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# Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM  
17 HOB (Morris Hall)**

**MEETING PACKET**

# Committee Meeting Notice

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### Justice 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:** Morris Hall (17 HOB)  
**Duration:** 1.50 hrs

**Consideration of the following bill(s):**

HB 83 Trust Funds/Re-creation/State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund/DOC by Lopez, V.

Florida Department of Corrections – Staffing, Training, and Inmate Education Update

Department of Juvenile Justice – Florida Scholars Academy Update

To submit an electronic appearance form, and 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 RSD**



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 83 Trust Funds/Re-creation/State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund/DOC

**SPONSOR(S):** Lopez, V.

**TIED BILLS:**                   **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Justice Appropriations Subcommittee		Smith	Keith
2) Appropriations Committee			

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Article III, Section 19(f) of the Florida Constitution requires that all newly created trust funds terminate not more than four years after the initial creation unless re-created. This provision requires that a trust fund be created or re-created by a three-fifths vote of the membership in each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for the sole purpose of creating or re-creating that trust fund. The State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund, FLAIR number 20-2-523, was created in the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) effective July 1, 2020, and is scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2024.

The bill re-creates the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund in the FDC, provided that it is enacted by three-fifths of the membership of both houses of the Legislature.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state and local government.

The bill is effective upon becoming a law.

**Art. III s.19(f) of the Florida Constitution requires a three-fifths vote of the membership for final passage of a newly created or re-created trust fund. The bill re-creates a trust fund; thus, it requires a three-fifths vote for final passage.**

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### Present Situation

##### 1. MAJOR STATUTES THAT CONTROL THE TRUST FUND:

Section 19(f), Article III of the Florida Constitution requires that all newly created trust funds terminate not more than four years after the initial creation unless re-created. This provision requires that a trust fund be created or re-created by a three-fifths vote of the membership in each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for the sole purpose of creating or recreating that trust fund. The State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund was created in the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC), effective July 1, 2020, by chapter 2020-97, Laws of Florida, in s. 944.73, F.S., and is scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2024.

##### 2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND'S USES OR PURPOSES:

The trust fund is used to provide for the benefit and welfare of inmates in state-operated correctional institutions, to include fixed capital outlay for educational facilities, environmental wellness upgrades to facilities, and maintenance and repairs that could improve environmental conditions.

##### 3. MAJOR SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE FUND:

Moneys credited to the trust fund consist of proceeds from:

- Contracted telephone commissions;
- Operation of inmate canteens;
- Vending machines used primarily by inmates and visitors;
- Hobby shops and other such facilities;
- Funds that may be assigned by inmates or donated to the FDC by the general public or an inmate service organization;
- Collection of damages pursuant to s. 960.293(2), F.S.;
- Cost of incarceration liens pursuant to s. 960.292(2), F.S.;
- Copayments made by inmates for nonemergency visits to a healthcare provider;
- The confiscation and liquidation of any contraband found upon, or in the possession of, any inmate;
- Disciplinary fines imposed against inmates;
- Forfeitures of inmate earnings; and
- Unexpended balances in individual inmate trust fund accounts of less than \$1.

##### 4. TOTAL PROJECTED RECEIPTS INTO THE FUND AND CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE FUND:

Total projected receipts into the Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2024-25 are \$31,841,035. The Fiscal Year 2023-24 appropriation from the Trust Fund is \$31,923,805.

##### Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill re-creates the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund without modification and repeals the scheduled termination of the trust fund.

#### B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1:** Amends s. 944.73, F.S., re-creating the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund.

**Section 2:** Amends s. 944.73(4), F.S., repealing the scheduled termination of the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund.

**Section 3:** Provides that the bill is effective upon becoming a law.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

### D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill has no fiscal impact on state agencies or state funds, on local governments as a whole or on the private sector. It re-creates, without modification, an existing state trust fund and continues the current use of the fund.

## III. COMMENTS

### A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. The bill does not appear to affect county of municipal governments.

2. Other:

Article III, s. 19(f) of the Florida Constitution requires all newly created trust funds to terminate not more than four years after the initial creation of the fund. In addition, the State Constitution requires a newly created or re-created trust fund to be adopted by a three-fifths vote of the membership in each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for the sole purpose of creating or recreating the fund.

The bill re-creates a trust fund; thus, it requires a three-fifths vote for final passage.

