



Performance-based and Preeminence Funding

The following provides an explanation of the performance-based funding request.

1. Performance-based Funding - \$350 million

The LBR will include \$350 million, a continuation of the State investment made during 2023-2024. These funds will be allocated in accordance with the current model as outlined in Board Regulation 5.001. The current model is based on either excellence or improvement for each of the metrics. The Performance-based Funding Model has proven to be effective, with the metrics showing significant state-wide improvements in the ten years since it began.

2. Performance-based Funding – Excellence Recognition - \$100 million

Recurring funding of \$100 million is being requested to reward universities that have the maximum excellence scores. Universities should be striving to reach the maximum score for each of the performance-based funding metrics. This ensures alignment with the Boards 2025 Strategic Plan Goals, which benefits students and the state. High excellence scores in all of the metrics ensures Florida continues to rank as the number one state for higher education. Recognizing excellence is critical to incentivizing universities to achieve the highest score possible.

- a. Universities that receive preeminence funding will not be eligible for these funds, as they will have received preeminence funding. In the event incremental preeminence funding is not provided, then they would share in this excellence program.
- b. Excellence scores would be determined based on the 2024 Performance-based funding scores.
- c. Funds would be prorated to those universities based on their total maximum excellence scores weighted by the number of full-time faculty and researchers employed in programs of strategic emphasis.
- d. Maximum improvement scores are not eligible.

3. Performance-based Funding – Improvement Recognition - \$10 million

Funding of \$10 million is being requested to reward improvement. Universities should continue to improve and set measures in place to avoid the ups and downs sometimes associated with their metrics. Awarding a university for continuous improvement helps to ensure upward movement in all of the metrics.

- a. Universities must have at least two (2) consecutive years of improvement to be eligible. 2023 scores will be the first year of improvement, so the university must show an improved score in the 2024 Accountability Plan to meet the second year.
- b. The percentage improvement in the total score must be three (3) percent or higher.

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- c. A university having to do a student success plan in one of the two years is not eligible for these funds.
- d. If more than one university meets the criteria, the funds would be prorated based on their percentage increase.
- e. If no university meets these criteria, these funds will be returned to the state.

4. Preeminence Funding - \$150 million

Funding of \$150 million is being requested to recognize universities designated as preeminent pursuant to section 1001.7065 F.S. Universities designated as preeminent shall receive an equal amount of state funding.

State University System Initiatives

The following provides a brief explanation of the system initiatives included in the 2024-2025 Legislative Budget Request. Additional detailed information is available in the Board Office.

5. University of Florida – Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Workload - \$5.6 million

The UF/IFAS Workload Formula is a cost-to-continue funding formula model. It provides for increased research and extension workload demand. The model was developed at the request of and approved by the Florida Board of Governors in 2004. Increased demand for UF/IFAS research and Extension activities is based on the delivery of research information to UF/IFAS clientele throughout all 67 counties in Florida.

The model uses Extension delivery methods to measure increases in workload by both Extension and research faculty in the form of workload delivery units. UF/IFAS faculty disseminate a wide range of research-based information to the general public as well as community leaders and experts. The model uses non-traditional teaching methods (such as field consultations, office consultations, telephone and email requests, group workshops, social media engagement and printed materials) and converts these contacts to the equivalent of student FTEs. These delivery methods are converted by multiplying by a factor to account for level of effort and then dividing by 30, which is the number used to convert student credit hours to FTEs. The total UF/IFAS research and Extension budget (General Revenue) is divided by this number to determine the value of a workload delivery unit.

The request for UF/IFAS Workload addresses three separate priorities of University of Florida in its strategic plan: (1) to have “an exceptional academic environment, achieved by a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff;” (2) “growth in research and scholarship that improves the lives of the world’s citizens;” and 3) to have “a physical infrastructure and efficient administration and support structure that enable preeminence.

6. State Fire Marshal Inspections - \$3.1 million

Pursuant to Section 633.218, Florida Statutes, the State Fire Marshal (SFM) is required to inspect all state-owned buildings on a recurring basis, and high-hazard occupancies must be inspected annually. The 4,000+ buildings of the State University System generally fall in the category of both state-owned and high hazard, and thus, as a practical matter, all university facilities are inspected every year by SFM employees.

Historically, the SFM has not assessed an inspection fee to the universities for the annual inspections. It appears that this practice dates back many years to the former Board of Regents with an agreement between Chancellor Reed and the SFM office. Section 633.218, Florida Statutes, provides that each state department must include in its annual budget proposal a

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request for sufficient funds to cover the costs of any fees imposed by the SFM services, including inspection fees. Pursuant to statutory language, the SUS requests recurring appropriations in the amount of \$3.1 million to cover the annual inspection costs for each university beginning with the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Below is a breakdown from the SFM by university for the annual inspection fees:

University	Annual Fee
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University	\$128,451.42
Florida Atlantic University	\$295,674.51
Florida Gulf Coast University	\$106,456.47
Florida International University	\$289,957.74
Florida Polytechnic University	\$39,154.65
Florida State University	\$533,453.97
New College of Florida	\$21,754.17
University of Central Florida	\$798,973.93
University of Florida	\$283,348.43
University of North Florida	\$85,112.29
University of South Florida	\$475,461.88
University of West Florida	\$66,510.28
Total:	\$3,124,309.74