

2014 State Legislative Priorities

Funding

- Invest in education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by at least \$200 per student and increasing the categorical funding by enrollment growth multiplied by the annual inflationary rate until the per pupil funding is at pre-recession levels.
- Support maximum flexibility in the use of funds appropriated.
- Oppose unfunded state mandates.
- Revise the Safe School Allocation formula so that each district's allocation is equal to fifty percent of prior year eligible district expenditures.
- Increase funding for Safe Schools to implement and expand interventions that focus on reducing disruptive and aggressive behaviors and strengthening emotional and behavioral competencies of students.

Property Tax Valuation

- Ensure that school districts have access to an accurate estimate of property value in the estimated roll by July 1 annually.
- Adjust the rate of local tax rate collections from 96 percent to 94 percent for the FEFP.

Class Size-Reduction

- Modify the assessment of the penalty associated with noncompliance with the Constitutional Class Size Requirement to the school-wide average and as it is applied to charter schools.
- Modify the calculation of the penalty associated with noncompliance with class size-reduction to be half of the base student allocation (BSA) instead of the full BSA. Bills: SB / HB 319 by Rep. Moraitis

Dual Enrollment

- Allow local school districts to locally establish contract provisions inclusive of cost structures with post-secondary institutions related to the delivery of dual enrollment education.

Capital Funding

- Fund fully provisions of Florida Statute 1013.64 pertaining to the Public Education Capital Outlay Program that involve construction and maintenance programs of public school districts.
- Oppose any diversion of Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue from traditional public schools to charter schools.

Accountability

- Ensure that state assessments and the state's accountability system are valid, reliable and aligned to state standards.
- Provide a transitional period for school and district accountability as the state transitions to a new assessment tool.

Parent Empowerment

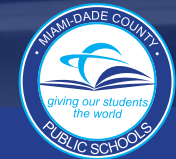
- Oppose any changes regarding conversions of traditional public schools to charter schools that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Capital Outlay for Charter Schools

- Support capital funding for charter schools that:
 - Creates neither a reduction of funding to traditional public schools in operating or capital funding nor an additional taxing mandate on the local school district;
 - Requires public input; and
 - Protects the taxpayers' investment by ensuring that capital funding be spent only on assets that can be returned to the public school district.

Charter Schools

- Allow traditional public schools to extend statutory flexibility on the exemption from State Required Education Facilities (SREF), class size-reduction compliance, and penalties not affecting charter schools.
- Improve safeguards and transparency for taxpayer investments between traditional public schools and charter schools, including, but not limited to, implementing the following safeguards:
 - Require that charter school applications and lotteries be administered by local school boards to ensure fair, equitable, and transparent admission processes for all students;
 - Allow local school districts to negotiate appropriate usage fees based on comparables;
 - Require funding to follow the student when transferring between charter and traditional public schools during the entire school year;
 - Establish similar traditional public school financial disclosure standards for charter school officers and/or related parties involved in financial decision-making; and
 - Establish clear academic and financial standards for the purpose of distribution of charter school capital outlay funds as well as appropriate standards of review prior to distribution.



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