA degree requirements..

### **SB 1308: Pathways to College and Career Success**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Keith Perry (R - Gainesville)

The bill mirrors provisions in Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 19-31, including outlining requirements for Commissioner and Department of Education to conduct an audit of high-quality career and technical education requirements, reverse transfer and the Last Mile tuition waiver.

### **SB 1388: College and Career Educational Pathways**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Janet Cruz (D - Tampa)

Establishes a Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion with duties such as making recommendations to enhance articulation between middle school, high school, and postsecondary institutions and designing and implementing a sustainable funding model for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. Also adds the percentage of students engaged in apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs to the accelerated curricula metric for K-12 school grades.

## **Other Relevant Bills**

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### **SB 114: High School Graduation Requirements/Dorothy L. Hukill Financial Literacy Act**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Travis Hutson (R - St. Augustine)

The Dorothy L. Hukill Financial Literacy Act requires students starting high school in 2019-20 or later to complete a one-half credit course in personal financial literacy and money management.

### **HB 189: Postsecondary Education for Secondary Students**

**Bill Sponsor:** Representative Ardian Zika (R - Land O' Lakes)

Updates statute language relating to "collegiate high schools" to "early college programs." This bill states that at a minimum, early college programs must provide two years for students to complete a CAPE industry certification and/or at least 60 credits through dual enrollment. Additionally, schools will receive a funding bonus for every student who enrolls in an early college program and completes an associate's degree or earns at least 60 college credits before high school graduation.

### **HB 367: Apprenticeship Programs**

**Bill Sponsor:** Representatives Byron Donalds (R - Naples) and David Silvers (D - Lake Clarke Shores)

Requires Florida DOE to submit an annual report to the legislature and the State Apprenticeship Advisory Council on the state's apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. Pending

legislative appropriation, the bill also expands the Florida Apprenticeship Grant Program to sponsors not partnered with a career education institution.

## **SB 770: Alternative High School Graduation Requirements**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Travis Hutson (R - St. Augustine)

Creates an eighteen-credit career and technical education pathway option to earn a standard high school diploma. In addition to a 2.0 GPA threshold, and a specified number of credits and pass end of course exam for certain subjects, this graduation pathway would require students earn credits in work-based learning programs and career and technical education that result in the attainment of industry certification(s).

## **HB 1197: Charter Schools**

**Bill Sponsor:** Representative Jason Fischer (R – Jacksonville)

Allows SUS and FCS institutions to sponsor charter schools to meet local education and workforce needs. This bill also stipulates that the appropriate SUS or FCS institution’s board of trustees will serve as the educational agency for such sponsored chartered schools and it creates a sponsor accountability framework.

### **Notes:**

1. The Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research. *State of Florida Long-Range Financial Outlook, Fiscal Years 2019-20 through 2021-22*. Tallahassee, FL: 2018. [http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/long-range-financial-outlook/3-Year-Plan\\_Fall-2018\\_1920-2122.pdf](http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/long-range-financial-outlook/3-Year-Plan_Fall-2018_1920-2122.pdf)
2. The State of Florida. *Governor Ron DeSantis’ 2019-20 Budget: Bold Vision for a Brighter Future*. Tallahassee, FL: 2019. <http://www.boldvisionforabrighterfuture.com/content/current/Education.htm>
3. Governor Ron DeSantis, “Executive Order Number 19-31, Charting a Course for Florida to Become Number 1 in the Nation for Workforce Education by 2030 and Ensuring Florida Students are Prepared for the Jobs of the Future.” January 2019. <https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/EO-19-31.pdf>



Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's first collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and prosper in Florida's dynamic economy. Our mission is to create and sustain a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to increase college and career preparation, access, and completion for all Florida students. Our vision for Florida is Goal 2025: For 60% of working-age Floridians to hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025.

As a nonpartisan organization, FCAN strives to expand knowledge of research, data, policies and practices that impact postsecondary access and attainment in Florida. This preview is intended as an educational resource and does not constitute an endorsement or opposition to any specific bill or legislation.

For more research and data from FCAN, visit [www.floridacollegeaccess.org/research-and-data/](http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org/research-and-data/).

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

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