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# Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
Mashburn Hall (314 HOB)

**MEETING PACKET**

Paul Renner  
Speaker

Jason Shoaf  
Chair

# Committee Meeting Notice

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

**Start Date and Time:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 01:00 pm

**End Date and Time:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 02:30 pm

**Location:** Mashburn Hall (314 HOB)

**Duration:** 1.50 hrs

Presentation by the Department of Education on the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant Program Accountability Report and Recommendations

For information about attending or testifying at a committee meeting, please see the "Visiting the House" tab at [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov).

**NOTICE FINALIZED on 11/08/2023 3:30PM by EHP**



# Florida's Postsecondary State Scholarship and Grant Programs

House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

November 15, 2023

Suzanne Pridgeon

Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

[www.FLDOE.org](http://www.FLDOE.org)

# Florida's Postsecondary State Scholarship and Grant Programs

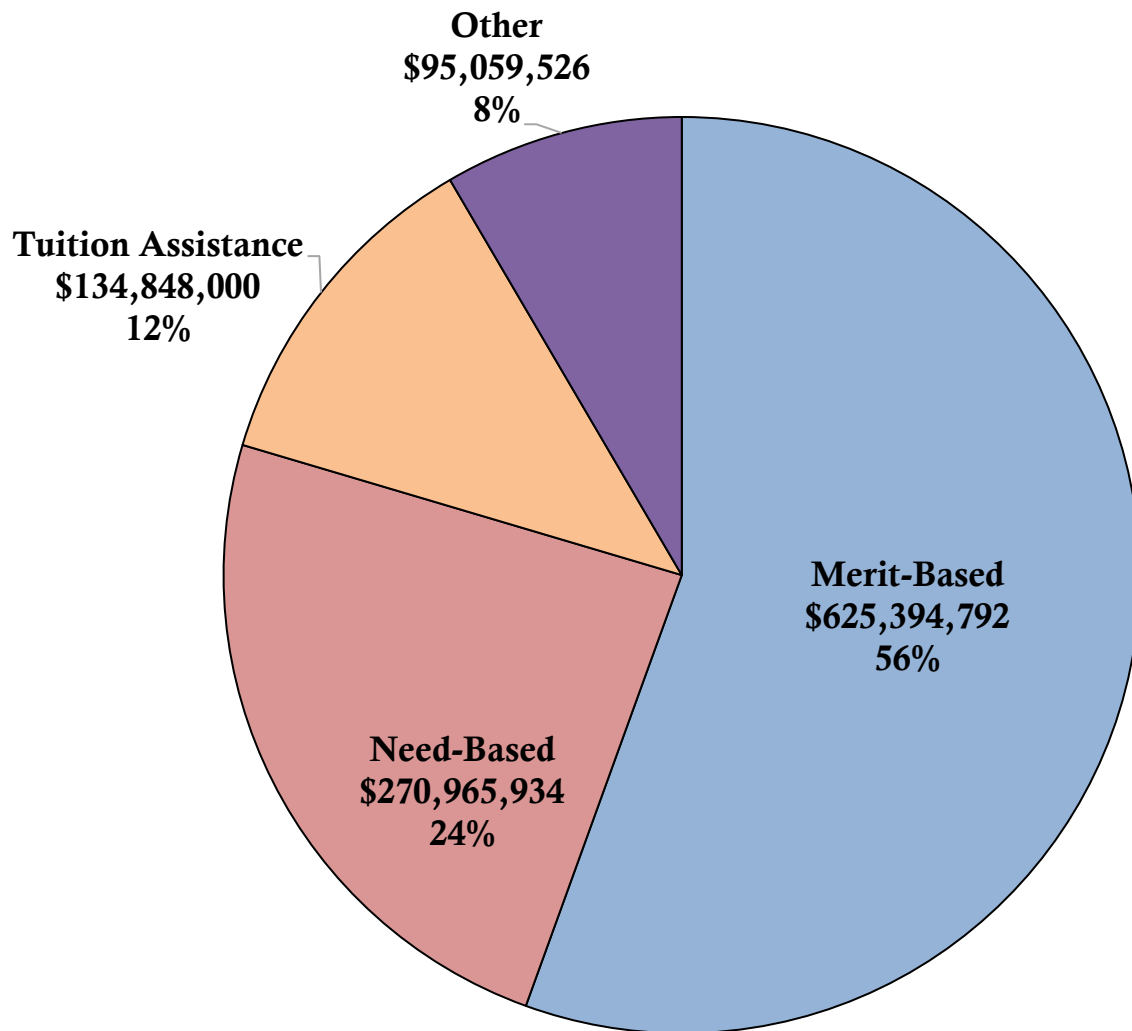
Florida offers a variety of state-funded programs to:

- Increase access to postsecondary education;
- Reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement;
- Provide funds to students who may not otherwise be able to afford postsecondary education; and
- Offer students opportunities to pursue careers in both technical and academic fields.

