



## 2023 SESSION SUMMARY COMPILATION



# FSBA

**Session Statistics & Policy Summaries**

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*Thank you to the Florida Education Legislative Liaisons and FSBA Advocacy team for materials used in this summary.*

This document was published on June 2, 2023. Updates based on actions of Governor DeSantis will be made electronically on the FSBA website. Check back often or contact [info@fsba.org](mailto:info@fsba.org) with questions.







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*The electronic version of this document contains links to bill texts (House or Senate website) as well as final staff analyses (as provided).*

# SESSION STATS 2023

**GOVERNOR**  
**RON DESANTIS (R)**

**1873**

Total bills filed

## Senate

Kathleen Passidomo, President (R)  
28 Republicans  
12 Democrats

**356**

Bills passed both  
chambers

## House

Paul Renner, Speaker (R)  
84 Republicans  
35 Democrats

**\$117 B**

Total Budget\*

\*Prior to line item veto



# Florida School Boards Association 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD



**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.  
**RESULTS:** ✓  
**GAA Senate Bill 2500 – Line 80 increases the Mental Health Allocation by \$20 million for a total of \$160 million.**
- Increase the Safe Schools Allocation to include additional funding for school safety initiatives (including after school activities) and school safety officers.  
**RESULTS:** ✓  
**GAA Senate Bill 2500 – Line 80 increases the Safe School Allocation by \$40 million for a total of \$250 million.**

## 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.  
**RESULTS:** ✓  
**HB 5101 permits school boards under an educational emergency to adopt salary incentives or other strategies that address the selection, placement, compensation, and expectations of instructional personnel – applies to “D” and “F” schools under an educational emergency.**
- 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.  
**RESULTS:** ✓  
**Senate Bill 240 Provides \$100 million for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program for the creation or expansion of career and technical education programs that lead to industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. The DOE shall administer the program and the State Board of Education may adopt rules for program administration.**
- Provide operational funding in the FEFP to support the expansion of secondary career and technical programs.  
**RESULTS:** ✓  
**HB 5101 requires the cost factor for secondary career education programs to be higher than the cost factor for basic programs grade 9-12. SB 240 authorizes secondary CTE programs to be funded according to the cost of the programs.**



# Florida School Boards Association 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD



## 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.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**HB 1537** The bill extends temporary teaching certificates from 3 years to 5 years and limits the certificate to a one-time, non-renewable issuance. The bill expands eligibility for temporary certification to candidates who are currently enrolled in state-approved teacher preparation programs and meet certain requirements. Signed into law 5/9/23.

- 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.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**HB 1035** Creates a new teacher apprenticeship program to create an alternative pathway to teacher certification. A person with an associates degree, a 3.0 GPA, and a temporary apprenticeship certificate (newly created temporary certification) may participate. They would spend two years in the classroom of a mentor teacher using team teaching strategies (with classroom enrollment allowed for up to 1.5 times over the number allowed under the Class-Size Amendment) while the apprentice works as an education paraprofessional.

**HB 5101** creates the Heroes in the Classroom Bonus program which provides a one-time sign-on bonus for retired first responders and veterans who commit to joining the teaching profession as a full-time classroom teacher.

- Fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) and increase the categorical eligibility to all certified instructional personnel, including experienced teachers.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**GAA Senate Bill 2500, Line Item 80** the Teacher Salary Increase by \$252 million for a total of \$1 billion, proviso language stipulates the funds shall be used to increase the minimum base salary for full-time classroom teachers and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the FEFP or provide salary increases to other full-time instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2).





# Florida School Boards Association 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD



## Personnel Recruitment & Retention (continued)

- 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).

**RESULTS:** —

**The re-employment issue did not move forward this session.**

**However SB 7024 makes the following modification to the DROP program:**

- Eliminates the restrictive entry window for eligible members to participate in DROP, allowing for entry into DROP at any age as long as years of service or age and vesting requirements are met;
  - Extends the maximum amount of time for eligible members to participate in DROP from 60 to 96 calendar months for all classes, and from 96 to 120 calendar months for certain instructional personnel; and
  - Increases the interest rate applied to a member's accrued monthly benefit from 1.3 percent to 4 percent.
  - HB 1121 authorizes a person who is retired from FRS to provide volunteer services during the first 12 months following retirement under specified criteria.
- Revise the definition of instructional personnel to include certified PreK teachers.

**RESULTS:** X

**This issue did not move forward this session.**

## 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.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**GAA SB 2500 Line-Item number 2676A Hurricane Recovery Grant Program - \$350,000,000. Section 1. That funding requested by a local government, independent special district, and school board, including a charter school, is necessary to maintain services or infrastructure essential to support health, safety, and welfare functions and to reimburse the local government, independent school district, school board, or charter school for unanticipated expenses related to responding to Hurricane Ian or Nicole for the loss of revenue related to the impact of Hurricane Ian or Nicole.**

- Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least 5% to help offset increased operational costs.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**GAA SB 2502 (also line Item 80 in the GAA) increases the Base Student Allocation by \$552.33 a 12.04% increase. The Total Funds per Student served by a district amounted to \$404.67 (a 4.91% increase).**



# Florida School Boards Association 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD



## Funding

- 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.

**RESULTS:** ✓

### **SB 2500 Back of the Bill:**

**SECTION 54** *The nonrecurring sum of \$350,000,000 from the General Revenue fund is appropriated to the Department of Education for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program pursuant to section 1011.62(18), Florida Statutes. These funds are placed in reserve and the Department of Education is authorized to submit budget amendments requesting release of the funds held in reserve pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. Release of the funds is contingent upon the Department of Education providing the calculated amount per eligible school district pursuant to section 1011.62(18)(b), Florida Statutes. These funds are contingent upon HB 5101, or similar legislation, becoming a law.*

- Expand funding to provide increased access to summer and after school learning opportunities.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**HB 7039 provides evidence-based reading intervention instruction, based in the science of reading, as well as math intervention instruction after-school.**

- 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.

**RESULTS:** —

**The Legislature did not fund full time VPK however they increased the VPK Base Student Allocation by \$20 million.**

- Increase the Student Transportation categorical funding within the FEFP to more closely reflect the actual cost of school district transportation costs.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**GAA SB 2500, Line Item 80 increases the Student Transportation Allocation by \$20,822,000 for a total of \$535,831,174.**

- 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.

**RESULTS:** ★

### **GOVERNOR DESANTIS \$128m GRANTS VIA DMS FOR LOCAL GOVTS**

- 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.

**RESULTS:** ✓

**HB 1 exempts cost per student station requirements for an unfinished construction project for new construction of educational plant spaces that were started before July 1, 2026. Signed into law.**

- For FTC and FES-EO Scholarships:
  - Expands through an education savings account the authorized uses of FTC and FES-EO scholarship funds, which must first be used for tuition and fees at a private school, if the student is enrolled in a private school.
  - Adds a second priority group for students whose household income is between 185 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty level.
  - Expands the eligibility for public school transportation scholarships to all students eligible for a scholarship.
  - Requires FES-EO scholarships be awarded once all FTC scholarships have been funded.
- For FTC Scholarships:
  - Establishes the personalized education program (PEP) as a parent-directed educational choice option under the FTC scholarship that satisfies mandatory school attendance and provides access to the same programs and services as the home education program.
  - Provides a schedule for funding the FTC scholarships to eligible students that are enrolled in a PEP, which limits enrollment to 20,000 in the 2023-2024 school year. By the 2027-2028 school year, every PEP student will have access to a scholarship.
  - Provides students in a PEP, and their parents, the option to work with choice navigators, who assist parents with the selection, application, and enrollment in educational options that address the academic needs of their student.
  - Updates the parent and student participation responsibilities for the scholarship by requiring the parent to meet with the private school's principal or the principal's designee to review the school's academic programs and policies.
- For the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA):
  - Increases scholarship annual growth from 1 to 3 percent of the state's total exceptional student education student membership, to increase the number of eligible students with disabilities served by the FES-UA.
  - Expands the authorized uses of the FES-UA, and requires that private schools accepting an FES-UA discuss with the parent the school's academic programs and policies, and specialized services which may meet the student's individual needs.
  - Establishes a cap of \$50,000 as the maximum amount an SFO is permitted to maintain in an individual student's empowerment account for an FES-UA.
- For the Department of Education (DOE):
  - Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to collect and publish specified assessment results for students in a PEP.
  - Requires the DOE to report all scholarship students for funding, removing this obligation from school districts.
  - Requires the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) to develop an online portal to help parents choose the best educational option for their student.

