

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 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 #8

The Florida Legislature concluded its eighth week of the 2020 Session on March 6, 2020. The only committee that met early in the week was the Senate Appropriations Committee. Each of the chambers spent most of the time meeting on the floor hearing and passing bills. Additionally, members not returning to the legislature were allotted time to give “farewell” remarks to the members.

The Senate Rules Committee passed several bills as summarized below.

- SB 946, sponsored by Senator Dennis Baxley, requires a moment of silence to be set aside for students during each school day.
- SB 1216, sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters, proposes that district school board members be subject to an eight-year consecutive service term limitation. The bill passed the committee by a 9-8 vote, mostly along party lines. However, Senator Anitere Flores voted against the bill.
- SB 1634, sponsored by Senator Kelli Stargel, provides a list of rights that a parent possesses in order to direct the education of his or her child and be informed about the child’s educational programs. The bill also requires the school district to promote parental involvement in the public school system by providing access to the child’s studies and instructional materials while also recognizing a parent’s right to withdraw the child from objectionable portions of the school’s curriculum.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed several bills as summarized below.

- SB 156, sponsored by Senator Keith Perry, extends the scheduled expiration of the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2022. The bill was also passed by the full Senate.
- SB 190, sponsored by Senator Bill Montford, authorizes school districts to certify for reimbursement eligible school-based health services provided to any student enrolled in Medicaid, regardless of whether that student qualifies for Part B or H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the exceptional student education program, or has an individualized education plan. The bill aligns Florida law with updated federal guidance that authorizes the federal reimbursement of Medicaid-eligible, school-based health services for all students enrolled in Medicaid.

- SB 1066, sponsored by Senator Gruters, imposes new requirements related to impact fees. The bill:
 - Prohibits the application of a new or increased impact fee to pending permit applications unless the result is to reduce the total impact fees or mitigation costs imposed on the applicant.
 - Authorizes local governments with charters that contain provisions providing for school capacity to require contributions related to public education that are used to mitigate impacts not otherwise funded by impact fees or other exactions related to public education facilities, under certain circumstances.
 - Provides that impact fee credits are assignable and transferable at any time after establishment within the same impact fee zone or impact fee district, or an adjoining zone or district within the same local jurisdiction.

- SB 1220, sponsored by Senator Manny Diaz, modifies provisions in the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) program, the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarship program, and the Hope Scholarship Program (HSP) in order to establish a priority order for award of FES and FTC scholarships, and to ensure renewal FTC scholarship students are able to retain a state scholarship. Specifically, the bill:
 - Modifies the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program to specify that a student who receives an FTC scholarship remains eligible until high school graduation or age 21, regardless of the student's household income level, and require each eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization (SFO) to refer any student who does not get a renewal FTC scholarship because of a lack of available funds to another SFO that may have available funds.
 - Modifies the Family Empowerment Scholarship program to:
 - Establish a priority order for award of an FES, which includes a student who received an FTC scholarship in the previous school year but did not receive a renewal scholarship because of a lack of available funds.
 - Require the Department of Education (DOE) to maintain and publish a list of nationally norm-referenced tests and to establish deadlines relating to applications, renewal notifications, and verification of student eligibility.
 - Require each private school to report test scores of students receiving an FES to a specified state university.
 - Change the annual growth of the FES from 0.25 percent to 1.0 percent of the state's total public school enrollment. Revising the increase for maximum student participation in the FES from 0.25 percent (roughly 7,000 students) to 1.0 percent (roughly 28,000 students) annually will increase the student full-time equivalent (FTE) and state funding needed for the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).
 - Allow the maximum household income level for eligibility to increase by 25 percent in any year following a fiscal year in which more than five percent of available FES scholarships are not awarded.
 - Modifies the HSP to specify that an SFO that uses excess contributions to the HSP to fund FTC scholarships must prioritize renewal scholarships before awarding any initial scholarships.

The bills summarized below were passed by the full Senate and are in the House messages.

- SB 434, sponsored by Senator 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 State Board of Education (SBE).
- SB 486, sponsored by Senator Rob Bradley, repeals statutory provisions relating to the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Program and the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Program.
- SB 662, sponsored by Senator Tom Wright, gives greater flexibility to transitioning students from military families by considering a student a resident of the school district at the point in time in which the parent is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation within the state, for purposes of enrollment and preferential treatment in special programs.
- SB 738, sponsored by Senator Gayle Harrell, allows students who are 18 to 21 years of age to be excused from a specific jury summons upon request if they are enrolled as a full-time student at a high school, state university, private post-secondary educational institution, Florida College System (FCS) Institution, or career center. The bill now states that individuals may only be excused for a specific jury summons based on their enrollment status as opposed to an indefinite postponement.
- SB 70, sponsored by Senator Lauren Book, creates “Alyssa’s Law.” The bill modifies statute to require each public school, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, to implement an interoperable mobile panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responders.

The bill also requires the DOE, in consultation with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, to develop a competitive solicitation for a statewide mobile panic alert system for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, subject to legislative appropriation. The House companion bill, HB 23, is on the House calendar.

The bills summarized below passed the Florida House of Representatives and are in Senate messages.

- HB 7065, sponsored by the Education Committee, modifies the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.
- HB 737, sponsored by Representative Kimberly Daniels, requires a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day and provides requirements for said moment of silence.

- HB 7, sponsored by Representative Randy Fine, allows a governmental agency the option to publish legally required advertisements and notices on a publicly accessible website if certain conditions are met.
- HB 7097, sponsored by the House Ways and Means Committee, revises provisions related to tourist development taxes, ad valorem taxes, corporate income taxes, value adjustment boards, tangible personal property rolls, truth-in-millage processes, communications services taxes, penalties related to dyed diesel fuels, convention development taxes, rental and license fees, sales tax reports, charter county and regional transportation system surtaxes, school capital outlay surtaxes, corporate income taxes, contaminated site rehabilitation tax credits, and provides sales tax exemptions for certain clothing, school supplies, personal computers, and personal computer-related accessories during a certain timeframe.
- HB 7011, sponsored by the PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee, was passed by the Florida House of Representatives, amended by the Florida Senate, and is in returning messages. The bill requires the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to:
 - Require member schools to monitor heat stress and modify athletic activities (i.e., contests, practices, workouts, and conditioning) based on heat stress guidelines.
 - Identify heat stress levels at which a cooling zone must be made available for athletic activities.
 - Make training and materials available for the effective monitoring of heat stress.
 - Establish requirements for cooling zones and individuals with related training at athletic activities, including the use of cold-water immersion tubs or equivalent means.
 - Require school emergency action plans to include a procedure for onsite cooling using cold-water immersion or equivalent means before transport to the hospital for exertional heat stroke (EHS).
 - Establish hydration guidelines, including appropriate introduction of electrolytes.
 - Require student athletes to pass an annual medical evaluation each year before engaging in any athletic activities that occur outside of the school year.

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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cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet