



**Florida School Boards Association**  
*THE VOICE OF EDUCATION IN FLORIDA*



## 2022 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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### 1 Mental health issues negatively impact student achievement.

Early detection of mental health concerns leads to improved academic achievement, reduced disruptions in school, and fewer absences.

#### **FSBA supports legislative efforts to:**

- Provide increased funding to the mental health allocation to address the shortage of mental health staff and services provided in school districts so that students can reach their full academic and social potential.

### 2 Florida's accountability system should be driven by student performance and be fair and compassionate to students, teachers, schools, and school districts.

Every teacher wants to raise the student achievement level of each of their students. It is critical that the accountability system captures the uniqueness of each student's academic journey in a teacher's classroom and their academic path and success to high school graduation.

#### **FSBA supports legislative efforts to:**

- Implement an accountability system based on the new B.E.S.T. standards with the involvement of school board members and other education stakeholder's that:
  - results in a significant increase in learning time due to the reduction of assessment time in the classroom;
  - provides multiple student-learning snapshots throughout the year rather than one statewide standard assessment at the end of the year;
  - provides relevant diagnostic information in a timely manner to drive individualized student instruction; and
  - ensures learning gains are the primary focus for teacher, school, and district accountability.

### 3 Significant additional state financial support by the Legislature to our school districts is an investment in our students and Florida's future.

Florida should continue to build upon the investments made to instruction and infrastructure to provide a high-quality education and learning environment for students to grow and learn.

#### **FSBA supports legislative efforts to:**

- Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least 3% to ensure districts can meet individual students and families where they are to provide high-quality education, respond to the disruption of repeated illness and/or need to quarantine, and expand instructional offerings.
- Provide school districts with maximum flexibility and additional flexible operating funds to ensure Florida's students are on the road to academic recovery and success due to the education interruptions and challenges caused by COVID-19.



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### 2022 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM (CONTINUED)

- Revise the calculation for Required Local Effort millage rate by ensuring that growth pays for itself by capturing:
  - the increases in residential and commercial property values;
  - revenue gained from new construction; and
  - revenue gained by the increase in value due to the sale of real estate.
- Expand the year-round funding model currently used by Florida Virtual School by applying it to school districts' virtual offerings to support the evolution of virtual learning and instruction, ensuring students achieve academic excellence.

- 4** A highly skilled diverse workforce helps ensure Florida has a diverse economic future.  
Regionally responsive career and technical education programs can provide workers needed to attract high skill-high wage businesses and industries to Florida.

#### **FSBA supports legislative efforts to:**

- Create and fund a statewide grant program for school districts to apply for start-up funds to develop programs for high-wage, in-demand jobs in targeted industries that reflect the needs of the region within the state of Florida.
- Provide operational funding in the FEFP to support the expansion of secondary career and technical programs for high-wage, in-demand jobs in targeted industries that reflect the needs of the region within the state of Florida.

- 5** Florida's students deserve the most qualified and talented staff in their schools.  
Attracting and retaining high-quality staff is paramount for student success.

#### **FSBA supports legislative efforts to:**

- Fully fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) and increase the categorical, expanding eligibility to all certified instructional personnel in order to attract and retain highly effective teachers and address a growing teacher shortage.
- Support a Grow-your-Own Teacher program by allowing school district full-time employees with a minimum of 3 years of successful evaluations, and 45 credit hours of post-secondary education to receive a waiver of associated tuition and fees in exchange for a commitment to teach in the district for 3 years after completion of a bachelor's degree that would result in teacher certification.