



## 2019 Legislative Platform

### KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

Provide students, education professionals, volunteers, and parents with safe learning environments by:

- ❖ Providing school districts with local flexibility and increasing recurring operational funds to implement local safe school initiatives and to hire at least one law enforcement officer, school safety officer, and/or guardian at each school.
- ❖ Continuing the investment in the FLDOE safe schools facility grant program in order for more schools in Florida to be hardened for safety.

### ENHANCING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Strengthen mental health intervention and prevention strategies by:

- ❖ Building upon the investment made last year for mental health services by providing funding to hire additional school counselors, to expand and enhance mental health services available through school and community coordinated services, and to provide enhanced wraparound services.

### INVESTING IN STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

Maximize the efficient use of available state and local funds by:

- ❖ Allowing the Required Local Effort millage rate to reflect increases in property value as well as new construction, as was the historical practice prior to 2016.
- ❖ Addressing the growing need to recruit and retain highly effective educators through an increase in the Base Student Allocation by a minimum of 3% (\$126) per student over the 2018 allocation.

### PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS

Ensure the availability of qualified and experienced school leaders, instructional staff, and support personnel by:

- ❖ Authorizing school districts to re-employ school-based leaders, instructional personnel, and school safety personnel after one month, rather than 12 months, after retirement as currently required by law.

### PRIORITIZING WORKFORCE EDUCATION

Provide student-centered Workforce Education opportunities

- ❖ Increasing state support for diverse Workforce Education program options that create additional pathways to high school graduation that meet local, regional, or statewide workforce needs. This support must include start-up grants to provide incentives to recruit qualified instructors, to build business partnerships, and to provide instructional materials and equipment.

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