



COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS | 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM PROGRAM FUND & PERFORMANCE-BASED INCENTIVES REQUEST: \$286 MILLION

The Florida College System (FCS) serves as the primary entry point to higher education for Florida students and has been recognized as the nation’s best. Since the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence was first awarded in 2011, two FCS institutions have won the prize, three were named finalists with distinction, and over half have been among the nation’s top 150. The 28 colleges of the FCS provide the necessary programs for transfer students to the State University System (SUS), meet local workforce needs through degree and certificate programs, and offer low-cost baccalaureate degree programs in areas with demonstrated workforce need.

While serving nearly 800,000 students, the FCS plays an integral part in Florida’s degree attainment and workforce training needs. With more than half of FCS graduating students transferring to universities, there is a direct correlation between supporting our students and strengthening our state universities in order to achieve a preeminent destination status. The Council of Presidents (COP) fully supports this “2+2” partnership. FCS students are on par or above native university students.

The budget initiatives listed below increase the state’s investment for meeting current and future needs related to degree attainment and job creation; it also restores system program funding from the previous fiscal year. Additional funding requests include \$401 million for Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO), \$210 million for deferred maintenance, and the operational cost of new facilities (OCNF). These dollars are imperative to maintaining the operations of campus facilities and hurricane hardening to ensure FCS institutions are meeting the needs of the students and the communities we serve.

2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

REQUEST: (RECURRING)	GOAL
\$80 million for performance-based funding <i>(includes \$40 million state investment and \$40 million institutional investment)</i>	Continue strategic improvements in areas of job placement and continuing education, retention and completion rates, and wage earnings.
\$14 million for industry certifications	Expand the number of nationally recognized high-value certificates that address areas of critical workforce need in emerging or targeted industries.
\$75 million for Workforce Preparation	Increase degree and certificate programs to fulfill identified employment gaps in high-demand areas.
\$67 million for Student Success and Completion	Establish program-specific “2+2” targeted pathways and shorten time-to-degree completion by investing in services, including mental health, to promote student success, persistence, and retention.
\$50 million for Faculty Recruitment and Retention	Recruit and retain high quality faculty and staff, with focus on competitive fields including STEM.