### B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

### C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

## IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.

1                    A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to trust funds; re-creating the State-  
 3           Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund within  
 4           the Department of Corrections; amending s. 944.73,  
 5           F.S.; abrogating provisions relating to the  
 6           termination of the trust fund; providing an effective  
 7           date.  
 8

9           WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to extend the life of the  
 10          State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund within the  
 11          Department of Corrections, which is otherwise scheduled to be  
 12          terminated pursuant to constitutional mandate, and

13          WHEREAS, the Legislature has reviewed the trust fund before  
 14          its scheduled termination date and has found that it continues  
 15          to meet an important public purpose, and

16          WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that existing public  
 17          policy concerning the trust fund sets adequate parameters for  
 18          its use, NOW, THEREFORE,

19  
 20          Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 21

22                    Section 1. The State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare  
 23                    Trust Fund within the Department of Corrections, FLAIR number  
 24                    20-2-523, which is to be terminated pursuant to Section 19 (f),  
 25                    Article III of the State Constitution on July 1, 2024, is re-

HB 83

2024

26 | created.

27 | Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 944.73, Florida  
28 | Statutes, is amended to read:

29 | 944.73 State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust  
30 | Fund.—

31 | ~~(4) In accordance with s. 19(f), Art. III of the State~~  
32 | ~~Constitution, the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare~~  
33 | ~~Trust Fund, unless terminated sooner, shall be terminated on~~  
34 | ~~July 1, 2024. Before its scheduled termination, the trust fund~~  
35 | ~~shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).~~

36 | Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.



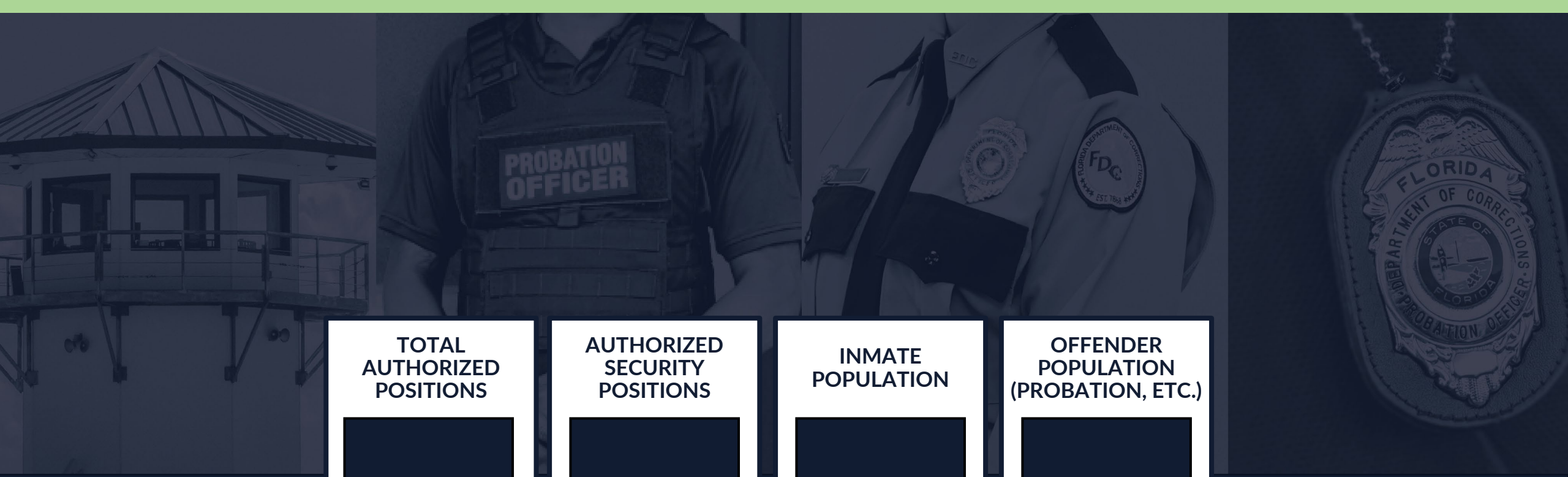
**Florida Department of  
Corrections**



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

HOUSE JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 15, 2023



**TOTAL  
AUTHORIZED  
POSITIONS**

**23,692**

*(2,726 vacant)*

**AUTHORIZED  
SECURITY  
POSITIONS**

**18,967**

*(2,219 vacant)*

**INMATE  
POPULATION**

**85,533**

**OFFENDER  
POPULATION  
(PROBATION, ETC.)**

**140,000**



# FLORIDA'S CORRECTIONS SYSTEM

## STAFFING CHALLENGES

↳ CONTINUE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN

## INMATE IDLENESS

↳ ADVANCE EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING

## INFRASTRUCTURE

↳ ENHANCE FLEET, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND PHYSICAL PLANT



# LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS | LAST SESSION

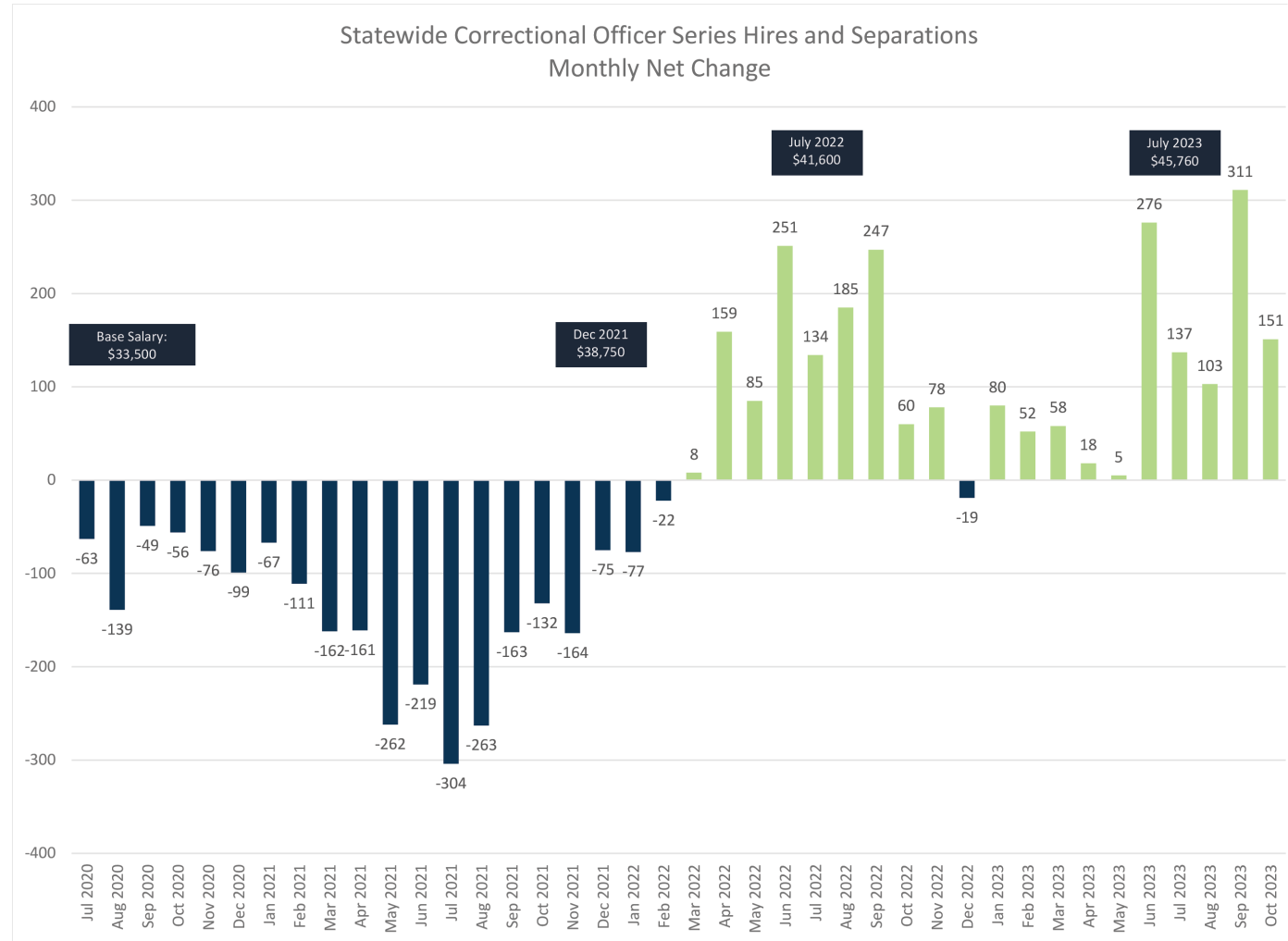
- ✓ Historic Pay Raise - \$22/hr for Officers
- ✓ \$5,000 Hiring & Retention Bonus
- ✓ Education and Programs Expansion
- ✓ Teacher Pay Increase
- ✓ Classification & Chaplain Pay Increase
- ✓ Retention Pay – 2, 5, & 8 Years of Service
- ✓ Inmate Welfare Trust Fund Authority Increase
- ✓ Library Technician OPS to FTE Conversion



