



2019 Legislative Platform Progress Report

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.

Progress: SB 2500, SB 7030, SB 7070, HB 441, SB 248

- Funding for the Safe Schools Allocation increased by more than \$18 million – total \$180 million.
- The definition of “safe school officer” is expanded to provide greater flexibility to school districts.
- School boards and superintendents have final decision making control over employment of any type of safe school officer.
- School Safety Officers are added to statutes prohibiting false impersonation.
- Communications among and between law enforcement agencies and the public are improved.
- Public records exemptions are established for personnel supporting law enforcement.
- In addition to existing funds, \$50 million is added for ongoing school hardening initiatives.
- School districts are provided greater flexibility in the use of local funds for school construction and in the definition of the cost per student station.

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.

Progress: SB 2500, SB 7030, SB 7070, SB 1418, SB 318

- Funding for the Mental Health Assistance Allocation is increased by \$6 million – total \$75 million.
- \$5.5 million provided for Mental Health Training for school personnel.
- The authorized uses of the mental health assistance funding is revised to provide greater flexibility to school districts, including authority to hire additional school counselors.
- The reporting of previous mental health referrals is clarified.
- Models for suicide prevention and intervention training and related wrap-around services are enhanced.
- Public records exemptions are established for personnel engaged in monitoring and reporting abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

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.

Progress: SB 2500, SB 7070

- The Required Local Effort millage rate is increased to reflect increases in property value only.
- The Base Student Allocation (BSA) is increased by \$75 (1.8%).
- \$14 million is provided to districts to assist with Hurricane Michael recovery.
- \$45.5 million is provided for Turnaround Supplemental Services.
- \$7.4 million is provided for programs such as family engagement and job training.

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.

Progress: HB 137/SB 402, SB 2500, SB 7070, HB 7071

- HB 137 & SB 402 were filed to authorize re-employment of retired personnel but did not pass.
- \$10 million is provided for computer science certification and teacher bonuses.
- Mastery of General Knowledge requirements are revised to apply only to specified personnel, to extend the timeframe to demonstrate mastery, to extend temporary certification, and to set limits on costs.
- Certification of adjunct educators is revised to allow certificates for full-time and part-time instruction.

PRIORITIZING WORKFORCE EDUCATION

Provide student-centered Workforce Education opportunities by:

- ❖ 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.

Progress: SB 2500, HB 7071, [Executive Order 19-31](#)

- Funding for performance incentives and workforce development education is increased by \$6 million.
- A \$10 million grant program is created to establish or expand apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Opportunities to commemorate Academic Scholarship Signing and College and Career Decision Day are created or expanded.
- A required course in career and education planning for students in middle grades is re-established.
- The substitution of certain industry related courses for certain math and science courses is authorized.
- A Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway Option is created to allow students earn a standard diploma with successful completion of 18 credits.