



2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY POSITIONS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

FUNDING:

- **Modify** the compliance of the Constitutional Class Size Requirement to be assessed at the school-wide average as it is applied to charter schools.
- **Invest** in education by designating a percentage of economic growth dollars to education.
- **Maintain** the current employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing the planned increase for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
- **Support** maximum flexibility in the use of categorical funds, i.e., conversion of instructional materials to digital formats.
- **Oppose** unfunded state mandates.

CAPITAL FUNDING:

- **Fully fund** 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.

SCHOOL SAFETY

- **Increase** funding for Safe Schools to implement and expand interventions that focus on reducing disruptive and aggressive behaviors and strengthen emotional and behavioral competencies of students.
- **Support** legislation that implements harsher penalties for individuals who deliberately place pornographic or obscene materials in school zones. **Bills: SB 86** by Sen. Flores/**HB 113** Rep. Diaz

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

- **Continue** to allow co-enrollment as an option for high school students who need credit recovery or to improve their cumulative grade point average for graduation. **Bills: SB 76** by Sen. Flores/ **HB**

ACCOUNTABILITY:

- **Exempt** ESE centers from the school grading system, develop alternative assessment model that appropriately measures student achievement, and establish statewide criteria for student placement in ESE centers.
- **Eliminate** the requirement to pass EOC exam(s) for promotion, and ensure that EOC's do not exceed more than 30 percent of a student's final grade.
- **Ensure** charter and private schools adhere to the same teacher certification, student placement and progression policies to comply with federal and state accountability requirements.
- **Revise** the current assessment and accountability systems to:
 - ✓ include data from multiple forms of assessments;
 - ✓ eliminate the practice of using student standardized test performance as the only gauge for student and school performance;
 - ✓ assess student proficiency based on progress made during the entire school year;



- ✓ authorize alternate methods for learning assessment and achievement for ESE and English Language Learners (ELL) students; and,
- ✓ Administer the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), PARCC, and other statewide assessments in multiple languages as allowed by federal regulations.

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), categorical funding, accountability, class size reduction compliance, and penalties not affecting charter schools.
- Improve safeguards and transparencies 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 a fair, equitable, and transparent admission process for all students;
 - ✓ Allow local school districts to negotiate appropriate usage fees based on market comparables;
 - ✓ Require funding to follow the student when transferring between charter and traditional public schools during the entire school year; and
 - ✓ Establish similar traditional public school financial disclosure standards for charter school officers and/or related parties involved in financial decision making.