

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 18, 2025

ITEM NO: VIII-B _____

RECOMMEND THAT _____.

Informational Item Only

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Residency for Tuition Purposes –Summary

*Summarized from Florida Department of Education Rule Workshop – Division of Florida Colleges

Date: October 10, 2025

Purpose

The workshop reviewed proposed amendments to Rule 6A-10.044, F.A.C., which governs how Florida College System institutions determine residency for tuition purposes under Section 1009.21, Florida Statutes.

Recent Legislative & Policy Changes

- HB 1285 (2024): Proof of Florida homestead exemption now serves as conclusive evidence of residency for tuition purposes.
- Statewide Residency Committee: Dissolved in 2024; the Guidelines on Residency for Tuition Purposes are no longer maintained by the Florida DOE or Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC).

Key Proposed Amendments

Rule Structure & Definitions

- Adds definitions for dependent student, independent student, resident, and non-resident.
- Updates purpose statement to specify scope and applicability.

Residency Documentation

- Removes mandatory use of Form FRD-1; colleges must collect residency declarations per institutional policy.
- Institutions must establish and publish residency and appeal procedures in catalogs.

Reclassification

- Aligns reclassification documentation requirements with statute (two proofs instead of three).
- Requires posting of reclassification policies on college websites.

Non-U.S. Citizen Eligibility

- Removes detailed visa list; retains requirement for lawful U.S. presence.
- Removes provisions now covered by statute (e.g., dependent U.S. citizen protections and high school residency evidence).

Impact on College

- Greater *flexibility* and accountability in defining processes.
- Colleges must develop or update local policies and procedures, revise admissions and advising practices, and update catalogs and websites.
- Institutions must clarify policies for lawfully present non-U.S. citizens.
- Any new or revised residency policies will be reviewed by college legal counsel prior to recommendations sent for approval by BOT.

Timeline

- State Board of Education adoption expected: November 13, 2025.
- After adoption, DOE will provide technical guidance.
- Colleges must review and update policies, documentation, and communications to ensure compliance.