



Florida School Boards Association

The voice of education in Florida.

April 26, 2017

President Joe Negron

Office of the Senate President
409, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

CC: Appropriations Chairman
Senator Jack Latvala

Appropriations Subcommittee on K12 Education Chairman
Senator David Simmons

Dear President Negron:

Thank you for your adopted Senate budget which supports Florida's students and school districts by:

- providing a significant increase to the base student allocation;
- recognizing the role school districts play in contributing funds through the Required Local Effort;
- providing a healthy increase to total funding.

While we recognize that budget conferencing is a complicated process with many moving parts, as the Florida Senate moves to conference and negotiations with the Florida House of Representatives, we humbly request that Senators stand firm on a responsible budget and to the obligation to Florida's students and families to provide access to a quality and uniform system of education.

The House budget proposal for K12 Education, in combination with possible effects to budget based on proposed policy, is not sustainable for Florida's public school districts, and will result in, not only a legacy of issues for the Florida Legislature and future Governors of this state, but more importantly a detrimental effect on the quality of education available to Florida's students.

We strongly support your Chamber's K12 budget positions, and we look to your leadership in maintaining these positions and fighting for Florida's students in negotiations with the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Andrea Messina
Executive Director

Tim Harris
FSBA President
Polk County School Board

The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.