

Cradle to Career Pathways to Economic Independence for People with Unique Abilities

Governor Scott's Degrees to Jobs Summit
May 25, 2016

Senate President Andy Gardiner

Cradle to Career Education Reforms

- Elimination of the Special Diploma
- The Gardiner Scholarship Program
 - The Gardiner Scholarship program enables a parent to choose the placement or services that best meet the individual educational needs of his or her child.
- Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Unique Abilities
 - Establishes a process for institutions to seek approval and funding for their programs, scholarships for students, and creates a center within the University of Central Florida as a one-stop shop for resources.

Career Pathways to economic Independence

- Vocational Rehabilitation Performance Improvement Plan
 - Directs the program to improve performance and gives deadlines for making meaningful progress.
- Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program
 - Assists individuals with disabilities in saving money without losing their eligibility for state and federal benefits, thereby providing a pathway for economic independence.
- Financial Literacy Program
 - The program will provide educational lessons for individuals with developmental disabilities and important resources for family members and caregivers.

Career Pathways to economic Independence

- Employment First Act
 - Ensures a long term commitment to improve employment for individuals with disabilities.
- State Government as Model Employer
 - Requires state agencies to have specific plans and strategies for the hiring and promotion of persons with disabilities.
- Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program
 - Recognizes and promotes businesses that employ or support the independence of individuals who have a disability.

For more information:

All “Cradle to Career Pathway” Policy and Investment Opportunities (*The Florida Senate*): www.FLSenate.gov

Bright Expectations- Department of Health Information:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/people-with-disabilities/bright-expectations/>

The Gardiner Scholarship Program (*Florida Department of Education*):

<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/gardiner/>

Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (*University of Central Florida*):

<http://fcsua.com/>