8.008 Nursing Education

(1) **Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund.** This fund provides the opportunity for each state university to receive matching funds for contributions made to an institution to support nursing preparation and licensure. The fund provides a dollar-to-dollar match of the total value of the agreement to the participating institution, subject to funds availability. To be eligible for state matching, contributions must be made in accordance to provisions in this regulation and as provided by section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes.

(a) For the purposes of this regulation, the following definitions are applicable.

1. Contributor: Any person, healthcare partner, or other entity that enters into an agreement to support nursing education at a partner institution in a manner consistent with this regulation and section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes.
2. Healthcare partner: A healthcare provider is defined in section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes.
3. Institution: State University System institutions that have a nursing education program that meets or exceeds a first-time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 75 percent for the prior year, based on a minimum of 10 testing participants.
4. Contribution: The monetary or non-monetary, agreed-upon provision from a contributor to an institution for which LINE matching funds are being requested.

(b) Each university president or their designee may submit proposals for LINE funds to the Board of Governors in a template provided by the Chancellor. At a minimum, the proposal must address the following:

1. Identify a contributor whose contribution will be matched by the LINE Fund on a dollar-for-dollar basis, subject to funds availability.
2. For institutions proposing to receive a non-monetary contribution, the institution must provide documentation of an external, fair-market value evaluation of the non-monetary proposal. Board staff may request additional documentation to verify that the evaluation is sufficient. Proposals may not be comprised solely of non-monetary contributions.
3. How the institution plans to use the funds, including how funds will be utilized to impact increased student enrollment and program completion.
4. How the healthcare partner will onboard and retain graduates or otherwise improve the likelihood that graduates will successfully join the state or local workforce.
5. How the contribution will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this shall include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will

increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors, and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in section 14.36, Florida Statutes.

(c) The Board of Governors will consider approval of proposals based on the merit of each proposal. Priority will be given to monetary contribution matches based on a first-come, first-served basis, and for those proposals that are requesting continued funding from a multi-year proposal.

1. The Board of Governors may approve a proposal to receive funds for up to two subsequent academic years, contingent on appropriations. A lapse in LINE funding does not constitute a postponement or extension of a proposal approved for more than one academic year.
2. Award amounts may be prorated depending on the number of approved proposals and the dollar amounts requested.

(d) Each institution with an approved proposal shall notify the Board of Governors upon receipt of approved funding provided by the contributor identified in the proposal. The Board of Governors will subsequently release grant funds, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the amount approved by the Board of Governors, subject to the availability of funds.

(e) Institutions must use funds to support the purposes outlined in their approved proposals. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings. Institutions may submit a request to the Chancellor to approve minor modifications in approved contribution use. Funds may be used for the following:

1. Student scholarships to enrolled nursing students who meet residency requirements in section 1009.21, Florida Statutes
2. Recruitment of additional faculty and preceptors
3. Increasing program enrollment, program completion, and licensure examination passage rates
4. Equipment purchase
5. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings, but may be used to expand, retrofit, or upgrade existing facilities if the proposal will result in increased program enrollments or improved or modernized educational or simulation space for an institution's nursing education program students.

(f) Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded LINE Funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to the Board of Governors that demonstrates the expansion as outlined in the proposal and delineates the use of all funds, including contributions and matching funds. The report must be in the format prescribed by the Chancellor. At a minimum, the report must include by program level, the following:

1. The number of additional nursing education students enrolled.
2. The number of students who received scholarships using LINE funds and the

average award amount.

3. The outcomes of nursing students as reported by the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help pursuant to section 14.36, Florida Statutes.

4. The status and expenditures of all carry-forward funds from previous academic years where a LINE proposal was approved by the Board of Governors, but not all matching funds have been spent.

(g) University boards of trustees shall develop policies to implement the LINE program.

