

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to higher education; providing a short
3 title; amending s. 1001.66, F.S.; revising
4 requirements for the performance-based metrics used to
5 award Florida College System institutions with
6 performance-based incentives; amending s. 1001.67,
7 F.S.; revising the Distinguished Florida College
8 System Institution Program excellence standards
9 requirements; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; providing
10 that each state university must use gap analyses for
11 specified purposes; amending s. 1001.7065, F.S.;
12 revising the preeminent state research universities
13 program graduation rate requirements and funding
14 distributions; requiring the Board of Governors to
15 establish certain standards by a specified date;
16 amending s. 1001.92, F.S.; requiring certain
17 performance-based metrics to include specified
18 information; prohibiting the adjustment of benchmarks
19 and metrics under certain circumstances; creating s.
20 1004.6497, F.S.; establishing the World Class Faculty
21 and Scholar Program; providing the purpose and intent
22 of the program; authorizing investments in certain
23 faculty retention, recruitment, and recognition
24 activities; specifying funding as provided in the
25 General Appropriations Act; requiring the funds to be

26 used only for authorized purposes and investments;
27 requiring the Board of Governors to submit an annual
28 report to the Governor and the Legislature by a
29 specified date; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring
30 each Florida College System institution to execute at
31 least one "2+2" targeted pathway articulation
32 agreement by a specified time; providing requirements
33 and student eligibility for the agreements; requiring
34 the State Board of Education and the Board of
35 Governors to collaborate to eliminate barriers for the
36 agreements; amending s. 1007.27, F.S.; requiring
37 school districts to notify students about certain
38 lists and equivalencies related to articulated
39 acceleration; amending s. 1008.30, F.S.; requiring all
40 degree seeking students to take the common placement
41 test; providing that certain state universities may
42 continue to provide developmental education
43 instruction; amending s. 1008.39, F.S.; requiring the
44 Board of Governors to have access to certain reports
45 maintained by the Department of Economic Opportunity
46 for specified purposes; requiring the Board of
47 Governors to enter into an agreement with the
48 Department of Economic Opportunity to ensure that the
49 board uses certain data for specified purposes only;
50 amending ss. 1009.22 and 1009.23, F.S.; revising the

51 prohibition on the inclusion of a technology fee in
52 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award;
53 amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; revising the prohibition on
54 the inclusion of a technology fee in the Florida
55 Bright Futures Scholarship Program award; requiring
56 each state university board of trustees to adopt and
57 implement a block tuition policy for specified
58 undergraduate students by a specified academic
59 semester; amending s. 1009.53, F.S.; providing for the
60 distribution of Bright Futures Scholarship funds for a
61 summer term; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; revising
62 eligibility criteria for initial award of Florida
63 Bright Futures awards relating to SAT and ACT scores;
64 amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; providing that Florida
65 Academic Scholars award amounts cover specified
66 tuition and fees, textbooks, and other college-related
67 expenses; amending s. 1009.701, F.S.; revising the
68 state-to-private match requirement for contributions
69 to the First Generation Matching Grant Program;
70 amending s. 1009.89, F.S.; renaming the Florida
71 Resident Access Grant Program; providing a directive
72 to the Division of Law Revision and Information;
73 providing an effective date.

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75 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. This act shall be cited as the "Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2017."

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 1001.66, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.66 Florida College System Performance-Based Incentive.—

(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt the following performance-based metrics for use in awarding a Florida College System Performance-Based Incentive ~~shall be awarded to a Florida College System institution: institutions using performance-based metrics~~

(a) A student retention rate, as calculated by the Division of Florida Colleges;

(b) A 150 percent-of-normal-time program completion and graduation rate for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as calculated by the Division of Florida Colleges using a cohort definition of "full-time" based on a student's majority enrollment in full-time terms. Full-time, first-time-in-college students who graduate within 100 percent-of-normal-time program completion shall receive weighting in an amount equal to two times that of students who graduate within 150 percent-of-normal-time program completion;

(c) A continuing education or postgraduation job placement rate for workforce education programs, including workforce

101 baccalaureate degree programs, as reported by the Florida
102 Education and Training Placement Information Program, with wage
103 thresholds that reflect the added value of the applicable
104 certificate or degree;

