

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to higher education; providing a short
3 title; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; requiring the Board
4 of Governors to report on the intellectual freedom and
5 viewpoint diversity of each institution; requiring
6 state universities to identify internship
7 opportunities in high-demand fields; revising the
8 Board of Governor's accountability plan to include
9 certain performance agreements; providing requirements
10 for such agreements; requiring the Board of Governors
11 to establish improvement benchmarks for specified
12 purposes; providing requirements for the Office of the
13 Inspector General; requiring the Board of Governors to
14 match certain student information with specified
15 educational and employment records; providing the
16 Board of Governors with access to certain reports
17 maintained by the Department of Economic Opportunity;
18 requiring the Board of Governors to enter into an
19 agreement with the department to ensure the proper use
20 and privacy of certain data; amending s. 1001.7065,
21 F.S.; revising the preeminent state research
22 universities program academic and research excellence
23 standards; revising the amount an emerging preeminent
24 state research university may receive; deleting the
25 authority for such universities to stipulate a special

26 course requirement for incoming students; requiring
27 the Board of Governors to establish certain standards
28 by a specified date; amending s. 1001.92, F.S.;
29 revising the performance-based metrics for the state
30 university performance-based incentives; providing
31 requirements for such metrics and benchmarks used to
32 evaluate a university; revising provisions relating to
33 the amount of funding available and the distribution,
34 withholding, and reinstatement of funds; requiring
35 legislative approval of performance funding plans
36 before the distribution of performance funds;
37 requiring the Board of Governors, in consultation with
38 the state universities and by a specified date, to
39 submit a plan for transitioning to a complete
40 performance-based continuous improvement funding
41 model; providing plan requirements; amending s.
42 1004.28, F.S.; revising the requirements for rules a
43 state university board of trustees must adopt relating
44 to the services, activities, and expenses of its
45 direct-support organizations; prohibiting the transfer
46 of funds to certain state university direct-support
47 organizations; prohibiting the use of state funds for
48 certain purposes; requiring, rather than authorizing
49 the chair of the board of trustees to appoint certain
50 members of a state university direct-support

51 organization; requiring the university board of
52 trustees to approve all appointments to a state
53 university direct-support organization; deleting an
54 exception to the prohibition against direct-support
55 organizations donating gifts to a political committee;
56 requiring the disclosure of certain financial
57 documents; creating s. 1004.6497, F.S.; establishing
58 the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program; providing
59 the purpose and intent; authorizing state university
60 investments in certain faculty retention, recruitment,
61 and recognition activities; specifying funding as
62 provided in the General Appropriations Act; requiring
63 an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature
64 by a specified date; creating s. 1004.6498, F.S.;
65 establishing the State University Professional and
66 Graduate Degree Excellence Program; providing the
67 purpose; listing the quality improvement efforts that
68 may be used to elevate the prominence of state
69 university medicine, law, and graduate-level business
70 programs; specifying funding as provided in the
71 General Appropriations Act; requiring an annual report
72 to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified
73 date; amending s. 1006.62, F.S.; providing that a
74 student who is subject to a disciplinary hearing is
75 entitled to certain rights; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.;

76 requiring the statewide articulation agreement to
77 provide for a reverse transfer agreement; providing
78 for an associate degree to be awarded to certain
79 students by Florida College System institutions;
80 providing requirements for state universities;
81 amending s. 1008.30, F.S.; authorizing a Florida
82 College System institution to require the common
83 placement test for diagnostic purposes; authorizing
84 certain state universities to continue to provide
85 developmental education instruction; amending s.
86 1008.46, F.S.; revising the date by which the Board of
87 Governors must submit an annual accountability report;
88 amending ss. 1009.22 and 1009.23, F.S.; removing the
89 prohibition on the inclusion of a technology fee in
90 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award;
91 amending s. 1009.24, F.S.; removing the prohibition on
92 the inclusion of a technology fee and a tuition
93 differential fee in the Florida Bright Futures
94 Scholarship Program award; requiring each state
95 university board of trustees to implement a block
96 tuition policy for specified undergraduate students
97 beginning in a specified academic semester; requiring
98 the Chancellor of the State University System to
99 submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by
100 a specified date; amending s. 1009.53, F.S.;

101 authorizing a student to use Florida Bright Futures
102 Scholarship Program awards for summer term enrollment;
103 amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; specifying Florida
104 Academic Scholars award amounts to cover tuition,
105 fees, textbooks, and other educational expenses;
106 amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; specifying Florida
107 Medallion Scholars award amounts to cover specified
108 tuition and fees; amending s. 1009.701, F.S.; revising
109 the state-to-private match requirement for
110 contributions to the First Generation Matching Grant
111 Program beginning in a specified fiscal year;
112 providing for the increase in award amounts under
113 certain circumstances; extending the program to
114 include Florida College System institution students;
115 amending s. 1009.893, F.S.; extending coverage of the
116 Benacquisto Scholarship Program to include tuition and
117 fees for qualified nonresident students; creating s.
118 1009.894, F.S.; creating the Florida Farmworker
119 Student Scholarship Program; providing a purpose;
120 requiring the Department of Education to administer
121 the scholarship program; providing student eligibility
122 criteria; specifying award amounts and distributions;
123 providing for funding as specified in the General
124 Appropriations Act; amending s. 1009.98, F.S.;

125 providing that certain payments from the Florida

126 Prepaid College Board to a state university on behalf
127 of a qualified beneficiary may not exceed a specified
128 amount; amending s. 1011.90, F.S.; providing
129 requirements for certain legislative budget requests;
130 prohibiting certain ratios relating to student
131 enrollment from growing faster than a specified rate;
132 providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision
133 and Information; providing for the future repeal of
134 ss. 1004.33 and 1004.34, F.S., relating to the
135 University of South Florida St. Petersburg and
136 Manatee/Sarasota, respectively; creating s. 1004.335,
137 F.S.; requiring the University of South Florida to
138 adopt and submit a plan to phase out the separate
139 accreditations of the University of South Florida St.
140 Petersburg and the University of South Florida
141 Manatee/Sarasota by a specified date; providing
142 requirements for such plan; providing that certain
143 students may not be included in specified graduation
144 and retention rate calculations; amending s. 1004.344;
145 requiring the University of South Florida's Florida
146 Center for the Partnership for Arts Integrated
147 Teaching to be located at a certain branch campus;
148 providing an effective date.

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150 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 2018."

Section 2. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (e) of subsection (5) of section 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (j) is added to subsection (3) and paragraph (h) is added to subsection (5) of that section, to read:

1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

(3) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES.—

(j) The Board of Governors shall annually report, by September 1 of each year, on the intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at each institution through an objective, nonpartisan, and statistically valid survey that enables comparison among institutions over time. Each institution shall conduct an annual survey of students, faculty, and administrators that assesses the extent to which competing ideas, perspectives, and claims of truth are presented and members of the university community feel safe and supported in exploring and articulating their beliefs and viewpoints on campus and in the classroom.

