



## Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act At-a-Glance

Florida's 2021 Reimagining Education and Career Help Act, known as the REACH Act, is a comprehensive blueprint for enhancing access, alignment and accountability across the state's workforce development system.

This workforce development system, which spans the state's education, workforce and social safety net systems, is defined in the REACH Act as the "entities and activities that contribute to the state's talent pipeline system through education, training, and support services that prepare individuals for employment or career advancement, and the entities that are responsible for oversight or conducting those activities such as CareerSource Florida, Inc., local workforce development boards, one-stop career centers, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families."

The REACH Act positions Florida to help those with barriers to education and employment become self-sufficient, giving them better access to good jobs and career pathways that offer economic opportunity. In doing so, it takes a system-wide approach to achieving the following actions:

- Establishes the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) in the Executive Office of the Governor to facilitate coordination and alignment of entities responsible for the state's workforce development system.
- Requires the REACH Office to create a "no-wrong-door entry" strategy to help Floridians access services from any workforce partner.
- Directs the Department of Economic Opportunity, in consultation with the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors and others, to implement a "consumer-first workforce system" that improves coordination among one-stop career center partners through an integrated system that includes common registration and intake, benefits screening, and case management.
- Requires the CareerSource Florida Board to appoint a Credentials Review Committee to identify degree and nondegree credentials of value for approval by the state workforce development board and inclusion on a Master Credentials List to be provided to the State Board of Education.
- Adds Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) Act partners representing the Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Blind Services, as well as the Department of Children and Families, to the CareerSource Florida Board. (*Note: The Division of Blind Services already is represented on the state workforce development board.*)
- Creates a workforce opportunity portal to provide Floridians with access to federal, state and local workforce services and a global view of workforce-related program data including education and training options, real-time labor market information, career planning and career services tools, and other support linked to in-demand jobs.



- Requires the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Children and Families to evaluate the impact of workforce services on participants receiving benefits and welfare transition programs.
- Seeks to provide Florida additional flexibility in overseeing the state's workforce investment and to streamline the administration of Florida's workforce development system while also increasing accountability by charging the Department of Economic Opportunity with preparing a federal waiver. The waiver would allow CareerSource Florida to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of local workforce development boards or reduce the number of local workforce development boards.
- Requires the assignment of a letter grade for local workforce development boards based on criteria including performance accountability measures, return on investment and improvement of the long-term self-sufficiency of participants.
- Creates staggered eight-year term limits for some members of local workforce development boards and establishes some additional performance and accountability requirements for board compliance.
- Authorizes the Department of Economic Opportunity to prepare a federal waiver to be submitted by the Governor to create greater flexibility and strategic investment in Florida's WIOA implementation.
- Charges the Labor Market Estimating Conference as the entity responsible for determining Florida's real-time supply and demand in the labor market.
- Provides guidelines for consistency of data collection across the workforce and education systems.
- Directs the Department of Education, working with other entities, to develop a workforce development metrics dashboard that shows the impact of workforce-related programs on credential attainment, training completion, degree attainment and participants' wages.
- Requires the Department of Economic Opportunity, with input from the state workforce development board and others, to establish WIOA eligible training provider criteria focused on participant outcomes.
- Establishes the Open Door Grant Program to create a demand-driven supply of credentialed workers for high-demand occupations and expand the affordability of workforce training, certification and credentialing programs.
- Creates the Money-Back Guarantee Program, which will establish a tuition refund for students who do not find a job within six months after completing select programs designed to prepare them for in-demand occupations.

For more details about the far-reaching blueprint that seeks to address the evolving needs of Florida's economy, go to [Online Sunshine – Section 14.36, Florida Statutes](#).