

MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2020

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE – WEEK #3

The Florida Legislature concluded its third week of the 2020 Legislative Session January 27 - January 31. The Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate released their respective budgets. The Senate's proposed budget is approximately \$92.8 billion, and the House's proposed budget is \$91.4 billion. The proposed budgets will be heard in the full Appropriations Committee in both chambers during week four and are expected to be heard on the floor of each chamber during week five. Both the House and Senate budgets include monies for teacher raises. Attached is a side-by-side comparison of the Senate's, House's, and Governor's recommended budgets.

The Senate Education Committee heard and passed several bills as summarized below.

- SB 190, sponsored by Senator Bill Montford, expands the eligible student population that qualifies for Medicaid-eligible school-based health services from school districts and private and charter schools. The bill authorizes schools to certify for reimbursement eligible health services provided to any student enrolled in Medicaid, regardless of whether the student qualifies for Part B or H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the exceptional student education program, or has an individualized education plan (IEP). The bill aligns Florida law with federal regulations authorizing federal reimbursement of Medicaid-eligible school-based health services to students enrolled in Medicaid.
- SB 738, sponsored by Senator Gayle Harrell, allows students who are 18 to 21 years of age to be excused from jury service upon request if they are enrolled as a full-time student at a high school, state university, private postsecondary educational institution, Florida College System (FCS) institution, or career center. The House companion, HB 393 sponsored by Representative Charlie Stone, was heard and passed the House Civil Justice Subcommittee favorably.
- SB 946, sponsored by Senator Dennis Baxley, amends s. 1003.45, F.S., to permit study of the Bible and religion and permit a brief meditation period, requiring a moment of silence be set aside for students during each school day for a moment of daily reflection. The bill directs the principal of each public school to require teachers in first-period classrooms in all grades to set aside one to two minutes daily for a moment of silence during which students may not interfere with other students' participation. The bill provides that a teacher may not make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence.
- SB 1568, sponsored by Senator Travis Hutson, modifies Florida's career and technical education program to improve and expand apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship

programs, provide supports for students in work-based learning programs, specify career education requirements for middle school promotion and high school graduation, modify funding incentives for industry certifications, and provide relevant mathematics pathways. Specifically, the bill:

- Broadens the scope of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs (programs) to additional apprenticeship program sponsors (sponsors) and occupations;
 - Specifies that programs lead toward occupations, rather than trades; clarifies that sponsors are responsible for program supervision, subject to uniform minimum standards developed by the Department of Education (DOE);
 - Includes state universities as partners in the provision of apprenticeship instruction; clarifies the duties of the DOE regarding apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs;
 - Revises the membership and scope of the State Apprenticeship Advisory Council; changes the selection criteria and use of funds for the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program;
 - Specifies that students in an apprenticeship program or courses with a work-based component are deemed to be employees of the state for workers' compensation purposes for medically necessary care only;
 - Modifies provisions related to elementary and secondary career education to make optional the middle school course in career and education planning and authorizes the Florida Virtual School to offer the course;
 - Authorizes school districts and regional consortia to work with national providers to submit career-themed courses for approval;
 - Modifies the requirement for computer science instruction in elementary school and expands the use of computer science teacher incentive funds;
 - Changes provisions related to Career and Professional Education (CAPE) industry certifications by clarifying Commissioner of Education authority regarding CAPE industry certifications and CAPE Digital Tool Certificates;
 - Modifies the award and use of CAPE industry certification bonus funds relating to credit awarded under statewide articulation agreements; provides bonus funds for aviation and aerospace industry certifications; and
 - Requires the Articulation Coordinating Committee to identify mathematics pathways aligned to programs, meta-majors, and careers.
- SB 1688, also sponsored by Senator Harrell, is entitled “Early Learning and Early Grade Success” and relates to early childhood education, which as you may recall, Governor DeSantis has identified as one of his priorities. This bill modifies the administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) and the School Readiness program and reorganizes the regulatory structure of the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to consolidate authority and oversight within the State Board of Education (SBE).

The bill expands accountability and assessment requirements for VPK providers. Specifically, the bill repeals the pre- and post-assessment and statewide kindergarten screening and readiness rate requirements for VPK providers and replaces them with: a coordinated screening and progress monitoring program (CSPM) for students in VPK through grade 3 to provide information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate grade-level standards to parents, teachers, and school and program

administrators; a program assessment that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions, including emotional and behavioral support, engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and instructional support for children ages 3 to 5 years, in each VPK classroom; and a performance metric that provides a score to each VPK provider based on performance.