(5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(b) The Board of Governors shall develop a strategic plan specifying goals and objectives for the State University System and each constituent university, including each university's

176 contribution to overall system goals and objectives. The
177 strategic plan must:

178 1. Include performance metrics and standards common for
179 all institutions and metrics and standards unique to
180 institutions depending on institutional core missions,
181 including, but not limited to, student admission requirements,
182 retention, graduation, percentage of graduates who have attained
183 employment, percentage of graduates enrolled in continued
184 education, licensure passage, average wages of employed
185 graduates, average cost per graduate, excess hours, student loan
186 burden and default rates, faculty awards, total annual research
187 expenditures, patents, licenses and royalties, intellectual
188 property, startup companies, annual giving, endowments, and
189 well-known, highly respected national rankings for institutional
190 and program achievements.

191 2. Consider reports and recommendations of the Higher
192 Education Coordinating Council pursuant to s. 1004.015 and the
193 Articulation Coordinating Committee pursuant to s. 1007.01.

194 3. Include student enrollment and performance data
195 delineated by method of instruction, including, but not limited
196 to, traditional, online, and distance learning instruction.

197 4. Include criteria for designating baccalaureate degree
198 and master's degree programs at specified universities as high-
199 demand programs of emphasis. Fifty percent of the criteria for
200 designation as high-demand programs of emphasis must be based on

201 achievement of performance outcome thresholds determined by the
202 Board of Governors, and 50 percent of the criteria must be based
203 on achievement of performance outcome thresholds specifically
204 linked to:

205 a. Job placement in employment of 36 hours or more per
206 week and average full-time wages of graduates of the degree
207 programs 1 year and 5 years after graduation, based in part on
208 data provided in the economic security report of employment and
209 earning outcomes produced annually pursuant to s. 445.07.

210 b. Data-driven gap analyses, conducted by the Board of
211 Governors, of the state's job market demands and the outlook for
212 jobs that require a baccalaureate or higher degree. Each state
213 university must use the gap analyses to identify internship
214 opportunities for students to benefit from mentorship by
215 industry experts, earn industry certifications, and become
216 employed in high-demand fields.

217 (c) The Board of Governors shall develop an accountability
218 plan for the State University System by developing and
219 implementing a performance agreement with ~~and~~ each constituent
220 university. The accountability plan must address institutional
221 and system achievement of goals and objectives specified in the
222 strategic plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) and must be
223 submitted as part of its legislative budget request. The initial
224 performance agreement shall, by August 1, 2018, establish
225 baseline benchmarks for each state university based on the

226 previous 2-year average performance on each common metric
227 established pursuant to s. 1001.92. Once institution-specific
228 baseline benchmarks are established, the Board of Governors must
229 work with each university to establish and include in the
230 performance agreement 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, and 4-year
231 improvement benchmarks for determining eligibility for
232 performance funding.

233 (e) The Board of Governors shall maintain an effective
234 information system to provide accurate, timely, and cost-
235 effective information about each university. The board shall
236 continue to collect and maintain, at a minimum, management
237 information as such information existed on June 30, 2002. The
238 Office of the Inspector General shall annually verify the
239 accuracy of the data used to implement ss. 1001.7065 and
240 1001.92.

241 (h) The Board of Governors shall match individual student
242 information with information in the files of state and federal
243 agencies that maintain educational and employment records. The
244 board must enter into an agreement with the Department of
245 Economic Opportunity that allows access to the individual
246 reemployment assistance wage records maintained by the
247 department. The agreement must protect individual privacy and
248 provide that student information may be used only for the
249 purposes of auditing or evaluating higher education programs
250 offered by state universities.

251 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2), paragraph (c)
252 of subsection (5), and subsections (6) and (8) of section
253 1001.7065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

254 1001.7065 Preeminent state research universities program.—

255 (2) ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE STANDARDS.—The
256 following academic and research excellence standards are
257 established for the preeminent state research universities
258 program:

259 (d) A 4-year graduation rate of 60 percent or higher for
260 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually
261 to the IPEDS. However, for the 2018 determination of a state
262 university's preeminence designation and the related
263 distribution of the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation
264 associated with preeminence and emerging preeminence, a
265 university is considered to have satisfied this graduation rate
266 measure by attaining a 6-year graduation rate of 70 percent or
267 higher by October 1, 2017, for full-time, first-time-in-college
268 students, as reported ~~annually~~ to the IPEDS and confirmed by the
269 Board of Governors.

270 (5) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM
271 SUPPORT.—

272 (c) The award of funds under this subsection is contingent
273 upon funding provided in the General Appropriations Act to
274 support the preeminent state research universities program
275 created under this section. Funding increases appropriated

276 beyond the amounts funded in the previous fiscal year shall be
277 distributed as follows:

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

281 2. Each designated emerging preeminent state research
282 university that meets the criteria in paragraph (b) shall,
283 beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, receive an amount of
284 funding that is equal to one-fourth ~~one-half~~ of the total
285 increased amount awarded to each designated preeminent state
286 research university.

287 ~~(6) PREEMINENT STATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COURSE~~
288 ~~REQUIREMENT AUTHORITY. In order to provide a jointly shared~~
289 ~~educational experience, a university that is designated a~~
290 ~~preeminent state research university may require its incoming~~
291 ~~first-time-in-college students to take a six-credit set of~~
292 ~~unique courses specifically determined by the university and~~
293 ~~published on the university's website. The university may~~
294 ~~stipulate that credit for such courses may not be earned through~~
295 ~~any acceleration mechanism pursuant to s. 1007.27 or s. 1007.271~~
296 ~~or any other transfer credit. All accelerated credits earned up~~
297 ~~to the limits specified in ss. 1007.27 and 1007.271 shall be~~
298 ~~applied toward graduation at the student's request.~~

299 (7)-(8) PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE
300 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—The Board of Governors shall ~~is encouraged to~~

301 establish standards and measures whereby individual
302 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs in
303 state universities which ~~that~~ objectively reflect national
304 excellence can be identified and make recommendations to the
305 Legislature by September 1, 2018, as to how any such programs
306 could be enhanced and promoted.

307 Section 4. Section 1001.92, Florida Statutes, is amended
308 to read:

309 1001.92 State University System Performance-Based
310 Incentive.—

311 (1) A State University System Performance-Based Incentive
312 shall be awarded to state universities using performance-based
313 metrics adopted by the Board of Governors of the State
314 University System. The performance-based metrics must include:

315 (a) Four-year graduation rates for full-time, first-time-
316 in-college students.

317 (b) Two-year graduation rates for full-time 2+2 associate
318 degree transfer students from Florida College System
319 institutions.†

320 (c) Retention rates, with points awarded for students
321 earning 30, 60, and 90 credits.†

322 (d) Postgraduation education rates.†

323 (e) Degree production.†

324 (f) Affordability.†

325 (g) Postgraduation employment and salaries, including wage

326 thresholds that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate
327 degree.~~†~~

328 (h) Six-year graduation rates for students who are
329 eligible for a Pell Grant as compared with students who are not
330 eligible for a Pell Grant, with points deducted for decreases in
331 the enrollment of students who are eligible for a Pell Grant.

332 (i) The percent of students graduating without excess
333 hours. ~~access; and~~

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335 The Board of Governors may approve other metrics ~~approved by the~~
336 ~~board~~ in a formally noticed meeting that reflect the unique
337 mission of each university. The board shall adopt benchmarks to
338 evaluate each state university's performance on the metrics to
339 measure the state university's achievement of institutional
340 ~~excellence or need for~~ improvement and minimum requirements for
341 eligibility to receive performance funding. Benchmarks and
342 metrics must remain in place for 4 years and may not be adjusted
343 after university performance data has been received by the Board
344 of Governors.

