

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance



The *Student Financial Assistance Annual Report 2023-24* was prepared by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), as required by section 1009.90(9), Florida Statutes. The report provides detailed information about the various state financial aid awards and grant programs that are available to help Florida students in meeting their postsecondary education and career goals.

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
2023-24 State Programs Appropriations and Award Amounts	3
2024-25 State Programs Appropriations and Award Amounts	5
 State Scholarship and Grant Programs	
Need-Based Programs	
Florida Student Assistance Grant Program	11
(Public, Public Postsecondary Career Education, Private and Postsecondary)	
Florida Work Experience Program	13
 Merit-Based Programs	
Benacquisto Scholarship Program	17
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program	19
[Florida Academic Scholars (Academic Top Scholars),	
Florida Medallion Scholars, Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars, and Florida Gold Seal	
Vocational Scholars]	
 Tuition Assistance Grant Programs	
William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program	25
 Financial Assistance Programs	
Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program	29
First Generation Matching Grant Program	31
Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program	33
Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program	35
Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program	37
John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program	39
José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Program	41
Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program	43
Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program	45
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program	47
Open Door Grant Program	49
Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement Program	51
Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program	53
Rosewood Family Scholarship Program	55
Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans	57
 Student Financial Assistance Administration	
Information and Training	61
Customer Support	63
Information Dissemination Outreach Team	65

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Florida has a variety of state-funded scholarship and grant programs to increase access to postsecondary education for Florida's postsecondary students, including need-based programs, merit-based programs, and tuition assistance and grant programs. Florida's financial aid programs assist students who may not otherwise be able to afford a college education, thus providing them with the opportunity to pursue careers in technical, professional, and academic fields of their choice.

As required by section 1009.90(9), Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Education (department), Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), prepares the *Student Financial Assistance Annual Report* to provide information about the administration and distribution of state scholarship and grant programs authorized by the Florida Legislature. The annual report includes an overview of each financial assistance program along with the most recent five years of data showing the number of students funded, the average award amount, total funds expended for the program, and the legislative appropriation.

Highlights of Florida's 2023-24 student financial assistance programs included:

- Distribution of more than a billion dollars (\$1,111,274,774) in state scholarships and grants to 302,772 student scholars at an average of \$3,670 per recipient for the 2023-24 academic year;
- Enrollment of Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholars (FMS) students in an associate degree program at a Florida College System institution with their award equal to 100 percent of the tuition and specific fees;
- Distribution of \$76,926 in the second year of funding for the Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement Program to 80 recipients at an average of \$962 per recipient;
- Distribution of \$2,016,766 in the second year of funding for the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to 775 students at an average of \$2,602 per recipient;
- Distribution of \$149,105 in the third year of funding for the Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program to 31 students at an average of \$4,810 per recipient; and
- Distribution of \$18,050,000 for the reimbursement of tuition and instructional materials costs for the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program to support postsecondary institutions that provide dual enrollment opportunities to eligible secondary students.

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed several bills affecting policies and procedures related to Florida's scholarship and grant programs, including the following:

- Specific Appropriation 75A in the 2004 General Appropriations Act (GAA) provided \$7,000,000 for the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program pursuant to sections 1009.711 and 1004.933, F.S. Funds are provided to support public postsecondary institutions in providing the GATE Program and its purpose of an alternative pathway to education and workforce opportunities for students who have withdrawn from high school prior to graduation.
- Specific Appropriation 60 in the 2024 GAA expanded the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Program by creating the EASE Plus Incentive Program that includes a separate appropriated amount of \$9,642,500 for EASE award recipients. The additional award will support students enrolled in upper-level courses in quality, high-demand programs. These include Agriculture/Veterinary Science, Allied Health, Cyber Security, Digital Arts/Computer Graphics, Nursing, and Teaching.
- Specific Appropriation 70 in the 2024 GAA modified the Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program to include student enrollment at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- Chapter 2024-230, Laws of Florida, modified section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, by renaming the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program and modified the program to provide financial assistance for the recruitment of law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and

firefighter trainees who enroll in an approved training program at a Florida College System institution or school district technical center.

- Specific Appropriation 74 in the 2024 GAA modified the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program to include student enrollment at an independent college or university, which is not for profit, is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, and confers degrees as defined in section 1005.02, Florida Statutes, in providing dual enrollment pursuant to section 1009.30, Florida Statutes.

2023-24 STATE PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS AND AWARD AMOUNTS

Program Title	2023-24 Annual Appropriations	2023-24 Annual Award Amounts
Need-Based Programs		
Florida Student Assistance Grant Program Total	\$269,396,012	\$3,260 maximum - \$200 minimum
Florida Work Experience Program	\$1,569,922	Determined by financial need
Merit-Based Programs		
Benacquisto Scholarship Program	\$37,652,713 ²	Cost of Attendance (COA) minus the sum of Bright Futures and National Merit® awards
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Total	\$607,192,051 ²	
Florida Academic Scholars Award		100% of tuition and specific fees
Academic Top Scholars Award		\$44 per credit hour
Florida Medallion Scholars Award		75% of tuition and specific fees 100% of tuition and specific fees for associate degree students at a Florida College System institution
Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Award		Career Certificate - \$39 Applied Technology Diploma - \$39 Technical Degree Education - \$48 Bachelor of Science Program - \$48 Bachelor of Applied Science Program - \$48
Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award		Career Certificate - \$39 Applied Technology Diploma - \$39 Technical Degree Education - \$48
Tuition Assistance Grant Programs		
Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program	\$134,848,000	Maximum amount of \$3,500
Financial Assistance Programs		
Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program	\$18,050,000	
First Generation Matching Grant Program	\$10,617,326	Determined by financial need up to COA
State Universities	\$7,962,994	
Florida Colleges	\$2,654,332	
Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program	\$272,151	Tuition and specific fees
Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program	\$5,000,000	Tuition and fees at a Florida public institution less the sum of federal and state aid
Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program	\$1,000,000	Maximum amount of \$1,000
John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program	\$270,432	Up to \$10,000 per calendar year
José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Program	\$124,000	Up to \$2,000
Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program	\$321,000	Up to \$3,000
Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program	\$1,500,000	Up to \$4,000
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program	\$1,233,006	Up to \$4,000
Open Door Grant Program	\$61,440,055 ¹	100% of tuition and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, and related materials after all other federal and state financial aid is applied. A student may receive a stipend of up to \$1,500 per academic year to cover other expenses related to the institutional cost of attendance.
Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement	\$1,000,000	Up to \$1,000
Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program	\$305,000	Tuition and registration fees up to \$6,100
Rosewood Family Scholarship Program	\$256,747	Tuition and registration fees up to \$6,100
Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans	\$18,332,412 ²	Tuition and registration fees

¹Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2023-239 (2023 General Appropriations Act) in Sections 62 and 63.

²Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2024-231 (2024 General Appropriations Act) for these respective programs in Sections 16, 17, and 18.

2024-25 STATE PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS AND AWARD AMOUNTS

Program Title	2024-25 Annual Appropriations	2024-25 Annual Award Amounts
Need-Based Programs		
Florida Student Assistance Grant Program Total	\$269,396,012	\$3,260 maximum - \$200 minimum
Florida Work Experience Program	\$1,569,922	Determined by financial need
Merit-Based Programs		
Benacquisto Scholarship Program	\$39,028,698	Cost of Attendance (COA) minus the sum of Bright Futures and National Merit® awards
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Total	\$616,908,961	
Florida Academic Scholars Award		100% of tuition and specific fees
Academic Top Scholars Award		\$44 per credit hour
Florida Medallion Scholars Award		75% of tuition and specific fees 100% of tuition and specific fees for associate degree students at a Florida College System institution
Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Award		Career Certificate - \$39 Applied Technology Diploma - \$39 Technical Degree Education - \$48 Bachelor of Science Program - \$48 Bachelor of Applied Science Program - \$48
Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award		Career Certificate - \$39 Applied Technology Diploma - \$39 Technical Degree Education - \$48
Tuition Assistance Grant Programs		
Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program (EASE)	\$134,848,000	Maximum amount of \$3,500. If eligible, up to \$850 of additional funding through the EASE Plus Incentive Program.
Financial Assistance Programs		
Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program	\$18,050,000	
Dual Enrollment Teacher Scholarship Program	\$3,500,000	
First Generation Matching Grant Program	\$10,617,326	Determined by financial need up to COA
State Universities	\$7,962,994	
Florida Colleges	\$2,654,332	
Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program	\$272,151	Tuition and specific fees
Florida First Responder Scholarship Program	\$10,000,000	100% tuition and fees at a Florida public institution less the sum of federal and state aid
Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education Scholarship Program	\$7,000,000	100% of tuition and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, and related materials at a school district career center, a technical career center, or a Florida College System institution less the sum of federal and state aid
Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program	\$1,000,000	Maximum amount of \$1,000
John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program	\$97,461	Up to \$10,000 per calendar year
José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Program	\$124,000	Up to \$2,000
Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program	\$321,000	Up to \$3,000
Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program	\$1,500,000	Up to \$4,000
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program	\$1,233,006	Up to \$4,000
Open Door Grant Program	\$35,000,000	100% tuition and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, and related materials after all other federal and state financial aid is applied. A student may receive a stipend of up to \$1,500 per academic year to cover other expenses related to the institutional cost of attendance
Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement	\$1,000,000	Reimbursement up to \$1,000
Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program	\$305,000	Tuition and registration fees up to \$6,100
Rosewood Family Scholarship Program	\$256,747	Tuition and registration fees up to \$6,100
Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans	\$21,499,983	Tuition and registration fees

2023-24



STATE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAMS

Need-Based Programs

Florida Student Assistance Grant Program
Florida Work Experience Program

Merit-Based Programs

Benacquisto Scholarship Program
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Tuition Assistance Programs

William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program

2023-24



NEED-BASED PROGRAMS

Florida Student Assistance Grant Program
Public, Public Postsecondary Career Education,
Private, and Postsecondary

Florida Work Experience Program

FLORIDA STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Sections 1009.50 - 1009.52, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rules 6A-20.031, 6A-20.032, and 6A-20.033, Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Program, created in 1972, is Florida's largest need-based grant program. The FSAG Program consists of four student financial aid awards:

- FSAG Public;
- FSAG Public Postsecondary Career Education;
- FSAG Private; and
- FSAG Postsecondary.

The FSAG Program is available to degree and certificate-seeking undergraduate Florida residents who demonstrate substantial financial need and are enrolled in participating postsecondary institutions.

Participating institutions determine application deadlines, student eligibility, and award amounts. Eligibility criteria and award amounts are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

Award Level

- The FSAG annual award, set in the General Appropriations Act, ranges from \$200 to \$3,260, as determined by the participating postsecondary institution, and is based upon the institution's funding allocation and a student's need.
- FSAG, in combination with other financial aid, may not exceed a student's demonstrated financial need. Financial need is determined by the institutional cost of attendance, less the Expected Family Contribution as determined by the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), less aid from other sources such as federal grants, state grants, and institutional aid (not including loans).

<p>Cost of Attendance - Expected Family Contribution - <u>Other Aid (excluding loans)</u> = Unmet Financial Need</p>
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Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet the general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Enroll for a minimum of:
 - Six credit hours per term, or the equivalent, in an associate or baccalaureate degree program at a state university or Florida College System institution, or
 - Six credit hours per term, or the equivalent, in a certificate program of 450 clock hours or more at a Florida College System institution or technical career center operated by a district school board, or

- 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, in an associate or baccalaureate degree program, or 360 clock hours per term in a certificate-seeking aviation maintenance program at an eligible institution to participate in the FSAG Private or FSAG Postsecondary Programs.
- Demonstrate financial need by completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).

Florida Student Assistance Grant Programs

Number of Students by Sector

Year	Public	Career Education	Private	Postsecondary	Total
2019-20	148,673	4,491	16,129	5,594	174,887
2020-21	142,314	4,010	15,895	4,990	167,209
2021-22	138,979	4,065	15,024	4,458	162,526
2022-23	142,872	4,018	14,348	4,358	165,596
2023-24	138,052	4,183	13,420	4,369	160,024

Expenditures by Sector

Year	Public	Career Education	Private	Postsecondary	Total*	Average Award	Max Award
2019-20	\$235,323,784	\$3,150,251	\$24,999,556	\$6,134,695	\$269,608,286	\$1,542	\$2,610
2020-21	\$232,335,141	\$3,163,702	\$24,843,225	\$5,849,058	\$266,191,126	\$1,592	\$3,260
2021-22	\$233,988,379	\$3,227,041	\$24,360,483	\$5,711,120	\$267,287,023	\$1,645	\$3,260
2022-23	\$235,771,779	\$3,273,629	\$24,522,706	\$5,687,592	\$269,255,706	\$1,626	\$3,260
2023-24	\$236,041,077	\$3,282,850	\$24,245,454	\$5,730,243	\$269,299,624	\$1,683	\$3,260

*Total expended funds may include adjusted funds per section 216.292, Florida Statutes.