The bill also creates the Council for Early Grade Success within the DOE to oversee the CSPM and requires the new screenings and assessments to be administered by individuals meeting SBE requirements. The bill modifies the market rate schedule paid to school readiness providers to require a market rate schedule based on the prevailing market rate. The bill also removes authority for each Early Learning Coalition (ELC) to adopt a payment schedule for providers and requires the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference to adopt the payment schedules to be used statewide in each county.

- SB 1696, sponsored by Senator Keith Perry, adds requirements to protect students participating in extracurricular activities and athletics. The House Companion, HB 7011, has already passed the Florida House of Representatives. Specifically, the bill requires:
 - Each Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) member public school to make its automated external defibrillator (AED) available in a clearly marked and publicized location for each athletic contest, practice, workout, or conditioning session;
 - A school employee or volunteer with current training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of an AED, beginning June 1, 2021, to be present at each athletic event, practice, workout, or conditioning session during and outside of the school year;
 - All employees or volunteers expected to use an AED to complete the training and be notified annually of the location of each AED on school grounds;
 - The FHSAA to make training and resources to monitor heat stress available to each member school;
 - Each school's emergency action plan to include a procedure for onsite cooling using cold water immersion;
 - All athletic coaches and sponsors of outdoor extracurricular activities to complete annual exertional heat illness training, including administration of cooling zones; and
 - Students involved in interscholastic athletics to pass a medical evaluation prior to participating in relevant activities outside of the school year.

The bill also requires the FHSAA to put measures in place to protect student athletes year-round. These measures include:

- Making training and resources available to each member for the effective monitoring of heat stress;
- Establishing guidelines for monitoring heat stress and identifying heat stress levels at which a school must make a cooling zone available for each outdoor athletic contest, practice, workout, or conditioning session;
- Requiring member schools to determine heat stress levels based on measuring ambient temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle, and cloud cover at the site

- of the athletic activity and modify athletic activities accordingly, including suspending or moving activities, based on the heat stress guidelines;
- Establishing hydration guidelines, including appropriate introduction of electrolytes after extended activities or when a student participates in multiple athletic activities in a day;
 - Establishing requirements for cooling zones, including, at a minimum, the immediate availability of cold water immersion tubs or equivalent means to rapidly cool internal body temperature when a student exhibits symptoms of exertional heat stroke, and for the presence at athletic activities of an employee or volunteer trained to implement and administer the cooling zones;
 - Requiring each school's emergency action plan, as stipulated by the FHSAA, to include a procedure for onsite cooling using cold water immersion or equivalent means before a student is transported to a hospital for exertional heat stroke; and
 - Requiring all students participating in or who are candidates for interscholastic athletic involvement to satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation yearly prior to participating in conditioning or activities that occur outside of the school year.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education heard and passed several bills as summarized below.

- SB 62, sponsored by Senator Kelli Stargel, the committee's Chair, was substantially amended in the committee. The bill:
 - Amends s. 212.055, F.S., relating to discretionary sales tax to require school districts to share voted discretionary sales tax with charter schools. The language requires the dollars to be expended by charter schools in a manner consistent with s. 1013.62(4), F.S. This includes purchase of real property, lease arrangements, maintenance/repair, and insurance.
 - Establishes a Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program, supporting postsecondary institutions in providing dual enrollment. Beginning in 2020, the program reimburses postsecondary institutions for cost of private school or home education students for tuition and instructional materials. The bill amends s. 1011.62, F.S., relating to the funds for operation of schools. The bill provides for additional full-time equivalent (FTE) membership for students enrolled in an early college program.
 - Modifies provisions of the Mental Health Assistance Allocation to require that the plan developed by a school district include input from school and community stakeholders and be informed by a needs assessment. In addition to existing requirements, the mental health plan must include mental health policies and procedures that include: universal supports to promote students' psychological well-being and ensure safe and supportive school environments; evidence-based strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-risk students developing behavioral health problems; policies and procedures for responding to a student with suicidal ideation; a school crisis response plan that should include the establishment of district-level and school-level crisis response teams, including administration and school-based mental health service providers. Additionally, the annual report submitted by school districts must reflect program outcomes and expenditures for all charter schools, including charter schools that submitted a separate plan. The report must include the number of students receiving screenings, services, etc. and the number of school-based and community-based

mental health providers, the number and ratio of school social workers, school psychologists, certified school counselors employed by the district, and the total number of licensed mental health professionals employed directly by the district.

