

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

HIGHER EDUCATION  
Senator Stargel, Chair  
Senator Sachs, Vice Chair

**MEETING DATE:** Monday, January 5, 2015  
**TIME:** 4:00 —6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** *James E. "Jim" King, Jr. Committee Room, 401 Senate Office Building*

**MEMBERS:** Senator Stargel, Chair; Senator Sachs, Vice Chair; Senators Benacquisto, Braynon, Gaetz, Joyner, Legg, Negron, and Simmons

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TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Overview of Postsecondary Options for Students with Disabilities		Presented

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Other Related Meeting Documents

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A photograph of the Florida State Capitol building, featuring a prominent dome and classical architectural elements, set against a blue sky with white clouds. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue curved graphic element on the left side of the slide.

# OPPAGA Presentation on Postsecondary Options for Students with Developmental Disabilities

Senate Higher Education Committee  
January 5, 2015

Emily Sikes, Chief Legislative Analyst

# Overview

**1 Federal Initiatives**

**2 Postsecondary Options in Other States**

**3 Postsecondary Options in Florida**

**4 Input from Florida Parents**

**5 Summary**

# Postsecondary Options for Students with Disabilities

Students with developmental disabilities have the option to attend traditional postsecondary education programs or specialized programs

## Traditional Postsecondary Options

- Students attend a public/private university or college, or a district technical center
- Institutions provide students with disabilities accommodations in accordance with the ADA

## Specialized Postsecondary Programs for Students with Developmental Disabilities

- Postsecondary program options for students through age 21 who are still receiving district ESE services
- Postsecondary program options for students who are no longer receiving district ESE services

# Federal Initiatives

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## Comprehensive Transition Programs & Federal Grants

### 2 Federal Initiatives

#### Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs (CTP)

- Designation by the federal government that allows postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities to award federal financial aid to students
- Programs must apply to the U.S. Department of Education for this designation and meet certain criteria
- Students do not have to take a minimum course/clock hours to receive aid, but in general students must have exited from ESE

#### Transition & Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities Grants (TPSID)

- Federal grant program for postsecondary institutions to expand inclusive model transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities
- Grant program was from 2010 to 2015, providing \$52 million to 27 postsecondary institutions nationwide
  - Florida (USF-St. Petersburg) received \$2.1 million over the 5 years
- Think College coordinates the grant

**Expires September 30, 2015**

# Federal Initiatives

## Think College

### What is Think College?

- National organization that researches and provides guidance on developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for students with intellectual disabilities

### What types of activities do they coordinate?

- Coordinates federal TPSID grants across 23 states
- Developed benchmarks/criteria for postsecondary programs
- Currently working with Congress on a specialized accreditation for programs for students with disabilities

# Postsecondary Options in Other States

# Postsecondary Options in Other States

## State Coordination Examples

**Example 1:  
State Agency  
Coordinates**



**California**



**Massachusetts**

**Example 2:  
Lead  
Institution  
Coordinates**



**Georgia**



**Hawaii**



**Kentucky**

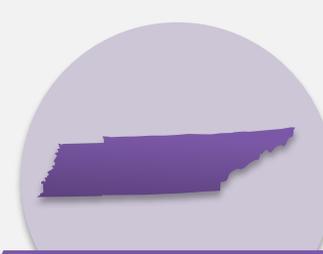
**Example 3:  
Other Entity  
Coordinates**



**Pennsylvania**



**South Carolina**



**Tennessee**

# Postsecondary Options in Other States

## Types of Other State Coordination Activities



# Postsecondary Options in Other States

## State Financial Aid Programs

Three states have state financial aid programs that enable students with developmental disabilities to attend postsecondary programs



**South Carolina**

Number of students

20

Student Award Amount

Up to \$7,000 per year based on need



**Tennessee**

24

\$2,000 per semester



**Kentucky**

1

(1st year of the scholarship)