- For a Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO):
  - Establishes a cap of \$24,000 for an individual student's empowerment account for an FES-EO or FTC scholarship.
  - Requires SFOs to participate in a joint development of agreed-upon purchasing guidelines for all scholarship programs.
- For Private Schools:
  - Requires a private school to publish that a student with disabilities does not have an individual right to receive some or all of the special education services that the child would receive if enrolled in a public school.
  - Authorizes the commissioner to deny an owner, officer, or director from operating a private school, and to include such an individual on the disqualification list, if such an individual operated a school that closed during the school year.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to, by November 1, 2023, recommend reductions to the Florida Early Learning-20 education code, and provides immediate reductions to regulations by:

- Providing flexibility for school districts by exempting from the required cost per student station any construction started prior to July 1, 2026.
- Removing the requirement for at least one course within the 24 credits required for a standard diploma to be completed through online learning.
- Adding flexibility for student transportation by allowing vehicles other than school buses to regularly transport students.
- Expressly authorizing any public school, including charter schools, to permit a student to enroll part-time, and provides for proportional funding based on time of attendance.
- Authorizing the commissioner to deny an owner, officer or director to participate in the state school scholarship program if the individual has operated a school that closed during the school year.
- Extending the timeline to transfer a student record from three to five school days.
- Authorizing the district capital outlay millage to be used for payment of salaries and benefits for employees whose job duties support related activities.
- The bill removes barriers to teacher certifications by adding options to the acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation and education competence. The bill also increases the validity period of a nonrenewable temporary teaching certificate from 3 to 5 years
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023 unless otherwise specified.

## **HB 19      Individual Education Plans**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- At least one year before a student with an IEP, who will continue to receive services after reaching 18 years old, the district will provide to both the student and his/her parents information about how the child reaching legal adulthood will impact the parents' abilities to see protected student records including participating in future IEP meetings.
- The student and the parents are also to be informed about ways that student records could continue to be shared after the age of majority.
- The State Board of Education will adopt rules regarding this change.

- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HJR 31      Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Will be placed on the November 2024 General Election Ballot and will require 60% voting electors to support for passage.
- If it passes, November 2026 first General Election permitted to require school board elections to be partisan elections. Primary elections for 2026 General Election to be partisan for nominating candidates for political parties.
- Effective July 1, 2023.

## **SB 190      Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Provides a mechanism for a charter school student and a Florida virtual school (FLVS) student to participate in extracurricular activities at a private school.
- Authorizes a charter school student to develop an agreement with a private school to participate in the private school's extracurricular activities if the activity is not offered at the charter school and the student meets the participation requirements provided in law.
- Authorizes a FLVS student who meets academic, conduct, and other specified requirements to participate in extracurricular activities of a private school if the student develops an agreement to participate with the private school.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **SB 196      Guidance Services on Academic and Career Planning**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Expands the required annual parental notification on high school acceleration options to include information on career education and planning options; work-based learning opportunities; and foundational and soft-skill credentialing programs.
- Requires a middle school student's personalized academic and career plan to include information on the career and technical education graduation pathway option and work-based learning opportunities.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.



## HB 225 Interscholastic Activities

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- This bill contains the same provisions found in SB 190 regarding charter and FLVS students playing sports at a private school.
- Increases the non-FHSAA member private school enrollment threshold from 125 to 200 students or fewer to be eligible to participate.
- Authorizes a student who transfers from a public school to continue to participate in activities at the former school for the rest of the school year.
- Requires the FHSAA to allow a school that joins the association by sport to participate in the FHSAA championship contest or series for that sport.
- Requires the State Board of Education to ratify FHSAA bylaws, the hiring of an executive director, and FHSAA budget.
- Revises the composition of the membership of the FHSAA board of directors from 16 to 13 members.
  - 8 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
  - 4 members from public and private schools elected from the public and private school representatives.
  - 1 appointed by the Commissioner of Education
- Removes the requirement that the appointing authority of members of the FHSAA board of directors makes recommendations to reflect state demographic and population trends.
- Establishes policy making authority with the FHSAA board and requires a majority vote of the board for the approval of recommendations of the representative assembly.
- Requires certain athletic associations to adopt policies or procedures allowing opening remarks at championship events with specified conditions for those remarks.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## SB 240 Education

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Provides \$100 million for district school boards and colleges to fund the creation or expansion of CTE programs that serve secondary students.
- Authorizes secondary CTE programs to be funded according to the cost of the programs.

- Removes limitations on bonus funding for middle school students in CTE programs.
- Provides additional bonus funding within the Florida Education Finance Program for select achievements in CTE.
- Adds continuity through controlled open enrollment for middle school students to continue their CTE programs in high school.
- Enhances career and academic plans through an online career planning system and requires parents to be provided information about CTE opportunities and benefits.
- Expands options for students to earn credit through extracurricular participation in career and technical student organizations.
- Expands the CTE credit options to meet high school graduation requirements.
- Establishing regional education and industry consortia to meet and report to local workforce development boards the most effective ways to grow, retain, and attract talent.
- Requiring each district school board to provide all students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 with at least one work-based learning opportunity and requiring each school district to host an annual career fair.
- Requiring the Florida Talent Development Council to identify barriers and best practices in the facilitation of work-based learning opportunities.
- Provides discretion to district school boards to certify instructors to teach CTE programs.
- Requires school boards to award teachers inservice credit toward renewal of a professional certificate for supporting students in extracurricular CTE activities.
- The bill restores to district school boards and state colleges the responsibility for approving workforce education programs that have a statewide curriculum framework developed by the Department of Education.
- Authorizes the Credentials Review Committee to consider both information provided by the Labor Market Statistics Center within the Department of Economic Opportunity related to short-term demand and long-term data of the Labor Market Estimating Conference as factors in the development of the criteria for identifying credentials of value.
- Authorizes the Committee to consider additional evidence to identify credentials of value or agricultural occupations.
- Removes the requirement for the Committee to develop a returned-value performance funding formula for colleges and career centers.
- Provides flexibility to CTE programs to choose the courses in which students may earn industry certifications identified in the Funding List.
- Requires the SBE to submit to the Legislature three tiers for postsecondary certifications on the Funding List according to anticipated wages.

- Removes the requirement for career centers and state colleges that all programs offered to meet local workforce demand include a money-back guarantee for employment.
- Converts the Open Door Grant Program to a financial aid program for students of a state college or career center to incent current and future workers to enroll in CTE that leads to a credential, certificate, or degree.
- Provides flexibility for the state administration of the Pathways to Career Opportunities
- Grant Program and removes the limitation that the grant award may only be used for establishing or expanding apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.
- The bill provides additional directives to the Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation to support employment and training for persons with disabilities, and extends the repeal date of the endowment.
- The bill requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a study of CTE statewide articulation agreements and report to the Legislature by November 1, 2023.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **SB 256      Employee Organizations**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Requires employees who wish to join certain employee organizations to sign a membership authorization form that is prescribed by the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) which must contain:
  - Name of bargaining unit;
  - Name of employee;
  - Class code and class title of employee;
  - Name of public employer;
  - Amount of initiation fees and monthly dues owed;
  - Names, salaries, other disbursements including reimbursements for the 5 highest paid union employees; and
  - In 14 type, a specific disclosure that Florida is a right to work state and that employees cannot be discriminated against for deciding not to join.
- Requires specific employee organizations to allow a member to revoke his or her membership in the organization at any time, and without any reason.
- Allows the PERC to inspect specific employee organization's membership authorization forms and membership revocation forms.
- Prohibits certain employee organizations from receiving their members' dues and assessments via salary deduction from the members' public employer.