345 (2) Each fiscal year, the amount of performance funding
346 ~~funds~~ available for allocation to each ~~the~~ state university
347 ~~universities~~ based on the performance-based funding model shall
348 include:

349 (a) The state ~~consist of the state's~~ investment, which
350 consists of the state appropriation for ~~in~~ performance funding.

351 (b) The plus institutional investment, which consists
352 ~~investments consisting of funds solely deducted from the base~~
353 ~~funding of the each state university in the State University~~
354 ~~System~~ in an amount provided in the General Appropriations Act.

355 (3) (a) Each state university that meets the benchmarks for
356 improvement established in its performance agreement pursuant to
357 s. 1001.706(5) (c) shall be eligible for a share of the state
358 investment in performance funding.

359 (b) Each state university that meets or exceeds the
360 baseline performance benchmarks established in its performance
361 agreement pursuant to s. 1001.706(5) (c) shall have its
362 institutional investment restored. ~~The Board of Governors shall~~
363 ~~establish minimum performance funding eligibility thresholds for~~
364 ~~the state's investment and the institutional investments. A~~
365 ~~state university that meets the minimum institutional investment~~
366 ~~eligibility threshold, but fails to meet the minimum state~~
367 ~~investment eligibility threshold, shall have its institutional~~
368 ~~investment restored but is ineligible for a share of the state's~~
369 ~~investment in performance funding. The institutional investment~~
370 ~~shall be restored for each institution eligible for the state's~~
371 ~~investment under the performance-based funding model.~~

372 (4) (3) (a) Each A state university that fails to maintain or
373 exceed meet the baseline performance benchmarks established in
374 its performance agreement pursuant to s. 1001.706(5) (c) Board of
375 Governors' minimum institutional investment performance funding

376 ~~eligibility threshold~~ shall have its institutional investment
377 withheld by the board and must submit an improvement plan to the
378 board that specifies the activities and strategies for improving
379 the state university's performance. The board must review and
380 approve the improvement plan and, if the plan is approved, must
381 monitor the state university's progress in implementing the
382 activities and strategies specified in the improvement plan. The
383 state university shall submit monitoring reports to the board by
384 December 31 and May 31 of each year in which an improvement plan
385 is in place. The ~~ability of a state university to submit an~~
386 improvement plan to the board is valid for ~~limited to~~ 1 fiscal
387 year.

388 (b) The Chancellor of the State University System shall
389 withhold disbursement of the institutional investment until the
390 monitoring report is approved by the Board of Governors. A state
391 university determined by the board to be making satisfactory
392 progress on implementing the improvement plan shall receive no
393 more than one-half of the withheld institutional investment in
394 January and the balance of the withheld institutional investment
395 in June. A state university that fails to make satisfactory
396 progress may not have its full institutional investment
397 restored. ~~Any institutional investment funds that are not~~
398 ~~restored shall be redistributed in accordance with the board's~~
399 ~~performance-based metrics.~~

400 (5)~~(4)~~ Distributions of performance funding, as provided

401 in this section, shall be made to each of the state universities
402 listed in the Education and General Activities category in the
403 General Appropriations Act. Beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal
404 year, funds may only be distributed pursuant to a performance
405 funding plan that is approved by the Legislature. In addition to
406 the plan submitted by the Board of Governors pursuant to
407 subsection (6), the Legislature shall review recommendations
408 from an independent entity selected by the Legislature.

409 (6)-(5) By January 1, 2019 ~~October 1~~ of each year, the
410 Board of Governors, in consultation with the state universities,
411 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
412 the Speaker of the House of Representatives a plan for
413 transitioning from the current partial performance-based funding
414 model to a complete performance-based continuous improvement
415 funding model that focuses on outcomes. The plan must include
416 the following:

417 (a) A revised method for the equitable distribution of
418 performance funds that is not based solely on historical funding
419 distributions. Funding must be distributed in accordance with
420 the performance agreements adopted pursuant to s.
421 1001.706(5)(c).

422 (b) A proposed method for transitioning to a complete
423 performance-based funding formula driven by outcomes ~~report on~~
424 the ~~previous fiscal year's performance funding allocation which~~
425 must reflect the rankings and award distributions.

426 ~~(7)-(6)~~ The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to
 427 administer this section.

428 Section 5. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2),
 429 subsections (3) and (4), and paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of
 430 section 1004.28, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph
 431 (d) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

432 1004.28 Direct-support organizations; use of property;
 433 board of directors; activities; audit; facilities.—

434 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.—

435 (b) The board of trustees, in accordance with rules and
 436 guidelines of the Board of Governors, shall prescribe by rule
 437 conditions with which a university direct-support organization
 438 must comply in order to use property, facilities, or personal
 439 services at any state university, including that personal
 440 services must comply with the requirements of s. 1012.976. Such
 441 rules shall provide for budget and audit review and oversight by
 442 the board of trustees, including thresholds for approval of
 443 purchases, acquisitions, projects, and issuance of debt. No
 444 later than July 1, 2019, the transfer of a state appropriation
 445 by the board of trustees to any direct-support organization may
 446 only include funds pledged for debt.

447 (c) The board of trustees may not transfer any funds to
 448 and shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or
 449 personal services at any state university by any university
 450 direct-support organization that does not provide equal

451 employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race,
452 color, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

453 (d) The board of trustees may not permit the use of state
454 funds for travel expenses by any university direct-support
455 organization.

456 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The chair of the university board
457 of trustees shall ~~may~~ appoint at least one a representative to
458 the board of directors and the executive committee of any
459 direct-support organization established under this section. The
460 president of the university for which the direct-support
461 organization is established, or his or her designee, shall also
462 serve on the board of directors and the executive committee of
463 any direct-support organization established to benefit that
464 university. The university board of trustees shall approve all
465 appointments to any direct-support organization not authorized
466 by this subsection.

467 (4) ACTIVITIES; RESTRICTION.—A university direct-support
468 organization is prohibited from giving, either directly or
469 indirectly, any gift to a political committee as defined in s.
470 106.011 for any purpose ~~other than those certified by a majority~~
471 ~~roll call vote of the governing board of the direct-support~~
472 ~~organization at a regularly scheduled meeting as being directly~~
473 ~~related to the educational mission of the university.~~

474 (5) ANNUAL AUDIT; PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION; PUBLIC
475 MEETINGS EXEMPTION.—

476 (b) All records of the organization other than the
477 auditor's report, management letter, any records related to the
478 expenditure of state funds, any records related to the
479 expenditure of private funds for travel, and any supplemental
480 data requested by the Board of Governors, the university board
481 of trustees, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program
482 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be
483 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1).

484 Section 6. Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, is created
485 to read:

486 1004.6497 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program.—

487 (1) PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The World Class
488 Faculty and Scholar Program is established to fund, beginning in
489 the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and support the efforts of state
490 universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and
491 research scholars. It is the intent of the Legislature to
492 elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's state
493 universities through faculty and scholar recruitment and
494 retention.

495 (2) INVESTMENTS.—Retention, recruitment, and recognition
496 efforts, activities, and investments may include, but are not
497 limited to, investments in research-centric cluster hires,
498 faculty research and research commercialization efforts,
499 instructional and research infrastructure, undergraduate student
500 participation in research, professional development, awards for

501 outstanding performance, and postdoctoral fellowships.

