


## MEMORANDUM

December 15, 2015

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT:** 2016 Legislative Session – Interim Committee Week of November 30-December 4, 2015

The Florida Legislature held its sixth and final interim committee week prior to the beginning of the 60-day 2016 regular legislative session scheduled to start on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

Senate and House Appropriations Committees heard Governor Scott's Legislative Budget Request presented by his budget staff. The summary of the Governor's recommended budget was distributed in a previous legislative update. Members of the Legislature on both sides of the aisle expressed concern about the level and sources of funding for K-12 education especially the reliance of using mostly the increase in state property values to fund public schools. If you recall, the Governor recommended a \$507 million increase in K-12 education of which \$427 million, or 84 percent, is designated from increased state property values. In the Senate Education Appropriations Committee, discussions were held on reducing the required local effort (RLE) and replace with state monies.

The House and Senate committees passed out a number of bills that impact education. Many of the bills had already been heard in earlier committees and were reported to the Board in the last legislative update.

### Board Priorities

The Board's priority bills have been filed as follows:

SB 766 sponsored by Senator Flores and HB 499 sponsored by Representative Avila related to the Board's top legislative priority of modifying Value Adjustment Board proceedings. HB 499 was heard in House Finance and Tax and passed unanimously (12-0). This bill also includes the hold harmless provision that the District needs to minimize the impact of the tax shortfall associated with the VAB.

SB 890 sponsored by Senator Flores and SB 898 sponsored by Senator Garcia along with HB 639 sponsored by Representative Fresen creates the Seal of Biliteracy.

SB 704 sponsored by Senator Hudson and HB 535 sponsored by Representative Eagle has language amending F.S. 514.011 to include a portable private pool for exclusive use

of providing swimming lessons by the local school district supporting the District's iSwim program.

SB 442 sponsored by Senator Flores and HB 119 sponsored by Representative Bileca provides local school districts with some flexibility allowing in the use of the Florida Building Code in lieu of State Requirements for Educational Facilities.

Summaries of the major bills that are moving through the process are:

SB 672 sponsored by Senator Gaetz related to Educational Options establishes mechanisms for the approval of unique postsecondary education programs tailored to the needs of students with intellectual disabilities and with statewide coordination of information about programs for students with disabilities. The bill also awards incentive payments to school districts and charter schools that implement districtwide or schoolwide, standard student attire policies applicable to students in kindergarten through grade 8. Each school district or charter school qualifies for a minimum award of \$10 per student if it implements a mandatory uniform policy for students in grades K-8. The bill also amends a number of provisions of the Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Account (PLSA) program. The bill amends provisions for the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarship program. The bill passed the full Senate Appropriations Committee and has been placed on the calendar.

HB 31 sponsored by Representative Spano regarding High School Athletics increases accountability for the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA) by providing that special event fees, sanctioning fees, and contest receipts that are annually collected may not exceed the actual cost of performing the function that is the basis of the fee. The bill also allows member schools to participate in the FHSAA on a per sport basis and prohibits the FHSAA from subjecting non-members to retributory or discriminatory treatment. The bill passed the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

HB 149 sponsored by Representative Moriatis related to class size removes the exemptions from class size requirements and maintains class size compliance for each classroom but revises the method for calculating the penalty to be at the school average for any school that fails to comply with class size requirements. The bill passed the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

HB 585 sponsored by Representative Burgess related to hospital homebound education clarifies that districts must provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students in accordance with rules adopted by the state board. In addition, the bill expressly authorizes the state board to adopt rules relating to instruction for homebound or hospitalized students. The rules must establish, at a minimum: criteria for eligibility of K-12 homebound or hospitalized students for specially designed instruction; procedures for determining student eligibility; a list of appropriate methods for providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students; and requirements for initiating instructional services for a homebound or hospitalized student once the student is determined to be eligible. The bill requires the school district where a children's specialty hospital is located to

provide educational instruction to eligible students and to contract with the school district in which the student resides. The bill requires the Department of Education to develop a standard agreement for use by school districts to provide seamless educational instruction to students who transition between school districts while receiving treatment in the childrens' specialty hospital.

Proposed Committee bill, HB 7017, by House High Education & Workforce Subcommittee, revises the definition of applied technology diploma to convert clock hour credit to college credit. It also establishes fees for applied technology diploma programs offered by public school districts commensurate with fees for college credit programs at Florida College System institutions, revises the standards for career, adult, and community education programs and provides rule-making authority for the State Board of Education to make rules regarding accountability for career education, adds the Chancellor for Career and Adult Education to the membership of the Higher Education Coordinating Council, and requires each school district and Florida College System institution that offers an adult education program to provide at least one online option that enables students to earn a standard high school diploma or its equivalent. The bill passed the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

Proposed Committee bill, HB 7021, by K-12 Education referencing Reading Instruction was reported on in the previous legislative update. After a period of steady improvement on the FCAT reading assessment and National Assessment of Education Progress during the 2000s, reading scores statewide have decreased its rate of growth, including for students in 3rd grade. The rate of 3rd grade students performing below grade level in reading has consistently exceeded 40 percent over the past several years. Although the law requires districts to implement interventions and supports for struggling readers, teachers may not receive adequate training in effective strategies to improve the reading performance of all students, including those with conditions such as dyslexia. The bill aims to help schools identify struggling readers more quickly and implement effective instruction and interventions. The bill passed the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

HB 4013 sponsored by Representative Diaz related to blended learning education removes the requirement that online instruction must occur in a classroom setting at a school, expanding the blended learning models available to districts. The bill passed the House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute.

Proposed Committee Bill, HB 7029, by House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee relates to School Choice and statutorily creates the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation to provide technical assistance and support to charter school applicants and sponsors; to conduct research on policy and practice related to charter school authorization; accountability, instructional practices, finance, management, and operations; to approve replication of high-performing charter schools to contract with district school boards; and to provide opportunities for aspiring teachers to experience teaching in schools of choice. The bill was approved as a committee bill by the House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee.

### Upcoming Events

The next State Board of Education meeting is January 6, 2016 in Tallahassee at the Cabinet Room in the Capitol building. The meeting time has not yet been announced. The Florida School Board Association is holding its legislative days February 3-4, 2016. The Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards will have its business meeting the evening of Wednesday, February 3, 2016, and legislative meetings on Thursday, February 4, 2016.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305 995-1497.

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cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet