**General Information for Registered Apprenticeship Program**

Apprenticeship is a highly structured training system in which the apprentice:

* Works full time (40 hours per week) for a sponsoring employer, learning the skills of the trade (through On-the-Job Training with a journeyworker/mentor).
* Earn a progressive wage - as their skills increase, their wages increase (usually every 6 months).
	+ The beginning wage rate is at least 35% of the journeyworker’s hourly rate, and the ending wage is no less than 75% of the journeyworker’s hourly wage rate. *In no event shall the apprentice wage rate be less than the minimum wage prescribed by the Fair Labor Standards Act, collective bargaining agreements or by Florida Statutes, whichever is higher.*
* *A minimum of 144 hours of related instruction for each year of apprenticeship is required.*
	+ Related instruction is organized related supplemental instruction in technical subjects related to the occupation. Most programs utilize local technical schools or community colleges for the related classroom instruction. Programs may also provide their own related instruction to its apprentice.
	+ There are no tuition fees for registered apprentices for related instruction provided through Local Education Agencies (LEA) as stipulated in Florida Statute 1009.25.
		- Books and supplies are not covered.
* Registered apprenticeship programs operate independently and establishes its application process and minimum qualifications.
	+ The required minimum qualifications for persons entering an apprenticeship are an eligible starting age of not less than sixteen years.
	+ Most programs’ minimum qualifications require the following of all applicants –
		- Being at least 18 years of age
		- Possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D.
		- Possess a valid drivers’ license
		- Physically able to perform the work of the trade.
		- Some programs require more, some less.
* Upon completion of the program an apprentice is considered a journeyworker. They will receive a State Completion Certificate, which is recognized nationally and internationally.