502 (3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as
503 provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each state
504 university shall use the funds only for the purpose and
505 investments authorized under this section. These funds may not
506 be used to construct buildings.

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

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

514 (b) The impact of those investments in elevating the
515 national competitiveness of the universities, specifically
516 relating to:

517 1. The success in recruiting research faculty and the
518 resulting research funding;

519 2. The 4-year graduation rate for undergraduate students;

520 3. The number of undergraduate courses offered with fewer
521 than 50 students; and

522 4. The increase in national academic standing of targeted
523 programs, specifically advancement in ranking among top 50
524 universities in the targeted programs in well-known and highly
525 respected national public university rankings, including, but

526 not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report rankings, which
527 reflect national preeminence, using the most recent rankings.

528 Section 7. Section 1004.6498, Florida Statutes, is created
529 to read:

530 1004.6498 State University Professional and Graduate
531 Degree Excellence Program.—

532 (1) PURPOSE.—The State University Professional and
533 Graduate Degree Excellence Program is established to fund,
534 beginning in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and support the efforts
535 of state universities to enhance the quality and excellence of
536 professional and graduate schools and degree programs in
537 medicine, law, and business and expand the economic impact of
538 state universities.

539 (2) INVESTMENTS.—Quality improvement efforts may include,
540 but are not limited to, targeted investments in faculty,
541 students, research, infrastructure, and other strategic
542 endeavors to elevate the national and global prominence of state
543 university medicine, law, and graduate-level business programs.

544 (3) FUNDING AND USE.—Funding for the program shall be as
545 provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each state
546 university shall use the funds only for the purpose and
547 investments authorized under this section. These funds may not
548 be used to construct buildings.

549 (4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—By March 15 of each year, the Board of
550 Governors shall provide to the Governor, the President of the

551 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report
552 summarizing information from the universities in the State
553 University System, including, but not limited to:

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

556 (b) The impact of those investments in elevating the
557 national and global prominence of the state university medicine,
558 law, and graduate-level business programs, specifically relating
559 to:

560 1. The first-time pass rate on the United States Medical
561 Licensing Examination;

562 2. The first-time pass rate on The Florida Bar
563 Examination;

564 3. The percentage of graduates enrolled or employed at a
565 wage threshold that reflects the added value of a graduate-level
566 business degree;

567 4. The advancement in the rankings of the state university
568 medicine, law, and graduate-level programs in well-known and
569 highly respected national graduate-level university rankings,
570 including, but not limited to, the U.S. News and World Report
571 rankings, which reflect national preeminence, using the most
572 recent rankings; and

573 5. The added economic benefit of the universities to the
574 state.

575 Section 8. Subsection (7) is added to section 1007.23,

576 Florida Statutes, to read:

577 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

578 (7) The articulation agreement must specifically provide
 579 for a reverse transfer agreement for Florida College System
 580 associate in arts degree-seeking students who transfer to a
 581 state university prior to earning an associate in arts degree.
 582 Students must be awarded an associate in arts degree by the
 583 Florida College System institution upon completion of degree
 584 requirements at the state university if the student earned a
 585 majority of the credit hours from the Florida College System
 586 institution. State universities must identify students who have
 587 completed requirements for the associate in arts degree and
 588 transfer credits earned at the state university back to the
 589 Florida College System institution so that the associate in arts
 590 degree may be awarded by the Florida College System institution.

591 Section 9. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section
 592 1008.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

593 1008.30 Common placement testing for public postsecondary
 594 education.—

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

599 (a) A student may ~~who entered 9th grade in a Florida~~
 600 ~~public school in the 2003-2004 school year, or any year~~

601 ~~thereafter, and earned a Florida standard high school diploma or~~
602 ~~a student who is serving as an active duty member of any branch~~
603 ~~of the United States Armed Services shall not be required to~~
604 take the common placement test unless the Florida College System
605 institution deems the test necessary as a diagnostic tool to
606 provide appropriate advising. Regardless of whether the test is
607 taken, a student may ~~and shall~~ not be required to enroll in
608 developmental education instruction in a Florida College System
609 institution. However, a student ~~who is not required to take the~~
610 ~~common placement test and is not required to enroll in~~
611 ~~developmental education under this paragraph~~ may opt to be
612 ~~assessed and to~~ enroll in developmental education instruction,
613 and the college shall provide such ~~assessment and~~ instruction
614 upon the student's request.

615 (b) A student who takes the common placement test and
616 whose score on the test indicates a need for developmental
617 education must be advised of all the developmental education
618 options offered at the institution and, after advisement, shall
619 be allowed to enroll in the developmental education option of
620 his or her choice.

621 (c) A student who demonstrates readiness by achieving or
622 exceeding the test scores established by the state board and
623 enrolls in a Florida College System institution within 2 years
624 after achieving such scores shall not be required to retest ~~or~~
625 ~~complete developmental education~~ when admitted to any Florida

626 College System institution.

627 (4) ~~By December 31, 2013,~~ The State Board of Education, in
 628 consultation with the Board of Governors, shall approve a series
 629 of meta-majors and the academic pathways that identify the
 630 gateway courses associated with each meta-major. Florida College
 631 System institutions shall use placement test results to
 632 determine the extent to which each student demonstrates
 633 sufficient communication and computation skills to indicate
 634 readiness for his or her chosen meta-major. Florida College
 635 System institutions shall counsel students into college credit
 636 courses as quickly as possible, with developmental education
 637 limited to that content needed for success in the meta-major.

638 (5) (a) Each Florida College System institution board of
 639 trustees shall develop a plan to implement the developmental
 640 education strategies defined in s. 1008.02 and rules established
 641 by the State Board of Education. The plan must be submitted to
 642 the Chancellor of the Florida College System for approval ~~no~~
 643 ~~later than March 1, 2014, for implementation no later than the~~
 644 ~~fall semester 2014.~~ Each plan must include, at a minimum, local
 645 policies that outline:

646 1. Documented student achievements such as grade point
 647 averages, work history, military experience, participation in
 648 juried competitions, career interests, degree major declaration,
 649 or any combination of such achievements that the institution may
 650 consider, in addition to common placement test scores, for

651 advising students regarding enrollment options.

652 2. Developmental education strategies available to
653 students.

654 3. A description of student costs and financial aid
655 opportunities associated with each option.

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

657 5. A comprehensive plan for advising students into
658 appropriate developmental education strategies based on student
659 success data.

660 (b) ~~Beginning October 31, 2015,~~ Each Florida College
661 System institution shall annually prepare an accountability
662 report that includes student success data relating to each
663 developmental education strategy implemented by the institution.
664 The report shall be submitted to the Division of Florida
665 Colleges by October 31 in a format determined by the Chancellor
666 of the Florida College System. By December 31, the chancellor
667 shall compile and submit the institutional reports to the
668 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
669 of Representatives, and the State Board of Education.

670 (c) A university board of trustees may contract with a
671 Florida College System institution board of trustees for the
672 Florida College System institution to provide developmental
673 education on the state university campus. Any state university
674 in which the percentage of incoming students requiring
675 developmental education equals or exceeds the average percentage

676 of such students for the Florida College System may offer
677 developmental education without contracting with a Florida
678 College System institution; however, any state university
679 offering college-preparatory instruction as of January 1, 1996,
680 may continue to provide developmental education instruction as
681 defined in s. 1008.02(1) ~~such services~~.