- Expands the information required in an employee organization's annual registration renewal with the PERC. This newly required information includes information that relates to the number and percentage of dues-pay members in each bargaining unit. In addition, the employee organization's current annual financial report must be audited by an independent certified public accountant.
- Authorizes the public employer or an employee who is eligible for representation in the bargaining unit to challenge the application for registration renewal. The PERC must investigate to confirm the information submitted.
- Requires the employee organization to be recertified as the bargaining agent if the number of employees paying dues to the employee organization during the last registration period is less than 60 percent of the number of employees eligible for representation in the bargaining unit.
- Requires the certified bargaining agent to provide certain information to its members, including the annual costs of membership.
- All of the provisions above are NOT to apply to unions representing police, correctional officers, correctional probationary officers or firefighters.
- Expands the prohibited activities by certain employee organizations and its representatives:
  - Cannot offer anything of value to a public officer that the officer is required to decline; or
  - Cannot offer an payment or compensation that the public officer is required to decline because of Florida ethics laws.
- Allows a public employer to petition the PERC to waive in certain instances the prohibition on dues deductions by public employers, the requirement for an employee organization to petition for recertification, and the revocation of certification of an employee organization as a certified bargaining agent.
- Signed by the Governor. Most provisions were effective immediately upon becoming law.

## **SB 258      Prohibited Applications on Government-Issued Devices**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Defines public employer to include, among others, a district school board.
- Public employer must block access to prohibited applications on any wireless network that it owns, operates, or maintains.
- The public employer must restrict access to prohibited applications on any government-issued device and retain the ability to remotely wipe and uninstall prohibited applications from a compromised government-issued device.
- Requires public employers to remove prohibited applications from government-issued devices within 15 days of publication of list of prohibited applications by DMS.
- Requires DMS to compile and maintain a list of prohibited applications, establish procedures for granting or denying requests for waivers.
- Grants DMS rulemaking authority to administer the provisions of the bill.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 265 High School Equivalency Diplomas**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Prohibits school districts from requiring a student, who is at least 16 years old, to take any course before taking the General Education Development (GED) exam for a high school equivalency diploma, unless the student fails to achieve a passing score on the GED practice test as established by the State Board of Education.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **SB 290 Public School Progression for Students with Disabilities**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Provides the parent of a student with disabilities who is enrolled in PreK at the age of 4 and funded through the FEFP to retain the child in consultation with the IEP team.
- Changes that the student is eligible for intensive reading intervention instruction in early literacy skills.
- Provides that the student with an IEP who has been retained based on criteria listed in the bill and has demonstrated substantial deficiency in early literacy skills must receive instruction in early literacy skills.
- Provides students with an IEP or 504 plan and are retained in PreK, K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> grades qualify for good cause exemption from mandatory retention.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 301 Emergency Response Mapping Data**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Creates within DOE the School Mapping Data Grant Program to provide standard emergency response mapping data for public school buildings in this state to assist first responders in responding to emergencies in public schools.
- Each school district, in consultation with local law enforcement and public safety agencies, may apply to receive funds from the grant program to provide school mapping for the school district, including charter schools.
- Requires the entity producing the emergency response mapping data to provide the data to the district school board and specifies the minimum requirements for the emergency mapping data.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.



## **HB 379 Technology in K-12 Public Schools**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Requires the district school board to provide and adopt an internet safety policy for student access to the internet provided by the school district which:
  - Limits access by students to only age-appropriate subject matter and materials.
  - Protects the safety and security of students when using email.
  - Prohibits access to information and other unlawful online activities by students.
  - Prevents access to websites, applications, or software that does not protect the disclosure, use, or dissemination of students' personal information.
- Requires district school boards to prohibit and prevent students from accessing social media platforms through the use of internet access provided by the school district, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes.
- Requires the district school board to prohibit the use of TikTok on district-owned devices, through internet access provided by the district, or as a platform to communicate or promote any district school or activity.
- Requires teachers to designate an area of the classroom for wireless communication devices during instructional time.
- Requires public schools to provide instruction for students in grades 6 through 12 on the social, emotional, and physical effects of social media.
- Requires DOE to make social media safety instructional material available online and district school boards to notify parents of its availability.
- Requires district's code of student conduct to prohibit the use of specified devices during instructional time.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 389 Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Authorizes school districts to make menstrual hygiene products available, at no charge, in schools within the district and at certain locations within the schools. The menstrual hygiene products may be located in the school nurse's office, other physical school facilities for health services, and in school restrooms, including wheelchair accessible restrooms.
- Requires each participating school to ensure that students are provided appropriate notice as to the availability and location of the menstrual hygiene products.

- Encourages participating school districts to partner with nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and other organizations to assist in supplying and maintaining the products.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 411      Residency of Local Elected Officials**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Changes that any changes deemed necessary to the residence area of any district school board member are not to be made in the 270 days before a general election and that no changes that would affect the residence qualifications of the incumbent disqualifies them during their elected term.
- Election of school board members must be by vote of qualified electors of the district in a nonpartisan election.
- Elected candidates for district school board must be a resident of the district in which they were elected by the date they assume office. In addition each candidate who qualifies to have their name on the ballot must be listed according to the residence area in which they are a candidate.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 443      Education**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Authorizes a charter school to give enrollment preference to students who are the children of a safe-school school officer assigned to the school.
- Authorizes a not-for-profit entity to loan certain assets to other charter schools in the state that are operated by the same entity, provided the loan is repaid within five years.
- A sponsor shall provide training to charter schools on systems the sponsor will require the charter school to use.
- Requires the sponsor to annually provide a report on the services provided to charter schools from the sponsor's portion of the administrative fee.
- Requires the sponsor to make timely payments and reimbursement, defined as 60 days of eligible federal grant funds.
- Requires a charter school to place a student on a progress monitoring plan for at least one semester before dismissing the student when the school limits enrollment based on academic, artistic or other standards.

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules for a standard charter school monitoring tool.
- For purposes of the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program, the term "classroom teacher" may also include an administrator or a substitute teacher who holds a valid teaching certificate who is filling a vacancy in an identified teaching position on or before September 1 of each year.
- Requires the district to post step-by-step instructions on how to provide first aid for choking in each public school cafeteria within the district.
- Authorizes private tutoring to be provided to up to 25 students in specified facilities under existing zoning and land use designations without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change.
- Requires the Department of Children and Families to report every 5 years, beginning December 1, 2024, on training requirements and coursework offered to childcare personnel.
- Requires the Department of Education to include, as part of the statewide early learning information system, a way for a parent to find early learning programs online.
- Clarifies that a childcare provider must not have 3 or more of the same Class 2 violations within 2 years to apply or maintain its status as a Gold Seal Quality Care Provider.
- Adds priority funding under the Community School Grant Program for expanding a program based on the feeder pattern of an existing community school.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 477      Term Limits for District School Board Members**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- School board members shall be elected at a general election in November for a term of 4 years not to exceed 8 consecutive years.
- Service prior to November 8, 2022 will not be counted toward this limitation.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **SB 478      Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Converts the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program into a permanent program administered by the Department of Education. The DOE must approve any school district that seeks to participate in the program.