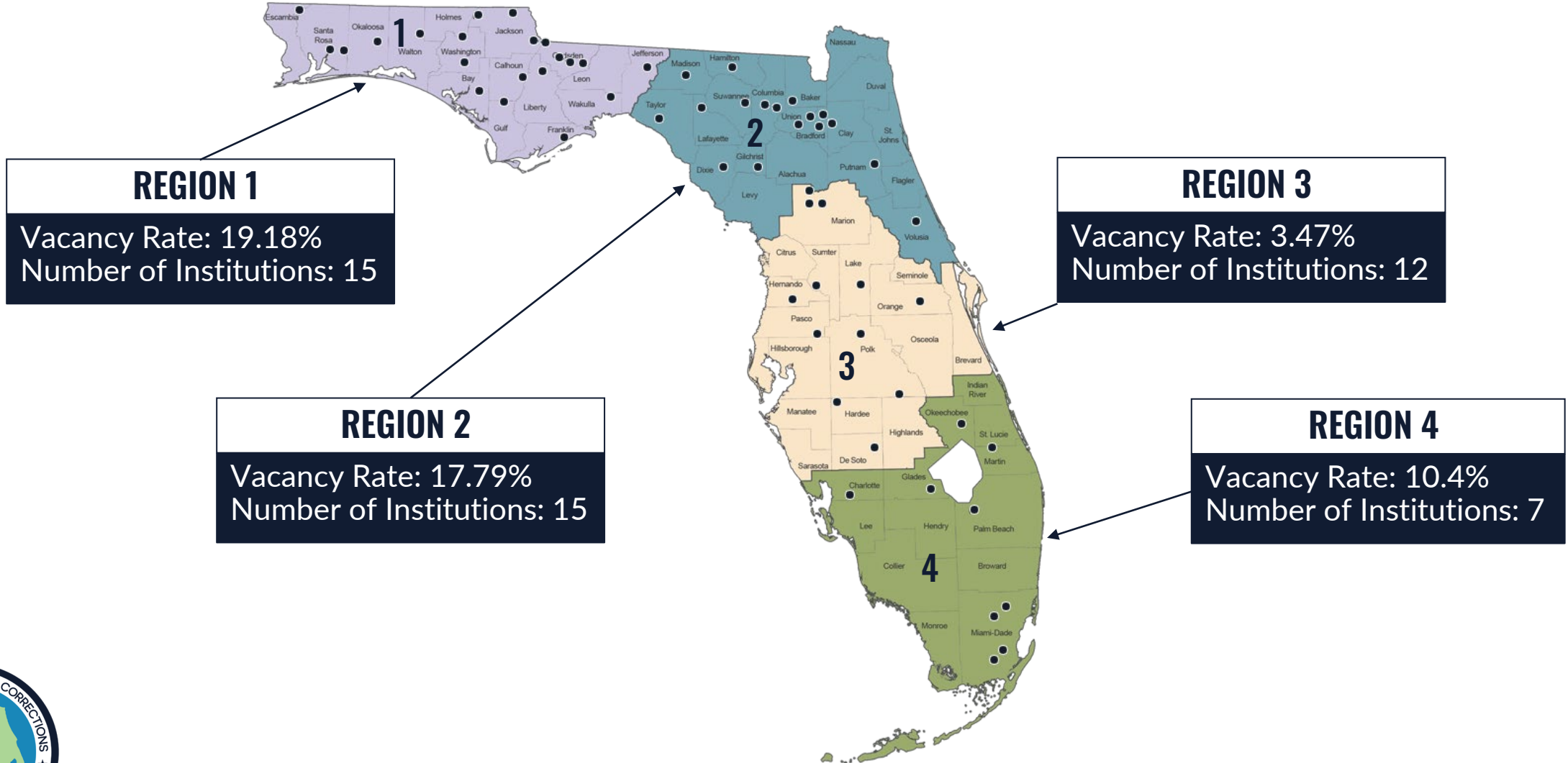
# IMPACT OF RECENT PAY INCREASES



# HIRES & SEPARATIONS



# VACANCY RATES BY REGION

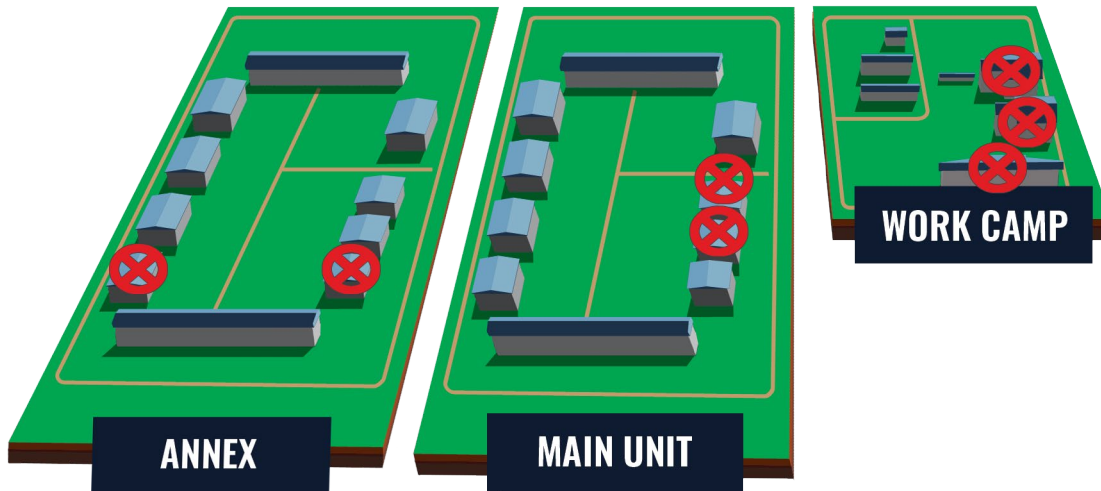




# VACANCY RATES RELATIVE TO DORM CLOSURES

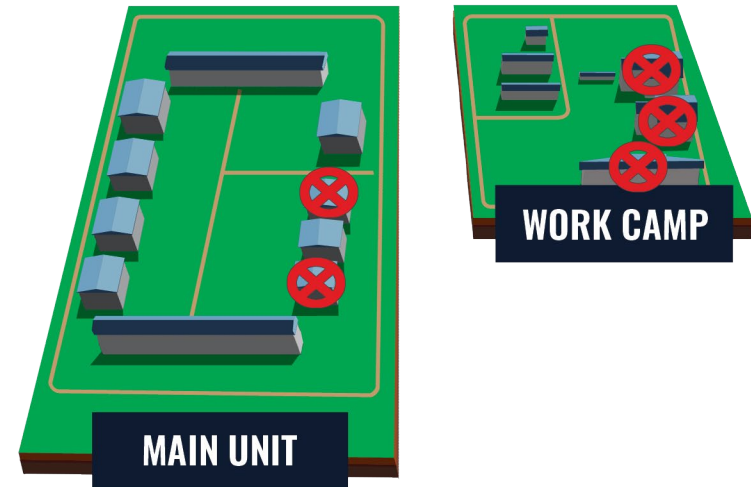
## SUWANNEE CI

Total Capacity at Full Staffing:	3,196
Total Capacity to be Gained from Closed Dorms:	1,049
Current Capacity at Current Staffing:	2,149
Current Staff:	427
Total Staff:	646
Dorms Closed:	7



## FRANKLIN CI

Total Capacity at Full Staffing:	1,778
Total Capacity to be Gained from Closed Dorms:	740
Current Capacity at Current Staffing:	1,039
Current Staff:	122
Total Staff:	290
Dorms Closed:	5



# \$5,000 HIRING & RETENTION BONUS

Facilities that received the \$5,000 hiring and retention bonus on September 18, 2023.