682 Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
683 1008.46, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

684 1008.46 State university accountability process.—It is the
685 intent of the Legislature that an accountability process be
686 implemented that provides for the systematic, ongoing evaluation
687 of quality and effectiveness of state universities. It is
688 further the intent of the Legislature that this accountability
689 process monitor performance at the system level in each of the
690 major areas of instruction, research, and public service, while
691 recognizing the differing missions of each of the state
692 universities. The accountability process shall provide for the
693 adoption of systemwide performance standards and performance
694 goals for each standard identified through a collaborative
695 effort involving state universities, the Board of Governors, the
696 Legislature, and the Governor's Office, consistent with
697 requirements specified in s. 1001.706. These standards and goals
698 shall be consistent with s. 216.011(1) to maintain congruity
699 with the performance-based budgeting process. This process
700 requires that university accountability reports reflect measures

701 defined through performance-based budgeting. The performance-
702 based budgeting measures must also reflect the elements of
703 teaching, research, and service inherent in the missions of the
704 state universities.

705 (1) (a) By March 15 ~~December 31~~ of each year, the Board of
706 Governors shall submit an annual accountability report providing
707 information on the implementation of performance standards,
708 actions taken to improve university achievement of performance
709 goals, the achievement of performance goals during the prior
710 year, and initiatives to be undertaken during the next year. The
711 accountability reports shall be designed in consultation with
712 the Governor's Office, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
713 Government Accountability, and the Legislature.

714 Section 11. Subsection (7) of section 1009.22, Florida
715 Statutes, is amended to read:

716 1009.22 Workforce education postsecondary student fees.—

717 (7) Each district school board and Florida College System
718 institution board of trustees is authorized to establish a
719 separate fee for technology, not to exceed 5 percent of tuition
720 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students
721 and not to exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee
722 per credit hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident
723 students. Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be
724 used to enhance instructional technology resources for students
725 and faculty ~~and shall not be included in any award under the~~

726 ~~Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program~~. Fifty percent of
727 technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida College
728 System institution board of trustees as a dedicated revenue
729 source for the repayment of debt, including lease-purchase
730 agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset being
731 financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may not be
732 bonded.

733 Section 12. Subsection (10) of section 1009.23, Florida
734 Statutes, is amended to read:

735 1009.23 Florida College System institution student fees.—

736 (10) Each Florida College System institution board of
737 trustees is authorized to establish a separate fee for
738 technology, which may not exceed 5 percent of tuition per credit
739 hour or credit-hour equivalent for resident students and may not
740 exceed 5 percent of tuition and the out-of-state fee per credit
741 hour or credit-hour equivalent for nonresident students.
742 Revenues generated from the technology fee shall be used to
743 enhance instructional technology resources for students and
744 faculty. The technology fee may apply to both college credit and
745 developmental education ~~and shall not be included in any award~~
746 ~~under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program~~. Fifty
747 percent of technology fee revenues may be pledged by a Florida
748 College System institution board of trustees as a dedicated
749 revenue source for the repayment of debt, including lease-
750 purchase agreements, not to exceed the useful life of the asset

751 being financed. Revenues generated from the technology fee may
752 not be bonded.

753 Section 13. Subsection (13), paragraph (r) of subsection
754 (14), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (15), paragraphs (a),
755 (b), and (e) of subsection (16), and subsection (20) of section
756 1009.24, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

757 1009.24 State university student fees.—

758 (13) Each university board of trustees may establish a
759 technology fee of up to 5 percent of the tuition per credit
760 hour. The revenue from this fee shall be used to enhance
761 instructional technology resources for students and faculty. ~~The~~
762 ~~technology fee may not be included in any award under the~~
763 ~~Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant~~
764 ~~to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.~~

765 (14) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (15), each
766 university board of trustees is authorized to establish the
767 following fees:

768 (r) Traffic and parking fines, charges for parking decals,
769 and transportation access fees. Only universitywide
770 transportation access fees may be included in any state
771 financial assistance award authorized under part III of chapter
772 1009, as specifically authorized by law or the General
773 Appropriations Act.

774

775 With the exception of housing rental rates and except as

776 otherwise provided, fees assessed pursuant to paragraphs (h)-(s)
 777 shall be based on reasonable costs of services. The Board of
 778 Governors shall adopt regulations and timetables necessary to
 779 implement the fees and fines authorized under this subsection.
 780 The fees assessed under this subsection may be used for debt
 781 only as authorized under s. 1010.62.

782 (15) (a) The Board of Governors may approve:

783 1. A proposal from a university board of trustees to
 784 establish a new student fee that is not specifically authorized
 785 by this section.

786 2. A proposal from a university board of trustees to
 787 increase the current cap for an existing fee authorized pursuant
 788 to paragraphs (14) (a)-(g).

789 3.a. A proposal from a university board of trustees to
 790 implement flexible tuition policies, such as undergraduate or
 791 graduate block tuition, block tuition differential, or market
 792 tuition rates for graduate-level online courses or graduate-
 793 level courses offered through a university's continuing
 794 education program. A block tuition policy for resident
 795 undergraduate students or undergraduate-level courses must ~~shall~~
 796 be based on the per-credit-hour undergraduate tuition
 797 established under subsection (4). A block tuition policy for
 798 nonresident undergraduate students must ~~shall~~ be based on the
 799 per-credit-hour undergraduate tuition and out-of-state fee
 800 established under subsection (4). Flexible tuition policies,

801 including block tuition, may not increase the state's fiscal
 802 liability or obligation.

803 b. A block tuition policy, which must be adopted by each
 804 university board of trustees for implementation beginning in the
 805 fall 2019 academic semester. The policy must apply to the
 806 entering freshman class of full-time, first-time-in-college
 807 students and may be extended to include other enrolled students.
 808 The policy must, at a minimum:

809 (I) Include block tuition and any required fees,
 810 including, but not limited to, tuition differential fees,
 811 activity and service fees, financial aid fees, capital
 812 improvement fees, athletic fees, health fees, and technology
 813 fees.

814 (II) Require the university to maximize the application of
 815 appropriate accelerated credits to minimize unnecessary credits
 816 and excess hours.

817 (III) Enable students to have the flexibility to earn at
 818 least 30 credits per academic year in any combination of fall,
 819 spring, and summer academic terms or semesters.

820 (b) A proposal developed pursuant to paragraph (a) shall
 821 be submitted in accordance with the public notification
 822 requirements of subsection (20) and guidelines established by
 823 the Board of Governors. Approval by the Board of Governors of
 824 such proposals ~~proposal~~ must be made in accordance with the
 825 ~~provisions of~~ this subsection. By April 1, 2018, each state

826 university board of trustees must submit to the Board of
827 Governors its block tuition policy, adopted pursuant to
828 subparagraph (a)3., along with information on the potential
829 impact of the policy on students. By August 1, 2018, the
830 Chancellor of the State University System must submit to the
831 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
832 House of Representatives a summary report of such policies, the
833 status of the board's review and approval of such policies, and
834 the board's recommendations for improving block tuition and fee
835 benefits for students.