Appropriations by Sector

Year	Public	Career Education	Private	Postsecondary	Total
2019-20	\$233,835,738	\$3,232,752	\$24,245,642	\$8,081,880	\$269,396,012
2020-21	\$235,293,171	\$3,572,191	\$23,739,177	\$6,791,473	\$269,396,012
2021-22	\$236,044,017	\$3,309,050	\$23,612,502	\$6,430,443	\$269,396,012
2022-23	\$236,044,017	\$3,309,050	\$23,612,502	\$6,430,443	\$269,396,012
2023-24	\$236,044,017	\$3,309,050	\$23,612,502	\$6,430,443	\$269,396,012

FLORIDA WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Section 1009.77, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.038, Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Work Experience Program (FWEP), created in 1993, is a self-help, need-based, student financial assistance program intended to facilitate student employment in occupations complementary to students' educational endeavors and career goals. The 2007 Florida Legislature expanded FWEP to serve students at postsecondary institutions by providing more on-campus employment opportunities, helping to keep students in school, and reducing student loans.

FWEP is offered at participating colleges, universities, charter technical career centers operated by district school boards, and educator preparation institutes. Participating institutions determine application deadlines, student eligibility, and award amounts. Student and institutional eligibility criteria and appropriations are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

Award Level

- Each student's maximum award is based on the student's level of need, not to exceed the cost of attendance, and is determined by the institution.
- Institutions may use up to 100 percent of their program allocation for student on-campus employment.
- Public school employers are funded up to 100 percent of a student's wages, and private employers are funded up to 70 percent of a student's wages.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree (unless enrolled in an eligible educator preparation institute).
- Enroll for a minimum of six credit hours per term, or 180 clock hours, in an associate or baccalaureate degree program at an eligible college or university currently participating in the FWEP; enroll no less than half-time in a career certificate program consisting of no less than 450 clock hours of instruction at an eligible charter technical career center; or enroll as no less than a half-time student in good standing at an eligible educator preparation institute.
- Maintain at least the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Demonstrate financial need by completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).

Florida Work Experience Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds*	Appropriations
2019-20	728	\$1,879	\$1,367,857	\$1,569,922
2020-21	674	\$1,980	\$1,334,520	\$1,569,922
2021-22	758	\$1,800	\$1,364,080	\$1,569,922
2022-23	690	\$1,960	\$1,352,730	\$1,569,922
2023-24	587	\$2,498	\$1,466,088	\$1,569,922

*Expenditures do not include administrative fees (up to 10 percent of allocation amount) as allowed in Florida Statutes.

2023-24



MERIT-BASED PROGRAMS

Benacquisto Scholarship Program

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Florida Academic Scholars
(Academic Top Scholars)

Florida Medallion Scholars

Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars

BENACQUISTO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 1009.893, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.0281, Florida Administrative Code

The Benacquisto Scholarship Program was created in 2014 as a merit scholarship for high school graduates who achieved the National Merit® designation. A National Merit® Finalist becomes a Scholar by receiving one of the following qualifying awards: a National Merit® \$2,500 Scholarship, a Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship, or a College-sponsored Merit Scholarship. Awardees can attend any of the eligible, regionally accredited, Florida public or independent postsecondary institutions. Students awarded a College-sponsored Merit Scholarship must attend the institution that financed the scholarship or award.

Award Level

Eligible scholars will receive an award equal to the per-term institutional cost of attendance minus the sum of the student's Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and the National Merit® Scholarship.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

A student who is a Florida resident seeking initial funding must earn a standard Florida high school diploma, or its equivalency, unless the student completes a home education program or earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida high school while living with a parent who is on military or public service assignment away from Florida.

The 2021 Florida Legislature modified initial eligibility qualifications for non-Florida residents seeking funding by indicating that the 2021-22 academic year would be the last year for an out-of-state student to qualify for the program. Non-Florida resident students that graduated from high school in the 2020-21 school year or earlier and who sought initial funding must:

- Have earned a high school diploma comparable to a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalency (or complete a home education program); and
- Have continued to physically reside in Florida on or near the campus of the institution where enrolled.

All eligible students are required to:

- Be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Enroll at an eligible, regionally accredited, Florida public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Enroll full-time (minimum 12 credit hours per term or quarter equivalency) in a baccalaureate degree program.
- Enroll initially during the fall academic term following high school graduation.
- Achieve the National Merit® Scholar designation by receiving a qualifying National Merit® award the fall semester following high school graduation.

Benacquisto Scholarship Program

Year	Initial Students Funded	Renewal Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	473	904	\$15,650	\$21,550,104	\$21,372,911
2020-21	557	1,088	\$16,491	\$27,127,336	\$26,577,665
2021-22	667	1,310	\$17,547	\$34,690,395	\$36,343,778 ¹
2022-23	399	1,549	\$17,722	\$34,523,254	\$36,412,615
2023-24	508	1,487	\$18,311	\$36,530,142	\$37,652,713 ²

¹Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2022-156 (2022 General Appropriations Act) in Sections 13 and 16.

²Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2024-231 (2024 General Appropriations Act) in Section 18.

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sections 1009.53 - 1009.538, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.028, Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, created in 1997 and funded by the Florida Lottery, is a merit-based program that rewards Florida high school students for their high academic achievement and encourages them to continue their postsecondary education at eligible Florida institutions. Eligible participating institutions include Florida public or independent postsecondary institutions. For the 2023-24 academic year, the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program consisted of the following awards: the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV). A select number of FAS students who ranked highest in their school districts receive an additional Academic Top Scholars (ATS) award each year they maintain their FAS eligibility.

Award Level

FAS students received an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and specific fees at a public postsecondary institution, or a comparable amount at a private postsecondary institution.

FMS students received an award equal to 75 percent of tuition and specific fees at a public postsecondary institution, or a comparable amount at a private postsecondary institution. Students enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System institution received an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and specific fees.

All GSC and GSV students received the specified award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the 2023 General Appropriations Act.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Complete the *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) no later than August 31 of the student's high school graduation year.
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma, or its equivalent, from a Florida public high school, a private high school registered with the Florida Department of Education or complete a home education program or Personalized Education Program according to section 1002.41, Florida Statutes.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet the general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Meet the Bright Futures academic requirements for initial eligibility.
- Be enrolled for at least six non-remedial semester credit hours, or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours, per term.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Bright Futures					
	FAS	ATS	FMS*	GSC	GSV
4-Year					
Cost per Semester Hour	100 percent of tuition and specific fees	\$44.00	75 percent of tuition and specific fees	\$48.00	
Cost per Quarter Hour	*Same as above	\$29.00	**Same as above	\$32.00	
2-Year					
Cost per Semester Hour	*Same as above	\$44.00	**Same as above	\$39.00 - \$48.00	\$39.00 - \$48.00
Cost per Quarter Hour	*Same as above	\$29.00	**Same as above	\$26.00 - \$32.00	\$26.00 - \$32.00
Cost per Clock Hour	*Same as above	\$1.47	**Same as above	\$1.30 - \$1.60	\$1.30 - \$1.60
Florida College Baccalaureate Programs					
Cost per Semester Hour	*Same as above	\$44.00	**Same as above	\$48.00	
Career/Technical Centers					
Cost per Semester Hour	*Same as above	\$44.00	**Same as above	\$39.00 - \$48.00	\$39.00 - \$48.00
Cost per Quarter Hour	*Same as above	\$29.00	**Same as above	\$26.00 - \$32.00	\$26.00 - \$32.00
Cost per Clock Hour	*Same as above	\$1.47	**Same as above	\$1.30 - \$1.60	\$1.30 - \$1.60

FAS – Florida Academic Scholars

ATS – Academic Top Scholars

*FMS – Florida Medallion Scholars: Students enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System institution will receive an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and specific fees.