105 (d) A graduation rate for full-time, first-time-in-college
106 students enrolled in an associate in arts degree program that is
107 part of a 2+2 targeted pathway articulation agreement with a
108 state university, who graduate with a baccalaureate degree in 4
109 years after initially enrolling in the associate in arts degree
110 program; and

111 (e) One performance-based metric on college affordability
112 adopted by the State Board of Education. ~~The performance-based~~
113 ~~metrics must include retention rates; program completion and~~
114 ~~graduation rates; postgraduation employment, salaries, and~~
115 ~~continuing education for workforce education and baccalaureate~~
116 ~~programs, with wage thresholds that reflect the added value of~~
117 ~~the certificate or degree; and outcome measures appropriate for~~
118 ~~associate of arts degree recipients.~~

119
120 The state board shall adopt benchmarks to evaluate each
121 institution's performance on the metrics to measure the
122 institution's achievement of institutional excellence or need
123 for improvement and ~~the~~ minimum requirements for eligibility to
124 receive performance funding.

125 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1001.67, Florida

126 Statutes, is amended to read:

127 1001.67 Distinguished Florida College System Institution
128 Program.—A collaborative partnership is established between the
129 State Board of Education and the Legislature to recognize the
130 excellence of Florida's highest-performing Florida College
131 System institutions.

132 (1) EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The following excellence
133 standards are established for the program:

134 (a) A 100 ~~150~~ percent-of-normal-time completion rate for
135 full-time, first-time-in-college students of 50 percent or
136 higher, as calculated by the Division of Florida Colleges.

137 (b) A 100 ~~150~~ percent-of-normal-time completion rate for
138 full-time, first-time-in-college Pell Grant recipients of 40
139 percent or higher, as calculated by the Division of Florida
140 Colleges.

141 (c) A retention rate of 70 percent or higher, as
142 calculated by the Division of Florida Colleges.

143 (d) A continuing education, or transfer, rate of 72
144 percent or higher for students graduating with an associate of
145 arts degree, as reported by the Florida Education and Training
146 Placement Information Program (FETPIP).

147 (e) A licensure passage rate on the National Council
148 Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) of 90
149 percent or higher for first-time exam takers, as reported by the
150 Board of Nursing.

151 (f) A ~~job placement or~~ continuing education or job
 152 placement rate of 88 percent or higher for workforce programs,
 153 as reported by FETPIP, with wage thresholds that reflect the
 154 added value of the applicable certificate or degree.

155 (g) An excess hours rate of 40 percent or lower for A
 156 ~~time-to-degree for students graduating with an~~ associate of arts
 157 degree recipients who graduate with 72 or more credit hours, as
 158 calculated by the Division of Florida Colleges ~~of 2.25 years or~~
 159 ~~less for first-time-in-college students with accelerated college~~
 160 ~~credits, as reported by the Southern Regional Education Board.~~

161 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
 162 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

164 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

165 (b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan
 166 specifying goals and objectives for the State University System
 167 and each constituent university, including each university's
 168 contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The
 169 strategic plan must:

170 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for
 171 all institutions and metrics and standards unique to
 172 institutions depending on institutional core missions,
 173 including, but not limited to, student admission requirements,
 174 retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained
 175 employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued

176 education, licensure passage, average wages of employed
177 graduates, average cost per graduate, excess hours, student loan
178 burden and default rates, faculty awards, total annual research
179 expenditures, patents, licenses and royalties, intellectual
180 property, startup companies, annual giving, endowments, and
181 well-known, highly respected national rankings for institutional
182 and program achievements.

183 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Higher
184 Education Coordinating Council pursuant to s. 1004.015 and the
185 Articulation Coordinating Committee pursuant to s. 1007.01.

186 3. Include student enrollment and performance data
187 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited
188 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

189 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree
190 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-
191 demand programs of emphasis. Fifty percent of the criteria for
192 designation as high-demand programs of emphasis must be based on
193 achievement of performance outcome thresholds determined by the
194 Board of Governors, and 50 percent of the criteria must be based
195 on achievement of performance outcome thresholds specifically
196 linked to:

197 a. Job placement in employment of 36 hours or more per
198 week and average full-time wages of graduates of the degree
199 programs 1 year and 5 years after graduation, based in part on
200 data provided in the economic security report of employment and

201 | earning outcomes produced annually pursuant to s. 445.07.