\$250 per semester

# Postsecondary Options in Florida

# Program Options in Florida

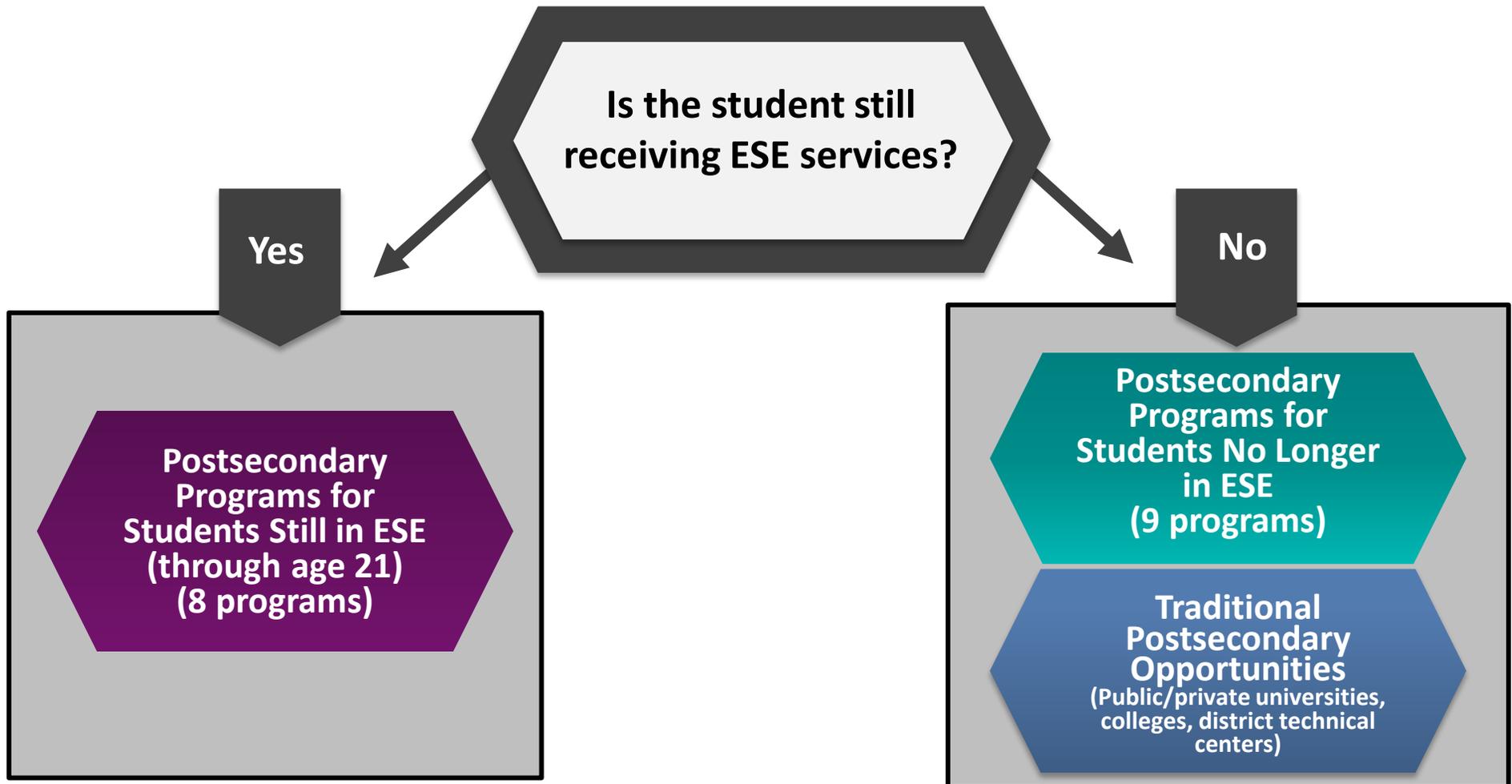
## Methodology

- OPPAGA contacted all of Florida's state universities, colleges, school districts, and private universities to identify transition programs that provide postsecondary education for students with developmental disabilities
- We organized the information by whether the students were still enrolled in school district ESE programs or had exited high school
- None of the program options we identified award college credit or a college degree; some of the options allow students to complete courses that can be applied towards a workforce credential

# Program Options in Florida

## Types of Options Available

The type of option varies depending on whether the student is still receiving ESE services at the school district