GSC – Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars

GSV – Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars

Number of Students Disbursed Bright Futures Funds

Florida Bright Futures	FAS	ATS	FMS	GSC	GSV	Total Funded*	Total Eligible
Initial Recipients							
2019-20	20,224	65	16,509	143	334	37,210	48,802
2020-21	20,458	64	15,470	164	368	36,460	48,520
2021-22	18,826	62	13,875	126	272	33,110	42,918
2022-23	19,310	63	13,347	161	244	33,062	41,643
2023-24	20,093	66	14,442	284	292	35,111	44,625
Renewal Recipients							
2019-20	40,221	184	34,059	70	413	74,763	89,358
2020-21	46,911	174	36,348	122	387	83,768	98,732
2021-22	49,759	174	36,480	116	383	86,727	100,615
2022-23	48,667	173	35,447	99	311	84,524	96,889
2023-24	48,165	170	34,384	117	290	82,956	95,097
Total Recipients							
2019-20	60,445	249	50,568	213	747	111,973	138,160
2020-21	67,369	238	51,818	286	755	120,228	147,252
2021-22	68,585	236	50,355	242	655	119,837	143,533
2022-23	67,977	236	48,794	260	555	117,586	138,532
2023-24	68,258	236	48,826	401	582	118,067	139,722
Total Disbursements							
2019-20	\$405,927,564	\$287,672	\$211,561,982	\$193,828	\$636,119	\$618,607,165	
2020-21	\$438,638,163	\$271,832	\$212,251,523	\$262,253	\$638,015	\$652,061,786	
2021-22	\$396,404,272	\$246,532	\$207,279,974	\$202,657	\$549,221	\$604,682,656	
2022-23	\$394,870,586	\$266,332	\$202,626,013	\$239,391	\$466,636	\$598,468,957	
2023-24	\$400,272,056	\$267,872	\$204,984,425	\$345,222	\$509,419	\$606,378,994	

*Disbursed ATS student counts are not included in the Total Funded column, as they are a subset of FAS counts.

2023-24



TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant

WILLIAM L. BOYD, IV, EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO STUDENT EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Section 1009.89, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.007, Florida Administrative Code

The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program (EASE), created in 1979, provides tuition assistance to undergraduate students enrolled in degree programs at eligible independent, nonprofit colleges or universities in Florida. The EASE grant is not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are usually based. The Florida Legislature considers higher education at independent institutions an integral part of Florida's higher education system, while also reducing the tax burden on the citizens of Florida; therefore, the intent of this program is to award tuition assistance to offset private postsecondary tuition for residents of Florida.

Eligible institutions include 35 independent, nonprofit Florida colleges and universities located in, and chartered by, the state. The institutions have a secular purpose, grant baccalaureate degrees, and are accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Participating institutions determine application deadlines, student eligibility, and award amounts. Eligibility criteria and award maximums are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

Award Level

The maximum annual award amount is established in the General Appropriations Act.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet the general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours or the equivalent per term at an eligible Florida college or university in a baccalaureate degree program.
- Meet the application procedures established by the participating institution. Application information may be obtained at the financial aid offices of eligible Florida colleges and universities.
- Not be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award*	Maximum Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	46,026	\$2,431	\$2,841	\$111,899,614	\$113,912,736
2020-21	45,809	\$2,427	\$2,841	\$111,183,100	\$116,659,983
2021-22	43,145	\$2,435	\$2,841	\$105,045,705	\$114,861,630
2022-23	41,189	\$1,717	\$2,000	\$70,729,974	\$75,410,000
2023-24	41,991	\$3,001	\$3,500	\$126,002,210	\$134,848,000

*Average awards may be less than the maximum award due to student need or proration to fund all eligible students.

2023-24



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program
First Generation Matching Grant Program
Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program
Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program
Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program
John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program
José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Program
Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program
Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program
Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program
Open Door Grant Program
Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement
Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program
Rosewood Family Scholarship Program
Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

DUAL ENROLLMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 1009.30, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.0282, Florida Administrative Code

The Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program was created in 2021 to support eligible postsecondary institutions that provide dual enrollment opportunities to secondary students. Reimbursements are available for tuition and related instructional materials costs for fall and spring terms at eligible State University System institutions and independent postsecondary institutions, Florida College System institutions, and district-sponsored career centers. Participating institutions determine application deadlines, student eligibility, and award amounts. Tuition reimbursement rates are regulated by Florida Statutes.

Award Level

Section 1009.30(6), Florida Statutes, identifies the tuition rate at which specific institutions are expected to be reimbursed and states that instructional materials costs are to be provided within the reimbursement.

Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program

Year	Students Reported	Student Costs Reimbursed	Appropriations
2021-22	29,307	\$13,874,959	\$17,500,000*
2022-23	32,329	\$16,067,795	\$18,050,000
2023-24	24,328	\$18,050,000	\$18,050,000

* Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2022-156 (2022 General Appropriations Act) in Sections 13 and 16.

FIRST GENERATION MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

Section 1009.701, Florida Statutes

The First Generation Matching Grant Program (FGMG), created in 2006, provides need-based grants to degree-seeking, undergraduate, Florida residents whose parents have not earned a baccalaureate degree. Available state funds are contingent upon matching contributions from private sources on a ratio of \$2 of state funds to \$1 of private contributions at Florida's 12 state universities and 28 Florida College System institutions. Participating institutions determine application deadlines, student eligibility, and award amounts. Eligibility criteria and award amounts are regulated by Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act.

Students are required to meet eligibility criteria for demonstrated need with the same expected family contribution maximum cut-off as the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program.

Award Level

The student's maximum award amount is based on each student's assessed need, not to exceed the cost of attendance, and is determined by the institution.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to meet the following:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet additional eligibility requirements, as established by the institution.
- Be a first generation college student. A student is considered "first generation" if neither of the student's parents earned a college degree at the baccalaureate level or higher. A student who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent who did not earn a baccalaureate degree would also be eligible.
- Be accepted at a Florida state university or Florida College System institution.
- Enroll for a minimum of six credit hours per term as a degree-seeking, undergraduate student.
- Meet additional eligibility requirements in section 1009.50, Florida Statutes, for demonstrating financial need for the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program, by submitting the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).