~~(1) **Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund:** This fund provides the opportunity for each state university to receive matching funds for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner. The fund provides a dollar-to-dollar match to the participating institution, subject to funds availability. Each university shall adopt regulations for the administration of this program. To be eligible for state matching, healthcare partner contributions must be made in the manner prescribed below and as provided by section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes.~~

~~(a) Institutions must have a nursing education program that meets or exceeds a first-time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 75 percent for the prior year based on a minimum of 10 testing participants.~~

~~(b) Identified healthcare partners must be a healthcare provider as defined in section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes.~~

~~(c) Gift funds and matching funds may be used for the following in order to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state: student scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, purchasing or repairing equipment necessary to support the delivery of nursing programs, and creating or updating nursing simulation centers. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings.~~

~~1. Institutions awarded LINE funding and who choose to use LINE funding for scholarships may only award scholarships to enrolled nursing students who meet the residency requirements pursuant to section 1009.21, Florida Statutes.~~

~~(d) Each university board of trustees may submit to the Chancellor's office proposals made in accordance with the guidelines, formats, instructions, and schedule provided by the Chancellor.~~

~~1. Each proposal must identify a healthcare partner located and licensed to operate in Florida whose monetary contribution will be matched by the LINE Fund on a dollar-for-dollar basis, subject to funds availability.~~

~~2. The Board of Governors will review and evaluate each complete and timely submitted proposal according to the following minimum criteria. Additional criteria may be established by the Chancellor as needed.~~

~~a. Whether funds committed by the healthcare partner will contribute to an~~

~~eligible purpose as described in (1)(c) above and in section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes.~~

~~b. How the institution plans to use the funds, including how funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion.~~

~~c. How the healthcare partner will onboard and retain graduates.~~

~~d. How the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this shall include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors, and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in section 14.36, Florida Statutes.~~

~~3. The Board of Governors will award grant funding based on the merit of each proposal.~~

~~4. LINE Funds may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.~~

~~5. Award amounts may be prorated depending on the number of approved proposals and the dollar amounts requested.~~

~~(e) Each institution with an approved proposal shall notify the Board of Governors upon receipt of funds provided by the healthcare partner identified in the proposal. The Board of Governors will subsequently release grant funds, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the amount of funds received by the institution, subject to funds availability.~~

~~(f) Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded LINE Funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to the Board of Governors that demonstrates the expansion as outlined in the proposal and delineates the use of all funds, including contributions and matching funds. The report must be in the format prescribed by the Chancellor. At a minimum, the report must include the following information for each proposal, disaggregated by degree level.~~

~~1. The number of additional nursing education students enrolled.~~

~~2. The number of students who received scholarships and the average award amount, if scholarships were awarded using program funds.~~

~~3. The outcomes of nursing students as reported by the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help pursuant to s. 14.36(3)(l), Florida Statutes.~~

(2) **Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund:** Institutions earn PIPELINE funds annually, subject to appropriation, based on the number of nursing program completers and NCLEX passage rates. Funds awarded to universities by the legislature through this program may be used for the following academic purposes including, but not limited to: student scholarships, recruitment and retention of faculty, purchasing or repairing equipment, and creating or updating simulation centers. Funds may not be used for construction of new buildings.

(a) Annually, by February 1, each institution awarded PIPELINE funds in the previous fiscal year shall submit a report to the Board of Governors regarding the outcomes of nursing students as reported by the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help pursuant to section 14.36(3)(l), Florida Statutes. The report must be in the format prescribed by the Chancellor.

(3) **Master's Degree Programs in Nursing**: Any proposal by any State University System institution to suspend or terminate an existing master's degree program in nursing must come to the Board of Governors for approval before any such suspension or termination may occur. Such a proposal must provide sufficient and relevant information and justification as to why the program should be suspended or terminated. Additional information may be requested by the Chancellor.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const., Sections 1009.8962, 1009.897, 1004.015(6), 1009.24, Florida Statutes; History – New regulation 8-26-2022, amended 06-28-24, xx-xx-xx.