

Florida Board of Governors General Office 2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request

Funding of \$14.1 million is requested to support seventy-one (71) authorized positions and associated operating expenses for the Board Office. The operating expenses covers the costs associated with data collection and management, Board meeting expenses, travel expenses, office supplies, legislation implementation, and other Board initiatives.

A description of each new initiative is provided.

2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request		
		Total
1	Salaries and Benefits (69 Positions)	\$8,757,262
2	Other Operating Expenses	\$2,513,385
3	2024-2025 Base Budget	\$11,270,647
4		
5	2025-2026 Initiatives:	
6	University ROI Study	\$700,000
7	Intellectual Survey	\$150,000
8	IT Staff Augmentation	\$750,000
9	Two New Positions	\$627,531
10	Opioid Antagonist	\$250,000
11	Office Salary & Benefits	\$400,000
12		
13	Total 2025-2026 Budget Request (71 Positions)	\$14,148,178

Florida Board of Governors General Office 2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request Initiatives

1. University Return on Investment (ROI) Study - \$700,000

This funding request will be used to hire an independent third party to conduct an evaluation of current university academic programs. The independent third party will review university operational costs, student outcomes, and the ROI of each undergraduate & graduate program. The intent of the study will be to evaluate all programs and consider ROI from the perspectives of three different critical stakeholder groups: students, universities, and the state. The data and conclusions resulting from the study could prove to be an invaluable tool that complements other statewide efforts such as the MyFloridaFuture student outcomes dashboard, and it could be used to assist students in choosing the best program of study from an economic perspective and to aid policy decision makers in determining optimal resource allocation.

2. Intellectual Survey - \$150,000

Section 1001.706(13), Florida Statute, requires the Board to conduct an annual assessment of the intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at each institution. The Board of Governors is required to select or create an objective, nonpartisan, and statistically valid survey to be used by each state university which considers the extent to which competing ideas and perspectives are presented and members of the university community, including students, faculty, and staff, feel free to express their beliefs and viewpoints on campus and in the classroom. The Board of Governors is required to annually compile and publish the assessments by December 31 of each year. The Board is requesting funding to compile and analyze the survey.

3. Staff Augmentation for Information Technology & Security (ITS) - \$750,000

Last year the Board requested \$1 million for contract services funding to supplement existing ITS staff to ensure the development and completion of various initiatives and allow for the continuity of operations. The Legislature and Governor generously provided \$250,000. The Board Office is requesting \$750,000 for additional staff augmentation.

4. Two New Positions - \$603,500 in S&B; \$24,031 in Support Costs

- a. **Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs** - Currently, the Office of Academic & Student Affairs reports to a single Vice Chancellor. Statutory changes over the last few years have led to a workload increase for this office. Separating this office into two units (Office of Academic Affairs and Office of Student Affairs), each led by a Vice Chancellor reporting to the Chancellor, will help with the implementation of statutory changes, ensure issues are handled timely, and that appropriate staffing is available for the future.
- b. **Deputy General Counsel** - Statutory changes over the last few years have led to a plethora of lawsuits. Currently the Board has one General Counsel that also functions as the Board's Corporate Secretary. An additional general counsel will assist in managing the various lawsuits and other legal issues that arise.

5. Opioid Antagonist - \$250,000

This is a technical issue that provides budget authority in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund so that funds from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) can be transferred to the Board Office. Pursuant to the General Appropriations Act, DCF will transfer \$250,000 to the Board Office and the Board will disburse funds to the universities and colleges so they can purchase opioid antagonist to be placed in each dormitory. Section 1004.0971, Florida Statute, requires each institution to have a supply of emergency opioid antagonists with an auto injection or intranasal application delivery system in each residence hall or dormitory residence. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding with DCF, the Board Office will provide certain information on the disbursement and use of the funds.

6. Board Office Salary & Benefits - \$400,000

The Board Office has 69 authorized positions and \$8.7 million in funding for salaries and benefits. If all 69 positions were filled for a full 12 months, the Board would have insufficient funds in this category.