First Generation Matching Grant Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds*	Appropriations
2019-20	10,912	\$1,459	\$15,916,522	\$10,617,326
2020-21	11,279	\$1,411	\$15,914,313	\$10,617,326
2021-22	10,658	\$1,491	\$15,885,784	\$10,617,326
2022-23	10,768	\$1,479	\$15,922,856	\$10,617,326
2023-24	10,460	\$1,523	\$15,925,987	\$10,617,326

* Expended funds include a two-to-one match of private donations to state appropriations.

FLORIDA FARMWORKER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.0283, Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program, created in 2018, provides a need-based merit scholarship to degree-seeking or career certificate-seeking undergraduate Florida residents who are farmworkers, or children of farmworkers, as defined in section 420.503, Florida Statutes.

Award Level

Section 1009.894, Florida Statutes, limits the number of scholarships that can be awarded annually to 50. Students who attend a public postsecondary institution will receive an award equal to the amount required to pay tuition and specified fees.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Be a farmworker or the child of a farmworker.
- Earn a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 for all high school courses creditable toward a diploma.
- Complete a minimum of 30 service hours.
- Achieve a 90 percent attendance rate and not have had any disciplinary action brought against him or her, as documented on the student's high school transcript.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Be accepted at an eligible participating postsecondary institution.
- Enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours per term as a degree-seeking or career certificate-seeking undergraduate student.
- Submit a completed *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) by April 1.
- Complete and submit the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).

Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	27	\$3,748	\$101,207	\$500,000
2020-21	43	\$4,016	\$176,711	\$266,630
2021-22	39	\$4,679	\$182,493	\$272,151
2022-23	34	\$4,828	\$164,164	\$272,151
2023-24	33	\$4,399	\$145,177	\$272,151

FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.0284, Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program was created by the 2022 Florida Legislature to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers within Florida by providing financial assistance to eligible trainees who enroll in a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program, as defined in section 943.13(9), Florida Statutes.

Award Level

Section 1009.896, Florida Statutes, limits the number of scholarships to be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis based on the date the Florida Department of Education receives each completed application, and is contingent upon an appropriation by the Florida Legislature. The award to eligible trainees shall be an amount equal to any costs and fees that are necessary to complete the basic recruit training program, less any state financial aid received by the trainee, as defined in section 1009.896, Florida Statutes.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be enrolled in a commission-approved basic recruit training program at a Florida College System institution or school district technical center for the purposes of meeting the minimum qualifications under section 943.13(9), Florida Statutes, for employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer.
- Not be sponsored by an employing agency that is already covering the cost of a basic recruit training program.

Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2022-23	654	\$3,630	\$2,374,266	\$5,000,000
2023-24	775	\$2,602	\$2,016,766	\$5,000,000

HONORABLY DISCHARGED GRADUATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program (HDGAP) was created by the 2015 Florida Legislature as a supplemental, need-based, veteran educational benefit. Funds are used to assist in the payment of living expenses during holiday and semester breaks for active duty and honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001.

Award Level

The 2023 Florida Legislature appropriated \$1 million for supplemental, need-based veteran educational benefits. To ensure students enrolled in both Florida public and private institutions had an opportunity to receive funding, allocations to institutions were prorated based on the number of total eligible students at eligible institutions.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

The student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Be enrolled in a program of study.
- Be an active duty or honorably discharged member of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001.
- Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) by the deadline specified by the institution.
- Have sufficient unmet need.

Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	1,480	\$675	\$999,550	\$1,000,000
2020-21	1,457	\$686	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
2021-22	1,390	\$719	\$998,816	\$1,000,000
2022-23	1,422	\$640	\$910,700	\$1,000,000
2023-24	1,555	\$643	\$999,999	\$1,000,000

JOHN R. JUSTICE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Federal Regulation 34 U.S.C. §10671

The John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment (JRJ) Program is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. The program provides loan repayment assistance for local, state, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to continued employment as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years. Applicants apply directly to their agency of employment, which decides, based on the programmatic criteria set forth by the U.S. Department of Justice, the applicants that should receive funding. The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, assists the Office of Justice Programs with the loan repayment program.

Award Level

The maximum award amount for any individual participating in the JRJ Program is \$10,000 per calendar year or an aggregate total of \$60,000.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

A qualified applicant must be an attorney continually licensed to practice law and shall:

- Be a full-time employee of the State of Florida or unit of local government, including tribal government, who prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or unit of local government level, including supervision, education, and training of other persons prosecuting such cases; or
- Be a full-time employee of the State of Florida or unit of local government, including tribal government, who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases, including supervision, education, and training of other persons providing such representation; or
- Be employed in the state of Florida as a full-time federal defender attorney in a defender organization pursuant to subsection (g) of section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code, who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases.

In addition, a qualified applicant shall:

- Have an outstanding balance on an eligible education loan.
- Not be in default on repayment of any federal student loans.
- Make a commitment to a three-year service agreement or a one-year commitment if the initial three-year service obligation has been fulfilled and the beneficiary is selected again to receive additional JRJ Program benefits.

Loan Eligibility

Loans eligible for repayment are defined as, and limited to, the following:

- A loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of subchapter IV of chapter 28 of Title 20 (Federal Family Education Loan Program).
- A loan made under part C or D of subchapter IV of chapter 28 of Title 20 (William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan and Federal Perkins Loans).
- A loan made under section 1078-3 or 1087e(g) of Title 20 (federal consolidation loans and federal direct consolidation loans, respectively).

Disqualifying Conditions

- Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible.
- Elected prosecutors or public defenders are not eligible.
- Attorneys who are in private practice (and not a full-time employee of a non-profit organization), even if they are providing public defense services under contract with the state.
- Attorneys who are in default on repayment of any federal student loans.

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program

Year	Applications Received	Number of Awardees	Average Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	49	48	\$1,531	\$73,507	\$100,000
2020-21	59	48	\$1,566	\$75,155	\$100,000
2021-22	53	48	\$1,621	\$77,791	\$100,000
2022-23	65	63	\$2,945	\$185,548	\$185,548
2023-24	40	35	\$7,727	\$270,432	\$270,432

JOSÉ MARTÍ SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM

Section 1009.72, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.023, Florida Administrative Code

The José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Program, created in 1986, assists Florida's Hispanic American high school graduates with financial need and rewards them for their academic achievement. Applicants are ranked first according to their financial need and then by grade point average. Applicants for undergraduate study must apply during their senior year of high school. Graduate-level students may apply; however, priority for the scholarships is given to graduating high school seniors.