202 | b. Data-driven gap analyses, conducted by the Board of
 203 | Governors, of the state's job market demands and the outlook for
 204 | jobs that require a baccalaureate or higher degree. Each state
 205 | university must use the gap analyses to identify internship
 206 | opportunities for students to benefit from mentorship by
 207 | industry experts, earn industry certifications, and become
 208 | employed in high-demand fields.

209 | Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2), paragraph (c)
 210 | of subsection (5), and subsection (8) of section 1001.7065,
 211 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

212 | 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

213 | (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The
 214 | following academic and research excellence standards are
 215 | established for the preeminent state research universities
 216 | program:

217 | (d) A 4-year ~~6-year~~ graduation rate of 50 ~~70~~ percent or
 218 | higher for full-time, first-time-in-college students, as
 219 | calculated by the Board of Governors ~~reported annually to the~~
 220 | ~~IPEDS~~.

221 | (5) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM
 222 | SUPPORT.—

223 | (c) The award of funds under this subsection is contingent
 224 | upon funding provided in the General Appropriations Act to
 225 | support the preeminent state research universities program

226 created under this section. Funding increases appropriated
 227 beyond the amounts funded in the previous fiscal year shall be
 228 distributed as follows:

229 1. Each designated preeminent state research university
 230 that meets the criteria in paragraph (a) shall receive an equal
 231 amount of funding.

232 2. Each designated emerging preeminent state research
 233 university that meets the criteria in paragraph (b) shall
 234 receive an amount of funding that is equal to one-fourth ~~one-~~
 235 ~~half~~ of the total increased amount awarded to each designated
 236 preeminent state research university.

237 (8) PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE UNIVERSITY
 238 SYSTEM.—The Board of Governors shall ~~is encouraged to~~ establish
 239 standards and measures whereby individual undergraduate,
 240 graduate, and professional degree programs in state universities
 241 which ~~that~~ objectively reflect national excellence can be
 242 identified and make recommendations to the Legislature by
 243 September 1, 2017, as to how any such programs could be enhanced
 244 and promoted.

245 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 1001.92, Florida
 246 Statutes, is amended to read:

247 1001.92 State University System Performance-Based
 248 Incentive.—

249 (1) A State University System Performance-Based Incentive
 250 shall be awarded to state universities using performance-based

251 metrics adopted by the Board of Governors of the State
252 University System. The performance-based metrics must include
253 graduation rates, including 4-year and 6-year rates with
254 weighting provided for 4-year rates; retention rates;
255 postgraduation education rates; degree production;
256 affordability; postgraduation employment and salaries, including
257 wage thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate
258 degree; access, including both enrollment and graduation rates
259 for low-income students; and other metrics approved by the board
260 in a formally noticed meeting. The board shall adopt benchmarks
261 to evaluate each state university's performance on the metrics
262 to measure the state university's achievement of institutional
263 excellence or need for improvement and minimum requirements for
264 eligibility to receive performance funding. Benchmarks or
265 metrics in place for any given year may not be adjusted after
266 university performance data has been received by the Board of
267 Governors.

268 Section 7. Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, is created
269 to read:

270 1004.6497 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program.-

271 (1) PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-The World Class
272 Faculty and Scholar Program is established to fund and support
273 the efforts of state universities to recruit and retain
274 exemplary faculty and research scholars. It is the intent of the
275 Legislature to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's

276 state universities through faculty and scholar recruitment and
277 retention.

278 (2) INVESTMENTS.—Retention, recruitment, and recognition
279 efforts, activities, and investments may include investments in
280 research-centric cluster hires, faculty research and research
281 commercialization efforts, undergraduate student participation
282 in research, professional development, awards for outstanding
283 performance, and postdoctoral fellowships.

284 (3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as
285 provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each state
286 university shall use the funds only for the purpose and
287 investments authorized under this section.

288 (4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of
289 Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the
290 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report
291 summarizing information from the universities in the State
292 University System, including, but not limited to:

293 (a) Specific expenditure information as it relates to the
294 investments identified in subsection (2).