- The program is contingent on legislative appropriation to provide school districts with a maximum of \$150 per full-time equivalent student in kindergarten through grade 2 who is enrolled in a comprehensive music education program. The fiscal year 2023-24 budget provides \$400,000 in recurring funds and \$10,000,000 in nonrecurring funds to the DOE to implement the program, and funds are contingent upon SB 478 becoming law.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 543      Public Safety**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Authorizing people to carry concealed weapons without a permit.
- Authorizes private schools to establish or assign safe school officers with the same statutory rights and obligations as those assigned to public schools.
- Amends the powers and duties of the Office of Safe Schools and changes the focus of threats from threat assessment to threat management.
- Directs the Office of Safe Schools to develop a statewide behavioral threat management operational process, a Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument, and a threat management portal. The operational process must be developed by December 1, 2023.
- Schools will be required to use this instrument once it has been developed and made available, and its use will be outlined in the operational process developed by December 1, 2023.
- By August 1, 2025, the Office of Safe Schools must have a statewide threat management portal operational, which all public schools will be required to use.
- Changes most references from threat assessment to threat management.
- Requires that threat management teams include at least one person who is familiar with the subject of the threat assessment. If no one on the team is familiar with the student, at least one instructional or administrative person who is familiar must consult with the team before the assessment is made, but that person will not participate in the decision-making process.
- Clarifies that that State Board of Education SESIR rules must include requirements for incidents that must be reported to law enforcement. SBE has emergency rulemaking authority to adopt SESIR reporting rules for the 2023-24 school year.
- Creates the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program.
- Directs all law enforcement to have an active assailant response policy in place by October 1, 2023, after first reviewing MSD Commission's model active assailant response policy.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 551 Required African American Instruction**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Requires each district school board to annually certify and provide to the Department of Education (DOE) evidence of specified instruction on the history of African Americans.
- Allows the DOE to seek input from any state or nationally recognized African American educational organization regarding development of standards and curriculum for African American history.
- Authorizes the DOE to contract with any such educational organization to develop training for instructional personnel and grade appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.
- Requires each district school board to submit an implementation plan for the required instruction to the Commissioner of Education for review and to post the plan to the school district's website.
- The plan must include methods of instruction, the qualifications of instructional personnel delivering the instruction, and a description of the instructional materials. The commissioner or DOE must notify a school district if the plan does not satisfy requirements, and allow a minimum of 45 days for revisions to the plan.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 633 K-12 Education**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Repeals the penalty provisions of class size reduction.
- Requires DOE to continue to monitor compliance with class size reduction requirements by district in reports received during the October FTE surveys and still requires districts to activate compliance plans with they fail to fully comply with class size reduction.
- Waives deadlines for controlled open enrollment of children of active-duty military personnel if their parents are transferred to the state.
- Requires students be enrolled in a special education program if it is the child of an active-duty military personnel, they meet the eligibility provisions for a special education program (except potentially application or enrollment deadlines) and their parent is transferred to Florida during the school year.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 657 Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Authorizes counties and municipalities to use speed detection systems, similar to red light cameras, to enforce school zone speed limits for violations in excess of 10 miles per hour over the applicable speed limit when children are going to and from school and during the entire school day.



- Requires signage warning motorists that speed detection systems are in use.
- Requires a public awareness campaign prior to commencing enforcement of school zone speed limits with speed detection systems.
- Requires the governing body of a county or municipality operating one or more school zone speed detection systems to hold public meetings regarding contracts and data reported to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV).
- Creates a School Crossing Guard Recruitment and Retention Program using proceeds from penalties resulting from enforcement of school zone speed limits through a speed detection system.
- Requires speed detection systems to be installed according to specifications established by the Department of Transportation.
- Provides requirements for issuing a notice of violation or, if necessary, a uniform traffic citation.
- Provides for a \$100 penalty for each violation and provides for the distribution of the proceeds to state and local governments as follows:
  - Twenty dollars is remitted to DOR for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.
  - Sixty dollars is retained by the county or municipality to be used to administer speed detection systems in school zones and other public safety initiatives.
  - Three dollars is remitted to DOR for deposit into the Department of Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Standards and Training Trust Fund.
  - Twelve dollars is remitted to the county school district in which the violation occurred and must be used for school security initiatives, for student transportation, or to improve the safety of student walking conditions. These funds must be shared with charter schools in the district based on each charter school's proportionate share of the district's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment and must be used for school security initiatives or to improve the safety of student walking conditions.
  - Five dollars is retained by the county or municipality for the School Crossing Guard Recruitment and Retention Program created in the bill.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **SB 662      Student Online Personal Information Protection**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Restricts the operator of a website, online service, or online application that is used for K-12 school purposes from collecting, disclosing, or selling student data, or from using student data to engage in targeted advertising.

- Prohibits operators from:
  - Engaging in targeted advertising based on any information, including persistent unique identifiers, acquired through the use of their educational technology.
  - Using any information, including persistent unique identifiers, gathered through their educational technology to create profiles of students, except for K-12 school purposes.
  - Sharing, selling, or renting student information to third parties.
  - Disclosing certain covered information, except under specified circumstances.
- Requires operators to:
  - Collect no more covered information than reasonably necessary to operate the educational technology.
  - Implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices to protect covered information.
  - Delete a student's covered information, upon notice by the school district, unless a parent or guardian expressly consents to the operator retaining a student's covered information.
- Allows operators to disclose covered information if:
  - Federal or state law requires disclosure.
  - It is for the purpose of assessments and college and career planning in accordance with general law.
- The Department of Legal Affairs is identified as the sole entity authorized to bring enforcement action against an entity that violates the bill.
- The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement this bill.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **SB 676      Level 2 Background Screenings**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Beginning January 1, 2025, or at a later date as determined by the Agency for Health Care Administration. The background screening must be conducted through the Care Provider Background Screening Clearing house.
- Requiring persons with an affiliation to certain qualified entities to undergo security background investigations.
- Authorizing the head of a qualified entity to grant a person with an affiliation an exemption from disqualification under certain circumstances.
- "Affiliation" means the status of a person employed or 98 serving as a volunteer or contractor, or seeking to be employed 99 or to serve as a volunteer or contractor, with a qualified 100 entity in a position for which screening is not required by law 101 but is authorized under the National Child Protection Act.

- "Qualified entity" means a business or organization, whether public, private, operated for profit, operated not for profit, or voluntary, which provides care or care placement services, including a business or organization that licenses or certifies others to provide care or care placement services.
- Authorizing certain qualified entities to participate in the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse beginning on a specified date; January 1, 2025 for the department of education.
- Expanding the agencies and entities which may use the Criminal Justice Information Program.
- Requiring the agency to make certain determinations regarding the eligibility of certain noninstructional contractors beginning on a specified date, January 1, 2025.
- Effective July 1, 2024.

## **HB 733 Middle School and High School Start Times**

[Bill Text](#)  
[Staff Analysis](#)

- Requires district school boards to adopt middle and high school start times beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. By July 1, 2026:
  - Middle schools may not begin the instructional day prior to 8:00 a.m.
  - High schools may not begin prior to 8:30 a.m.
- Requires each district school board to inform its community, including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, athletic coaches and other stakeholders about the health and safety impacts of sleep deprivation on middle and high school students and the benefits of the later school start times.
- Each district school board must discuss with such groups local strategies to successfully implement the later start times.
- Requires charter schools to comply with the specified start times, while providing an exemption for a charter school-in-the-workplace.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **SB 766 Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions**

[Bill Text](#)  
[Staff Analysis](#)

- Creates the school bus infraction detection system by placing a camera system affixed to a school bus with two or more camera sensors or computers that produce a recorded video of two or more video or digital still photo images to document a motor vehicle being used in a manner that allegedly violates s.316.172(1)(a) or (b).

- Creates a new section of statute which states that a school district may install and operate a school bus infraction detection system on a school bus for the purpose of enforcing this section of statute.
- The school district may contract with a private vendor to install a school bus infraction system on any bus within its fleet and for services including the installation, maintenance, and operation of the system. It also states that no individual can receive a commission from the revenue collected from violations detected through the use of the system. A private vendor also may not receive a fee or remuneration based on the number of violations detected.
- The school district must ensure that each school bus infraction detection system meets the requirements stated in statute.
- The school district must enter into an interlocal agreement with one or more law enforcement agencies to enforce violations and jointly establish the responsibilities of enforcement and reimbursement of costs associated with the detection systems.
- The school district must post highly visible reflective signage on the rear of each school bus with the detection system installed and operating which indicates the use of the system. The signage must include: “STOP WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH” or “DO NOT PASS WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH”. Also, must include “CAMERA ENFORCED” with a graphic depiction of the camera. The signage must occupy at least 75% of available space that doesn’t contain other signs by law.
- Any school district that hasn’t previously participated in an infraction detection system program and begins one must make a public announcement and conduct a public awareness campaign of the proposed system at least 30 days before beginning enforcement of the detection system and notify the public of the specific date the program will begin. During the 30 day public awareness campaign, only a warning may be issued to the owner of the motor vehicle. A civil penalty may not be imposed.
- Within 30 days of an alleged violation being recorded, the school district or the private vendor must submit the following to law enforcement with the interlocal agreement and traffic jurisdiction of the location of the potential violation: a copy of the video and images showing the violation; the motor vehicle license plate number and the state of issuance of the license plate; the date, time and location of the alleged violation.
- Recorded video or still images must be destroyed within 90 days of the final disposition of the event. The vendor must provide the school district with written notice by December 31 each year that such records have been destroyed.
- By October 1, 2023 and quarterly thereafter each school district operating a detection system must submit a report to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles which states the results of the detection system in the preceding quarter. The form will be provided and must include:
  - number of detection systems installed and when installed and/or removed;
  - number of violations issued, contested, upheld, dismissed, issued citations and paid;
  - data from each infraction to determine locations that need safety improvements. This data must be kept by the participating school district for at least 2 years.