836 (16) Each university board of trustees may establish a
837 tuition differential for undergraduate courses upon receipt of
838 approval from the Board of Governors. However, beginning July 1,
839 2014, the Board of Governors may only approve the establishment
840 of or an increase in tuition differential for a state research
841 university designated as a preeminent state research university
842 pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3). The tuition differential shall
843 promote improvements in the quality of undergraduate education
844 and shall provide financial aid to undergraduate students who
845 exhibit financial need.

846 (a) Seventy percent of the revenues from the tuition
847 differential shall be expended for purposes of undergraduate
848 education. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited
849 to, increasing course offerings, improving graduation rates,
850 increasing the percentage of undergraduate students who are

851 taught by faculty, decreasing student-faculty ratios, providing
852 salary increases for faculty who have a history of excellent
853 teaching in undergraduate courses, improving the efficiency of
854 the delivery of undergraduate education through academic
855 advisement and counseling, and reducing the percentage of
856 students who graduate with excess hours. This expenditure for
857 undergraduate education may not be used to pay the salaries of
858 graduate teaching assistants. Except as otherwise provided in
859 this subsection, the remaining 30 percent of the revenues from
860 the tuition differential, or the equivalent amount of revenue
861 from private sources, shall be expended to provide financial aid
862 to undergraduate students who exhibit financial need, including
863 students who are scholarship recipients under s. 1009.984, to
864 meet the cost of university attendance. This expenditure for
865 need-based financial aid shall not supplant the amount of need-
866 based aid provided to undergraduate students in the preceding
867 fiscal year from financial aid fee revenues, the direct
868 appropriation for financial assistance provided to state
869 universities in the General Appropriations Act, or from private
870 sources. The total amount of tuition differential waived under
871 subparagraph (b) 7. ~~(b) 8.~~ may be included in calculating the
872 expenditures for need-based financial aid to undergraduate
873 students required by this subsection. If the entire tuition and
874 fee costs of resident students who have applied for and received
875 Pell Grant funds have been met and the university has excess

876 funds remaining from the 30 percent of the revenues from the
877 tuition differential required to be used to assist students who
878 exhibit financial need, the university may expend the excess
879 portion in the same manner as required for the other 70 percent
880 of the tuition differential revenues.

881 (b) Each tuition differential is subject to the following
882 conditions:

883 1. The tuition differential may be assessed on one or more
884 undergraduate courses or on all undergraduate courses at a state
885 university.

886 2. The tuition differential may vary by course or courses,
887 by campus or center location, and by institution. Each
888 university board of trustees shall strive to maintain and
889 increase enrollment in degree programs related to math, science,
890 high technology, and other state or regional high-need fields
891 when establishing tuition differentials by course.

892 3. For each state university that is designated as a
893 preeminent state research university by the Board of Governors,
894 pursuant to s. 1001.7065, the aggregate sum of tuition and the
895 tuition differential may be increased by no more than 6 percent
896 of the total charged for the aggregate sum of these fees in the
897 preceding fiscal year. The tuition differential may be increased
898 if the university meets or exceeds performance standard targets
899 for that university established annually by the Board of
900 Governors for the following performance standards, amounting to

901 no more than a 2-percent increase in the tuition differential
902 for each performance standard:

903 a. An increase in the 4-year ~~6-year~~ graduation rate for
904 full-time, first-time-in-college students, as reported annually
905 to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

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

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

909 4. The aggregate sum of undergraduate tuition and fees per
910 credit hour, including the tuition differential, may not exceed
911 the national average of undergraduate tuition and fees at 4-year
912 degree-granting public postsecondary educational institutions.

913 ~~5. The tuition differential shall not be included in any
914 award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
915 established pursuant to ss. 1009.53-1009.538.~~

916 ~~5.6.~~ Beneficiaries having prepaid tuition contracts
917 pursuant to s. 1009.98(2)(b) which were in effect on July 1,
918 2007, and which remain in effect, are exempt from the payment of
919 the tuition differential.

920 ~~6.7.~~ The tuition differential may not be charged to any
921 student who was in attendance at the university before July 1,
922 2007, and who maintains continuous enrollment.

923 ~~7.8.~~ The tuition differential may be waived by the
924 university for students who meet the eligibility requirements
925 for the Florida public student assistance grant established in

926 s. 1009.50.

927 8.9 Subject to approval by the Board of Governors, the
 928 tuition differential authorized pursuant to this subsection may
 929 take effect with the 2009 fall term.

930 (e) The Board of Governors shall submit a report to the
 931 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
 932 Representatives, and the Governor describing the implementation
 933 of the provisions of this subsection no later than February 1 of
 934 each year. The report shall summarize proposals received by the
 935 board during the preceding fiscal year and actions taken by the
 936 board in response to such proposals. In addition, the report
 937 shall provide the following information for each university that
 938 has been approved by the board to assess a tuition differential:

939 1. The course or courses for which the tuition
 940 differential was assessed and the amount assessed.

941 2. The total revenues generated by the tuition
 942 differential.

943 3. With respect to waivers authorized under subparagraph
 944 (b)7. ~~(b)8.~~, the number of students eligible for a waiver, the
 945 number of students receiving a waiver, and the value of waivers
 946 provided.

947 4. Detailed expenditures of the revenues generated by the
 948 tuition differential.

949 5. Changes in retention rates, graduation rates, the
 950 percentage of students graduating with more than 110 percent of

951 the hours required for graduation, pass rates on licensure
952 examinations, the number of undergraduate course offerings, the
953 percentage of undergraduate students who are taught by faculty,
954 student-faculty ratios, and the average salaries of faculty who
955 teach undergraduate courses.

956 (20) Each state university shall publicly notice and
957 notify all enrolled students of any proposal to change ~~increase~~
958 tuition or fees at least 28 days before its consideration at a
959 board of trustees meeting. The notice must:

960 (a) Include the date and time of the meeting at which the
961 proposal will be considered.

962 (b) Specifically outline the details of existing tuition
963 and fees, the rationale for the proposed change ~~increase~~, and
964 how the funds from the proposed change ~~increase~~ will be used.

965 (c) Be posted on the university's website and issued in a
966 press release.

967 Section 14. Subsection (9) of section 1009.53, Florida
968 Statutes, is amended to read:

969 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

970 (9) A student may use a Florida Academic Scholar ~~an~~ award
971 for summer term enrollment beginning in the 2018 summer term, as
972 funded in the General Appropriations Act. A student may use
973 other Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for
974 summer term enrollment, if funded in the General Appropriations
975 Act if funds are available.

976 Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 1009.534, Florida
 977 Statutes, is amended to read:

978 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

979 (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a
 980 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program
 981 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is
 982 eligible, beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, for an award
 983 equal to the amount required to pay 100 percent of tuition and
 984 fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);
 985 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-
 986 (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an
 987 additional \$300 each fall and spring academic semester or the
 988 equivalent for textbooks and ~~specified in the General~~
 989 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to assist with the payment of educational
 990 expenses.

991 Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 1009.535, Florida
 992 Statutes, is amended to read:

993 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

994 (2) A Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in a
 995 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program
 996 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is
 997 eligible, beginning in the fall 2018 semester, for an award
 998 equal to the amount required to pay 75 percent of tuition and
 999 fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);
 1000 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-

1001 (13), (14) (r), and (16), as applicable ~~specified in the General~~
1002 ~~Appropriations Act~~ to assist with the payment of educational
1003 expenses.

