



2026 End of Sessions Report

Funding in HB 5001E

Specific Appropriations for SPC

Applied Mental Health Certificate for First Responders

- Sen. Hooper/Rep. Anderson
- \$501,000 NR

Law Enforcement Field Training and Support

- Sen. DiCeglie/Rep. Jacques
- \$494,796 NR

Applied Health & Student Success Center

- Sen. Hooper
- \$5 million NR

Operational Support

- \$500,000 Recurring

Funding in HB 5001E

FL College System Funds

Total: \$2.6 billion [\$1.6 billion GR; \$239.7 million TF; \$784.1 million tuition/fees]

PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds - \$40 million

CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$20 million

Florida College System Program Fund: \$1.71 billion

Postsecondary Guardian Fund: \$4.2 million

Student Success Incentive Funds - \$30 million

- 2+2 Student Success Incentive Funds - \$17 million
- Work Florida Incentive Funds - \$13 million

No Tuition Increases

St. Petersburg College Specialty License Plate

SB 246 passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor on April 10th. The bill directs DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for St. Petersburg College. Proceeds of the sale of the St. Petersburg College specialty license plate will be distributed to the St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate, 40 percent must be dedicated to funding student scholarships, and 50 percent must be used to fund initiatives that embolden student success. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the DHSMV, with the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “St. Petersburg College” at the bottom of the plate.

Higher Education

HB 1279 passed the Legislature and was approved by the Governor on May 1st.

Accreditation Requirements for Public Postsecondary Institutions

- Requires public postsecondary institutions that must change accrediting agencies to seek accreditation from a regional accreditor and report progress quarterly to the Board of Governors or State Board of Education.

Tuition Residency Protections for Military Families

- Clarifies that students do not lose Florida residency for tuition purposes if they or their parents are stationed outside Florida as Active-duty military, U.S. State DOD personnel, or Teachers at DOD schools.

Tuition and Fee Exemption for Homeless Students

- Expands the tuition and fee exemption for homeless students to include students who would otherwise qualify as homeless but are temporarily living in college or university dormitory housing.

Associate in Arts Specialized Transfer Degrees

- Revises the approval process for specialized AA transfer degrees by requiring notice of intent to the Division of Florida Colleges; distribution of proposals to all colleges and state universities for comment and a 30-day comment period (reduced from 60 days).

Dual Enrollment Program Eligibility

- Updates the list of postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in dual enrollment programs, including certain not-for-profit independent colleges and universities.

Linking Education to Nursing Education Fund

SB 1246 passed the Legislature and was approved by the Governor on May 22nd. The bill expands the LINE Fund by including nonmonetary contributions from health care partners, prioritizing monetary contributions, and clarifying eligible uses and the award process. Changes include the following:

- Redefines “health care partner” to include licensed providers in the state and allows them to offer monetary or nonmonetary contributions.
- Includes nonmonetary contributions such as donated instructor or preceptor time, space, and equipment, requiring fair market value assessment and certification that they support LINE Fund goals.
- Provides priority for monetary contributions when awarding matching funds and prohibits proposals comprised solely of nonmonetary contributions.
- Broadens eligible uses of matched funds to cover faculty and preceptor recruitment, program enrollment increases, licensure exam pass rates, equipment and simulation centers, and internships while disallowing new building construction.
- Permits institutions to submit proposals through their leader or designee and allows multiyear funding awards if appropriation and required matching continue.

School Safety

HB 757 passed the Legislature and was approved by the Governor on May 15th. The bill expands the school guardian program and modifies the law to enhance school safety measures across K-12 and public postsecondary institutions, introduces a new firearm offense near schools, and updates security funding and record-sharing guidelines. Specifically it does the following:

- Adds public postsecondary institutions to the list of schools that sheriffs are required to assist with the implementation of a guardian program.
- Clarifies prior provisions for private school and child care facility guardian programs, consolidating their training options under the same framework.
- Creates a new second-degree felony for discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, with certain exceptions, and ranks this offense under the Criminal Punishment Code.
- Mandates expanded use of the statewide suspicious activity reporting tool for public postsecondary institutions and requires institutions without a reporting application to install or bookmark the tool on official devices.
- Requires the transfer of specified educational records, including threat assessments, to Florida College System institutions or state universities when a student enrolls, with coordinating rules and regulations.
- Mandates additional training for school faculty on safety protocols and clarifies circumstances under which schools, law enforcement, and other agencies may share confidential information to address threats.
- Creates s. 1006.601 the Active Response and Mitigation of On-Campus Risks (ARMOR) Act, establishing active assailant response plans, mental health supports, annual security risk assessments, and threat management teams for public postsecondary institutions.