

DeSantis Conforming Bills – Education Related	
Bill/Program	Summary
Best & Brightest Teacher Talent Pipeline Student Loan Forgiveness & Tuition Reimbursement Program	Creates s. 1009.57, F.S., – Best & Brightest Teacher Talent Pipeline Student Loan Forgiveness & Tuition Reimbursement Program - Purpose is to encourage individuals to teach in critical shortage area identified annually by a district or the SBE under s. 1012.07, F.S.
	Required to remain in teaching for at least 5 school years.
	Function of program is to repay loans from federal programs or banks or to reimburse cost of undergraduate tuition, fees, etc. for students who have potential to increase student achievement based on criteria established by SBE.
	DOE makes repayments, prorated based on appropriations, for loan repayments or reimbursement for tuition and fees, etc. for four years of undergraduate education not to exceed \$25,000. Payments are made at the end of the fifth school year of the teacher’s participation.
	SBE required to adopt rules.
Best & Brightest Teacher & Principal Bonus Program	Creates s. 1012.74, F.S. – Great Teachers Awards - Up to \$10,000 bonus provided annually to specified classroom teachers who remain employed in instructional or administrative position in district or charter school through September 1 of following year or who retired after qualifying for the award.
	School must have improved at least one percent in points earned through the school grade system and the teacher must be highly effective for the same school year.
	Great School Leader Awards – Similarly, an eligible school principal will receive a bonus award of up to \$5,000 for non-Title I schools and up to \$6,500 for Title I schools, based on annual appropriation.
	Principal must have been principal for majority of school year and school must have improved at least one percent of points earned in school grade system.
	DOE must determine by October 1, which teachers and principals have qualified for the awards based on data from prior year, and provide this information to each school district including those employed by charter schools.
	By December 1, each district must report to DOE the

DeSantis Conforming Bills – Education Related	
	teachers and principals from eligible list that meet the employment and eligibility criteria including eligible individuals employed by charter schools.
	By February 1, DOE must disburse the funds, including funds for charter schools and districts must distribute awards by March 1.
	District still obligated to meet compensation requirements in s. 1012.22 and 1012.2315, F.S.
Best & Brightest Talent Pipeline Trust Fund	Creates s. 1009.571, F.S. – Establishes trust fund.
Computer Science Credit Substitution	Authorizes that a student to substitute a credit earned in a computer science course for one science credit except for Biology I.
FEFP	<p>Amends s. 1011.62, F.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeals Funding Compression Allocation • Creates Best and Brightest Teachers and Principals Allocation. Initial amount received by school districts based upon the district’s proportionate state’s K-12 base funding. The allocation shall be recalculated during the 3rd calculation after final submission of qualified individuals. Recalculation shall be based on the number of eligible teachers and principals at the maximum award amounts. Provides for proration if state appropriation is not sufficient. • Additional Allocation – Established to provide districts funding for students participating in the Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program that are exempt from the prior year public school attendance requirement.
Schools of Hope	<p>Schools of Hope – Expansion. Persistently low-performing schools expanded to include a school that has earned three grades lower than a “C” in at least three of the last five years.</p> <p>Schools of Hope expanded to include public schools in a Florida Opportunity Zone. “Florida Opportunity Zone” means a population census tract that has been designated by the Department of Treasury as a Qualified Opportunity Zone.</p>

DeSantis Conforming Bills – Education Related	
	<p>Schools of Hope are eligible to receive charter school capital outlay beginning in their first year of operation notwithstanding other provisions of law.</p> <p>In addition to teachers, etc. funds may be used for executive directors and regional directors until the school reaches full enrollment.</p> <p>Funds may also be used for the initial leasing and related costs of a school facility in the event that a suitable district-owned facility is unavailable or not leased in a timely manner.</p>
Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program	<p>Creates s. 1009.94 – Establishes Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program to enable high schools and colleges to offer applied learning opportunities for students in high-demand career pathways. Selected institutions will provide students with opportunities to earn industry certifications 60 hours of college credit, or an associate degree by the time they graduate from high school.</p>
	<p>Establishes a competitive grant fund for individual grants statewide to serve students in grades 9-14 who enter a career pathway. Each grant application must include one secondary partner and one or more postsecondary and industry partners. School districts, charter school, and colleges may apply but must agree to provide timely information as prescribed. Commissioner must establish the application process and proposals are funded competitively.</p>
	<p>The bill specifies the grant criteria and requires that students be given the opportunity to earn industry certifications, applied learning experiences, mentorship, etc. Priority will be given to proposals that increase opportunities for underrepresented students such as minority, low-income, rural students or girls in computer science.</p>
	<p>Commissioner must provide an annual report on the program by December 1 to the Governor and Legislature.</p>
	<p>SBE must adopt rules.</p>
School Choice	<p>Creates s. 1002.399, F.S. – Establishes the Florida Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program. Purpose is to</p>

DeSantis Conforming Bills – Education Related	
	provide option for a parent to meet the unique educational needs of his or her child.
	Eligibility - Student who is resident of Florida is eligible to apply if the student is on direct certification list or household income level does not exceed 265% of federal poverty level; and student spent prior year in public school or FSDB or the student will be entering kindergarten.
	Program Capacity - Participants capped at one half of one percent of statewide public school enrollment in the prior school year. Each year thereafter, the maximum number of students shall increase by an amount equivalent one percent of statewide public school enrollment in the prior school year.
	Parent/Student Responsibilities - Home school students are eligible. The student must take an assessment or be provided an annual evaluation. Student may remain eligible to apply for renewal regardless of changes to household income. District school board not obligated to provide a free appropriation public education pursuant to IDEA.
	Scholarship Amount and Payment – Participants receive 97% of the district UFTE that is recalculated following the October and February counts. Students must be reported in the appropriate program and funded through the FEFP. Funds are transferred to the scholarship funding organizations as specified and such organizations may not report program participants after February 1.
	Specifies responsibilities of the scholarship funding organization.
	Authorized Use of Funds – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Instructional materials, etc. • Curriculum • Fees for specified assessments. • Fees for annual evaluation by certified teacher for home education students.
	Term of Program is until student graduates from high school or attains 21 years of age.
	Private School Eligibility and Obligations – Among other requirements, eligible schools must annually administer or make provision for student in grades 3 – 10 to take one of the nationally norm-reference tests identified by DOE or statewide assessments. The participating school must report the scores to the parent

DeSantis Conforming Bills – Education Related	
	<p>and also report scores to a specified university by August 15 annually.</p> <p>The private school may also choose to administer statewide assessments to all students who attend the private school.</p>
	<p>School District Obligations – The district must report all students receiving the scholarship separately for purposes of the FEFP. Upon request of DOE, district must coordinate with DOE to provide to a private school the statewide assessments. A school district is responsible for implementing test administrations.</p>
	<p>Specifies obligations of scholarship funding organizations.</p>
	<p>Specifies DOE’s obligations.</p>
	<p>Specifies Commissioner’s authority and obligations.</p>
Back to School Sales Tax Holiday	<p>Establishes a 3-day Sales Tax Holiday from August 2 – August 4. For specified items \$15 or less and on the first \$1000 of sales price of computers and accessories.</p>
Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday	<p>Establishes 7-day Sales Tax Holiday from May 31 – June 6 for specified disaster preparedness supplies and equipment.</p>
Florida Retirement System	<p>Establishes Employer Rates for 2019-2020 – Same as established in SB 7016.</p>

Joy Frank
FADSS