1004 Section 17. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) and paragraph
1005 (c) of subsection (5) of section 1009.701, Florida Statutes, are
1006 amended to read:

1007 1009.701 First Generation Matching Grant Program.—

1008 (1) The First Generation Matching Grant Program is created
1009 to enable each state university and Florida College System
1010 institution to provide donors with a matching grant incentive
1011 for contributions that will create grant-based student financial
1012 aid for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need
1013 and whose parents, as defined in s. 1009.21(1), have not earned
1014 a baccalaureate degree. In the case of any individual who
1015 regularly resided with and received support from only one
1016 parent, an individual whose only such parent did not complete a
1017 baccalaureate degree would also be eligible.

1018 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program
1019 shall be allocated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance
1020 to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis;
1021 however, beginning in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, such funds
1022 shall be allocated at a ratio of \$2 of state funds to \$1 of
1023 private contributions to provide additional funding to increase
1024 the number of eligible students receiving the scholarship. After
1025 all eligible students have received an award, the remaining

1026 funds may be used to increase award amounts based on financial
1027 need. Contributions made to a state university or a Florida
1028 College System institution and pledged for the purposes of this
1029 section are eligible for state matching funds appropriated for
1030 this program and are not eligible for any other state matching
1031 grant program. Pledged contributions are not eligible for
1032 matching prior to the actual collection of the total funds. The
1033 Office of Student Financial Assistance shall reserve a
1034 proportionate allocation of the total appropriated funds for
1035 each state university and Florida College System institution on
1036 the basis of full-time equivalent enrollment. Funds that remain
1037 unmatched as of December 1 shall be reallocated to state
1038 universities and colleges that have remaining unmatched private
1039 contributions for the program on the basis of full-time
1040 equivalent enrollment.

1041 (4) Each participating state university and Florida
1042 College System institution shall establish an application
1043 process, determine student eligibility for initial and renewal
1044 awards in conformance with subsection (5), identify the amount
1045 awarded to each recipient, and notify recipients of the amount
1046 of their awards.

1047 (5) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to
1048 this section, an applicant must:

1049 (c) Be accepted at a state university or Florida College
1050 System institution.

1051 Section 18. Subsections (2), (4), and (5) of section
 1052 1009.893, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1053 1009.893 Benacquisto Scholarship Program.—

1054 (2) The Benacquisto Scholarship Program is created to
 1055 reward a ~~any Florida~~ high school graduate who receives
 1056 recognition as a National Merit Scholar or National Achievement
 1057 Scholar and who initially enrolls in the 2014-2015 academic year
 1058 or, later, in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible
 1059 Florida public or independent postsecondary educational
 1060 institution.

1061 (4) In order to be eligible for an award under the
 1062 scholarship program, a student must meet the requirements of
 1063 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).÷

1064 (a) A student who is a resident of the state, ~~Be a state~~
 1065 ~~resident~~ as determined in s. 1009.40 and rules of the State
 1066 Board of Education, must:÷

1067 1.~~(b)~~ Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its
 1068 equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282,
 1069 or s. 1003.435 unless:

1070 a.1.÷ The student completes a home education program
 1071 according to s. 1002.41; or

1072 b.2.÷ The student earns a high school diploma from a non-
 1073 Florida school while living with a parent who is on military or
 1074 public service assignment out of this state;

1075 2.~~(c)~~ Be accepted by and enroll in a Florida public or

1076 independent postsecondary educational institution that is
 1077 regionally accredited; and
 1078 3.~~(d)~~ Be enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree
 1079 program at an eligible regionally accredited Florida public or
 1080 independent postsecondary educational institution during the
 1081 fall academic term following high school graduation.
 1082 (b) A student who initially enrolls in a baccalaureate
 1083 degree program in the 2018-2019 academic year or later and who
 1084 is not a resident of this state, as determined in s. 1009.40 and
 1085 rules of the State Board of Education, must:
 1086 1. Physically reside in this state on or near the campus
 1087 of the postsecondary educational institution in which the
 1088 student is enrolled;
 1089 2. Earn a high school diploma from a school outside
 1090 Florida which is comparable to a standard Florida high school
 1091 diploma or its equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s.
 1092 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282, or s. 1003.435 or must complete a home
 1093 education program in another state; and
 1094 3. Be accepted by and enrolled full-time in a
 1095 baccalaureate degree program at an eligible regionally
 1096 accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary
 1097 educational institution during the fall academic term following
 1098 high school graduation.
 1099 (5) (a) 1. An eligible student who meets the requirements of
 1100 paragraph (4) (a), who is a National Merit Scholar or National

1101 Achievement Scholar, and who attends a Florida public
1102 postsecondary educational institution shall receive a
1103 scholarship award equal to the institutional cost of attendance
1104 minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures
1105 Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National
1106 Achievement Scholarship.

1107 2. An eligible student who meets the requirements under
1108 paragraph (4) (b), who is a National Merit Scholar, and who
1109 attends a Florida public postsecondary educational institution
1110 shall receive a scholarship award equal to the institutional
1111 cost of attendance for a resident of this state minus the
1112 student's National Merit Scholarship. Such student is exempt
1113 from the payment of out-of-state fees.

1114 (b) An eligible student who is a National Merit Scholar or
1115 National Achievement Scholar and who attends a Florida
1116 independent postsecondary educational institution shall receive
1117 a scholarship award equal to the highest cost of attendance for
1118 a resident of this state enrolled at a Florida public
1119 university, as reported by the Board of Governors of the State
1120 University System, minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright
1121 Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship or National
1122 Achievement Scholarship.

1123 Section 19. Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, is created
1124 to read:

1125 1009.894 Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program.-

1126 The Legislature recognizes the vital contribution of farmworkers
1127 to the economy of this state. The Florida Farmworker Student
1128 Scholarship Program is created to provide scholarships for
1129 farmworkers, as defined in s. 420.503, and the children of such
1130 farmworkers.

1131 (1) The Department of Education shall administer the
1132 Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program according to
1133 rules and procedures established by the State Board of
1134 Education. Beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, up to 50
1135 scholarships shall be awarded annually according to the criteria
1136 established in subsection (2) and contingent upon an
1137 appropriation in the General Appropriations Act.

1138 (2) (a) To be eligible for an initial scholarship, a
1139 student must, at a minimum:

1140 1. Have a resident status as required by s. 1009.40 and
1141 rules of the State Board of Education;

1142 2. Earn a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average
1143 of 3.5 for all high school courses creditable toward a diploma;

1144 3. Complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service;
1145 and

1146 4. Have at least a 90 percent attendance rate and not have
1147 had any disciplinary action brought against him or her, as
1148 documented on the student's high school transcript.

1149
1150 For purposes of this section, students who are undocumented for

1151 federal immigration purposes are not eligible for an award.

1152 (b) The department shall rank eligible initial applicants
1153 for the purposes of awarding scholarships based on need, as
1154 determined by the department.

1155 (c) To renew a scholarship awarded pursuant to this
1156 section, a student must maintain at least a cumulative grade
1157 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for college
1158 coursework.

1159 (3) A scholarship recipient must enroll in a minimum of 12
1160 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, at a public
1161 postsecondary educational institution in this state to receive
1162 funding.

