

CHAPTER 2025-144

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1145

An act relating to workforce education; amending s. 1011.801, F.S.; providing that charter schools are eligible for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program; amending s. 1011.803, F.S.; revising the number of programs school districts and Florida College System institutions must offer money-back guarantees for through the money-back guarantee program by a specified date; requiring school districts and Florida College System institutions to report such programs to the State Board of Education; providing requirements for specified student eligibility criteria for tuition reimbursement under the program; revising reporting requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1011.801, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.801 Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.—The Legislature recognizes that the need for school districts, charter schools, and Florida College System institutions to be able to respond to emerging local or statewide economic development needs is critical to the workforce development system. The Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program is created to provide grants to school districts, charter schools, and Florida College System institutions to fund some or all of the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education programs that lead to industry certifications included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. The programs may serve secondary students or postsecondary students if the postsecondary career and technical education program also serves secondary students.

(1) Funds awarded for a workforce development capitalization incentive grant may be used for instructional equipment, laboratory equipment, supplies, personnel, student services, or other expenses associated with the creation or expansion of a career and technical education program that serves secondary students. Expansion of a program may include either the expansion of enrollments in a program or expansion into new areas of specialization within a program. No grant funds may be used for recurring instructional costs or for institutions' indirect costs.

(2) The Department of Education shall administer the program. The State Board of Education may adopt rules for program administration. The State Board of Education shall consider the statewide geographic dispersion of grant funds in ranking the applications and shall give priority to applications from education agencies that are making maximum use of their workforce development funding by offering high-performing, high-demand programs.

Section 2. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 1011.803, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1011.803 Money-back Guarantee Program.—

(2) Each school district and Florida College System institution shall establish a money-back guarantee program to:

(a) Offer a money-back guarantee on at least three programs. However, by July 1, 2026, each school district and Florida College System institution must offer a money-back guarantee on at least three additional programs and notify the State Board of Education of such programs.

(b) Establish student eligibility criteria for the reimbursement of tuition under the money-back guarantee program that includes:

1. Student attendance.
2. Student program performance.
3. Career Service or Career Day attendance.
4. Participation in internship or work-study programs.
5. Job search documentation.
6. Development of a student career plan with the institution's career services department.

Enrollment in a program established pursuant to this subsection constitutes enrollment in the money-back guarantee program. Eligibility criteria for the reimbursement of tuition established by the school district or Florida College System institution pursuant to subparagraphs 4. and 5. may not exceed the work search requirements under s. 443.091.

(4) By November 1 of each year, the Department of Education shall report performance results and eligibility criteria for the reimbursement of tuition by school district, Florida College System institution, and program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor June 13, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 13, 2025.