



the beauty of 
education

Boosting Florida Career Options

CUTTING BARRIERS, CREATING FUTURES: ENDING THE PELL GRANT GAP

Florida has a critical opportunity to protect educational pathways for over 5,500 beauty and wellness students in programs that significantly contribute to the state's economy. Recent U.S. Department of Education policy changes threaten more than \$15 million in Pell grants for these students. With the legislative session approaching, the need for a long-term solution is urgent. Delaying action risks shutting the door on thousands of students, jeopardizing their futures and Florida's economic growth.

CUTTING INTO OPPORTUNITIES



The new "**150% rule**" from the Biden-Harris Administration reduces Pell grant eligibility by capping program hours at 100% of state minimums. Previously, Florida allowed programs to extend up to 150%, ensuring Pell grant access for a wider range of students. Although a court has temporarily blocked this rule, the situation demands a permanent solution.

POLISHING A PATH FORWARD

Existing state laws no longer align with federal Pell grant requirements, preventing thousands of beauty and wellness students from qualifying for this critical funding. Florida lawmakers can resolve this by creating more program options that allow access to Pell grant funding, enabling Florida students to continue their education. Opening up these options will ensure these students have the financial support needed to pursue careers in the beauty and wellness industry.

THE BEAUTY OF OPPORTUNITY

- **Impact on Students:** Over **75%** of students in vocational programs, from cosmetologists and massage therapists to medical assistants and HVAC specialists, rely on Pell grants. Without it, many will have to take out loans, work extra jobs, or abandon their education and career dreams.
- **Economic Impact:** Vocational programs support communities and create jobs across hospitality, health care, and beauty. Maintaining Pell grant access ensures a skilled workforce and drives economic growth.
- **Public Support:** An overwhelming **89%** of Florida voters believe Pell grants are crucial for vocational education, and **85%** agree that financial aid helps reduce unemployment and improve community well-being.

Help protect Pell grants and ensure that Florida's beauty and wellness students can pursue their dreams and contribute to the state's economy.

To learn more, visit
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