# Program Options in Florida

## Types of Options Available

### Programs for District ESE Students (8)

### Programs for Students Who Are No Longer Enrolled in District ESE Programs (9)

#### Eligibility

- Programs require students to be **receiving district ESE services (through age 21)** ←
- Students must have documented developmental disability and special diploma

- Programs require students to have **exited ESE programs (no age restriction)** ←
- Students must have documented developmental disability

#### Program Activities

- Programs provide activities such as auditing postsecondary courses, enrolling in vocational courses, participating in campus life, and job training programs

- Same

#### Program Funding

- **District ESE funding** ←
- Institutional funding
- Vocational rehabilitation funds
- Federal, state, and local grants
- Private grants

- Institutional funding
- Vocational rehabilitation funds
- Federal, state, and local grants
- **Student tuition** ←

# Program Options in Florida

## Types of Options Available

Type of Student Served	Number of Programs at Postsecondary Institutions				
	Florida Colleges	State Universities	Technical Centers	Private Colleges or Universities	All
Students who are still receiving district ESE services	4	3	0	1	8
Students who are no longer enrolled in district ESE programs <sup>1</sup>	3	3	2	1	9
Total Reported to OPPAGA	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	2	2	17

<sup>1</sup>The On Campus Transition Program at the University of North Florida, the Vertical Program at Florida State College of Jacksonville, and the 12 Plus Program at Florida Panhandle Technical College include both students who are still in ESE and students who are no longer enrolled in district ESE programs. For purposes of this research, these programs are classified as programs that serve students who are no longer enrolled in district ESE because there is no requirement that students have to be in ESE to be enrolled in the program.

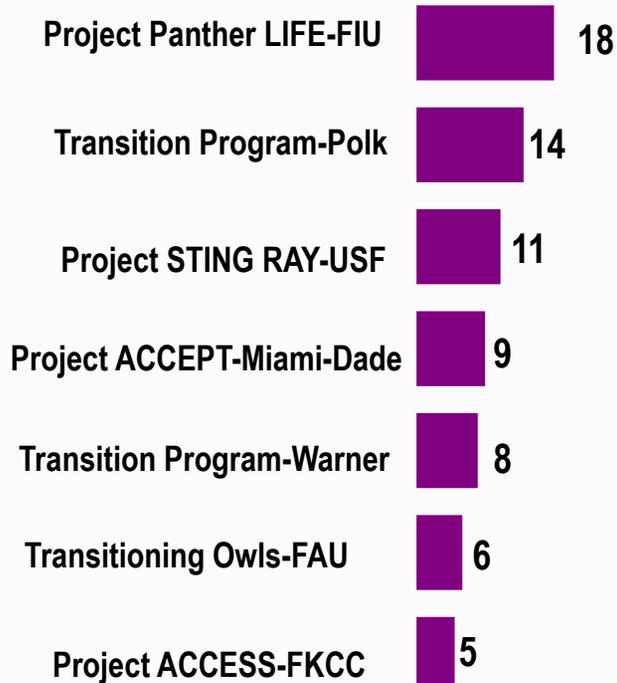
# Program Options in Florida

## Fall 2014 Program Enrollment

Fall 2014 student enrollment varies by program, with programs for students no longer in ESE having more students than ESE programs