- Removes the sunset provision related to the Funding Compression Allocation. Therefore, the allocation would not be repealed July 1, 2020.
 - Creates the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation to increase teacher salaries and improve Florida's relative teacher salary position when compared with teacher salaries in other states. Subject to annual appropriation, funds may be provided for each school district to increase the minimum base salary for full-time classroom teachers as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a) or all instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a)-(d), including certified prekindergarten teachers, but not including substitute teachers. Funds shall be allocated on each district's share of the base Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) allocation.
 - Amends provisions relating to Charter Schools Capital Outlay Funding. The bill caps charter school funding at \$165 million. If the Legislature does not appropriate \$165 million, then the capital outlay funds for that fiscal year will come from any appropriated state funds and the revenue resulting from the 1.5 discretionary millage. The bill was amended to provide that a charter school is not eligible for a funding allocation unless the governing board chair and chief administrative officer of the charter school annually certify under oath that the funds will be used solely for constructing, renovating, leasing, purchasing, financing, or improving charter school facilities. Additional accountability provisions are required if the charter school is owned by and leased from, at a fair market value, a person or entity that is not an affiliated party, as defined, of the charter school. Finally, the bill was amended to allow school districts that use funds solely through local impact fees to build a school to use such fees to pay for any overages in the cost per student station.
- SB 434, sponsored by Senator Bill Montford, modifies the high school acceleration component of the school grading model to add to the calculation students who complete career certificate dual enrollment courses resulting in 300 or more clock hours that are identified by the SBE.
 - SB 486, sponsored by Senator Rob Bradley, repeals the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Program, the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Program, and the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Allocation.
 - SB 836, sponsored by Senator David Simmons, provides for school districts to receive additional funding through the FEFP for each student who receives an Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma and meets the requirements for a standard high school diploma. The bill requires that a value of 0.3 FTE student membership be calculated for each student who receives an AP Capstone Diploma. Such value must be added to the total FTE in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. In effect, the bill provides the same additional FTE funding for each student who receives an AP Capstone Diploma as a student who receives an IB or AICE diploma.

The Senate Health Policy Committee heard and passed SB 120, sponsored by Senator Jason Pizzo. The bill authorizes a school to purchase a supply of the opioid antagonist

naloxone from a wholesale distributor or enter into an arrangement with a wholesale distributor or manufacturer for naloxone at fair-market, free, or reduced prices. A participating school district must adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician for the administration of the drug by school personnel who are trained to recognize an opioid overdose and to administer naloxone. The school must maintain the naloxone in a secure location on the premises of a participating school. The bill exempts a school district, its employees and agents, and the physician who provides the standing protocol from liability for any injury arising from the use of naloxone so long as the naloxone is administered by trained school personnel who follow the standing protocol and whose professional opinion is that the student is having an opioid overdose.

The Senate Criminal Justice Committee heard and passed SB 652, also sponsored by Senator Pizzo. The bill calls for the creation of a 10-member task force (called the Urban Core Gun Violence Task Force) within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to investigate system failures and the causes of high crime rates and gun violence incidents in urban core neighborhoods and communities. The bill requires the Task Force to develop recommendations for solutions, programs, services, and strategies for improved interagency communications between local and state government agencies to help facilitate the reduction of crime and gun violence in urban core neighborhoods and communities.

The House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee heard and passed several bills as summarized below.

- HB 935, sponsored by Representative Jennifer Webb, excludes costs associated with a solar energy system from the cost-per-student-station caps on public school construction. Excluded costs would include equipment, installation, design and engineering, permitting, and testing for a solar energy system. School districts will be able to install a solar energy system without exceeding the cost-per-student-station cap due to associated costs such as design and installation. The fiscal impact is indeterminate.
- HB 1013, sponsored by Representative Erin Grall, revises the statewide governance of early learning programs by:
 - Repealing the OEL and its executive director and establishing a Division of Early Learning, thereby placing the responsibility for overseeing the VPK and School Readiness programs, including rulemaking authority, with the SBE;
 - Providing a type two transfer of the Gold Seal Quality Care Program from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the DOE;
 - Requiring the DOE inspector general to assume investigative duties relating to the VPK and School Readiness programs;
 - Repealing the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council and establishing the Early Grades Success Advisory Committee;
 - Subjecting Early Learning Coalitions (ELCs) to the SBE's oversight enforcement authority; and
 - revising the composition of ELC membership, reducing the maximum allowable number of ELCs from 31 to 30, and providing the DOE with authority to merge ELCs in certain circumstances.