The José Martí program is offered at Florida public state universities, Florida College System institutions and eligible accredited private postsecondary institutions. The number of new awards made each year is subject to contributions from funds appropriated by the Florida Legislature.

Award Level

- The annual award, set by Florida Statutes, is \$2,000.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Meet general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Enroll as a degree-seeking student at an eligible postsecondary institution and enroll each academic term for a minimum of 12 credit hours for undergraduate study or 9 credit hours for graduate study.
- Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).
- Submit a completed *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) by April 1 during the last year of high school or, for graduate study, prior to the year of graduate study.
- Be of Spanish culture, born in or having a natural parent who was born in either Mexico or a Hispanic country of the Caribbean, Central or South America, regardless of race. Students of the following countries are not considered for an evaluation of this scholarship: Brazil, Spain, and Haiti. For initial eligibility, have earned, by the end of the seventh semester, a minimum, unweighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in high school for an undergraduate scholarship or a 3.0 institutional cumulative GPA for undergraduate college work if applying for a graduate-level scholarship.

José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Maximum Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	65	\$1,908	\$2,000	\$124,000	\$124,000
2020-21	70	\$1,757	\$2,000	\$123,000	\$124,000
2021-22	54	\$1,815	\$2,000	\$98,000	\$124,000
2022-23	66	\$1,879	\$2,000	\$124,000	\$124,000
2023-24	58	\$1,845	\$2,000	\$107,000	\$124,000

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 1009.73, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.029, Florida Administrative Code

The Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program, created in 1989, provides financial assistance to undergraduate students who meet specific scholastic requirements and demonstrate financial need.

Students must attend one of Florida's four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU):

- Bethune-Cookman University;
- Edward Waters University;
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; or
- Florida Memorial University.

Participating institutions determine application deadlines, student eligibility, and award amounts. Available funds are contingent upon matching contributions from private sources on behalf of eligible institutions. The number of new awards made each year is subject to institutional contributions from private sources and funds appropriated by the Florida Legislature.

Award Level

- The annual award, set by Florida Statutes, is \$3,000.
- Scholarships are funded by private and state contributions, as every \$2,000 of private funds are matched with \$2,000 of state funds.
- Priority in the awarding of scholarships will be given to students having the most financial need, as determined by the institution.
- Participating institutions may choose to prorate awards to accommodate all eligible students.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Enroll at Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, or Florida Memorial University as a degree-seeking undergraduate student for a minimum of 12 credit hours per term.
- Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).
- Apply through financial aid offices at one of the four participating institutions where the student plans to attend.
- Have earned a minimum, unweighted cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent, for high school subjects credited toward a diploma.

Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Maximum Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	147	\$2,184	\$3,000	\$321,000	\$321,000
2020-21	145	\$2,214	\$3,000	\$321,000	\$321,000
2021-22	138	\$2,326	\$3,000	\$321,000	\$321,000
2022-23	129	\$2,488	\$3,000	\$321,000	\$321,000
2023-24	121	\$2,653	\$3,000	\$321,000	\$321,000

MINORITY TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Sections 1009.60 and 1009.605, Florida Statutes

www.ffmt.org

The Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., created in 1996 by legislative appropriation, awards the Minority Teacher Education Scholarship to African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American students pursuing teaching careers in Florida's public school system. Recipients must be enrolled full-time in a state-approved teacher education program and, upon graduation, are required to teach for one year in a Florida public school for each year they received the scholarship.

Participating institutions include 10 public state universities, 22 Florida College System institutions offering baccalaureate degrees in education, and 25 eligible private Florida postsecondary institutions.

Award Level

- The maximum annual award amount set in Florida Statutes is \$4,000.
- Students may be eligible to receive the scholarship for up to three consecutive years.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen, or eligible non-citizen. A student's citizenship status and residency status are determined by the postsecondary institution.
- Have earned 60 credit hours or an associate of arts degree.
- Be a junior, senior, or graduate student and not have earned a baccalaureate degree in education. A graduate student must be enrolled in a program that leads to initial teacher certification.
- Have not exceeded 18 credit hours of upper-division education courses at the time of application.
- Be a member of one of the following racial groups: African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaskan Native.
- Be admitted into a state-approved teacher education program at any of the program's participating institutions.

Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award Amount	Expended Funds*	Appropriations
2019-20	266	\$3,180	\$846,000	\$917,798
2020-21	277	\$3,329	\$922,000	\$917,798
2021-22	237	\$2,987	\$708,000	\$917,798
2022-23	260	\$3,369	\$876,000	\$1,500,000
2023-24	208	\$3,319	\$690,422	\$1,500,000

*Does not include the annual allowable 5 percent administrative fee of \$75,000.

NURSING STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Sections 1009.66 and 1009.67, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rules 6A-20.050 and 6A-20.060, Florida Administrative Code

The Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program was established in 1989 to encourage qualified personnel to seek employment in areas of the state of Florida in which critical nursing shortages exist. The program provides funds to assist in the repayment of nursing education loans. The primary function of the program is to increase employment and retention of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in eligible health care facilities as referenced in section 1009.66(7), Florida Statutes.

All loan repayments are contingent upon continued proof of employment in designated facilities in Florida and are made directly to the holder of the loan.

This program was transferred to the Florida Department of Education from the Florida Department of Health in 2013-14 via budget amendment EOG #B0045 as approved by the Legislative Budget Commission.

Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Year	Maximum Award	Number of Awardees	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	\$4,000	434	\$1,220,586	\$1,233,006
2020-21	\$4,000	400	\$1,219,871	\$1,233,006
2021-22	\$4,000	322	\$1,200,695	\$1,233,006
2022-23	\$4,000	296	\$1,133,492	\$1,233,006
2023-24	\$4,000	290	\$1,033,939	\$1,233,006

OPEN DOOR GRANT PROGRAM

The Open Door Grant Program (ODGP) is a financial aid program for students at a school district postsecondary technical career center, a Florida College System institution, or a charter technical career center created to incentivize current and future workers to enroll in career and technical education programs that lead to a credential, certificate, or degree. Participating institutions determine application process and deadlines, applicant eligibility, and award amount.

Award Level

A student is eligible to receive a maximum award equal to the amount needed to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees, exam or assessment costs, books, and related materials 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.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Be enrolled at a school district postsecondary technical career center, a Florida College System institution, or a charter technical career center.
- Be enrolled in an integrated education and training program that results in the awarding of credentials, or in a workforce education program, as defined under section 1011.80(1)(b)-(f), Florida Statutes, that is included on the Master Credentials List under section 445.004(4), Florida Statutes.