- APALACHEE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- COLUMBIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- FLORIDA STATE PRISON
- FRANKLIN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- GULF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- HAMILTON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- JACKSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- MAYO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA RECEPTION CENTER
- RECEPTION AND MEDICAL CENTER
- UNION CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- SANTA ROSA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- SUWANNEE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- TAYLOR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
- WAKULLA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION





# STAFF APPRECIATION EVENTS





# RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGNS



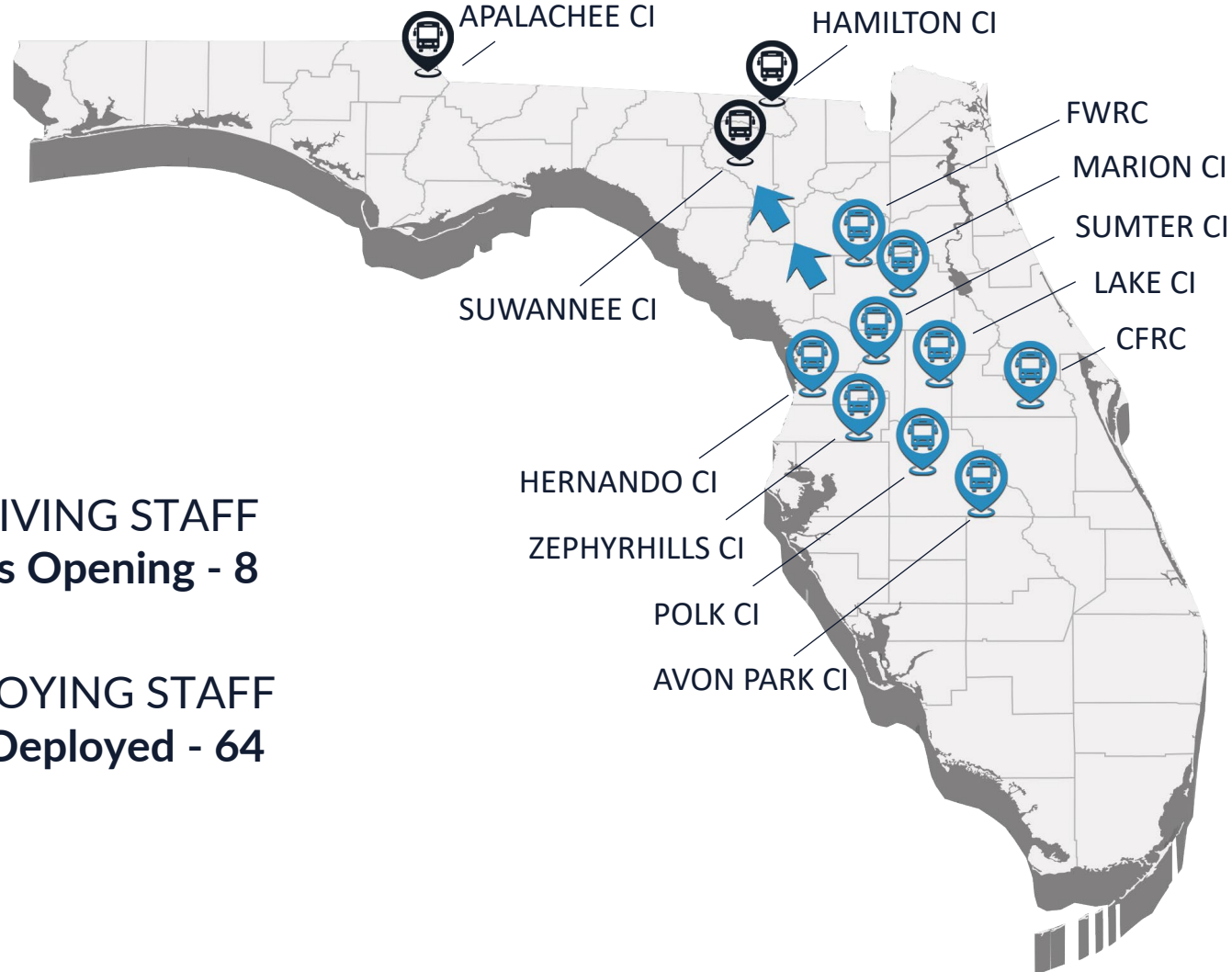
# NATIONAL GUARD



- CALHOUN CI
- FLORIDA STATE PRISON
- FRANKLIN CI
- HAMILTON CI
- JACKSON CI
- MAYO CI
- NWFRC
- RMC
- SANTA ROSA CI
- UNION CI



# MOBILE DEPLOYMENT



**FACILITIES RECEIVING STAFF**  
Number of Dorms Opening - 8

**FACILITIES DEPLOYING STAFF**  
Number of Staff Deployed - 64





# TRAINING | OVERVIEW

- **13 weeks** | 190 classroom and 230 hands-on hours
  - Introduction to Corrections
  - Communications, Officer Safety
  - Facility & Equipment
  - Intake & Release
  - Supervising a Correctional Facility
  - Supervising Special Population
  - Responding to Incidents & Emergencies
  - First Aid, Firearms, Defensive Tactics
  - Wellness & Physical Abilities
- Must score 80% on written exams and demonstrate proficiency in hands-on demos for high-liability course topics.