- By December 31, 2024 and annually after DHSMV will submit a summary report to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House regarding the use of the detection systems as well as the department's recommendations.
- The detection system must meet specifications established by the State Board of Education and must be tested at regular intervals established in board rule. Rule specifications must be set on or before December 31, 2023 but school districts are not required to ensure equipment meets specifications until July 1, 2024.
- BOE may adopt rules to address student privacy concerns from the use of the detection system.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 795 Private Instructional Personnel**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Last year, the Legislature added Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) technicians to the list of private instructional personnel who can collaborate with school personnel and provide services to a student at school but only if the technician was employed by a Medicaid provider.
- Now, any behavior technician who has a recognized paraprofessional certification and works under the supervision of an ABA professional (BCBA, psychologist, or clinical social worker) is considered private instructional personnel under the statute.
- Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 891 Year-round School Pilot Program**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Also in HB 1537
- Establishes the Year-round School Pilot Program to enable the Department of Education (DOE) to assist school districts in establishing a year-round school program within at least one elementary school in the district to study issues, benefits, and scheduling options. The program begins in the 2024-2025 school year for a period of four years.
- Requires the DOE to create an application process for school districts that must include certain data elements. The Commissioner of Education must select five school districts to participate in the program representing a variety of demographics, which includes an urban, suburban, and rural school district.
- Requires the commissioner to, upon completion of the program, provide a report to the Legislature and the Governor which includes data on participation, benefits of the program, barriers to implementation, and recommendations to statewide adoption.

- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 1035 K-12 Teachers**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Directs the Commissioner of Education, by December 31, 2023, to review all classroom teacher training requirements, including all federal, state, or local requirements. Then, the Commissioner must assess those requirements and determine if there is any duplication.
- The Commissioner must then eliminate any classroom teacher training requirements not required by federal or state law and make recommendations to the Legislature, as appropriate, for the elimination of requirements of state law or local district policies.
- Adds authority to the DOE's Office of Inspector General to investigate allegations or reports of suspected violations of a student's, parent's, or teacher's rights.
- Establishes a teacher's authority in the classroom and expands on the role of the teacher in the discipline of students and requires additional interaction between the principal and teacher regarding discipline.
- States the principal should consult with the teacher if the principal determines that a penalty other than the one recommended by the teacher is appropriate.
- States the principal is required to notify the teacher of any disciplinary decision, or lack thereof if the principals determines that the student did not violate the student code of conduct, as well as any interventions put in place to address the behavior.
- If the principals deviate in any way from the teacher's recommendation, the principal must provide the reasons for any such deviation in writing to the teacher.
- Establishes the Teachers' Bill of Rights set forth a teacher's employment rights which includes:
  - a right to continuing education through professional development and a tuition and fee waiver for up to 6 credit hours at a state university or college.
  - a right to control their classrooms adding when a teacher faces litigation or professional practices sanctions for actions taken to maintain order in the classroom, there is a rebuttable presumption that a teacher was taking necessary action to restore or maintain the safety or educational atmosphere of his or her classroom.
- Creates a special magistrate process for teachers to bring complaints, if they believe they have been instructed by the school or district to violate the law or SBE rules. The cost of the special magistrate must be borne by the district no matter the merits of the complaint or outcome of the case. The special magistrate will render a recommended decision within 30

days, and the decision must then be approved or rejected by the SBE. If the SBE upholds a decision that the district is in violation of the law or SBE rule, the SBE may withhold the salary of the superintendent until the violation is corrected.

- Creates the Dual Enrollment Educator Scholarship Program, which will assist high school teachers to obtain graduate degrees and other necessary credentials to teach dual enrollment courses on their high school campus. Teachers awarded a scholarship under this program will have three (3) years to complete the program of study and then must teach at least one general education class per semester at a public school while remaining in the district (or another eligible district) for at least three (3) years after completing the degree.
- Creates a new teacher apprenticeship program to create an alternative pathway to teacher certification. A person with an associate's degree, a 3.0 GPA, and a temporary apprenticeship certificate (newly created temporary certification) may participate. They would spend two years in the classroom of a mentor teacher using team teaching strategies (with classroom enrollment allowed for up to 1.5 times over the number allowed under the Class-Size Amendment) while the apprentice works as an education paraprofessional. There are specific requirements for mentor teachers, including seven (7) years of experience and highly effective performance evaluations for the last three years. Mentor teachers are also eligible for a bonus.
- Establishes through the "Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program." This allows the DOE to award bonuses to retired first-responders and veterans who commit to becoming a classroom teacher. The bonus can be larger if they agree to teach in a critical shortage area. They must first obtain a professional or temporary certificate and commit to working with a district or charter school for at least two (2) years.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 1069**      **Education**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Specific requirements for particular terminology and instruction relative to health and reproductive education in schools and requires that all materials used for such instruction be approved by the Department of Education. Historically, reproductive health courses have not been considered part of the core curriculum and therefore have been adopted by local school boards.
- Extends the prohibition on classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity to prekindergarten through grade 8. The State Board passed a rule which extends this to grade 12, going beyond the requirements in the bill.
- Prohibits district school boards from imposing or enforcing requirements that personnel or students be referenced with pronouns that do not correspond with biological sex as defined in the bill.
- Makes district school boards responsible for the contents of classroom libraries, in addition to instructional materials and school libraries.



- Clarifies that the requirement for elementary schools to publish a list of materials in the school library, includes classroom libraries in the school. Much like what occurred regarding instruction of sexual orientation or gender identity, this provision could be expanded by State Board rule.
- Requires that district school board policies regarding objections to specific materials, used in a classroom, made available in a school or classroom library, or included on a reading list, include objection on the basis that the material depicts or describes sexual conduct, as defined in law.
  - Provides for an exception to this objection for material used in instruction on HIV/AIDS, child sexual abuse prevention, abstinence and the impacts of teenage pregnancy, or any other course identified by the DOE.
- Requires that specific materials subject to an objection on the basis that the materials are pornographic, are harmful to minors, or describe or depict sexual activity must be removed from circulation at the school where the objection was made, within 5 days of the school district's receipt of the objection, until the completion of the objection process.
- Committees convened by a school district to review and make recommendations related to the adoption of instructional materials must include parents of students that will have access to the materials being reviewed.
- Requires the suspension of materials alleged to contain pornography or obscene depictions of sexual conduct identified in current law, pending resolution of an objection to the material.
- A district school board must also discontinue the use of any material the board does not allow a parent to read aloud.
- Requires that meetings of committees to resolve objections must be noticed and open to the public, and provides an appeals process through a special magistrate. The cost of the special magistrate will be the responsibility of the school district.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 1121      Florida Retirement System**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Modifies the definition of the term "termination" to include the provision of services to all employers.
- Specifies that, beginning July 1, 2023, volunteer services do not constitute employment or provisions of services to an IRS employer. Allows Department of Management Service (OMS) or State Board of Administration (SBA) to require evidence of termination necessary to determine compliance.
- Creates a definition of volunteer services for purposes of retirement and allows FRS employers to create a volunteer program if it meets the following criteria: '
  - No agreement existed between volunteer and FRS employer prior to retirement to provide services;