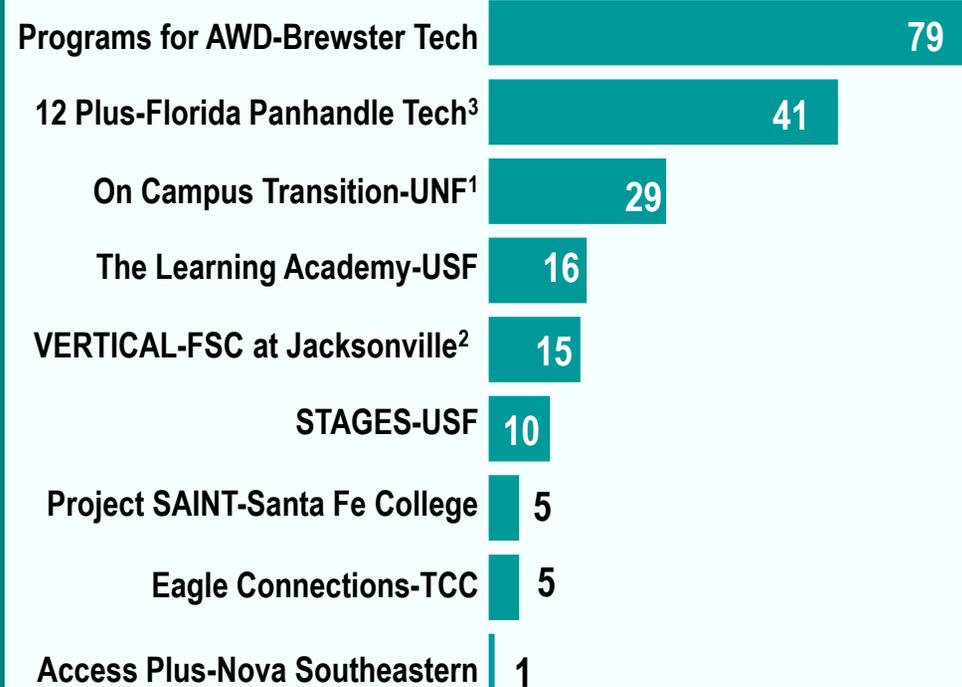
### Total Fall 2014 Program Enrollment for Programs with Students Still in ESE

71



### Total Fall 2014 Program Enrollment for Programs with Students No Longer in ESE

201



<sup>1</sup>Total enrollment for the On Campus Transition program at UNF includes 19 students who were still enrolled in ESE.

<sup>2</sup>Total enrollment for the Vertical Program at Florida State College at Jacksonville includes 9 students who are still enrolled in ESE.

<sup>3</sup>Total enrollment for the 12 Plus Program at Florida Panhandle Technical College includes 12 students who are still in ESE.

# Program Options in Florida

## Potential Unmet Need of Students Ages 17-21 Still in ESE

We compared the number of students who were still enrolled in high school ESE in 2013-14 (who had a developmental disability) to Fall 2014 total enrollment in current postsecondary offerings <sup>1</sup>