295 (b) The impact of those investments in elevating the
296 national competitiveness of the universities, specifically
297 relating to:

298 1. The success in recruiting research faculty and the
299 resulting research funding;

300 2. The 4-year graduation rate;

301 3. The number of undergraduate courses offered with fewer
 302 than 50 students; and

303 4. The increased national academic standing of targeted
 304 programs, specifically advancement among top 50 universities in
 305 the targeted programs in well-known and highly respected
 306 national public university rankings, including, but not limited
 307 to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings, which reflect
 308 national preeminence, using the most recent rankings.

309 Section 8. Subsection (7) is added to section 1007.23,
 310 Florida Statutes, to read:

311 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.-

312 (7) To strengthen Florida's "2+2" system of articulation
 313 and improve student retention and on-time graduation, by the
 314 2018-2019 academic year, each Florida College System institution
 315 shall execute at least one "2+2" targeted pathway articulation
 316 agreement with one or more state universities to establish "2+2"
 317 targeted pathway programs. The agreement must provide students
 318 who graduate with an associate in arts degree and who meet
 319 specified requirements guaranteed access to the state university
 320 and a degree program at that university, in accordance with the
 321 terms of the "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreement.

322 (a) To participate in a "2+2" targeted pathway program, a
 323 student must:

324 1. Enroll in the program before completing 30 credit
 325 hours, including, but not limited to, college credits earned

326 | through articulated acceleration mechanisms pursuant to s.
327 | 1007.27;
328 | 2. Complete an associate in arts degree; and
329 | 3. Meet the university's transfer requirements.
330 | (b) A state university that executes a "2+2" targeted
331 | pathway articulation agreement must meet the following
332 | requirements in order to implement a "2+2" targeted pathway
333 | program in collaboration with its partner Florida College System
334 | institution:
335 | 1. Establish a 4-year on-time graduation plan for a
336 | baccalaureate degree program, including, but not limited to, a
337 | plan for students to complete associate in arts degree programs,
338 | general education courses, common prerequisite courses, and
339 | elective courses;
340 | 2. Advise students enrolled in the program about the
341 | university's transfer and degree program requirements; and
342 | 3. Provide students who meet the requirements under this
343 | paragraph with access to academic advisors and campus events and
344 | with guaranteed admittance to the state university and a degree
345 | program of the state university, in accordance with the terms of
346 | the agreement.
347 | (c) To assist the state universities and Florida College
348 | System institutions with implementing the "2+2" targeted pathway
349 | programs effectively, the State Board of Education and the Board
350 | of Governors shall collaborate to eliminate barriers in

351 executing "2+2" targeted pathway articulation agreements.

352 Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 1007.27, Florida
353 Statutes, is amended to read:

354 1007.27 Articulated acceleration mechanisms.—

355 (2) (a) The Department of Education shall annually identify
356 and publish the minimum scores, maximum credit, and course or
357 courses for which credit is to be awarded for each College Level
358 Examination Program (CLEP) subject examination, College Board
359 Advanced Placement Program examination, Advanced International
360 Certificate of Education examination, International
361 Baccalaureate examination, Excelsior College subject
362 examination, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education
363 Support (DANTES) subject standardized test, and Defense Language
364 Proficiency Test (DLPT). The department shall use student
365 performance data in subsequent postsecondary courses to
366 determine the appropriate examination scores and courses for
367 which credit is to be granted. Minimum scores may vary by
368 subject area based on available performance data. In addition,
369 the department shall identify such courses in the general
370 education core curriculum of each state university and Florida
371 College System institution.

372 (b) Each district school board shall notify students who
373 enroll in articulated acceleration mechanism courses or take
374 examinations pursuant to this section of the credit-by-
375 examination equivalency list adopted by rule by the State Board

376 of Education and the dual enrollment course and high school
 377 subject area equivalencies approved by the state board pursuant
 378 to s. 1007.271(9).