- No compensation can be provided in any form;
  - No benefits can be provided unless specifically authorized in law. However uniforms and equipment/supplies necessary to complete volunteer tasks may be provided;
  - Limits volunteer's hours to no more than 20% of hours per week provided prior to retirement, including training hours;
  - There is a clear distinction between volunteer and employee duties;
  - The volunteer's schedule, including hours and assignments, is controlled by volunteer; and
  - Both the employer and volunteer are required to maintain records documenting compliance with the above criteria and provide to OMS or SBA upon request.
- Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 1125 Interstate Education Compacts**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Adopts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC or Compact) model legislation into Florida Statute. The ITMC establishes a regulatory framework to allow teachers with an eligible license held in a Compact member state to be granted an equivalent license in another Compact member state, lowering barriers to teacher mobility and getting teachers back into the classroom more seamlessly.
- Teachers holding a Compact-eligible license can apply for licensure in another member state and receive the closest equivalent license without submitting additional materials, taking statespecific exams, or completing additional coursework.
- The Compact includes special exceptions for some populations to support equitable access. The Compact specifies that:
  - Due to the mobility patterns of military spouses, the barriers to receiving a professional, rather than temporary or provisional, license are much higher; therefore teachers meeting the definition of an eligible military spouse may use a temporary or provisional license for the purposes of the Compact.
  - Career and technical education teaching licenses often do not require a bachelor's degree as a requirement for licensure; the Compact allows these licenses to be considered eligible without that requirement.
- The ITMC legislation is comprised of 13 articles, which, in part:
  - Specify that the Compact does not remove the authority of the receiving state to regulate licensure and endorsements, which may also require teachers under the Compact to meet licensure renewal requirements for that state.

- Require a teacher to undergo a criminal background check in the receiving state.
- Create the ITMC Commission, composed of representatives of the member states, to administer the Compact; its rules are binding to member states.
- Require the ITMC Commission to facilitate the exchange of information, which does not alter the ownership of the data by member states.
- Establish procedures for disciplinary actions for member states that fail to comply with the requirements of the Compact.
- Specify that the provisions of the Compact supersede other state laws that are in conflict.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 1127      Public Records and Meetings/Interstate Education Compacts**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Creates an exemption from public records requirements for records held by the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) or Department of Education regarding the investigation and discipline of teachers in other Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC or Compact) member states. This public records exemption is aligned to the existing public records exemption for Florida's teacher investigation and discipline records. As set forth in the ITMC, the bill requires that before disclosing any disciplinary or investigatory information received from another member state, the disclosing state must communicate its intention and purpose for such disclosure to the member state that originally provided that information.
- Creates an exemption from public meetings requirements for any meeting or portion of a meeting of the ITMC Commission or executive committee which discuss information specified in law.
- Provides that public records and public meeting exemptions are a public necessity because without these protections for records received by the commissioner or DOE, or for TMC Commission meetings, Florida would be unable to participate in the ITMC.
- This bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and stands repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

[Bill Text](#)[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Clarifies that charter school capital outlay funding must consist of state funds when said funds are appropriated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and revenue resulting from discretionary capital outlay millage authorized in statute. The bill removes the specified state funding threshold.
- Revises the calculation methodology the Department of Education (DOE) uses to allocate state funds appropriated in the GAA to eligible charter schools. The bill specifies that state funds must be allocated on the basis of unweighted full-time equivalent (FTE) students and removes the additional FTE weight for students that are eligible for free and reduced lunch and students with disabilities.
- Removes the state funding threshold from the calculation methodology used by the DOE to determine the amount of the discretionary capital outlay millage revenue a school district must distribute to each eligible charter school. To reduce the initial burden on school districts and provide for a transition to the required sharing of the 1.5 millage revenue, the bill provides a 5-year glide path whereby school districts share the following percentages of the calculated amount:
  - For fiscal year 2023-2024 – 20 percent.
  - For fiscal year 2024-2025 – 40 percent.
  - For fiscal year 2025-2026 – 60 percent.
  - For fiscal year 2026-2027 – 80 percent.
  - For fiscal year 2027-2028, and each fiscal year thereafter – 100 percent.
- Adds reasons a charter school would not be eligible to receive capital outlay funds, if:
  - The school is a developmental research (laboratory) school that receives state funding for capital improvement purposes.
  - A member of the governing board, or his or her family member, has an interest in or is an employee of the lessor of the charter school property, unless the charter is a charter school-in-the-workplace or a charter school-in-a-municipality.
- Requires a charter school to attest in writing to the DOE, that, if the charter school is nonrenewed or terminated, any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property purchased with the public funds must revert to the district school board. Also, the bill requires purchases, lease-purchases, or leases by a charter school using charter capital outlay funds to be at the appraised value, defined as the fair market value to be determined by an independent, Florida licensed, qualified appraiser selected by the charter school governing board.

- Clarifies that the calculation of each school district's enrollment for purposes of calculating the proportionate share of the school capital outlay surtax must be based on capital outlay full-time equivalent enrollment (COFTE), rather than the total school district enrollment.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 1521 Facility Requirements Based on Sex**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Creates the "Safety in Private Spaces Act."
- Specifies the "covered entities" under the bill include state and local public buildings, educational institutions, correctional institutions, juvenile institutions, and detention facilities.
- Requires all covered entities that maintain a restroom or changing facility (facility) to have such facilities separately designated for males and females or have a unisex facility. SREF implications?
- Requires all covered entities to submit documentation regarding compliance with the facility requirements.
- School boards must develop rules to comply with this law.
- Limits instances when a person may enter a facility designated for the opposite sex to the following circumstances:
  - To assist a child under 12 years of age, an elderly person 60 years of age or older, or persons with certain disabilities.
  - In certain cases of emergency where the health or safety of another person is at risk.
  - For custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes, provided that the facility is not in use.
  - If the appropriate designated facility is out of order or under repair and the facility designated for the opposite sex contains no person of the opposite sex.
  - Provides that the failure to depart a facility designated for the opposite sex by persons other than the covered entity's employees constitutes the offense of trespass. The law (or in the case of schools, rule) is only broken when a person is asked to leave the facility and does not immediately depart.
  - Allows an employee of a covered entity to request a person to depart a facility designated for the opposite sex on a covered entity's premises when the entry is not for an authorized purpose.
  - Requires each type of covered entity to establish disciplinary procedures for its employees, certain persons under its control (for our purposes, schools), and other personnel described in the bill for failing to follow these requirements.

- Does not apply to persons born with a medically verifiable genetic disorder of sexual development under treatment by a physician, with certain specified conditions.
- Gives the Attorney General enforcement authority, including the authority to seek injunctive relief and impose fines of up to \$10,000.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 1537**      **Education**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Changes Florida’s teacher preparation programs by streamlining programs, program requirements, and expanding upon the uniform core curricula, and modifies educator certification requirements. Specifically, the bill:
  - Requires a system-wide shift from professional development to professional learning by defining the requirements for professional learning and requires the Department of Education (DOE) to create a web-based marketplace of high-quality programs.
  - Expands eligibility for temporary certification to candidates who are currently enrolled in state-approved teacher preparation programs and meet who certain requirements.
  - Re-establishes the general knowledge test requirement for all applicants for a professional certificate but narrows the individuals who must demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence.
  - Authorizes a charter school governing board to adopt rules to allow for the issuance of an adjunct teaching certificate.
- Modifies instruction and student progression by:
  - Requiring instruction on Asian American and Pacific Islander history with specified topics.
  - Expanding the practical arts credit option for high school graduation to any career and technical education course.
  - Requiring each school district to annually review and confirm that all reproductive health and disease information and associated links available on the district school board website are accurate and up to date.
  - Requiring the Governor to annually proclaim September 11 as “9/11 Heroes Day.” On this day, public schools are required to receive at least 45 minutes of instruction on associated topics.
- Modifies assessment, acceleration, and accountability provisions, which:

- Authorize school districts to select the Classic Learning Test (CLT) for an annual districtwide administration for certain students and allows students to earn a concordant score on the CLT to meet initial eligibility requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program (Bright Futures).
- Adds a measure to the school grades formula specific to performance on the grade 3 English Language Arts assessment.
- Maintains current concordant and comparative scores to meet statewide assessment graduation requirements for the class of 2023.
- Establishes advanced courses developed by public postsecondary institutions as an additional acceleration option and requires the DOE and Board of Governors issue a report on the effectiveness of acceleration courses.
- Modifies provisions related to students to:
  - Authorize a student to have and use standard headache medication at school.
  - Establish guidelines for searches of students' personal belongings.
  - Add a rebuttal provision within school district zero tolerance policies that a student's specified actions were necessary for student safety.
- Allows Bright Futures students to combine volunteer and paid work hours to meet initial eligibility requirements.
- Modifies charter capital outlay funding eligibility requirements relating to school grades.
- Creates the Year-round School Pilot Program, established for a period of four years.
- Provides a nonrecurring appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the DOE of:
  - \$5.8 million to be used for the procurement of a statewide transparency tool to support the implementation of specified instructional and library materials requirements.
  - \$1 million to be used for the procurement of bleeding control kits for placement in Florida public schools.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023.

