

2025 Florida Legislative Session Budget Recap:



June 2025*

*as of 6/23/2025

Longest session in recent years concludes two weeks prior to start of fiscal year, with funding secured for accelerated coursework, need-based aid remains at last year's level, and no tuition increases.

Introduction

After two extensions, the 2025 legislative session adjourned sine die on Monday, June 16th – 45 days later than the planned regular 60-day session. Ultimately, initial disagreements between House and Senate leadership over tax cuts and policy approaches to reduce state spending led to the extended timeline.

Lawmakers passed a \$115.1 billion budget, a 1.2% reduction from last year's, supporting a variety of new and continued initiatives. Highlights of the balanced budget overall include a 2% raise for state employees, an elimination of the business rent tax, and \$830 million to pay outstanding debt. Governor DeSantis has until July 1, the start of the state fiscal year, to sign the budget.

This budget recap outlines key appropriations that will impact Florida students' postsecondary access and success.

FCAN's policy recap was released June 3rd, and is accessible at www.floridacollegeaccess.org, or by clicking [here](#).

Highlights

The State University System will receive \$3.9 billion in operating funds. Highlights include:

- No tuition increases
- \$645 million for state university performance-based funding incentives
 - \$350,000,000 of state investment
 - \$295,000,000 redistributed from base funding
- \$18.5 million for incentives for Programs of Strategic Emphasis (Buy One, Get One Free)
 - This represents an approximate 50% decrease from last year's allocation of \$38 million. Additionally, new policy specifies that tuition and fee waivers for these programs are available after all other financial aid has been applied and is based on the student's out-of-pocket expense.
- \$40 million for Preeminent state research universities
- \$46 million for nursing education initiatives

The Florida College System will receive \$1.68 billion in operating funds. Highlights include:

- No in-state tuition increases
- \$20 million to support industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at Florida colleges
- \$30 million for student success incentive funds
 - \$17 million for the 2+2 Student Incentive Fund to improve associate of arts degree graduation rates and transfer into baccalaureate degree programs
 - \$13 million for the Work Florida Student Incentive Fund to support college efforts to align career education programs with workforce demands and high-wage jobs
- \$64 million for nursing education initiatives

Financial aid programs in the state continue to receive strong support. Highlights include:

- *Bright Futures*: The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is funded at \$637.7 million.
- *Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)*: \$269 million for Florida's need-based aid program with maximum award amount at \$3,260. Separate versions of the FSAG grant exist for students enrolled in a technical college, state college, state university, or private institution, and this amount is the aggregate.
- *EASE Tuition Assistance Grant*: The EASE grant provides tuition assistance to Florida resident students attending eligible independent, non-profit schools (and certain for-profit schools). EASE is funded at \$135.9 million, providing \$3,500 for 37,910 students.
 - From the allocation above, \$5 million will be used for the EASE Plus incentive program, to provide students in a quality, high-demand program with an additional financial award.
- *Benacquisto Scholarship Program*: \$38.1 million
- *Open Door Grant Program*: \$35 million
 - This funding is now specified as nonrecurring, meaning it is removed from next year's base budget and will require specific re-appropriation.
- *First Generation in College Matching Grant Program*: \$10.6 million for need based, in-state undergraduate aid to students who are the first in their families to attend a Florida college or university

Accelerated course funding for Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, and Career and Professional Education

- \$596.7 million is allocated to the Academic Acceleration Options Supplement, a new categorical within the Florida Educational Finance Program (FEFP). Beginning July 1, accelerated program incentive funds will be distributed to school districts from the State, whereas previously incentive funds were included in school district base funds.

Workforce education highlights include:

- \$8.5 million of incentives to districts for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at career technical centers
- \$20 million for the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program to establish or expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students
 - \$5 million for the Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program
- \$40 million for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program
- \$7 million for the GATE Program, \$4 million for the GATE Startup Grant Program, and \$1 million for the GATE Program Performance Fund

Other notable postsecondary access and success items in this session's budget include:

- \$18 million for the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program providing eligible postsecondary institutions with tuition and cost reimbursement for participating students
- \$31.9 million in operating funds for Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- \$24.4 million for the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network

Tax relief and debt reduction

Legislators passed a large tax package to save Floridians and businesses approximately \$1.3 billion. This includes eliminating the business rent tax and expands tax-free purchases on several disaster preparedness items. Additionally, the legislature approved \$830 million in debt reduction comprised of a new debt reduction program that will receive \$250 million of recurring general revenue and \$580 million of non-recurring general revenue.







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/.

FCAN is an independent statewide 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.

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