

# STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-31

(Charting a Course for Florida to Become Number 1 in the Nation in Workforce Education by 2030 and Ensuring Florida Students are Prepared for the Jobs of the Future)

WHEREAS, our State Constitution, pursuant to Article IX, section (1)(a), provides that the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida and that it is the paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of children residing within its borders;

WHEREAS, Florida is currently ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation of people age 25-64 with an associate in arts degree or higher or with a high-quality workforce relevant certificate; and

WHEREAS, students must acquire advanced knowledge and skills to find meaningful work and enjoy productive careers; and

WHEREAS, a knowledgeable and skilled workforce is essential for future economic growth and expanded opportunity; to wit:

Florida's economy will need a skilled labor force for opportunities in health services, education, transportation, trade, utilities, computing, as well as for jobs that require an industry certification or license; and

WHEREAS, enhancing Florida's workforce education will provide more economic opportunities for our graduates and support further diversification of Florida's economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution, and all other applicable laws, do hereby issue the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1: I hereby direct the Commissioner of Education to ensure the following objectives are completed:

- A. An audit of the course offerings in the state CTE system is completed and a methodology to audit and review the offerings annually is developed. The audit should include:
- a. An analysis of alignment with certificate or degree programs offered at the K-12 and postsecondary levels;
  - b. An analysis of alignment with professional level industry certifications;
  - c. An analysis of alignment with high-growth, high-demand and high-wage employment opportunities; and
  - d. A review of student outcomes such as academic achievement, college readiness, postsecondary enrollment, credential attainment and attainment of industry certifications;
- B. The Department of Education works with and utilizes the expertise of the following stakeholders: CareerSource Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Board of Governors, the State College System, school districts and business and industry leaders to ensure CTE course offerings are aligned with market demands;
- C. The Department of Education develops CTE best practices for partnerships between high schools, postsecondary institutions, and businesses; and
- D. The Department of Education makes recommendations to the Governor on an annual basis to eliminate course offerings that are not aligned to market demands, to create new offerings that are aligned to market demands and to strengthen existing programs as needed.

Section 2: I hereby direct the Commissioner of Education to ensure the Department of Education's 2019 legislative priorities include the following:

- A. Securing \$10 million in funding for FY 2019-2020 to seed high quality workforce apprenticeships and other industry specific learning opportunities for students;
- B. Securing \$26 million in funding for FY 2019-2020 for workforce programs, within Florida College System institutions, that lead to jobs;
- C. Adopting a “reverse transfer” policy within universities and state colleges, whereby state colleges issue associates’ degrees to students who began their higher education at a state college and transferred to a university prior to completing the necessary credits for an associate’s degree, but did not complete their bachelors’ degrees at the university. This would be accomplished by having the university transfer back any credits completed by the student to the state college where they started, allowing those who have completed the necessary credits across the system to be awarded an associate’s degree from the state college at which they started;
- D. Requiring all four-year colleges to proactively offer associate’s degrees to students who have completed the required 60 hours immediately upon completion of those hours;
- E. Creating the “Last Mile College Completion” funding incentive to provide tuition waivers for online and state college course completion for identified former students who are within 10 percent of degree completion by credit hours;
- F. Securing \$10 million in funding for the implementation of 2018 House Bill 495, requiring middle and high schools to offer courses in computer science. This funding is intended to establish a program for teacher professional development to earn educator certificates or industry certifications in computer science; and
- G. Allowing computer science to count as a science credit towards graduation.

These actions will begin the process of ensuring that Florida has the strongest CTE system in the country, aligned to market demand, and that Florida students are prepared to fill the high-demand, high-wage jobs of today and the future.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 30th day of January, 2019.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*[Handwritten Signature: Jennifer Kennedy]*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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