379 Section 10. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section
 380 1008.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

381 1008.30 Common placement testing for public postsecondary
 382 education.—

383 (3) ~~By October 31, 2013,~~ The State Board of Education
 384 shall establish by rule the test scores a student must achieve
 385 to demonstrate readiness to perform college-level work, and the
 386 rules must specify the following:

387 (a) All degree-seeking students must ~~A student who entered~~
 388 ~~9th grade in a Florida public school in the 2003-2004 school~~
 389 ~~year, or any year thereafter, and earned a Florida standard high~~
 390 ~~school diploma or a student who is serving as an active duty~~
 391 ~~member of any branch of the United States Armed Services shall~~
 392 ~~not be required to take the common placement test~~ for diagnostic
 393 purposes, but may ~~and shall~~ not be required to enroll in
 394 developmental education instruction in a Florida College System
 395 institution. However, a student who is ~~not required to take the~~
 396 ~~common placement test and is~~ not required to enroll in
 397 developmental education under this paragraph may opt to ~~be~~
 398 ~~assessed and to~~ enroll in developmental education instruction,
 399 and the college shall provide such ~~assessment and~~ instruction
 400 upon the student's request.

401 (b) A student who takes the common placement test and
402 whose score on the test indicates a need for developmental
403 education must be advised of all the developmental education
404 options offered at the institution and, after advisement, shall
405 be allowed to enroll in the developmental education option of
406 his or her choice.

407 (c) A student who demonstrates readiness by achieving or
408 exceeding the test scores established by the state board and
409 enrolls in a Florida College System institution within 2 years
410 after achieving such scores shall not be required to retest or
411 complete developmental education when admitted to any Florida
412 College System institution.

413 (4) ~~By December 31, 2013,~~ The State Board of Education, in
414 consultation with the Board of Governors, shall approve a series
415 of meta-majors and the academic pathways that identify the
416 gateway courses associated with each meta-major. Florida College
417 System institutions shall use placement test results to
418 determine the extent to which each student demonstrates
419 sufficient communication and computation skills to indicate
420 readiness for his or her chosen meta-major. Florida College
421 System institutions shall counsel students into college credit
422 courses as quickly as possible, with developmental education
423 limited to that content needed for success in the meta-major.

424 (5) (a) Each Florida College System institution board of
425 trustees shall develop a plan to implement the developmental

426 education strategies defined in s. 1008.02 and rules established
427 by the State Board of Education. The plan must be submitted to
428 the Chancellor of the Florida College System for approval ~~no~~
429 ~~later than March 1, 2014, for implementation no later than the~~
430 ~~fall semester 2014~~. Each plan must include, at a minimum, local
431 policies that outline:

432 1. Documented student achievements such as grade point
433 averages, work history, military experience, participation in
434 juried competitions, career interests, degree major declaration,
435 or any combination of such achievements that the institution may
436 consider, in addition to common placement test scores, for
437 advising students regarding enrollment options.

438 2. Developmental education strategies available to
439 students.

440 3. A description of student costs and financial aid
441 opportunities associated with each option.

442 4. Provisions for the collection of student success data.

443 5. A comprehensive plan for advising students into
444 appropriate developmental education strategies based on student
445 success data.

446 (b) ~~Beginning October 31, 2015,~~ Each Florida College
447 System institution shall annually prepare an accountability
448 report that includes student success data relating to each
449 developmental education strategy implemented by the institution.
450 The report shall be submitted to the Division of Florida

451 Colleges by October 31 in a format determined by the Chancellor
452 of the Florida College System. By December 31, the chancellor
453 shall compile and submit the institutional reports to the
454 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
455 of Representatives, and the State Board of Education.

456 (c) A university board of trustees may contract with a
457 Florida College System institution board of trustees for the
458 Florida College System institution to provide developmental
459 education on the state university campus. Any state university
460 in which the percentage of incoming students requiring
461 developmental education equals or exceeds the average percentage
462 of such students for the Florida College System may offer
463 developmental education without contracting with a Florida
464 College System institution; however, any state university
465 offering college-preparatory instruction as of January 1, 1996,
466 may continue to provide developmental education instruction
467 pursuant to s. 1008.02(1) ~~such services.~~

468 Section 11. Subsection (5) is added to section 1008.39,
469 Florida Statutes, to read:

470 1008.39 Florida Education and Training Placement
471 Information Program.—

472 (5) The Board of Governors shall have access to the
473 reemployment assistance wage reports maintained by the
474 Department of Economic Opportunity. The board must enter into an
475 agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity which

476 ensures that privacy will be protected and that data will be
477 used only for the purpose of auditing or evaluating state-
478 supported higher education programs offered by state
479 universities.

