



# Florida School Boards Association

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**FSBA, in partnership with parents, families, students and staff, supports the following legislative recommendations for increased student success.**

### **Mental Health & Safety**

Parents, families, students and staff deserve safe schools, and they understand the impacts of mental health on student achievement.

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

- Increase the mental health allocation to permit additional evidence driven mental health services to be provided to students including those affected by Hurricane Ian.
- Increase the Safe Schools Allocation to include additional funding for school safety initiatives (including after school activities) and school safety officers.

### **Workforce**

Parents, families, students, and staff want increased workforce career paths.

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

- Provide funding and necessary implementing language for market value wages for high-skilled/high-wage Career Technical Education (CTE) adjunct teachers.
- 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 which include pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.
- Provide operational funding in the FEFP to support the expansion of secondary career and technical programs.

### **Personnel Recruitment & Retention**

Florida's parents and families deserve to have the most qualified and talented staff in their schools to teach their children.

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

- Change the term of temporary certification for candidates with a college degree from 3 years to 5 years providing teachers additional time to complete certification requirements.
- Extend Senate Bill 896 (2022) which allowed military and veterans to apply for a 5-year temporary teaching certification with 60 credit hours to paraprofessionals and those pursuing education majors/minors with 60 hours of college credit and experience during the statewide critical teacher shortage.
- Fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) and increase the categorical eligibility to all certified instructional personnel, including experienced teachers.
- Support the elimination of any barriers for the re-employment of high-quality personnel (teachers, bus drivers, support staff) after retirement under the Florida Retirement System (FRS).
- Revise the definition of instructional personnel to include certified PreK teachers.



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### Funding

Florida parents and families want their children to have a world-class education which requires additional financial investments by the state.

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

- Hold school districts impacted by Hurricane Ian financially harmless from loss of students and provide funding to districts who support temporarily relocated students.
- Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least 5% to help offset increased operational costs.
- Provide increased transparency, accountability, and predictability of the impacts of Florida Empowerment students in the FEFP, by school district. Make certain the integrity of categorical funds is maintained. Ensure the increases expected for the FES program are included in the 2023-24 FY budget and clearly link the FTE associated with the projection.
- Expand funding to provide increased access to summer and after school learning opportunities.
- Provide funding for full-time Prekindergarten to give every family access to a free, public, high quality, full-time program as the current 3-hour program can be a barrier for families and children who need a full-day program.
- Increase the Student Transportation categorical funding within the FEFP to more closely reflect the actual cost of school district transportation costs.
- Fund cybersecurity threat mitigation services, including Security Education, Training, and Awareness (SETA) programs to assist school districts in funding critically needed cybersecurity tools and training to reduce vulnerability to cyber-attacks.
- Revise the cost per student station caps by adjusting the cost per student to keep pace with the increasing cost of construction and by allowing local flexibility for the use of local funding to address local needs.