## Basic Categories of Florida's Postsecondary State Scholarship and Grant Programs

Merit-Based	Need-Based	Tuition Assistance
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program	Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)	Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program (EASE)
Benacquisto Scholarship Program	Florida Work Experience Program (FWEP)	

# 2023-24 Appropriations by Category



**Total Appropriation:  
\$1,126,268,252**



# Tuition Assistance Programs

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

# Tuition Assistance Programs

## William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education (EASE)

- Created in 1979 to provide tuition assistance to Florida residents enrolled in undergraduate degree programs at eligible independent colleges or universities in Florida.
- EASE is not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are usually based.
- In the 2022-23 academic year, the EASE program distributed \$70,729,974 and served 41,189 full-time equivalent (FTE) students with a maximum annual award of \$2,000.
- The maximum annual award amount is established in the General Appropriations Act. The 2023-24 maximum award is \$3,500.



# EASE Appropriation and Expenditure History

Award Year	Appropriation	Expenditures	Maximum Award Amount	FTE Students Served
2014-15	\$112,359,000	\$111,261,535	\$3,000	43,780
2015-16	\$115,269,000	\$111,923,621	\$3,000	43,728
2016-17	\$115,260,000	\$111,586,136	\$3,000	43,675
2017-18	\$125,449,500	\$125,005,670	\$3,300	44,130
2018-19	\$137,952,500	\$137,073,812	\$3,500	45,803
2019-20	\$113,912,736	\$111,899,614	\$2,841	46,026
2020-21	\$116,659,983	\$111,183,100	\$2,841	45,809
2021-22	\$114,861,630	\$105,045,705	\$2,841	43,145
2022-23	\$75,410,000	\$70,729,974	\$2,000	41,189

Note: The 2023-24 appropriation is \$134,848,000 with a maximum award amount of \$3,500 per recipient.

## EASE Metrics Reporting

- By September 1 of each year, postsecondary institutions receiving EASE funding must submit an EASE Grant Program Accountability Report to the Florida Department of Education, in a format prescribed by the department.
- The report must use the most recently available information on Florida resident students and include, at a minimum, the following performance metrics, by institution:
  - Access rate based upon percentage of Pell-eligible students.
  - Affordability rate based upon average student loan debt; federal, state, and institutional financial assistance; and average tuition and fees.
  - Graduation rate.
  - Retention rate.
  - Postgraduate employment or continuing education rate.
- The department shall recommend minimum performance standards that institutions must meet to remain eligible to receive EASE grants.

# EASE Future Rates and Benchmarks

Year	Fiscal Year	Percentage Change	Access Rate	Affordability Rate	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Postgraduate Employment/ Continuing Education Rate
5	2026-27	100%	53%	\$6,343	53%	68%	49%
4	2025-26	80%	42%	\$7,612	42%	54%	39%
3	2024-25	60%	32%	\$8,880	32%	41%	29%
2	2023-24	40%	21%	\$10,149	21%	27%	20%
1	2022-23	20%	11%	\$11,417	11%	14%	10%

Source: 2022-23 EASE Accountability Report per section 1009.89(5)(d), Florida Statutes.

# September 2023 Performance Measurements

School Name	Access	Affordability	Graduation	Retention	Employment
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY	51%	\$10,031	53%	61%	87%
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY	35%	\$5,680	35%	59%	31%
BARRY UNIVERSITY	68%	\$7,102	38%	56%	88%
BEACON COLLEGE	29%	\$19,083	73%	73%	90%
BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY	87%	\$1,494	34%	49%	72%
ECKERD COLLEGE	39%	\$13,541	61%	81%	39%
EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE	82%	(\$3,303)	34%	67%	82%
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY	30%	\$14,357	59%	80%	77%
EVERGLADES UNIVERSITY	89%	\$9,425	50%	67%	96%
FLAGLER COLLEGE	41%	\$9,849	70%	71%	27%
FLORIDA COLLEGE	31%	\$2,880	33%	67%	79%
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	32%	\$8,229	64%	70%	70%
FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY	81%	\$11,615	35%	55%	86%
FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE	34%	\$10,439	70%	76%	83%
HODGES UNIVERSITY	71%	\$7,514	20%	61%	62%
JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY	42%	\$4,607	58%	64%	77%
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY FLORIDA	46%	(\$7,614)	54%	45%	97%

Source: 2022-23 EASE Accountability Report per section 1009.89(5)(d), Florida Statutes.

# September 2023 Performance Measurements

School Name	Access	Affordability	Graduation	Retention	Employment
KEISER UNIVERSITY	73%	\$9,237	62%	56%	72%
LYNN UNIVERSITY	38%	\$13,492	47%	72%	38%
MIAMI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ART AND DESIGN	29%	\$9,794	14%	23%	7%
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	58%	\$7,888	65%	79%	90%
PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	38%	\$7,312	61%	79%	91%
RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN	35%	\$36,263	75%	82%	85%
ROLLINS COLLEGE	26%	\$11,038	76%	84%	72%
SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY	58%	\$3,752	51%	57%	71%
SOUTH UNIVERSITY	59%	\$6,645	19%	53%	N/A
SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	69%	\$7,018	44%	64%	67%
ST THOMAS UNIVERSITY	67%	\$9,565	44%	52%	92%
STETSON UNIVERSITY	51%	\$5,415	63%	67%	71%
THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	73%	\$1,705	52%	76%	91%
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI	21%	\$16,081	85%	93%	68%
UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA	20%	\$13,894	63%	77%	81%
WARNER UNIVERSITY	67%	\$3,434	40%	52%	76%
WEBBER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	61%	\$13,130	34%	46%	100%

Source: 2022-23 EASE Accountability Report per section 1009.89(5)(d), Florida Statutes.

- South University does not collect data to calculate a Postgraduate Employment or Continuing Education Rate.

## Institution Performance Against Year Two Benchmarks

Institution Name	Year Two					
	Access	Affordability	Graduation	Retention	Employment	Eligible
	21%	\$10,149	21%	27%	20%	
AdventHealth University						Y
Ave Maria University						Y
Barry University						Y
Beacon College		X				Y
Bethune-Cookman University						Y
Eckerd College		X				Y
Edward Waters College						Y
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University		X				Y
Everglades University						Y
Flagler College						Y
Florida College						Y
Florida Institute of Technology						Y
Florida Memorial University		X				Y
Florida Southern College		X				Y
Hodges University			X			Y
Jacksonville University						Y
Johnson University Florida						Y
Keiser University						Y
Lynn University		X				Y
Miami International University of Art and Design			X	X	X	N

Source: 2022-23 EASE Accountability Report per section 1009.89(5)(d), Florida Statutes.

## Institution Performance Against Year Two Benchmarks

Institution Name	Year Two					Eligible
	Access	Affordability	Graduation	Retention	Employment	
	21%	\$10,149	21%	27%	20%	
Nova Southeastern University						Y
Palm Beach Atlantic University						Y
Ringling College of Art and Design		X				Y
Rollins College		X				Y
Saint Leo University						Y
South University			X		X	Y
Southeastern University						Y
St. Thomas University						Y
Stetson University						Y
The Baptist College of Florida						Y
University of Miami		X				Y
University of Tampa	X	X				Y
Warner University						Y
Webber International University		X				Y
<b>Total Meeting Metric</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	
<b>Total Not Meeting Metric</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
Total Eligible						33
Ineligible ICUF						0
Total Not Eligible						1

Source: 2022-23 EASE Accountability Report per section 1009.89(5)(d), Florida Statutes.

## 2023-24 Academic Year Updates

- Senate Bill 1272 created a postsecondary educational grant under the EASE grant program within section 1009.521, Florida Statutes.
- New Institutions:
  - Herzing University
  - South College
- New postsecondary institutions will be required to annually submit EASE Accountability Report data by September 1.
- Departures:
  - Miami International University of Art and Design
    - Permanently closed on September 30, 2023.
  - Johnson University
    - Final year of participation; closing at conclusion of fiscal year.





## Additional Information

**Office of Student Financial Assistance**  
State Scholarship and Grant Programs

Customer Service: 888-827-2004

Email: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

### WEBSITE

[www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org)

### REPORTS

[Student Financial Assistance Annual Report](#)

[End-of-Year Reports](#)

[Bright Futures Statistical Reports](#)



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