The bill establishes a timeline for phasing in a new VPK accountability system based on a performance metric that includes student outcomes, learning gains, and observations of child-teacher interactions. The bill requires the Commissioner to develop a screening and progress monitoring system that is mandatory for VPK through grade 3 students and must provide the outcomes and learning gains data for the VPK performance metric. The VPK accountability system must assign a grade of “A” through “F” to VPK providers beginning with the 2022-2023 program year. The bill also revises the market rate calculation for School Readiness provider reimbursements and requires the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference, rather than local ELCs, to establish payment schedules.

- HB 1213, sponsored by Representative Randy Fine, requires the DOE to prepare and offer curriculum standards for teaching the history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), a subject required for K-12 public school students under s. 1003.42, F.S. The DOE may contract with the Florida Holocaust Museum and other state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational organizations to develop curricula, instructional personnel training, and classroom instructional materials. The bill requires each school district and charter school to include in this instruction the state policy against anti-Semitism, as described in s. 1000.05(7), F.S. The DOE must create a process for school districts and charter schools to annually certify and provide evidence of compliance with the Holocaust instructional requirements to the DOE.
- HB 1231, sponsored by Representative Bobby Dubose, addresses the use of seclusion and restraint and requires the use of video cameras in certain classrooms. The bill defines terms related to seclusion, physical restraint, and mechanical restraint, and it specifies when such techniques may be used. The bill requires school districts to prohibit school personnel from placing a student in seclusion. The bill provides that restraint may be used only to protect students or school personnel but not for disciplining a student. A student may be restrained only for the time necessary to protect the student and others and only after all positive behavior interventions and supports have been exhausted. The bill prohibits straightjackets, zip ties, handcuffs, tie-downs, and restraint techniques that obstruct or restrict breathing or blood flow or inflict pain to induce compliance.

The bill requires:

- School districts to adopt policies and procedures related to positive behavior interventions and supports and to identify all school personnel authorized to use restraint techniques;
- School districts to develop a crisis intervention plan if a student is restrained more than once during a semester;
- The DOE to publish de-identified data on reported restraint incidents on the department’s public-facing website each month; and
- A school district, at the written request of a parent, to install a video camera and record a classroom in which a majority of the students are provided special education services. The video camera must be capable of monitoring all areas of the classroom and entrances and exits associated with the students’ restroom but may not monitor the restroom itself or any other area where a student changes his or her clothes.

The bill also provides circumstances under which the video recording may be viewed and limits the people who may view the recording to include school employees involved with an alleged incident of abuse or neglect itself or the investigation of such an incident, the parent of a student who is involved in the alleged incident, law enforcement if the incident is reported, and representatives of DCF as a part of a child abuse investigation. The bill requires anyone who views the video to report suspected child abuse to DCF.

The House Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee heard and passed HB 157, sponsored by Representative Anthony Sabatini. The bill proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution that would prohibit a school board member from appearing on a ballot for reelection if, by the end of his or her current term of office, the member will have served, or would have served if not for resignation, in that office for eight consecutive years. This proposal is similar to the term limits placed on elected state officials. The proposed limitation would apply only to terms of office beginning on or after November 3, 2020, and is prospective so that school board members reelected to a consecutive term in 2020 could serve another consecutive eight years before reaching the term limit. The companion bill, SB 1216 sponsored by Senator Gruthers, was temporarily postponed in the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee.

The House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee heard and passed several bills as summarized below.