1163 (4) A scholarship recipient may receive an award for a
1164 maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to
1165 complete an associate or baccalaureate degree program or receive
1166 an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the credit hours or
1167 clock hours required to complete up to 90 credit hours of a
1168 program that terminates in a career certificate. The scholarship
1169 recipient is eligible for an award equal to the amount required
1170 to pay the tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3),
1171 (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11);
1172 and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, at a
1173 public postsecondary educational institution in this state.
1174 Renewal scholarship awards must take precedence over new
1175 scholarship awards in a year in which funds are not sufficient

1176 to accommodate both initial and renewal awards. The scholarship
1177 must be prorated for any such year.

1178 (5) Subject to appropriation in the General Appropriations
1179 Act, the department shall annually issue awards from the
1180 scholarship program. Before the registration period each
1181 semester, the department shall transmit payment for each award
1182 to the president or director of the postsecondary educational
1183 institution, or his or her representative. However, the
1184 department may withhold payment if the receiving institution
1185 fails to submit the following reports or make the following
1186 refunds to the department:

1187 (a) Each institution shall certify to the department the
1188 eligibility status of each student to receive a disbursement
1189 within 30 days before the end of its regular registration
1190 period, inclusive of a drop and add period. An institution is
1191 not required to reevaluate the student eligibility after the end
1192 of the drop and add period.

1193 (b) An institution that receives funds from the
1194 scholarship program must certify to the department the amount of
1195 funds disbursed to each student and remit to the department any
1196 undisbursed advance within 60 days after the end of the regular
1197 registration period.

1198 (6) The department shall allocate funds to the appropriate
1199 institutions and collect and maintain data regarding the
1200 scholarship program within the student financial assistance

1201 database as specified in s. 1009.94.

1202 (7) Funding for this program shall be as provided in the
 1203 General Appropriations Act.

1204 Section 20. Present paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection
 1205 (10) of section 1009.98, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 1206 paragraphs (f) and (g), respectively, and a new paragraph (e) is
 1207 added to that subsection, to read:

1208 1009.98 Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program.—

1209 (10) PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES.—

1210 (e) Notwithstanding the number of credit hours used by a
 1211 state university to assess the amount for registration fees,
 1212 tuition, tuition differential, or local fees, the amount paid by
 1213 the board to any state university on behalf of a qualified
 1214 beneficiary of an advance payment contract purchased before July
 1215 1, 2024, may not exceed the number of credit hours taken by that
 1216 qualified beneficiary at the state university.

1217 Section 21. Subsection (4) of section 1011.90, Florida
 1218 Statutes, is amended to read:

1219 1011.90 State university funding.—

1220 (4) The Board of Governors shall establish and validate a
 1221 cost-estimating system consistent with the requirements of
 1222 subsection (1) and shall report as part of its legislative
 1223 budget request the actual expenditures for the fiscal year
 1224 ending the previous June 30. The legislative budget request must
 1225 also include 5-year trend information on the ratios of student

1226 enrollment to faculty and administrators at each university. The
1227 ratio of students to administrators at any state university may
1228 not grow at a greater rate than the ratio of students to
1229 faculty. Expenditure analysis, operating budgets, and annual
1230 financial statements of each university must be prepared using
1231 the standard financial reporting procedures and formats
1232 prescribed by the Board of Governors. These formats shall be the
1233 same as used for the 2000-2001 fiscal year reports. Any
1234 revisions to these financial and reporting procedures and
1235 formats must be approved by the Executive Office of the Governor
1236 and the appropriations committees of the Legislature jointly
1237 under the provisions of s. 216.023(3). The Board of Governors
1238 shall continue to collect and maintain at a minimum management
1239 information existing on June 30, 2002. The expenditure analysis
1240 report shall include total expenditures from all sources for the
1241 general operation of the university and shall be in such detail
1242 as needed to support the legislative budget request.

1243 Section 22. The Division of Law Revision and Information
1244 is directed to substitute the term "Effective Access to Student
1245 Education Grant Program" for "Florida Resident Access Grant
1246 Program" and the term "Effective Access to Student Education
1247 grant" for "Florida resident access grant" wherever those terms
1248 appear in the Florida Statutes.

1249 Section 23. Effective July 1, 2020, sections 1004.33 and
1250 1004.34, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

1251 Section 24. Section 1004.335, Florida Statutes, is created
1252 to read:

1253 1004.335 Accreditation consolidation of University of
1254 South Florida branch campuses.-

1255 (1) No later than January 15, 2019, the Board of Trustees
1256 of the University of South Florida must adopt and submit to the
1257 Board of Governors an implementation plan to orderly phase out
1258 the separate accreditation of the University of South Florida
1259 St. Petersburg campus and the University of South Florida
1260 Sarasota/Manatee campus, which were conferred by the Southern
1261 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
1262 (SACSCOC) pursuant to ss. 1004.33 and 1004.34, respectively.

1263 (2) The implementation plan must:

1264 (a) Detail any necessary steps, and the timeline for such
1265 steps, to ensure that the separate accreditation for each campus
1266 is terminated no later than June 30, 2020. The implementation
1267 plan must also ensure that there is no lapse in institutional
1268 accreditation for any campus during the phasing-out process.

1269 (b) Be designed and carried out in a manner that, to the
1270 extent possible, minimizes any disruption to students attending
1271 any University of South Florida campus, with an emphasis on
1272 ensuring that each student's opportunity to graduate from the
1273 university within 4 years of his or her initial first-time-in-
1274 college enrollment is not impeded as a result of the
1275 consolidation of SACSCOC accreditation.

1276 (c) Provide that on or before July 1, 2020, the entirety
1277 of the University of South Florida, including all campuses and
1278 other component units of the university, shall operate under a
1279 single institutional accreditation from the SACSCOC.

1280 (d) Provide that on each regularly scheduled submission
1281 date subsequent to July 1, 2020, the University of South Florida
1282 shall report consolidated data for all of the university's
1283 campuses and students to the Integrated Postsecondary Education
1284 Data System and to the Board of Governors. The Board of
1285 Governors shall use the consolidated data for purposes of
1286 determining eligibility for funding pursuant to ss. 1001.7065
1287 and 1001.92.

1288 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 1001.7065 and
1289 1001.92 or any Board of Governors regulation to the contrary
1290 relating to the calculation of graduation rates and retention
1291 rates, a student who meets all of the following criteria may not
1292 be counted by the Board of Governors when calculating or
1293 confirming the graduation rate or the retention rate of the
1294 University of South Florida under those sections:

1295 (a) The student was admitted to and initially enrolled
1296 before the spring 2019 semester as a first-time-in-college
1297 student at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg or the
1298 University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

1299 (b) The student voluntarily disenrolled from all
1300 University of South Florida campuses without graduating before

1301 the date of termination of the separate SACSCOC accreditation of
1302 his or her admitting campus.

1303 (4) This section expires July 1, 2020.

1304 Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 1004.344, Florida
1305 Statutes, is amended to read:

1306 1004.344 The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts
1307 Integrated Teaching.—

1308 (1) The Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts
1309 Integrated Teaching is created within the University of South
1310 Florida and shall be physically headquartered at the University
1311 of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee.

1312 Section 26. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
1313 law.