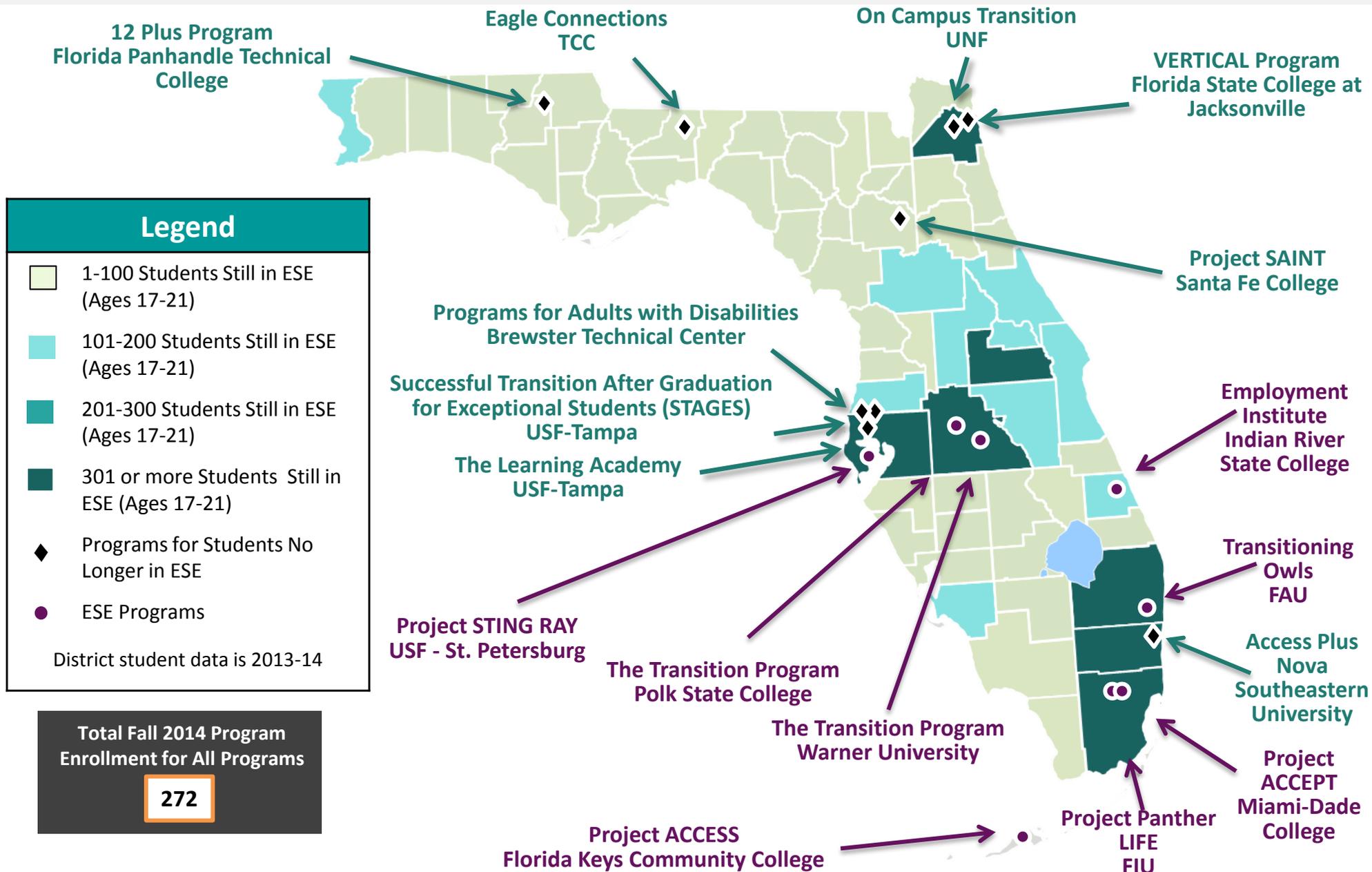
	Type of Students	Number of Students
1	With Developmental Disabilities Who Were Still Enrolled in High School in 2013-14	6,823
2	Total Student Enrollment in All Postsecondary Programs in Fall 2014	272
3	Maximum Potential Unmet Need for Students Ages 17-21 Who Were Still Enrolled in ESE in 2013-14 = (1-2)	6,551

**There are a potential of 6,551 students who could be enrolling in a postsecondary program in the near future. However, not all of these students may wish to pursue postsecondary education.**

<sup>1</sup>We compared these students to both the ESE and Non-ESE programs because these students represent the potential to either enroll in an ESE postsecondary program or Non-ESE program.

# Program Options in Florida

Number of Students Ages 17-21 Still Enrolled in ESE by District Compared to Postsecondary Options



# Input from Florida Parents

# Input from Florida Parents

## Methodology

We asked parents for the input on the following:

**Their opinions on current postsecondary programs available in Florida**

**What they are looking for in a postsecondary experience for their children**

**Recommendations to enhance postsecondary opportunities in Florida**

# Input from Florida Parents

## Highlights

### Opinions on Current Programs

Lack of information on postsecondary options was the issue raised consistently by parents in all focus groups

### Important Components

Components ranged from including independent living skills to receiving an industry-recognized credential upon completion of a postsecondary program

### Program Enhancements

Enhancements ranged from having a wider range of programs available to accommodate students' varied skill levels to having statewide coordination of postsecondary programs

### Financial Aid

Parents would like to have access to financial aid and be able to have their children use their prepaid plans to attend these programs

# Summary

# Summary

## Status of Postsecondary Options in Florida for Students with Developmental Disabilities

### Statewide Coordination of Programs

- None currently in place for all programs
- Parents would like centralized place for information

### Program Opportunities

- Range of options available for students in ESE and students no longer in ESE, though parts of the state do not have any options

### Program Activities

- Programs provide a range of activities such as: auditing postsecondary courses, enrolling in vocational courses, and job training programs
- No degrees awarded; some options allow students to complete courses that can be applied towards a workforce credential

### Federal Designation and Accreditation

- No Florida programs have the CTP designation; 1 program applied
- Institutional accreditation is not an issue if institutions carefully document differences in student expectations and performance

### Student Financial Aid

- No state financial aid programs available for students attending a specialized postsecondary program
- Students attending programs are not eligible for federal financial aid (program must be CTP)

# Contact Information

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THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE'S  
OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS & GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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OPPAGA supports the Florida Legislature by providing data, evaluative research, and objective analyses that assist legislative budget and policy deliberations.

# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** SB 401  
**Caption:** Senate Higher ED

**Case:**  
**Judge:**

**Type:**

**Started:** 1/5/2015 4:01:44 PM  
**Ends:** 1/5/2015 4:44:12 PM **Length:** 00:42:29

4:01:46 PM Quorum present. Meeting Called to order/ Senator Stargel, Chair  
4:02:00 PM Greetings to committee members and staff. Each committee intro  
4:03:30 PM Senator Detert/Vice Chair  
4:03:36 PM Senator Simmons  
4:04:04 PM Senator Legg  
4:04:09 PM Senator Braynon  
4:04:32 PM Senator Benacquisto  
4:04:38 PM Senator Getz  
4:04:57 PM Senator Negron  
4:05:48 PM Introduction of staff by Staff Director, Dr. Theresa Kiebacha (TK)  
4:08:21 PM Overview of Postsecondary Options for Students with Disabilities  
4:09:55 PM Emily Silas, Chief Leg. Analyst/OPPAGA  
4:13:46 PM Federal Initiatives  
4:15:51 PM Question of Emily from Senator Sachs  
4:16:04 PM Emily in response  
4:17:14 PM Think College explanation  
4:17:49 PM Postsecondary options on the state level  
4:21:32 PM State Financial Aid Program - Tennessee  
4:22:35 PM  
4:22:42 PM S. Carolina is based on need  
4:22:56 PM  
4:23:09 PM Program Options in Florida  
4:24:03 PM 8 programs for students in ESE  
4:24:36 PM Specialized options  
4:26:21 PM Question from the Chair  
4:26:34 PM Emily in response  
4:26:55 PM Question by Chair  
4:27:12 PM Emily in response  
4:27:53 PM Student Enrollment  
4:28:31 PM Potential students in ESE  
4:29:13 PM Location of the students by school district on map  
4:29:36 PM  
4:29:53 PM  
4:30:05 PM Focus groups - Input from Florida Parents  
4:32:36 PM Summary - Status of Postsecondary Options in Florida for Students with Developmental Disabilities  
4:33:11 PM Statewide Coordination of Program  
4:33:20 PM Program Opportunities  
4:33:26 PM Program Activities  
4:33:45 PM Federal Designation and Accreditation  
4:34:02 PM Student Financial Aid  
4:34:48 PM Question by Chair regarding tuition fees  
4:35:09 PM Emily in response  
4:35:19 PM Chair  
4:36:01 PM Senator Gaetz  
4:36:29 PM Emily  
4:36:59 PM Sen. Gaetz as a follow up to Sen. Sachs previous question  
4:37:37 PM Emily in response  
4:38:06 PM Senator Benacquisto on pre-paid tuition plans  
4:38:37 PM Emily in response  
4:38:58 PM Sen. Benacquisto  
4:39:05 PM Emily  
4:39:10 PM Chair

**4:39:22 PM** Sen. Sachs  
**4:40:28 PM** Chair  
**4:40:46 PM** Claire Toman, Tallahassee, FL. representing herself  
**4:43:41 PM** Chair  
**4:43:48 PM** Sen. Sachs moves to rise- Meeting Adjourned

# APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1-5-15

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic OPRAGA Pres. on Postsecondary Options for Students with Disabilities Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Emily Sikes

Job Title Chief Leg. Analyst / OPRAGA

Address 111 W Madison Street, Suite 312 Phone 850-717-0331

Tallahassee FL 32399 Email Sikes.emily@opraga.fl.gov  
City State Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information  Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing OPRAGA

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

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(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/5/15

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Post Sec EJ

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Claire Torrian

Job Title

Address 616 Latham Drive Street

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City TLH State FL Zip 32212

Email torrian.clare@senate.fl.gov

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

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