STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
November 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Programs of Strategic Emphasis

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Section 1001.706, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Programs of Strategic Emphasis are among several tools for aligning the State University System's degree production goals with Florida's economic and workforce needs and are also included in the Performance-Based Funding Model. As required by Florida Statute, the Board of Governors must review the list of Programs of Strategic Emphasis every three years to ensure alignment with Florida's workforce needs. The list was last reviewed and updated in 2023, when the Board approved a more targeted, workforce-driven methodology that matched the supply of graduates across all Florida education sectors to labor market demand and wage information for all occupations in Florida. The 2026 Accountability Plans marked the first year that the updated list was used for Performance-Based Funding metrics 6 and 8.

Board staff began the current review of the Programs of Strategic Emphasis in early 2026. Board staff reviewed updated Florida Commerce labor market information to determine if programs on the current list still met the thresholds used in the 2023 methodology. Staff also reviewed updated degree production data from all postsecondary sectors to determine if any new gaps existed in the labor market. Finally, staff used MyFloridaFuture data to measure graduate outcomes of SUS graduates in Programs of Strategic Emphasis.

In September, Board staff shared a draft of the recommended list with the institutions. As presented at the September 2, 2026, committee meeting, institutions recommending program additions were required to submit at least two forms of documentation, which may include letters of support from employers, supplemental regional workforce data documenting unfilled job openings, updated occupational linkages to academic programs, pathways between degree levels, and data on new and emerging workforce needs.

To further ensure alignment with the workforce needs of Florida, Board staff provided the proposed list and methodology to key stakeholders and met with their staff from the

Governor's REACH Office, FloridaCommerce, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Council of 100, and CareerSource Florida.

During the university review process, Board staff also continued to evaluate existing data sources, including MyFloridaFuture wages and projected growth in occupations tied to Programs of Strategic Emphasis. Board staff have compiled a list of recommended changes for the Board to discuss.

Ms. Emily Sikes, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, will provide an update on the review of Programs of Strategic Emphasis.

Supporting Documentation Included:	1. None
Facilitators/Presenters:	Ms. Emily Sikes