480 Section 12. Subsection (7) of section 1009.22, Florida
481 Statutes, is amended to read:

482 1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—

483 (7) Each district school board and Florida College System
484 institution board of trustees is authorized to establish a
485 separate fee for technology, not to exceed 5 percent of tuition
486 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students
487 and not to exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee
488 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident
489 students. Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be
490 used to enhance instructional technology resources for students
491 and faculty and may ~~shall~~ not be included in an ~~any~~ award under
492 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, except as
493 authorized for the Florida Academic Scholars award under s.
494 1009.534. Fifty percent of technology fee revenues may be
495 pledged by a Florida College System institution board of
496 trustees as a dedicated revenue source for the repayment of
497 debt, including lease-purchase agreements, not to exceed the
498 useful life of the asset being financed. Revenues generated from
499 the technology fee may not be bonded.

500 Section 13. Subsection (10) of section 1009.23, Florida

501 Statutes, is amended to read:

502 1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

503 (10) Each Florida College System institution board of
 504 trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee for
 505 technology, which may not exceed 5 percent of tuition per credit
 506 hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students and may not
 507 exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee per credit
 508 hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students.

509 Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be used to
 510 enhance instructional technology resources for students and
 511 faculty. The technology fee may apply to both college credit and
 512 developmental education and may ~~shall~~ not be included in an ~~any~~
 513 award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,
 514 except as authorized for the Florida Academic Scholars award
 515 under s. 1009.534. Fifty percent of technology fee revenues may
 516 be pledged by a Florida College System institution board of
 517 trustees as a dedicated revenue source for the repayment of
 518 debt, including lease-purchase agreements, not to exceed the
 519 useful life of the asset being financed. Revenues generated from
 520 the technology fee may not be bonded.

521 Section 14. Subsection (13) and paragraph (b) of
 522 subsection (16) of section 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are
 523 amended, and subsection (21) is added to that section, to read:

524 1009.24 State university student fees.—

525 (13) Each university board of trustees may establish a

526 | technology fee of up to 5 percent of the tuition per credit
527 | hour. The revenue from this fee shall be used to enhance
528 | instructional technology resources for students and faculty. The
529 | technology fee may not be included in an ~~any~~ award under the
530 | Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant
531 | to ss. 1009.53-1009.538, except as authorized for the Florida
532 | Academic Scholars award under s. 1009.534.

533 | (16) Each university board of trustees may establish a
534 | tuition differential for undergraduate courses upon receipt of
535 | approval from the Board of Governors. However, beginning July 1,
536 | 2014, the Board of Governors may only approve the establishment
537 | of or an increase in tuition differential for a state research
538 | university designated as a preeminent state research university
539 | pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3). The tuition differential shall
540 | promote improvements in the quality of undergraduate education
541 | and shall provide financial aid to undergraduate students who
542 | exhibit financial need.

543 | (b) Each tuition differential is subject to the following
544 | conditions:

545 | 1. The tuition differential may be assessed on one or more
546 | undergraduate courses or on all undergraduate courses at a state
547 | university.

548 | 2. The tuition differential may vary by course or courses,
549 | by campus or center location, and by institution. Each
550 | university board of trustees shall strive to maintain and

551 increase enrollment in degree programs related to math, science,
552 high technology, and other state or regional high-need fields
553 when establishing tuition differentials by course.

554 3. For each state university that is designated as a
555 preeminent state research university by the Board of Governors,
556 pursuant to s. 1001.7065, the aggregate sum of tuition and the
557 tuition differential may be increased by no more than 6 percent
558 of the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the
559 preceding fiscal year. The tuition differential may be increased
560 if the university meets or exceeds performance standard targets
561 for that university established annually by the Board of
562 Governors for the following performance standards, amounting to
563 no more than a 2-percent increase in the tuition differential
564 for each performance standard:

565 a. An increase in the 4-year ~~6-year~~ graduation rate for
566 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as calculated by the
567 Board of Governors ~~reported annually to the Integrated~~
568 ~~Postsecondary Education Data System.~~

569 b. An increase in the total annual research expenditures.

