

2020

Osceola Legislative Effort (OLE) *Priorities*



Osceola's Primary Priorities

Funding Compression Allocation – Maintain the provisions for the Funding Compression Allocation provided in the 2019-2020 FEFP to support more equitable resources for students in districts with below average dollars per student. This allocation provides \$54,190,616 to twenty-nine (29) school districts that receive less than average per student funding and reflects 25% of the differential up to state average. For 2019-20, this allocation is generating an additional \$4,712,261 for Osceola students and reduces the differential between Osceola County and the state average from -4.7% to -4.1%, or over one-half of a percentage point.

BRIDG— an industry-led partnership that provides Florida the catalyst to create and diversify high-tech jobs and a new industrial partner base. Previous state funding secured a 200mm semiconductor wafer line that enabled Florida to meet industry standards and enter the competitive global market more quickly than planned. Past state legislative actions attracted imec, the world's leading nano-electronics organization headquartered in Belgium, to establish its only US research and design center with BRIDG at NeoCity in Osceola County. This collaboration produced a multi-million-dollar imager system for PHOTON-X, Inc., and positioned Florida to become a global leader in technology. Secure continued funding for Bridg in order to expand its capability and attract new business and industry partners. Recommended Funding – Preserve the \$5 million recurring and an additional \$10 mil in non-recurring funds for operations.

Postsecondary Adult Vocational Welding Technology - The Postsecondary Adult Vocational Welding Technology program is a 1050 hour program designed to prepare students for employment in the manufacturing career field as Welders, Welder Assistants, Production Specialists, and Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers. The training includes the use of blueprints and/ or shop drawings, use of gases and/or welding processes according to diagram, blueprints or written specifications. Lab activities include various processes and techniques of oxyacetylene cutting (OFC), Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), Flux Cored Arc Welding (FCAW), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW). This program is available to both adult students and dual enrolled high school juniors and seniors. Students enrolling in the Welding Technology program would be able to complete it in one school year with a full time enrollment and two school years with a part time enrollment. This timeframe allows for a continuous stream of skilled workers entering the field and would allow for a dual enrolled student starting in their junior year to graduate high school and Osceola Technical College's Welding Technology program concurrently. Furthermore, all students would have the opportunity to earn the OSHA-10 and Certified Welder Industry certifications.

Regarding workforce viability in our workforce development region, this program prepares students for jobs listed on the 100 fastest growing occupations list with a 19.4% growth rate with over 1,000 new jobs expected by 2028. This program also articulates up to 24 credits to Valencia College's Supervision and Management Associate Degree program.

Osceola's Secondary Priority

Aquatic Weed Control - Hydrilla, native to Africa and Southeast Asia, was introduced into Florida in the early 1950's and is now a major aquatic weed throughout most of the lakes in Osceola County. Hydrilla's aggressive growth doubles its size every day, clogs waterways, damages boats, and strands boaters. Without aquatic weed control, hydrilla will render Osceola County's lakes uninhabitable.

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