

**FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEW REGULATION**

DATE: September 12, 2023

REGULATION NUMBER AND TITLE: 8.015, Workforce Education Partnership Programs

SUMMARY: Established by the 2023 Legislature, section 1009.771, Florida Statutes, creates the Workforce Education Partnership Program for state universities. The program is designed to provide assistance to students who enroll at state universities and are employed by a private employer participating in the program. The new law requires the Board of Governors to adopt a regulation to administer the program and to create an application template for state universities.

The proposed new regulation aligns with section 1009.771, Florida Statutes, and outlines a process for institutions to establish a Workforce Education Partnership Program. The proposed regulation specifies student eligibility requirements and the process for employers to participate in the program. It also establishes the components required of each Workforce Education Partnership Program, including how universities and employers will ensure tuition assistance and other financial aid for participating students. The proposed regulation also requires universities to provide an annual report on activities for each Workforce Partnership Education Program using a template determined by the Chancellor.

FULL TEXT OF THE REGULATION IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE.

AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE REGULATION(S): Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; BOG Regulation Development Procedure dated March 23, 2006.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REGULATION: Christy England, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW. The comments must identify the regulation on which you are commenting:

General Counsel, Board of Governors, State University System, 325 W. Gaines St., Suite 1614, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, (850) 245-0466 (phone), (850) 245-9685 (fax), or generalcounsel@flbog.edu.

8.015 Workforce Education Partnership Programs.

(1) A state university may establish a Workforce Education Partnership program to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate degree-seeking students who enroll at a state university and are employed by a private employer participating in the program.

(2) To be considered for a Workforce Education Partnership Program, universities must submit a completed application using the Board of Governors' approved template, a draft agreement with the private employer, and documentation that both the application and draft agreement have been approved by the university's board of trustees.

(3) The application must include the following information, at a minimum.

(a) Student eligibility criteria. At a minimum, students must meet the following requirements.

1. Enroll in a minimum of six credit hours during both fall and spring terms at a state university as a degree-seeking, undergraduate student.
2. Be a Florida resident as defined in section 1009.21, Florida Statutes.
3. Be a paid employee of the company participating in the program.
4. Apply for financial aid in the form of scholarships and grants, including federal, state, and institution financial aid.
5. Be in good academic standing at the time of application and must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain in the program.

(b) A process for the private employer to participate in the program. The process should include the minimum required hours and length of time a student is required to complete with the private employer in order to participate in the program. The private employer must establish an educational assistance program pursuant to s. 127 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and provide tuition assistance for a student enrolled at the state university while the student works for the private employer, up to the maximum amount that the employer may exclude from the employer's gross income under that section.

(c) Documentation of how the state university and the private employer plan to do the following.

1. Each designate a mentor to assist participating students and describe the role of the mentors and the frequency of interaction with the participating student(s).
2. Make a housing stipend available to participating students.
3. Provide life management and professional skills training to participating students.
4. Seek out additional sources of funding to pay for the remaining costs for participating students.

(4) Participating state universities must award the maximum amount of federal, state, and institution scholarships and grants for which the student is eligible to receive prior to disbursing any funds from the participating employers.

(5) Participating state universities must provide an annual report on activities for each Workforce Partnership Education Program using a template determined by the Chancellor.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; Section 1009.771 Florida Statutes. History: New XX-XX-XX.