

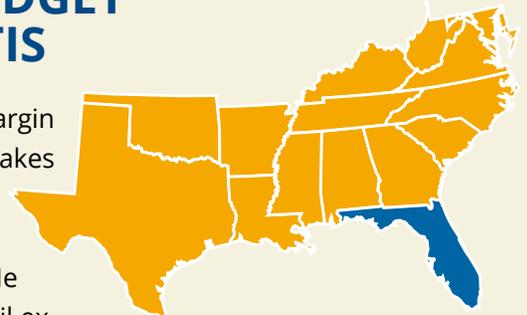


# Florida

## STATE BUDGET ANALYSIS

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EDUCATION BUDGET PROPOSED BY GOVERNOR RON DeSANTIS

In a much contested race, Governor Ron DeSantis won by a narrow margin against Andrew Gillum in Florida’s gubernatorial election. At age 40, he takes over as the second youngest chief executive in Florida’s history. Governor DeSantis proposed an aggressive education budget for the 2.8 million students, 55% of which live in poverty, attending public schools in Florida. He enters the governor’s office with a state that has one of the lowest per pupil expenditures in the country (\$9,176) - the national average stands at \$11,841. The average Florida ACT score is a 19.3, while the mean ACT score for students admitted to the University of Florida is a 30 out of a 36 point system, raising concerns of the discrepancy between Florida’s K-12 outcomes and the demands of Florida’s university system. Governor DeSantis has outlined how he will address school funding, university support, and a number of key education issues in his budget. This document provides a snapshot of his education priorities.



### FLORIDA’S EDUCATION BUDGET PRIORITIES

Core Florida Education Programs	FY 2020 Proposed Budget	FY 2019	FY 2018
Pre-K	\$1,225,000,000	\$1,089,000,000	\$1,062,000,000
State K-12 Funding Formula	\$12,352,000,000	\$11,927,000,000	\$11,678,000,000
Education Savings Accounts	\$147,000,000	\$128,000,000	\$103,000,000
Charter Schools Capital Outlays	\$155,000,000	\$145,000,000	\$50,000,000
Virtual Schools	\$8,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$12,000,000
School Safety	\$311,000,000	\$162,000,000	\$64,000,000
Florida Colleges	\$1,280,000,000	\$1,229,000,000	\$1,211,000,000
Florida Universities	\$2,788,000,000	\$2,800,000,000	\$2,774,000,000
HBCU Assistance	\$29,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$28,000,000

1. The HBCU Assistance line item combines the private HBCU program and state student aid for Florida A&M.
2. The programs listed in the chart were selected based on the priorities of the Southern Education Foundation. We believe these programs are most closely associated with student success or the most significant impediments in the education system.
3. The budget summary and chart figures may differ slightly due to rounding.
4. The state education program charts may differ from state to state due to different budget development processes and a respective governor’s education priorities.



## AREAS OF PROMISE

### Governor DeSantis Recommended:

- A 12% increase for early childhood education.
- A 4% increase to the state's K-12 funding formula.
- A 28% decrease in virtual schools funding.
- A 4% increase for Florida's colleges.



**28%** ↓

**DECREASE IN VIRTUAL  
SCHOOL FUNDING**



**12%** ↑

**INCREASE FOR  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**



**4%** ↑

**INCREASE TO STATE'S  
K-12 FUNDING  
FORMULA**



**4%** ↑

**INCREASE FOR  
FLORIDA'S COLLEGES**

## AREAS OF CONCERN

### Governor DeSantis Recommended:

- A 15% increase to the Gardiner Scholarship Program, which is Florida's Education Savings Account, to primarily remove all students from the existing waitlist. SEF opposes all programs that allow public funds to be used in private schools.
- A 7% increase for Charter School Capital Outlays. This represents a 300% increase from FY 2018.
- A 4% decrease in aid for HBCUs – primarily to the private HBCU state fund.

**15%** ↑



**INCREASE TO  
GARDINER  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**7%** ↑



**INCREASE FOR  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
OUTLAYS. A 300%  
INCREASE SINCE FY 2018**

**4%** ↓



**DECREASE  
IN AID FOR  
HBCUs**

## EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governor and the Florida state legislature should: (1) Defund or rescind authorization of all programs that allow public funds to be used in private schools; (2) Increase grant aid to both public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and (3) Revamp the K-12 funding formula to meet the needs of every child, especially those who are low-income and come from historically disenfranchised communities.