



2026-2027 Legislative Budget Request

Performance-Based and Preeminence Funding Initiatives

The following provides an explanation of the performance-based funding and preeminence requests.

1. Performance-Based Funding - \$400 million

Performance-based funding has proven over more than a decade to be an exceptional tool to drive improvement and enhance university accountability as well as improve student outcomes in very tangible ways, including remarkable increases in student retention, on-time graduation rates, wages for recent graduates, and research efforts and related expenditures. The Board recommends increasing the performance-based funding State Investment incentive next year by \$50 million, from \$350M to \$400M. 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 performance metrics.

2. Preeminence Funding - \$125 million

Funding of \$125 million is being requested to recognize universities designated as preeminent pursuant to section 1001.7065, Florida Statutes. Universities designated as preeminent would receive an equal amount of this state funding.

3. Performance-Based Recruitment & Retention Initiative - \$100 million

Recurring funding of \$100 million is being requested to reward universities that achieve maximum PBF excellence scores. Universities should be financially incentivized to reach the maximum score for each of the performance-based funding metrics since that will ensure alignment with the Board's strategic plan goals and will directly benefit students and the state. Top excellence scores also contribute to Florida maintaining its position as the number one state for higher education, since recognizing and rewarding excellence is critical to motivating universities to achieve the highest scores possible. Funds will be used to retain existing and recruit new university full-time instructional and research personnel. Funds will also be used to recognize and honor exceptional achievements of full-time instructional and research personnel.

- a. Excellence scores would be determined based on the 2026 performance-based funding scores.
- b. 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.



- c. Maximum improvement scores are not eligible.

State University System Initiatives

The following provides a brief explanation of the System initiatives included in the 2026-2027 Legislative Budget Request. Additional detailed information is available from the Board Budget Office.

4. University of Florida – Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Workload - \$6.4 million

The UF/IFAS workload formula is a cost-to-continue funding model that provides for increased research and extension workload demand. The formula was developed at the request of and approved by the Florida Board of Governors. New challenges require new research for solutions. Increased demand for UF/IFAS research and extension activities is based on the delivery of research information to UF/IFAS clientele throughout Florida. The request addresses three separate priorities of the 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.”

5. 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 and was based on 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 request for sufficient funds to cover the costs of any fees imposed by the SFM services, including inspection fees. In accordance with the statutory language, the SUS requests recurring appropriations in the amount of \$3.1 million to cover the annual inspection costs for each university for the 2026-2027 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