## **HB 1597      Florida Virtual School**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Provides additional support to military children who are out-of-state due to the duty station of their military parent or guardian. The bill establishes a process by which a parent or guardian can request flexibility in assessment administration to permit a student to participate in statewide, standardized assessments while out-of-state.

- Defines "child of a military family residing outside this state eligible for flexibility in assessment administration" to mean a Florida Virtual School (FLVS) full-time student of a military family residing outside of Florida who is prevented by his or her parent's or guardian's out-of-state military duty station's location from participating in a Florida-based FLVS secure and proctored exam.
- Requires that the flexibility in assessment administration must allow an eligible student to participate in statewide, standardized assessments administered securely by a licensed, certified instructor or education services officer test administrator at his or her parent's or guardian's current military duty station. The administrator of the assessment must complete the training adopted in State Board of Education (SBE) rule.
- The request for flexibility in assessment administration must be made in writing by the student's parent or guardian to the FLVS within a specified timeframe. The FLVS must make a recommendation regarding granting or denying the request to the Department of Education (DOE), which makes a final determination on the request.
- The FLVS must maintain data regarding the number of requests for flexibility in assessment administration made, the number of requests for flexibility in assessment administration granted, and data regarding student performance on statewide, standardized assessments, and make such data available to the Legislature upon request.
- Requires the SBE to adopt rules governing the flexibility in assessment administration process established by the bill.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 5101      Education Funding**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Funding changes
  - Revises virtual student funding from outside district by removing 50% cap and limiting to available FEFP funding.
  - Renames the district cost differential (DCD) to the comparable wage factor (CWF) and authorizes its use in the FEFP only when a school district's CWF is greater than 1.000. Authorizes application of the modified adjustment to any categorical provided in the FEFP that has a calculation methodology that includes the CWF. Replaces references to DCD with CWF throughout
  - Requires secondary career cost factor to be greater than basic grades 9 to 12 factor.
  - Repeals weighted enrollment ceiling for group 2 programs.
  - Clarifies ESE program formula applies only to students using a matrix of services in support levels IV and V. Codifies small district ESE guaranteed allocation to provide an additional value per full-time equivalent student membership to school districts with a full-time equivalent student membership of fewer than 10,000 and fewer than three full-time equivalent students in ESE support levels IV and V.



- Modifies the ESE guaranteed allocation to require the allocation to be the greater of either the school district's prior year ESE guaranteed allocation funds per student or the ESE guaranteed allocation factor as specified in the General Appropriations Act multiplied by the school district's total number of eligible FTE. The allocation must be recalculated during the fiscal year and prorated to the level of the appropriation based on each school district's share of the total recalculated allocation amount.
- Repeals sparsity supplement and establishes a small district factor to provide an additional value per FTE to each district with fewer than 20,000 FTE students located in a fiscally constrained county.
- Creates state-funded discretionary contribution to fund the non-voted discretionary millage for operations for lab schools and the Florida Virtual School.
- Creates the educational enrichment allocation, establishes this year's funding as a base amount of funding and specifies funding for 2024-25 shall include base funding plus workload. Specifies \$500 per student shall be added to each district's funding for any school in district managed turnaround or turnaround status, or within 2 years of exiting turnaround. Provides for recalculation and proration of new allocation during school year. Provides funding beyond regular school 1s only provided for DJJ student.
- Moves requirements for the evidence-based reading instruction allocation to new statute created.
- Allows funds from supplemental allocation for juvenile justice education programs to be used to pay for the high school equivalency examination fees for specified juvenile justice students, industry credentialing testing fees, and the costs associated with enrollment 111 career and technical education courses that lead to industry-recognized certifications.
- Modifies teacher salary increase allocation to:
  - Renames the allocation as the classroom teacher and other instructional personnel salary increase
  - Provide flexibility for school district and charter schools to use funds for salary increases for instructional personnel once the minimum base salary requirements have been met.
  - Removes school district and DOE reporting requirements.
- Establishes a state-funded discretionary supplement to fund the nonvoted discretionary millage for operations for students awarded a Family Empowerment Scholarship that is similar to the discretionary contribution for lab schools and the Florida Virtual School.
- Allows School Boards to transfer funds from any of the categorical programs to the appropriate account for expenditure, subject to conditions and reporting to the Department of Education.
- Creates the educational enrollment stabilization program to ensure that, based on each recalculation of the FEFP, a school district's funds per UFTE are not less than the greater of either the school district's funds as appropriated in the GAA or the district's funds UFTE, as recalculated based on the certified taxable value for school purposes.

- Requires award per classroom teacher for the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program be specified in the GAA (\$300), and:
  - Job-share classroom teacher may receive a prorated share of the amount provided to a full-time classroom teacher
  - requires FDOE to administer a competitive for eligible classroom teachers to annually purchase classroom materials and supplies.
  - requires unused funds to be expended for classroom materials and supplies as determined by the school principal if the school does not have a school advisory council.
- Changes related to Reading:
  - Creates new statute requiring each district school board to implement a system of comprehensive reading instruction for prekindergarten through grade 12 student and students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy. Each plan must be approved by the district school board. Charter schools comply by either being included in the district's plan or submitting an individual plan.
  - The plan may include:
    - Additional instructional time.
    - Use of highly qualified reading coaches
    - Professional development
    - Summer reading camps for all students in kindergarten through grade 5 who exhibit reading deficiencies.
    - Incentives for instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers.
    - Tutoring in reading
  - Each plan **must** include school year expenditures for each component of the plan and be submitted to the DOE by August 1 of each fiscal year for evaluation. The DOE must evaluate plans, conduct site visits and data for reporting findings to the legislature and the State Board of Education and make recommendations for strategies that would make a statistically significant impact on student outcomes.
  - Modifies requirements for the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE) program to include:
    - Reading instruction must be proven to accelerate progress of students with a reading deficiency.
    - Differentiated instruction based on the evaluation of a student's needs.
    - Specified reading strategies.
- Changes made relating to Mental Health Assistance Program:

- Creates statute requiring each school district to implement a school-based mental health assistance program that includes training to detect and respond to mental health issues. The district must develop a plan that is approved by the district school board. The plan must focus on a multi-tiered system of supports and include:
  - Direct employment of school-based mental health service providers
  - Contracts or interagency agreements with local community behavioral health provider or Community Action Team services.
  - Policies and procedures for timelines for services, parental/household notification, at-risk student, early identification, de-escalation, and requirements for contracting mental health professionals.
- Plans must be submitted to the Department of Education annually by August 1, and a report by September 30 of outcomes and expenditures for the prior year which include the total number of the following:
  - Students who received assessments or screening
  - Students referred for assistance.
  - Students who received services
  - Providers and licensure type
  - Contracts, agreements or partnerships with mental health programs, agencies, or providers.
- Conforms school safety statute to new mental health program statute.
- Changes made related to Purchase of Instructional Materials:
  - Provides a definition for a "library media center," to include classrooms.
  - Requires that, annually by August 1, each school district superintendent certify that the district school board has approved a comprehensive staff development plan that support the implementation of instructional materials programs.
  - Modifies purchase of instructional material to require each district school superintendent to certify to the Commissioner of Education the estimated budget of state funds for instructional material by July 1
  - Removes requirement for the instructional materials allocation.
  - Elementary reading materials identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office are exempt from public review and comment process.
  - Clarifies that school districts must pay the cost of instructional materials for public high school students.
- Creates Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program:

- Provides a one-time sign-on bonus, as provided in the GAA, for retired first responders and veteran who commit to joining the teaching profession as a full-time classroom teacher.
- An eligible individual may also receive an additional bonus for teaching a course in a critical teacher shortage area as defined in law.
- Provides eligibility criteria, which includes receipt of an educator certificate and a commitment to maintaining employment as a teacher for two year. An individual that does not fulfill the employment requirement must reimburse the Department of Education (DOE).
- Requires districts to:
  - Provide information as required by FDOE
  - Notify eligible employees that program may impact their pension from previous job.
- Additional changes include:
  - Clarifies use pronoun limitations in HB 1069 only apply to contractors and employees when acting within the scope of employment duties.
  - Expands public broadcasting to include radio.
  - Allows school boards to adopt salary incentives or other strategies to compensate teachers at "D" and "F" schools, provide differentiated salary incentives based on teacher qualifications or teaching areas, and assign teachers to low-performing schools without collective bargaining.
  - Allows school board to assess fees for voluntary, noncredit summer school course. Fees must be based on student ' ability to pay and outlined in policy.
  - Permits the Department of Education to provide incentives related to early learning career pathways for any instructors who work in a child care or early learning setting.
- Statues related to creating Florida School for Competitive Academics (FSCA)
  - Establishes the Florida School for Competitive Academic (FSCA) in Alachua County as a state-supported public school for Florida residents in grades 6-12, which may admit student beginning in the 2024-2025 school year
    - Establishes the mission and purpose to provide a rigorous academic curriculum and to prepare students for regional, state, and national academic competitions.
    - Establishes the FSCA board of trustees composed of seven members appointed by the Governor to 4-year terms and confirmed by the Senate.
    - Authorizes the board of trustees to make recommendations to the Legislature that the school become a residential public school.

- Requires the FSCA board to prepare and submit legislative budget requests, which will be funded outside of the Florida Education Finance Program
- Requires the FSCA to be included in the school choice online portal
- Requires the FSCA board and all employees and applicants for employment to undergo a Level 2 background screening, and for all teachers to be Florida certified.
- Exempts the FSCA from all statutes in chs. 1000-1013, F.S., with exceptions.
- Requires Auditor General to conduct an annual financial audit of FSCA and, at least every three years, conduct an operational audit of the FSCA.
- Specifies FSCA salaries are provided within the classification and pay plans established by the board of trustees for the FSCA and approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) for academic and academic administrative personnel.
- Creates flexibility in managing FSCA funds.
- Effective July 1, 2023

## **SB 7024 Retirement**

[Bill Text](#)  
[Staff Analysis](#)

- Modified the normal retirement date for Special Risk Class members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011 to be the earlier of 25 years or creditable service, or age 55.
- Makes the following modifications to the DROP Program:
  - Allows for entry into DROP at any time after eligible for retirement;
  - Extends the maximum amount of time for all eligible members to participate in DROP from 60 to 96 calendar months, except for classroom teachers;
  - Extends the maximum amount of time from 96 to 120 calendar months for classroom teachers until 2029;
  - Prohibits an elected class member who deferred termination before July 1, 2023 from extending DROP beyond 60 months.
- Increases the interest rate applied to a member's accrued monthly benefit from 1.3 percent to 4 percent.
- Increases the monthly retiree health insurance subsidy from \$5 to \$7.50 for each year of service. The subsidy is capped at \$225 per month and the minimum benefit is raised to \$45 per month. Employers are required to contribute 2% of gross compensation per pay period.

- Increases the allocations to investment play accounts by 2 percent for each membership class in the investment plan.
- Revises the employer FRS contribution rates based on the actuarial valuation and actuarial studies.
- Effective July 1, 2023

## **HB 7039      Student Outcomes**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Modifies supports to improve student literacy. Specifically, the bill directs the statewide focus for literacy instruction in all public schools to employ the science of reading and requires phonics instruction as the primary instructional strategy for word reading, rather than the three-cueing model. The bill also:
  - Provides \$8 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education (DOE) to implement the provisions of the bill.
  - Provides \$150 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the DOE to assist school districts in implementing the provisions of the bill, which requires a needs assessment to convert from a three-cueing model of reading instruction.
  - Authorizes funds from the supplemental academic instruction allocation to be used for evidence-based mathematics interventions extending outside of the school day.
  - Authorizes reading interventions funded through the evidence-based reading allocation to be applied before, during, and after the school day.
  - Requires the school district reading plan include the assignment of highly effective teachers and reading coaches in kindergarten through grade 2.
  - Requires a school charter to include information on the mathematics curriculum and supports for students struggling in mathematics.
  - Requires curricula for professional educator preparation to be based on the science of reading and requires the district professional development certification program to include scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies grounded in the science of reading.
  - Requires in-service points for reading instruction included in the process for renewal of professional certificates be grounded in the science of reading, and services by independent entities contracted by school districts for professional development of foundational skills for reading be grounded in the science of reading.
  - Requires instructional materials for foundational reading skills to be based on the science of reading with primary focus on phonics instruction.

- Addresses student literacy beginning in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) Program. The bill:
  - Requires that the performance standards for the VPK program address emergent literacy skills that are grounded in the science of reading and include foundational background knowledge to correlate with the content students will encounter in grades K-12.
  - Requires a VPK provider's curriculum to develop student background knowledge through a content-rich and sequential knowledge-building early literacy curriculum.
- Modifies the New Worlds Reading Initiative. The bill requires the administrator of the initiative, in conjunction with the Just Read, Florida! Office, to develop an online repository of digital science of reading materials and resources. The bill also renames the New World Reading Scholarship Accounts to the New World Scholarship Accounts and extends the program to include:
  - Free books for prekindergarten students meeting certain criteria.
  - Supports for students with a deficiency in mathematics or having demonstrated characteristics of dyscalculia.
- Adds to provisions relating to public school student progression for students with substantial deficiencies in reading or that have characteristics of dyslexia, to include students with substantial deficiencies in mathematics and characteristics of dyscalculia. Specifically, the bill:
  - Requires a student with a substantial mathematics deficiency to be covered by a federally required student plan to address the deficiency.
  - Requires certain elements related to an identified reading or mathematics deficiency to be included in an individualized progress monitoring plan, which requires strategies to be provided to parents to support the student.
  - Requires the DOE to provide vetted and state-approved reading and intervention programs.
  - Authorizes district school boards to allocate remedial and supplementary instructional resources for deficiencies in mathematics as well as in reading.
  - Requires timely notification to parents of students with deficiencies in mathematics as well as reading.
  - Adds requirements for intensive interventions for retained third grade students and previously retained third grade students.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2023

[Bill Text](#)[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Establishes two back-to-school tax holidays: July 24 – August 6, 2023, AND January 1 – January 14, 2024.
  - Includes: clothing, footwear, and backpacks \$100 or less;
  - School supplies and learning aids \$50 or less;
  - Personal computers or accessories, including non-recreational software costing \$1,500 or less.
- “Broad-based tax relief” on various products including:
  - Baby and toddler products – diapers, wipes, clothing, shoes, strollers, etc. for children age 5 and younger;
  - Hygiene products – oral hygiene products, incontinence products;
  - Firearm safety devices like gun safes and trigger locks
- Includes provisions for tax relief for workforce housing to complement the efforts of SB 102 Workforce Housing.
- Provisions for referendum for discretionary sales tax for the “construction and renovating of schools” per s.212.055(6), F.S. must be held only once within the 48 months preceding the start of the re-enacted or increased tax and must be on a general election ballot.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective upon signage.