



May 8, 2025

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1314
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Subject: Support for Keiser University Students' Access to the EASE Grant

Dear Florida Legislators and State Education Officials:

On behalf of the Central Florida Employment Connections (CFEC), I am writing to express our strong support for Keiser University students to continue receiving the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant. This critical funding not only empowers students to pursue private higher education in Florida but also strengthens the future workforce of our state.

CFEC has long been committed to bridging the gap between education and employment by connecting students, job seekers, and employers through job fairs, career expos, workshops, career coaching and workforce development initiatives. Our partnership with Keiser University has been **integral in this mission**. Keiser students consistently demonstrate preparedness, professionalism, and strong career readiness—traits that are directly enhanced by the university's hands-on educational approach, which is made accessible in part through EASE funding.

Cutting or reducing the EASE Grant would have a detrimental effect on thousands of Florida students, many of whom depend on this support to access high-quality private education close to home. The grant enables students from all economic backgrounds to choose the institution that best fits their academic and career goals—without being limited by financial constraints. Keiser University graduates contribute meaningfully to Florida's economy and workforce across industries including healthcare, IT, criminal justice, and business. As an organization that works daily with employers seeking skilled talent, CFEC can affirm that continued investment in these students is an investment in Florida's economic health.

We urge the state to preserve and protect the EASE Grant. Doing so ensures educational access, supports employer demand for workforce-ready graduates, and promotes economic mobility for Florida's citizens.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Florida's students and workforce development.

Sincerely,
Paulette Weir
CFEC Director
Central Florida Employment Connections (CFEC)
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