Open Door Grant Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2023-24	16,464	\$1,969	\$32,423,299	\$61,440,055*

* Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2023-239 (2023 General Appropriations Act) in Sections 62 and 63.

OUT-OF-STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIVALENCY REIMBURSEMENT

Section 1009.8961, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.0285, Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program (LERP), created in 2022, assists in the recruitment of law enforcement officers who relocate from outside of Florida or who transition from service in the special operations forces to Florida to become a full-time law enforcement officer within this state, as defined in sections 943.10(1) and 943.10(22), Florida Statutes, respectively. Applicants apply directly to their employing agency.

Award Level

Eligible participants will be reimbursed for expenses incurred while obtaining a Florida law enforcement officer certification up to \$1,000. These expenses may include fees associated with the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission required training, including the Equivalency of Training (EOT) Assessment, EOT Training Course, and the Law Enforcement State Officer Certification Examination. Reimbursements are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance receives each completed application, and is contingent upon an appropriation by the Florida Legislature.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible applicant is required to:

- Submit a completed *Application for the Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program* and receipts for eligible expenses incurred to the employing agency.
- The employing agency shall certify that the applicant meets the requirements of section 1009.8961(3), Florida Statutes, and that the officer was not sponsored by the employing agency to cover the cost of any Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission required training.
- The employing agency shall submit the completed *Application for the Florida Law Enforcement Reimbursement Program*, applicant receipts, and a completed *Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Global Profile Sheet* to the Florida Department of Education for processing.

Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement

Year	Applications Received	Number of Awardees	Average Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2022-23	26	26	\$930	\$24,192	\$1,000,000
2023-24	80	80	\$962	\$76,926	\$1,000,000

RANDOLPH BRACY OCOEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 1009.40, Florida Statutes

The Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program, created in 2021, funds students who are either a direct descendant of victims of the Ocoee Election Day Riots of November 1920 or current African American residents of Ocoee, Florida. This need-based program provides financial assistance for eligible degree-seeking or certificate-seeking students who attend state universities, Florida College System institutions, or public postsecondary technical centers in Florida.

Award Level

The 2023 Florida Legislature appropriated \$305,000 for the Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program. The number of scholarships that can be awarded annually is 50. Eligible students who attend a public postsecondary institution receive an award equal to the tuition and registration fees, not to exceed \$6,100 annually.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's citizenship status is determined by the postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Enroll full-time at an eligible postsecondary institution or HBCU in a program of study leading to an undergraduate degree, a certificate, or a diploma.
- Complete and submit the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) online in time to be processed error-free by the United States Department of Education on or before May 15.
- Submit a completed *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) online by April 1.
- Provide copies of documents of ancestry verifying eligibility as a direct descendant of an Ocoee Election Riot victim or current Ocoee resident to the Office of Student Financial Assistance by April 1.

Randolph Bracy Ocoee Scholarship Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Maximum Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2021-22	14	\$4,619	\$6,100	\$64,671	\$305,000
2022-23	22	\$4,953	\$6,100	\$108,957	\$305,000
2023-24	31	\$4,810	\$6,100	\$149,105	\$305,000

ROSEWOOD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Section 1009.55, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.027, Florida Administrative Code

The Rosewood Family Scholarship Program, created in 1994, funds direct descendants of the Rosewood families affected by the historical incidents of January 1923. This need-based program provides financial assistance for eligible degree-seeking or certificate-seeking students who attend state universities, Florida College System institutions, or public postsecondary technical centers in Florida.

Award Level

Section 1009.55, Florida Statutes, limits the number of scholarships that can be awarded annually to 50. Eligible students who attend a public postsecondary institution receive an award equal to the tuition and registration fees, not to exceed \$6,100 annually.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's citizenship status is determined by the postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Enroll full-time at an eligible participating public postsecondary institution in a program of study leading to an undergraduate degree, a certificate, or a diploma.
- Complete and submit the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) online in time to be processed error-free by the United States Department of Education on or before May 15.
- Submit a completed *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) online by April 1.
- Provide copies of documents of ancestry verifying eligibility as a Rosewood direct descendant to the Office of Student Financial Assistance by April 1.

Rosewood Family Scholarship Program

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Maximum Award	Expended Funds	Appropriations
2019-20	29	\$4,130	\$6,100	\$119,781	\$256,747
2020-21	25	\$4,383	\$6,100	\$109,576	\$256,747
2021-22	17	\$4,761	\$6,100	\$80,938	\$256,747
2022-23	12	\$3,906	\$6,100	\$46,876	\$256,747
2023-24	14	\$4,101	\$6,100	\$57,420	\$256,747

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN AND SPOUSES OF DECEASED OR DISABLED VETERANS

Sections 295.01 - 295.05, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.019, Florida Administrative Code

The Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans (CSDDV) has been in effect since 1941. CSDDV provides scholarships for dependent children and unremarried spouses of Florida veterans who died as a result of service-connected injuries, diseases, or disabilities sustained while on active duty, or who have been certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs as having a service-connected 100 percent permanent and total disability, or who have been classified as Prisoner of War/Missing in Action.

Eligible institutions include state universities, Florida College System institutions, public career centers, and eligible independent postsecondary institutions.

Award Level

Eligible students are funded for the amount of tuition and registration fees at an eligible public postsecondary institution or the equivalent of the public institution average amount of tuition and registration fees at an eligible private postsecondary institution in Florida.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student is required to:

- Be a Florida resident and a United States citizen, or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
- Not owe a repayment under any state or federal grant or scholarship program or be in default on any federal Title IV or state student loan program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Meet general eligibility requirements for receipt of Florida state student financial aid.
- Enroll in at least six semester credit hours, or 180 clock hours, or the equivalent, in an undergraduate degree or certificate program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary educational institution.
- Complete the *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) by April 1 to be considered a timely applicant.

Additional Requirements

- Children must be dependent children of a qualified veteran whose official military and residency status is verified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and be between the ages of 16 and 22 when completing the FFAA.
- Children may receive this scholarship until such time as the parent classified as a prisoner of war or missing in action is returned alive or until classified otherwise.
- Spouses of deceased veterans must be un-remarried, have been the spouse of a qualified veteran whose official military and residency status is certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, and apply for the scholarship within five years after the veteran's death.
- Spouses of disabled veterans must be married to a qualified veteran whose official home of record was listed as Florida in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database, have been married to the qualified disabled veteran for one or more years, and accept scholarship funding only during the duration of the marriage and up to the point of termination of the marriage by dissolution or annulment.

Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

Year	Students Funded	Average Award	Expended Funds ¹	Appropriations
2019-20	1,966	\$4,071	\$8,003,516	\$7,675,534
2020-21	2,301	\$4,207	\$9,679,499	\$8,432,576
2021-22	2,756	\$4,156	\$11,454,532	\$11,007,644
2022-23	3,544	\$4,157	\$14,733,627	\$14,253,472 ²
2023-24	4,391	\$4,273	\$18,761,540	\$18,332,412 ³

¹Total expended funds may include adjusted funds per section 216.292, Florida Statutes.

²Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2023-239 (2023 General Appropriations Act) in Section 60.

³Includes back-of-the-bill funding referenced in Chapter 2024-231 (2024 General Appropriations Act) in Section 16.

2023-24



STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

**Information and Training
Customer Support
Information Dissemination Outreach Team**

INFORMATION AND TRAINING

The Information and Training Unit serves as a support unit for OSFA. This unit has oversight of all correspondence to and from OSFA. The unit is charged with dissemination of information via OSFA general email and the website.

Institutional Review

Section 1009.46(1)(a), Florida Statutes, and State Board of Education rule 6A-20.002(1)(j), Florida Administrative Code, requires the *Postsecondary Institution Renewal Application* to be completed each year for a postsecondary institution to continue participation in state scholarship and grant programs.

This information is processed and used to determine program eligibility for the subsequent academic year (July 1 through June 30) by certifying that participating institutions meet statutory eligibility requirements. Participating institutions are notified after July 1 of their eligibility status for participation in state scholarship and grant programs for the new academic year.

There were 247 institutions participating in state scholarship and grant programs for the 2023-24 academic year. The categories of institutions participating in Florida's student financial assistance programs are shown in the table below.

INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN STATE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAMS	
Four-year Public Florida Universities	12
Public Florida Colleges	28
Public Vocational Technical Schools	51
Four-year Private Institutions	80
Private Post-graduate Colleges	1
Two-year Private Institutions	27
Private Vocational Technical Schools	48
Total	247

Training

Training is provided to postsecondary institution financial aid offices, high school counselors, college students, and internal audiences. The Training Section employs a variety of training strategies, including:

- Instructor-led onsite training;
- Virtual training;
- Training manuals;
- Presentations for self-study and one-on-one coaching; and
- Speakers Bureau.

The Speakers Bureau partners with postsecondary institutions, Florida high schools, and community organizations/groups to provide financial aid presentations and labs on the *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) and *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

OSFA works directly with students, parents, high school counselors, and postsecondary institutions to provide assistance with the administration of state scholarship and grant programs. The Call Center and Correspondence Section provides this customer support. The Correspondence Section responds to communication received by OSFA, the Commissioner's Office, the Governor's Office, and congressional offices and is also responsible for editing form letters, manuals, and other documents for OSFA.

OSFA 2023-24 Statistical Communication Report

Incoming Calls	
Calls from Students and Parents	62,880
Calls from High School Counselors and Financial Aid Officers	2,290
Customer Communications	
Memos to Postsecondary Institutions and High Schools	39
OSFA Email Box	
General-State	15,292
CorrFlow	
State	178
Training	
Events Coordinated	112
Postsecondary, High School, and Private Organization Trainings	254
Publications Released	20
Total Correspondence	81,065

OSFA also provides automatic communications to students and postsecondary institutions whenever an alert is posted or if a change is made on an account. Examples include receipt of an application, eligibility determination, and legislative changes. The correspondence generated may be email or web-based.

Automatic System Generated Communications	
State Student Financial Aid Correspondence	320,434

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION OUTREACH TEAM

The OSFA Outreach Services Unit was created to strengthen the financial skills of young adults through financial aid awareness and financial literacy education. The unit seeks to accomplish this by developing and implementing a variety of strategies, including those described below.

- **Educating parents, students, and community-based organizations** on Florida's state scholarship and grant programs, as well as federal, institutional, and local financial aid options.

In the 2023-24 academic year, the Outreach Unit coordinated financial literacy events through:

- High School (public, charter, private, and home school) Financial Aid Nights and *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) Labs for parents and students;
- Community-based organization events;
- Individual counseling, as requested;
- College fair resource tables; and
- Guest speakers.

- **Training professional staff of postsecondary institutions and secondary schools** by providing technical and regulatory guidance on financial aid issues, default prevention, and financial literacy initiatives.

In the 2023-24 academic year, the Outreach Unit provided the following:

- Training on Florida Data Sharing Agreements to subscribed Florida school districts and schools to monitor their students *Florida Financial Aid Applications* (FFAA) and FAFSA.
- Information regarding access to Form Your Future, formerly College 101, and partnerships with FAFSA Challenge, an initiative hosted by the Florida College Access Network.
- Bi-monthly publications:
 - OSFA News to Know E-Newsletter;
 - OSFA News to Know for Counselors E-Newsletter;
 - OSFA News to Know for Postsecondary Students E-Newsletter; and
 - OSFA News to Know for Secondary Students E-Newsletter.

In the 2023-24 academic year, the OSFA Outreach unit fielded a total of 6,102 phone calls, including:

- 5,670 calls into 888-827-2004 Option 5; and
- 432 outgoing calls.

- **Promoting financial literacy products and services** in person as well as through OSFA's comprehensive program, Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF), which is located at www.NavigatingYourFinancialFuture.org.

In the 2023-24 academic year:

- Schools, both secondary and postsecondary, used the online financial literacy module platform;
- Bi-monthly E-newsletters for students, secondary and postsecondary, were disseminated via 4,411 counselors; and

- Bi-monthly E-newsletters for all state grant and scholarship postsecondary recipient institutions received information to utilize via all their available media as to designate portions to school's website, newsletters, and trainings.
- **Supplying free default prevention/financial literacy resources** in print and web-based formats.

In the 2023-24 academic year, the Outreach Unit shipped or delivered in-person over 175,752 printed materials requested by schools and community-based organizations.

- **Representing OSFA in various state and national groups**, such as:
 - National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
 - National Council for Higher Education Resources
 - Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
 - Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges
 - Florida Lottery
 - Florida School Counselor Association
 - National College Access Network
 - Florida College Access Network
 - Florida Prosperity Partnership
 - Mapping Your Future
 - National Association for College Admission Counseling
 - Gear Up
 - Trio
 - Take Stock in Children
 - YMCA
 - Florida School Charter Association
 - Highlands Education Consortium
 - Panhandle Area Education Consortium
 - Positive Pathways
 - The Northeast Florida Educational Consortium
 - Florida Parent Educators Association
 - Florida Sunshine State Scholars
 - Fincert.org (Center for Financial Certifications/Institute for Financial Literacy)

OSFA's outreach director regularly participates in staff development to stay abreast of important issues pertaining to debt management and financial well-being for young adults.

Florida Department of Education Mission Statement

The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents, and communities.



www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsq.org