570 c. An increase in the total patents awarded by the United
571 States Patent and Trademark Office for the most recent years.

572 4. The aggregate sum of undergraduate tuition and fees per
573 credit hour, including the tuition differential, may not exceed
574 the national average of undergraduate tuition and fees at 4-year
575 degree-granting public postsecondary educational institutions.

576 5. The tuition differential shall not be included in an
577 ~~any~~ award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
578 established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538, except as
579 authorized for the Florida Academic Scholars award under s.
580 1009.534.

581 6. Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts pursuant
582 to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1, 2007, and
583 which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of the
584 tuition differential.

585 7. The tuition differential may not be charged to any
586 student who was in attendance at the university before July 1,
587 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

588 8. The tuition differential may be waived by the
589 university for students who meet the eligibility requirements
590 for the Florida public student assistance grant established in
591 s. 1009.50.

592 9. Subject to approval by the Board of Governors, the
593 tuition differential authorized pursuant to this subsection may
594 take effect with the 2009 fall term.

595 (21) Each state university board of trustees shall adopt a
596 block tuition policy for implementation by the fall 2018
597 academic semester. At a minimum, the policy must include a
598 provision that exempts resident undergraduate students from the
599 payment of tuition and fees for any credits taken in excess of
600 15 credit hours per semester.

601 Section 15. Subsection (9) of section 1009.53, Florida
602 Statutes, is amended to read:

603 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

604 (9) A student may use an award for summer term enrollment
605 if funds are available. Funding provided for summer term
606 enrollment must be equitably distributed among all Bright
607 Futures award levels.

608 Section 16. Subsection (6) of section 1009.531, Florida
609 Statutes, is amended to read:

610 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
611 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

612 (6) (a) The State Board of Education shall publicize the
613 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a
614 Florida Academic Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.534(1) (a)
615 or (b). High school students must earn an SAT or ACT score ~~of~~
616 ~~1290~~ which corresponds to the 89th SAT percentile rank ~~or a~~
617 ~~concordant ACT score of 29.~~

618 (b) The State Board of Education shall publicize the
619 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a
620 Florida Medallion Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.535(1) (a)
621 or (b). High school students must earn an SAT or ACT score ~~of~~
622 ~~1170~~ which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile ~~rank or a~~
623 ~~concordant ACT score of 26.~~

624 ~~(c) The SAT percentile ranks and corresponding SAT scores~~
625 ~~specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) are based on the SAT~~

626 ~~percentile ranks for 2010 college-bound seniors in critical~~
627 ~~reading and mathematics as reported by the College Board. The~~
628 ~~next highest SAT score is used when the percentile ranks do not~~
629 ~~directly correspond.~~

630 Section 17. Subsection (2) of section 1009.534, Florida
631 Statutes, is amended to read:

632 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

633 (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a
634 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program
635 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is
636 eligible, beginning in the fall 2017 academic semester, for an
637 award equal to the amount required to pay 100 percent of tuition
638 and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);
639 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-
640 (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an
641 additional \$300 each fall and spring academic semester or the
642 equivalent for textbooks and college-related ~~specified in the~~
643 ~~General Appropriations Act to assist with the payment of~~
644 ~~educational~~ expenses.

645 Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 1009.701, Florida
646 Statutes, is amended to read:

647 1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.—

648 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program
649 shall be allocated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance
650 to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar-basis.

651 Beginning in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the ratio shall be \$2 of
652 state funds to \$1 of private contributions to provide additional
653 funding to increase the number of eligible students receiving
654 the scholarship. After all eligible students are funded,
655 remaining funds may be used to increase award amounts based on
656 financial need. Contributions made to a state university and
657 pledged for the purposes of this section are eligible for state
658 matching funds appropriated for this program and are not
659 eligible for any other state matching grant program. Pledged
660 contributions are not eligible for matching prior to the actual
661 collection of the total funds. The Office of Student Financial
662 Assistance shall reserve a proportionate allocation of the total
663 appropriated funds for each state university on the basis of
664 full-time equivalent enrollment. Funds that remain unmatched as
665 of December 1 shall be reallocated to state universities that
666 have remaining unmatched private contributions for the program
667 on the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment.

