

PROGRESS REPORT



The Florida School Boards Association

2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PRIORITIES

PROGRESS & DETAILS

KEEPING STUDENTS & COMMUNITIES SAFE

- More stringent accountability provisions for private schools that participate in state scholarship programs
- Expanded authority for Early Learning Coalitions to deny or revoke eligibility of program providers
- Authorization for school districts to use specified local funds for capital outlay purposes without a survey recommendation
- SREF flexibility for school boards for certain building provisions as long as there is sufficient shelter capacity within the district
- Grant funding available for the capital outlay costs associated with improving the physical security of school buildings (HB 7055, SB 7026)

MEASURING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- End of course exams no longer required for students who earn passing score on the corresponding AP, IB, or AICE exam
- Students can use credit earned in apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs to satisfy certain graduation requirements
- Observation-based child assessments will be used by school readiness programs
- Published statewide assessments must be in a format that facilitates the sharing of assessment items
- ELA assessments no longer required to be administered online (HB 495, HB 577, HB 1091, HB 7055)

HIRING QUALIFIED & EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS

- Instructional & administrative personnel may extend DROP participation through the end of the school year
- School and student safety are enhanced through stricter educator certification requirements
- More stringent reporting & penalties are established for misconduct by authority figures against students
- School districts are authorized to reemploy a retired law enforcement officer as a school resource officer (HB 495, SB 7026)

SUPPORTING SCHOOL CHOICE

- Principal Autonomy Program Initiative expanded from pilot to a statewide available at the discretion of eligible school districts
- School boards may create District Innovation Academies in which certain highly effective principals are authorized to manage multiple schools within a zone
- District sharing of discretionary millage revenue with charter schools only required if the amount of state funds appropriated is less than the average charter school capital outlay funds per unweighted full-time equivalent student for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, as adjusted by the Consumer Price Index from the prior year (HB 7055)

LEVERAGING FEDERAL FUNDS

- School districts authorized to include high schools above the 50% poverty threshold in the distribution of Title I funds
- Cap on district withholding of Title I funds for administration increased from 8% to 10%
- Districts authorized to withhold up to 1% of Title I funds to provide educational services in accordance with approved plan
- The cap on withholding of Title I funds excludes any funds provided by an eligible school to participate in discretionary educational services provided by the school district and any funds carried forward by the school district. (HB 7055)

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