

Governor's Budget Recommendation Conforming Bill
Effective Access to Student Education Grants

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective
3 Access to Student Education grants; amending s. 1009.89,
4 F.S.; amending award amounts related to fields of study;
5 providing an effective date.

6
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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9 Section 1. Section 1009.89, Florida Statutes, is amended
10 to read:

11 1009.89 The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to
12 Student Education grants. -

13 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that independent
14 nonprofit colleges and universities eligible to participate in
15 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
16 Grant Program are an integral part of the higher education
17 system in this state and that a significant number of state
18 residents choose this form of higher education. The Legislature
19 further finds that a strong and viable system of independent
20 nonprofit colleges and universities reduces the tax burden on
21 the citizens of the state. Because the William L. Boyd, IV,
22 Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program is not
23 related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon
24 which financial aid programs are based, it is the intent of the
25 Legislature that the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to
26 Student Education Grant Program not be considered a financial
27 aid program but rather a tuition assistance program for its
28 citizens.

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29 (2) The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student
30 Education Grant Program shall be administered by the Department
31 of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
32 the administration of the program.

33 (3) The department shall issue through the program a
34 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education grant
35 to any full-time degree-seeking undergraduate student registered
36 at an independent nonprofit college or university which is
37 located in and chartered by the state; which is accredited by an
38 accrediting agency or association recognized by the database
39 created and maintained by the United States Department of
40 Education ~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association~~
41 ~~of Colleges and Schools~~; which grants baccalaureate degrees;
42 which is not a state university or Florida College System
43 institution; and which has a secular purpose, so long as the
44 receipt of state aid by students at the institution would not
45 have the primary effect of advancing or impeding religion or
46 result in an excessive entanglement between the state and any
47 religious sect.

48 (4) A person is eligible to receive such William L. Boyd,
49 IV, Effective Access to Student Education grant if:

50 (a) He or she meets the general requirements, including
51 residency, for student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40,
52 except as otherwise provided in this section.

53 (b)1. He or she is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate
54 student at an eligible college or university in a program of
55 study leading to a baccalaureate degree.

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56 2. He or she is not enrolled in a program of study leading
57 to a degree in theology or divinity.

58 3. He or she is making satisfactory academic progress as
59 defined by the State Board of Education.

60 4. He or she has not completed more than 110 percent of the
61 degree program in which he or she is enrolled.

62 (5) (a) 1. Funding for the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective
63 Access to Student Education Grant Program for eligible
64 institutions shall be as provided in the General Appropriations
65 Act. Institutions may provide an additional award, as provided
66 in the General Appropriations Act, for students enrolled in a
67 program identified by the department as being in high demand,
68 including:

69 a. Education;

70 b. STEM related fields; and

71 c. Nursing and other health care related industries.

72 2. For an institution to be considered eligible, the
73 institution may not raise the cost of tuition or fees for an
74 eligible student until the eligible student is no longer
75 actively enrolled at the institution. The William L. Boyd, IV,
76 Effective Access to Student Education grant may be paid on a
77 prorated basis in advance of the registration period.

78 3. The department shall make such payments to the college
79 or university in which the student is enrolled for credit to the
80 student's account for payment of tuition and fees. Institutions
81 shall certify to the department the amount of funds disbursed to
82 each student and shall remit to the department any undisbursed
83 advances or refunds within 60 days of the end of regular

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84 registration. A student is not eligible to receive the award for
85 more than 9 semesters or 14 quarters, except as otherwise
86 provided in s. 1009.40(3).

87 (b) If the combined amount of the William L. Boyd, IV,
88 Effective Access to Student Education grant issued pursuant to
89 this act and all other scholarships and grants for tuition or
90 fees exceeds the amount charged to the student for tuition and
91 fees, the department shall reduce the William L. Boyd, IV,
92 Effective Access to Student Education grant issued pursuant to
93 this act by an amount equal to such excess.

94 (c) By September 1 of each year, institutions receiving
95 funding as provided in the General Appropriations Act must
96 submit an Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program
97 Accountability Report to the Department of Education, in a
98 format prescribed by the department. The report must use the
99 most recently available information on Florida resident students
100 and include, at a minimum, the following performance metrics, by
101 institution:

102 1. Access rate based upon percentage of Pell Grant-eligible
103 students.

104 2. Affordability rate based upon average student loan debt;
105 federal, state, and institutional financial assistance; and
106 ~~average~~ tuition and fees assessed to students.

107 3. Graduation rate.

108 4. Retention rate.

109 5. Postgraduate employment or continuing education rate.

110 The department shall recommend minimum performance standards
111 that institutions must meet to remain eligible to receive grants

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112 | pursuant to this section. Each eligible institution shall post
113 | prominently on its website, by October 1 of each year, its
114 | performance on these metrics, as reported to the department.

115 | (d) By October 1 of each year, the department shall submit
116 | a report to the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, the
117 | chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Governor's
118 | Office of Policy and Budget on the performance of eligible
119 | institutions and the institutions that have not met the minimum
120 | performance standards recommended by the department.

121 | (6) If the number of eligible students exceeds the total
122 | authorized in the General Appropriations Act, an institution may
123 | use its own resources to assure that each eligible student
124 | receives the full benefit of the grant amount authorized.

125 | (7) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
126 | implement this section.

127 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.