668 Section 19. Section 1009.89, Florida Statutes, is amended
669 to read:

670 1009.89 The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to
671 Student Education ~~Florida resident access~~ grants.—

672 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that independent
673 nonprofit colleges and universities eligible to participate in
674 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
675 ~~Florida Resident Access~~ Grant Program are an integral part of

676 | the higher education system in this state and that a significant
677 | number of state residents choose this form of higher education.
678 | The Legislature further finds that a strong and viable system of
679 | independent nonprofit colleges and universities reduces the tax
680 | burden on the citizens of the state. Because the William L.
681 | Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education ~~Florida Resident~~
682 | ~~Access~~ Grant Program is not related to a student's financial
683 | need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are
684 | based, it is the intent of the Legislature that the William L.
685 | Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education ~~Florida Resident~~
686 | ~~Access~~ Grant Program not be considered a financial aid program
687 | but rather a tuition assistance program for its citizens.

688 | (2) The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student
689 | Education ~~Florida Resident~~ ~~Access~~ Grant Program shall be
690 | administered by the Department of Education. The State Board of
691 | Education shall adopt rules for the administration of the
692 | program.

693 | (3) The department shall issue through the program a
694 | William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
695 | ~~Florida resident~~ ~~access~~ grant to any full-time degree-seeking
696 | undergraduate student registered at an independent nonprofit
697 | college or university which is located in and chartered by the
698 | state; which is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the
699 | Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; which grants
700 | baccalaureate degrees; which is not a state university or

701 Florida College System institution; and which has a secular
702 purpose, so long as the receipt of state aid by students at the
703 institution would not have the primary effect of advancing or
704 impeding religion or result in an excessive entanglement between
705 the state and any religious sect. Any independent college or
706 university that was eligible to receive tuition vouchers on
707 January 1, 1989, and which continues to meet the criteria under
708 which its eligibility was established, shall remain eligible to
709 receive William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student
710 Education ~~Florida resident access~~ grant payments.

711 (4) A person is eligible to receive such William L. Boyd,
712 IV, Effective Access to Student Education ~~Florida resident~~
713 ~~access~~ grant if:

714 (a) He or she meets the general requirements, including
715 residency, for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40,
716 except as otherwise provided in this section; and

717 (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate
718 student at an eligible college or university;

719 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study leading
720 to a degree in theology or divinity; and

721 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress as
722 defined by the college or university in which he or she is
723 enrolled.

724 (5) (a) Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective
725 Access to Student Education ~~Florida Resident Access~~ Grant

726 Program for eligible institutions shall be as provided in the
727 General Appropriations Act. The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective
728 Access to Student Education ~~Florida resident access~~ grant may be
729 paid on a prorated basis in advance of the registration period.
730 The department shall make such payments to the college or
731 university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the
732 student's account for payment of tuition and fees. Institutions
733 shall certify to the department the amount of funds disbursed to
734 each student and shall remit to the department any undisbursed
735 advances or refunds within 60 days of the end of regular
736 registration. A student is not eligible to receive the award for
737 more than 9 semesters or 14 quarters, except as otherwise
738 provided in s. 1009.40(3).

739 (b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV,
740 Effective Access to Student Education ~~Florida resident access~~
741 grant issued pursuant to this act and all other scholarships and
742 grants for tuition or fees exceeds the amount charged to the
743 student for tuition and fees, the department shall reduce the
744 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
745 ~~Florida resident access~~ grant issued pursuant to this act by an
746 amount equal to such excess.

747 (6) If the number of eligible students exceeds the total
748 authorized in the General Appropriations Act, an institution may
749 use its own resources to assure that each eligible student
750 receives the full benefit of the grant amount authorized.

751 Section 20. The Division of Law Revision and Information
752 is directed to prepare a reviser's bill for the 2018 Regular
753 Session to substitute the term "Effective Access to Student
754 Education Grant Program" for "Florida Resident Access Grant
755 Program" and the term "Effective Access to Student Education
756 grant" for "Florida resident access grant" wherever those terms
757 appear in the Florida Statutes.

758 Section 21. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.