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OSFA-STATE: #26-27:07

MEMORANDUM

TO: Financial Aid Directors at Florida College System Institutions, School District Technical Career Centers, and Charter Technical Career Centers

FROM: Shawn Haskin
Director, State Scholarship and Grant Programs

DATE: August 11, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026-27 Open Door Grant Program

As outlined in section (s.) [1009.895](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Open Door Grant Program (ODGP) is a financial aid program available to students that attend a school district postsecondary technical career center, a Florida College System institution, or a charter technical career center. The goal of this program is to incentivize current and future workers to enroll in career and technical education programs that lead to a credential, certificate, or degree.

A student is eligible to receive a maximum award equal to the amount needed to cover 100 percent tuition and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, and related materials for eligible programs after all other federal and state financial aid is applied. In addition, a student may receive a stipend of up to \$1,500, or an amount specified by the General Appropriations Act, per academic year to cover other expenses related to the institutional cost of attendance. The institution must make awards subject to the availability of funding. The eligibility status of each student must be determined by each institution at the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a drop-add period, where returning students must be given priority over new students. Institutions may not be required to reevaluate a student's eligibility status after this date.

To be eligible for the award, a student must:

- Meet the requirements under s. 1009.40(1)(a)2. and 3., F.S.;
- Be enrolled at a school district postsecondary technical career center specified under s. 1001.44, F.S., a Florida College System institution specified under s. 1000.21(3), F.S., or a charter technical career center specified under s. 1002.34, F.S., and
- Be enrolled in:
 - An adult secondary education program or integrated education and training program, in which institutions establish partnerships with local workforce development boards to provide basic skills instruction, contextually and concurrently, with workforce training that results in the award of credentials under s. 445.004(4), F.S., or
 - A workforce education program, as defined under s. 1011.80(1)(b)-(f), F.S., that is included on the Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4), F.S.

Suzanne Pridgeon
Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

For the 2026-27 fiscal year, Florida College System institutions have been appropriated a total of \$15 million and the School District Workforce Education sector has been appropriated a total of \$10 million. Funding for eligible institutions will consist of a base amount of \$25,000 plus ninety (90) percent of disbursements for the prior fiscal year. With the remaining program appropriation, each institution may receive a proportional amount based on the average number of full-time equivalent disbursed students and total unduplicated number of otherwise eligible students reported for the prior year. Each term, institutions shall certify to the department within 30 days after the end of the regular registration period the amount of funds distributed to each student and the students eligible but not awarded. Institutions shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances for the fall, spring, and summer term 30 days after the end of the summer term.

Postsecondary institutions may now report student-level records on the Disbursement Eligibility Report (DER) within the SSFAD. This technical update aligns the disbursement reporting process with other states scholarships and grant programs administered through OSFA. Institutions may now include ODGP student records when reporting via Secure File Transfer Protocols (SFTP) for batch processing or via the online SSFAD website for manual submissions, which can be accessed at <https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org>.

All institutions participating in ODGP are required to submit a report no later than September 1, 2027, with data from the 2026-27 fiscal year on program completion and credential attainment by students participating in the grant program. Data included within the report must include:

- A list of the programs offered at the institution.
- The number of students who enrolled in the programs.
- The number of students who completed the programs.
- The number of students who attained workforce credentials, categorized by credential name and relevant occupation, after completing the training programs.

Webinar Information

OSFA will host informational training sessions for school personnel at participating institutions to better understand the details of the Open Door Grant Program as outlined in this memorandum. Each session will be limited to the first 250 registered attendees.

Available Scheduled Session Dates (choose one):

- Tuesday, August 25, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (EST)
- Wednesday, August 26, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (EST)

To request attendance during one of the available sessions listed above, please send an email to Pedro.Hernandez@fldoe.org with the following information:

- Session date;
- Attendee's first and last name;
- Email address;
- Phone number; and
- Postsecondary institution.

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Please contact Robert Buccellato for assistance by email at Robert.Buccellato@fldoe.org, by phone at 850-245-1899, or OSFA Customer Service at 888-827-2004.

SH/rb

cc: Lou Anne Standley, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Division of Finance and Operations.
Nanette Smith, Director, Decentralized Programs, OSFA, Division of Finance and Operations.
Robert Buccellato, Program Specialist, OSFA, Division of Finance and Operations.