



Florida School Boards Association

The voice of education in Florida.

FSBA Quick Notes: Charter School Capital Outlay Funding

We thank Senator Simmons and Representative Diaz for their leadership in crafting plans to provide capital outlay funding to charter schools. Some elements in these plans have merit while others lack important safeguards.

To ensure that capital outlay funding is awarded responsibly and in a manner that prioritizes the capital outlay needs of all public schools, we ask the Legislature to support provisions to:

- Establish a process and criteria by which all charter school capital outlay projects may be incorporated into the district's state approved capital outlay plan to ensure that needs are addressed in priority order, in a consistent and equitable manner, and with public accountability.
- Require that any charter school facilities that are funded by district capital outlay millage revenue are, or will become, a public asset that may be reclaimed and utilized by the school district and/or may be sold to recoup the district's investment.
- Protect the public interest by prohibiting personal financial enrichment by affiliated parties of charter schools and by requiring certification that local capital outlay funds will be used solely and exclusively for constructing, renovating, or improving charter school facilities.
- Prior to the calculation and distribution of any local revenues to charter schools, reduce the total discretionary millage revenue by the school district's annual debt service obligations.
- Provide an allocation formula for the shared local capital outlay allocation that utilizes a weighted funding approach that provides a base allocation set at 50% of the total potential allocation and provides 25% in additional funds to charter schools who serve high proportions of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch or students with disabilities, or 50% in additional funds to charter schools that serve both of these populations.

Resources:

[FSBA Recommendations for Charter School Capital Outlay Comparison of HB 5103 and SB 376 by J. Hamilton](#)