# TRAINING | MODERNIZATIONS

- Updated laptops
- Tablets for Academy Coordinators
- Access Points for internet connection and Wi-Fi
- Digital training solutions hardware and software
- Cameras in classrooms
- Digital simulators to decrease ammo usage and improve firearms instruction
- Replacement of worn equipment
- Class safety enhancement with modern first aid kits





# EDUCATION EXPANSION | OVERVIEW

- Most inmates enter the Department's custody with an elementary education.
- Lack of education and workforce skills are major recidivism determinants.
- FDC offers various levels of education and programming to address these determinants, including but not limited to:
  - Basic literacy courses
  - General Education Development Test (GED)
  - Career & Technical Education (CTE)
  - Credentials and certifications
  - Employment opportunities through partnerships with businesses



# EDUCATION EXPANSION | HOW WE ARE EXPANDING

- FDC is rapidly filling educational vacancies due to the Governor's and Legislature's support for pay increases in the last session.
- The additional Academic Teachers will result in approximately **5,000** more seats for inmates to participate in academic programming.
- The additional Career & Technical Education contract funds will result in approximately **1,500** added seats for Career & Technical Education programming.



# EDUCATION EXPANSION | PROGRESS REPORT

41% decrease in overall vacancies since July 1, 2023

POSITION TITLE	VACANCIES AS OF 7/1/2023	VACANCIES AS OF 11/1/2023
ACADEMIC INSTRUCTORS	198	118
PLACEMENT AND TRANSITION SPECIALISTS	32	14
EDUCATION SUPERVISORS	17	9
SUPPORT POSITIONS	19	28
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS	5	3
VOCATIONAL TEACHERS	15	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>180</b>





# EDUCATION EXPANSION | LOOKING FORWARD

## STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH

- Installing 55 Learning Labs, constructing 12 new portable classrooms and adding 800 Substance Use Treatment and counseling seats.
- Requesting special risk for education staff to assist with recruitment and retention.
- Partnering with outside employers for increased workplace opportunities upon release.
- Challenging our partners, such as PRIDE (Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises) to increase their operations and footprint in institutions.





**THANK YOU**

**Department of Juvenile  
Justice**



# Florida Scholars Academy

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Dr. Eric S. Hall, Secretary  
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee  
November 15, 2023



# Florida Scholars Academy Mission

The mission of the Florida Scholars Academy is to provide a free and appropriate high-quality education to eligible students within the juvenile justice system and to prepare students for gainful employment as productive citizens upon their reentry into the community.



# Cornerstone: Academic Achievement and Post-Secondary Success

- Educational services have been traditionally provided to approximately 2,300 students annually throughout the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) 44 residential commitment programs by the local school district where the residential program is located.
- A single, unified education system in residential commitment programs, with a sole focus on providing this student population with a world-class education that meets their individual needs by embracing multiple educational pathways for students to succeed.

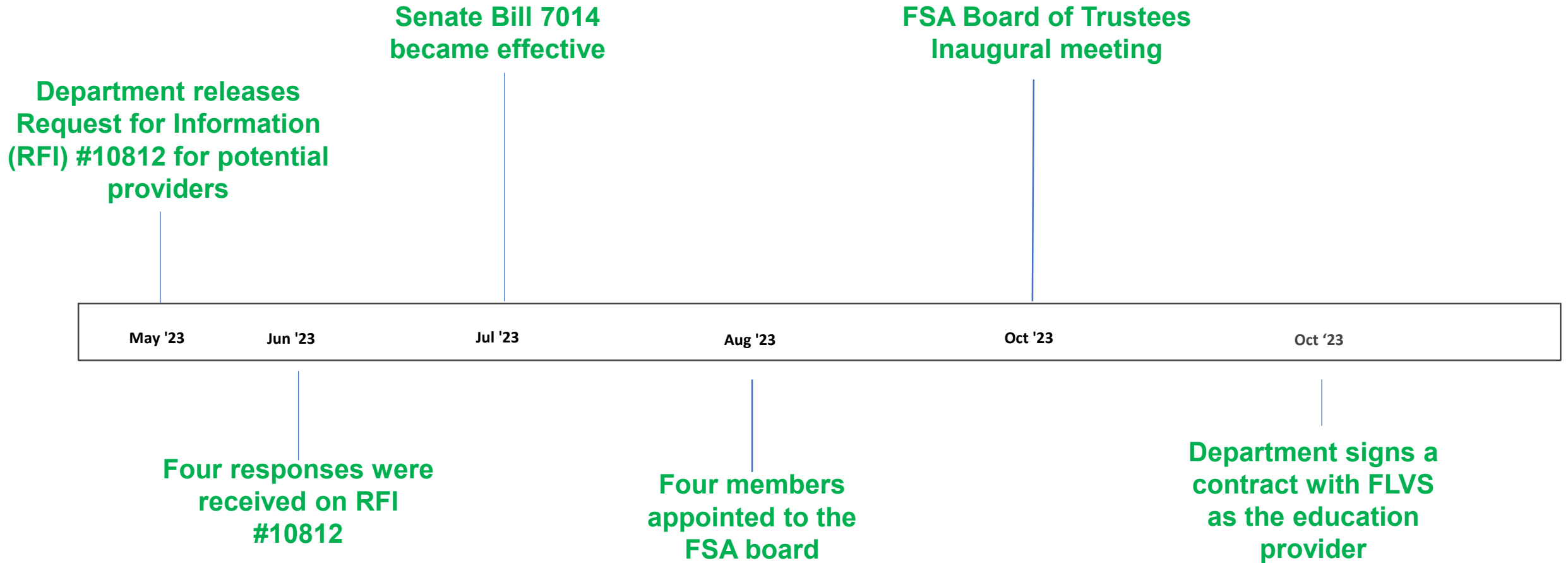


# Cornerstone: Academic Achievement and Post-Secondary Success

- The Florida Scholars Academy (FSA) serves as a national model to improve educational opportunities and career pathways for youth within DJJ's residential commitment programs in conjunction with Florida Virtual School (FLVS).
- Career and technical education offerings aligned with the demands of the current job market to prepare students for industry-recognized credentials of value.



# Florida Scholars Academy Development



# Partnerships and Responsibilities

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice:  
**Fiduciary and Accountability**

Florida Scholars Academy Board of Trustees:  
**Governance and Accountability**

Florida Virtual School:  
**Education Management**



# 25 Years Leading Education for K-12th Grades

- Founded in 1996 in a partnership between Orange County and Alachua County public schools.
- Today, the FLVS curriculum is used in all 67 Florida school districts by individual students or at the local county Virtual schools, either directly through a district or a consortium.
- Provides educational services in 48 states, 65 countries, and 3 U.S. territories.



K-12 Digital Courses



Tuition-Free to FL Residents



Award-Winning Curriculum



State-Certified Teachers



# FLVS Future Developments

- FLVS will manage FSA staff, including in-person instructors:
  - Hire a superintendent with the approval of the Secretary
  - Recruit and evaluate instructional personnel
  - Provide professional learning opportunities for instructional personnel
  - Ensure all staff are held to high standards of performance and professionalism
- Draft and adopt standard operating policies and procedures to define how FSA administrators operate each campus.
- Create an annual school calendar and daily schedule meeting statutory requirements.



# FLVS Future Developments

- Establish and maintain a secure, reliable, and accessible technology infrastructure:
  - Internet to support learning at each FSA campus
  - Industry credentialing examinations
  - State assessments
  - Administrative tasks
- Develop a plan to promote parental involvement with the FSA.



# FLVS Future Developments

- Develop an education program plan and adopt a curriculum and instructional model to prepare students to earn a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.
  - Develop a plan to implement a literacy-based reading and writing program
  - Develop a plan to offer CTE pathways and pre-apprenticeships
- Deliver Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services and English Language Learner (ELL) support services to ensure students have the resources needed to succeed and meet individual goals:
  - Accommodations
  - Counseling
  - Tutoring
  - Career Advising





# Questions

**Eric Hall, Secretary**  
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**[Eric.Hall@fldjj.gov](mailto:Eric.Hall@fldjj.gov)**

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