

MEMORANDUM

June 8, 2017

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools



SUBJECT: 2017A SPECIAL SESSION UPDATE

As you know, Governor Rick Scott announced a special session for June 7-9, 2017, for the exclusive purpose of considering legislation that provides for an increase in the per pupil funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) as well as related legislation necessary to calculate and implement school funding. Legislation that provides for comprehensive transparency and accountability measures and funding for Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida will also be addressed.

To that end, both chambers have filed supplemental funding proposals adding approximately \$215 million to the FEFP. However, each chamber has taken a different approach in doing so, which suggests that there is no deal between the two chambers. In fact, the Senate President signaled to the senators that he had not made any agreement to dictate the outcome of special session or limit the subject of legislation filed.

The House uses a rollback rate of 0.322 for the Required Local Effort (RLE) and uses more state funds. The Senate uses a partial rollback rate of 0.233 and adds new construction to the tax roll. The differences in the approach to providing supplemental funding through the FEFP include:

HB 3A (2017A)	2500A
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total increase of \$455 million, or 2.25% (state funds \$364 million and \$90.8 million funded locally)• Rollback rate reduces the RLE by 0.322• BSA increases by \$43.24, from \$4,160.71 to \$4,203.95• Per pupil funding increased by \$100, from \$7,196.23 to \$7,296.23 (still below the 2007-2008 per pupil funding of \$7,305 and well below the national average of \$10,700 in 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total increase of \$457 million, or 2.26% (state funds \$221 million and \$235 million funded locally)• Rollback rate reduces the RLE by 0.233• BSA increases by \$43.74, from \$4,160.71 to \$4,204.45• Per pupil funding increased by \$100.53, from \$7,196.23 to \$7,296.76 (still below the 2007-2008 per pupil funding of \$7,305 and well below the national average of \$10,700 in 2013)

The District's efforts in advocating for the veto of HB 7069 will also continue with town hall and community meetings.

In addition, I would like to inform the Board that Senator Rene Garcia wrote a letter to the Senate President stating that he will not be supporting a compromise unless the issues related to the limitations imposed on the Board in the distribution of Title I funds and the required sharing of the capital funds are corrected in HB 7069. A copy of this letter is attached.

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.

AMC:ajo
M1217

Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
MDCPTA/PTSA Presidents
Union Presidents



The Florida Senate
State Senator René García
36th District

Please reply to:

District Office:

1490 West 68 Street
Suite # 201
Hialeah, FL 33014
Phone# (305) 364-3100

June 5th, 2017

The Honorable Joe Negron
President of the Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear President Negron,

I want to thank you, Governor Scott, and Speaker Corcoran for calling a Special Session to revisit several critical issues facing the State of Florida, including economic development, investment in Florida's Tourism industry, and K-12 Education Funding. I am of firm belief that debate and decision on these public policy issues, among others, simply cannot wait, and my Senate colleagues and I are eager to get to work.

While my career has reflected a passionate commitment to school choice and local autonomy, I find it difficult to support adjusting the Florida Education Finance Program while failing to address the erosion of Florida's commitment to public education that is contained within HB 7069. Dramatic policy shifts such as broadening the scope of eligibility for Title I funds, as well as allowing charter schools to use local tax revenue for capital outlay projects should be discussed in conjunction with any proposed increases in per student funding.

The public policy held within the FEFP and the set of policies passed within HB 7069 are inherently intertwined, and I believe there are many other positive aspects of the bill. However, absent giving the Legislature the opportunity to fix the aforementioned issues, I am not comfortable supporting any compromise that does not create a fair system for our publicly operated K-12 education institutions within the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "René García".

State Senator René García
District 36