- HB 523, sponsored by Representative Nick DiCeglie, renames the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program as the Mastery-Based Education Program and allows developmental research schools and any public school district in the state to submit an application to the DOE to participate in the program; authorizes participating lab schools and school districts to approve and use an alternative interpretation of letter grades to measure student success in grades 6 through 12, however, school districts must continue to use a 4-point scale for calculating a student's grade-point average; and provides that students who earn high school credit through a mastery-based education program have fair and equitable access to postsecondary education.
- HB 581, sponsored by Representative Ben Diamond, requires the Commissioner of Education to develop minimum criteria for a civic literacy practicum that may be incorporated into a school's curriculum for the high school United States Government course beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. The civic literacy practicum must be nonpartisan, focus on addressing at least one community issue, and promote civil discourse. The bill establishes minimum requirements for a student to complete a civic literacy practicum, including identifying a civic issue, researching and developing an involvement plan to address the issue, and creating a portfolio evaluating and reflecting on the experience and outcome, or likely outcome, of his or her involvement. The hours a student spends implementing an involvement plan may be counted toward community service requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. School districts should integrate practicum activities and hours into requirements for academic awards. The bill requires the SBE to establish criteria and annually designate public schools that provide students with high-quality civic learning as Freedom Schools.

- HB 957, sponsored by Representative Jason Shoaf, specifies that a high school student may be included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation if he or she earns 300 or more clock hours through career dual enrollment courses identified by the SBE.

The House Appropriations Committee heard and passed several bills as summarized below.

- HB 641, sponsored by Representative Rene Plasencia, provides for school districts to receive additional funding through the FEFP for each student who receives an AP Capstone Diploma in addition to a standard high school diploma.
- HB 953, sponsored by Representative Stan McClain, authorizes state universities and FCS institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools upon approval by the DOE. The bill also revises requirements for charter schools operated by an FCS institution with a teacher preparation program. The bill provides that the board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or FCS institution is a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds and accepting responsibility for all requirements in that role. The bill requires the DOE, in collaboration with charter school sponsors and operators, to develop a sponsor evaluation framework and report results in its annual charter school application report. In addition, the bill revises charter school application reporting requirements and submission dates for both sponsors and the DOE. The bill establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university or FCS institution.
- HB 1203, sponsored by Representative Amber Mariano, requires the Commissioner of Education to submit a report by December 1, 2020, to determine the feasibility of implementing a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program in Florida. The bill requires the report to, at a minimum, include implementation timelines, a funding model that provides the program at no-cost to students, identify industry and business partnerships, and if needed, recommendations to modify the district and school accountability requirements. The bill requires the P-TECH program to meet specified criteria of being a 6-year integrated secondary and postsecondary model, allowing for high school and postsecondary degree attainment with work experience, having an open enrollment policy, providing student supports, and providing for seamless articulation to Florida's postsecondary institutions.

The House Education Committee heard and passed several bills as summarized below.

- HB 725, sponsored by Representative William Robinson, authorizes a school district career center to offer an associate in applied science or an associate of science in nursing degree program if the career center offering the associate of science in nursing degree program offers it only to graduates of a licensed practical nursing program offered by the same center.
- Proposed Committee bill EDC1, sponsored by the Education Committee, makes several changes in the various scholarship programs as follows:

- For the Gardiner Scholarship Program (GSP), the bill authorizes a student with a disability who meets the GSP eligibility requirements, but who turns three years of age after September 1, to be determined eligible for a Gardiner scholarship on or after his or her third birthday and awarded a scholarship if funds are available. If funds are not available, the student is placed on the waitlist for the subsequent program year. The bill prohibits eligibility to participate in the GSP if the child is receiving any another educational scholarship, not just a Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarship or John M. McKay scholarship. This bill requires a Gardiner scholarship account to be closed after two fiscal years, rather than three fiscal years, in which the account has been inactive. The bill requires the parent to annually renew participation in the GSP in order for his/her student to be eligible to receive funding. The bill authorizes a student whose participation in the GSP is not renewed to continue spending scholarship funds that are in his or her account from prior years unless the account must be closed.
- For the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) Program, the bill requires priority be given to: eligible students who received an FES during the previous school year; new applicants whose household income levels do not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level; new applicants who are in foster care or out-of-home care; and new applicants who are a dependent child of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The bill requires the maximum household income level be increased by 25 percentage points in the fiscal year following any fiscal year in which more than five percent of the number of available scholarships have not been awarded. The bill revises the requirement that each school district inform all households within the district receiving free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act of their eligibility to apply to an eligible nonprofit Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO), rather than the DOE, for a scholarship by February 1 of each year.

The bill expands eligibility by eliminating the requirement to spend the prior year enrolled in a public school for students in first or second grade. Also, students who received an FTC scholarship during the previous school year and, before initial receipt of the scholarship, spent the prior year attending a Florida public school are eligible to apply.

The bill also aligns the FES with the FTC Program requirements by:

- Allowing a student to participate in no more than two virtual school, correspondence school, or distance learning program courses per school year;
- Requiring the DOE to maintain a list of nationally norm-referenced tests, which must meet industry standards of quality, identified for purposes of satisfying the testing requirement; and
- Requiring a private school participating in the FES to report the scores of all participating students to a state university by August 15 of each year.

The bill requires the maximum number of students participating in the FES to annually increase by 1.0 percent, rather than 0.25 percent, of the state's total public school student enrollment.

- For the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, the bill provides that a student who receives an FTC scholarship remains eligible to participate until the student enrolls in a public school, graduates from high school, or reaches 21 years of age. The bill aligns the FTC Program with the FES and the John M. McKay Scholarship Program by clarifying that a student who returns from a Department of Juvenile Justice detention center and has not spent more than 21 days there is not considered to have returned to public school.
- For the Hope Scholarship Program, the bill requires reviewing the school bullying prevention education program, climate, and code of student conduct of each public school from which ten or more students transferred to another public or private school using the Hope Scholarship in a single academic year to determine areas in the school or school district procedures involving reporting, investigating, and communicating a parent's and student's rights that are in need of improvement.
- Proposed Committee Bill EDC2 relates to School Safety and clarifies the Commissioner's existing authority to oversee compliance with the requirements relating to school safety and security by school districts, district school superintendents, and public schools, including charter schools. The bill provides that upon notification by the Office of School Safety (OSS) that a district school board has failed to comply with the requirements relating to school safety and security, the Commissioner must require the district school board to withhold further payment of the salary of the superintendent. The Commissioner must also facilitate school safety and security compliance by charter schools by recommending to the district school board actions for nonrenewal or termination of the charter.

The bill provides for the termination of a charter if the sponsor sets forth in writing the particular facts and circumstances demonstrating that an immediate and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the charter school's students exists, that the immediate and serious danger is likely to continue, and that an immediate termination of the charter is necessary. The charter school sponsor must notify in writing the charter school's governing board, the charter school principal, and the DOE of the facts and circumstances supporting the emergency termination.

The bill requires the OSS to provide ongoing professional development opportunities to both school district and charter school personnel. The bill also requires the OSS to develop, in coordination with the Division of Emergency Management, other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue agencies, and first-responder agencies, a model family reunification plan for use by child care facilities, public K-12 schools, and public postsecondary institutions, which are closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to natural or man-made disasters.

The bill requires each district school board and charter school governing board to adopt, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, a family reunification plan to reunite students and employees with their families in the event of a mass casualty

or other emergency event situation. The bill authorizes district school board policies to provide accommodations for drills conducted by Exceptional Student Education (ESE) centers. For threat assessment teams, the bill requires that all members of the threat assessment team be involved in the threat assessment process and final decision. The description of the Florida School Safety Portal (FSSP) tool is revised in the bill to reflect its current capabilities as a unified search tool.

The proposed bill was amended to require that students subject to expulsion pursuant to s. 1006.13(3), F.S., be assigned to a civil citation or pre-arrest diversion program authorized by s. 985.12, F.S., or to a disciplinary program for the purpose of continuing educational services.

The House Health & Human Services Committee heard HB 81, sponsored by Representative Robert Andrade. The bill removes the requirement that Medicaid recipients receiving services through the Florida Medicaid Certified School Match Program qualify for Part B or H of the IDEA, or for exceptional student services, or have an IEP or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The change to Florida law reflects federal regulations allowing the provision of Medicaid school health services to the general population of Medicaid-eligible students. The bill was amended to remove the requirement that private schools and charter schools be enrolled as Medicaid providers to receive reimbursements

HB 575, sponsored by Representative Rene Plasencia, would exempt group practices that provide Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services from licensure under the Health Care Clinic Act. The bill also amends s. 1003.572, F.S., to add paraprofessionals who practice under the supervision of either certified behavioral analysts or professionals licensed under ch. 490 or ch. 491, F.S., to the list of private instructional personnel who may provide ABA services in the classroom setting.

As you know, Governor DeSantis announced the end of Common Core in the state and released new standards in English Language Arts, mathematics, and Civics. Legislation is anticipated.

If you have any questions or wish to schedule a briefing, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305 995-2532.

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Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet