

LEADERSHIP BEYOND LIMITS



2022-2023

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Annual Report of the
Florida School Boards Association
Vol. 8





2022 - 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year, Leadership Beyond Limits became an essential aspect for Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) members, as Florida's public education system went through a profound metamorphosis. The spirit of change and progress in our schools served as a powerful reminder of how crucial strong school board leadership is in our communities. In just one year, our public schools witnessed a wave of transformative change, driven by innovation, progress, and empowerment. From the election of an unprecedented ninety-four new school board members to the introduction of artificial intelligence into education, these highlights reshaped our educational landscape.

These new school board members injected boundless energy into our organization, broadening our network, expanding our reach, and bolstering our ability to carry out our mission. The infusion of fresh ideas has helped FSBA grow, adapt, and become even more effective in serving our communities.

One of the most striking and promising advancements we brought to our members was an awareness of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. This cutting-edge technology has the power to revolutionize the learning experience for students across the state. AI powered tools and platforms have already enhanced classroom interactions, personalized learning, and provided real-time feedback to both teachers and students. As we find ourselves further in this uncharted territory, school board leadership will play a crucial role in adopting use and operational policies, providing ethical guidelines, and ensuring a bright future for this technology and its applications.

Community engagement also soared, with districts collaborating closely with parents, local businesses, and organizations. The power of partnerships flourished, providing students with real-world experiences, internships, and mentorships that expanded their horizons. These efforts demonstrated the incredible impact of school board leadership in uniting communities toward a common goal - offering real-world exposure and growth opportunities beyond the traditional classroom.

Together, FSBA members have demonstrated that embracing change, innovation, and collaboration is the key to Leadership Beyond Limits. This approach will help us build a better tomorrow, become incubators for 21st-century skills, and prepare students for a future where adaptability and digital literacy are paramount.

As we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, your leadership will ensure a future where Florida's public education system continues to thrive, evolve, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

Andrea Messina
FSBA Chief Executive Officer



FSBA CEO, Andrea Messina participates in a panel discussion in Tampa at COSSBA's Inaugural Conference.



FSBA CEO, Andrea Messina with co-creators of the Positive Governance training at the COSSBA Leadership Seminar in Savannah, GA.



Together, FSBA members have demonstrated that embracing change, innovation, and collaboration is the key to Leadership Beyond Limits. “

Andrea Messina, FSBA CEO

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FLORIDA AT A GLANCE



FLORIDA STATISTICS

Students: 2,875,875

Teachers: 175,216

Public Schools: 3,718

School Board Members: 358

STATE LEADERS

Governor Ron DeSantis

Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo

Pro Tempore Dennis Baxley

Education Chair Corey Simon

House Speaker Paul Renner

Pro Tempore Chuck Clemons

Education Chair Ralph Massullo M.D.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair – Ben Gibson

Vice Chair – Ryan Petty

Monesia Brown

Esther Byrd

Grazie P. Christie

Kelly Garcia

MaryLynn Mager



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

As I conclude my term as President of FSBA, I am once again humbled by the honor of representing this organization's, sixty-six out of the sixty-seven school districts. Our members and staff work tirelessly to advocate for local students, families, and schools within their communities. I am profoundly grateful for the exceptional talent within FSBA. We are indeed fortunate to have so many dedicated leaders committed to serving our students and their families.

Together, we achieved significant milestones, including the successful launch of the new national alliance, Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) as well as hosting its inaugural National Conference held in Tampa. The Florida Legislature adopted the majority of our legislative platform into law and we continued to develop stronger and more positive relationships with state leaders. Along with these accomplishments, we onboarded ninety-four newly elected school board members, providing them with comprehensive training, while highlighting multiple pathways to FSBA leadership.

Our association's advocacy efforts have been nothing short of remarkable. Collectively, we influenced legislative changes that support the interests of all students, families, and stakeholders. Through united voices, we made a tangible difference in shaping the future of education in our state. The FSBA strategic plan has paved the way for continuous improvement, ensuring that there are no limits to what we can achieve together.

As we enter a new year, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to improving public education and meeting the individual needs of each of our students. Our focus should be on the issues that genuinely impact our students' success, not allowing distractions to divide us. By embracing positive advocacy and constructive dialogue, we can bring about positive change and foster an environment conducive to student success.

The foundation of our association's strength lies in the relationships we have cultivated. Let us continue to support and uplift one another, particularly within politically charged working environments. Together, we can overcome any challenges that arise and continue to serve as beacons of leadership within our communities.

As I bid farewell as your President, I want to express my profound gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. This journey has been extraordinary, and I am thankful for the opportunities and experiences I have had. I hold dear, the relationships we have cultivated and the collaborative work we have accomplished. I have unwavering faith in the collective strength and capability of our association. Together, let us continue to leave an indelible mark on the lives of our students as we fulfill our roles as public servants.

All the best!



Thomas Kennedy,
Citrus County School District
FSBA President 2022-2023



FSBA President, Thomas Kennedy, Legislative Aide to Rep. Massullo, Adele Hembree, Senator, Blaise Ingoglia & Dr. Danielle Thomas at 2022 Board of Directors Leadership Development Training in Crystal River.



FSBA President, Thomas Kennedy and Commissioner of Education, Manny Diaz, Jr. at the 2022 FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference in Tampa, FL.



Let us remember the wisdom of fictional character **Coach Ted Lasso**, "Just listen to your gut, and on the way down to your gut, check in with your heart. Between those two things, they'll let you know what's what."

Thomas Kennedy, Citrus, FSBA President 2022-2023



FSBA MISSION

The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through the development of effective School Board leadership and advocacy for public education.

The work of the Association staff, leadership, and general membership is driven by the FSBA 2021-2026 Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Directors on June 9, 2021. The strategies of the goals were approved by the Board of Directors on October 8, 2021.

FSBA has been the collective voice for Florida school boards since 1930 and is closely allied with other educational, governmental, and community agencies to work toward the improvement of education in Florida.

MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The membership of the Florida School Boards Association is made up of Florida school board members, constitutional officers elected locally to four year terms. Membership is optional and representative governance within the Association is structured around membership. The 2022-2023 membership represented sixty-six of Florida's sixty-seven school districts.

FSBA bylaws and policy govern day to day operations and procedural matters. An Executive Committee of five members, elected by their peers, a board of twenty-seven regionally elected directors, and the general membership drive policy changes, association positions, and vision with guidance and recommendations of nine standing committees and ad hoc committees as needed.

BELIEF STATEMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Members of FSBA share the following beliefs to guide the Association in its work with members, FSBA staff, and stakeholders.

OUR WORK WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE, PROFESSIONAL, COLLABORATIVE, INNOVATIVE, AND IMPACTFUL.



Representative - we will reinforce local decision-making and reflect diverse points of view.



Professional - we will model ethical leadership and exemplary stewardship.



Collaborative - we will act with cohesion, transparency, and intentional engagement.



Innovative - we will focus on forward-thinking, innovative solutions, opportunities and possibilities.



Impactful - we will strategically leverage initiatives, alliances and resources to produce measurable results.



FSBA Executive Officers: Tim Bryant (Okaloosa), Terry Castillo (Osceola), Tina Certain (Alachua), Thomas Kennedy (Citrus) and Chris Patricca (Lee) join FSBA CEO, Andrea Messina for the Board of Directors meeting at the 2023 FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

2022 - 2023 FSBA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



Thomas Kennedy
Citrus
President



Tina Certain
Alachua
President-elect



Terry Castillo
Osceola
Vice President



Tim Bryant
Okaloosa
Treasurer



**Chris Patricca
Lee**
Immediate Past
President

ASSOCIATION STAFF

FULL-TIME STAFF DEDICATED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR MEMBERS!



Andrea Messina
Chief Executive
Officer



Leslie Dunlap
Dir. of Finance &
Administration



Tina Pinkoson
Dir. of Leadership
Services



Dr. Danielle Thomas
Dir. of Advocacy &
Legislative Services



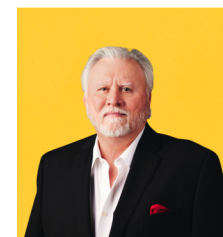
Carolyn Sanders
Member Services
Associate



Amie Williamson
Communications &
Conference Planning
Manager



Patricia Peterson
Executive
Administrator



David Stephens
FSBIT Executive
Director

FSBA LEADERSHIP



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President Thomas Kennedy, Citrus
President-elect Tina Certain, Alachua
Vice President Terry Castillo, Osceola
Treasurer Tim Bryant, Okaloosa
Immediate Past President Christine "Chris" Patricca, Lee



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 Dr. Steve Gallon, III, Miami-Dade
DISTRICT 2 Karen Perez, Hillsborough
DISTRICT 3 Nora Rupert, Broward
DISTRICT 4 VACANT, Palm Beach
DISTRICT 5 Angie Gallo, Orange
DISTRICT 6 Cindy Pearson, Duval
DISTRICT 7 Dr. William Allen, Polk
DISTRICT 8 Caprice Edmond, Pinellas
DISTRICT 9 Julius Melendez, Osceola
DISTRICT 10 Megan Harding, Pasco
DISTRICT 11 Katie Campbell, Brevard
DISTRICT 12 Cathleen Morgan, Lee
DISTRICT 13 Jamie Haynes, Volusia
DISTRICT 14 Milton Brown, Washington
DISTRICT 15 Elizabeth Hewey, Santa Rosa

DISTRICT 16 Dr. Sue Woltanski, Monroe
DISTRICT 17 Kelly Barrera, St. Johns
DISTRICT 18 Becky Raulerson, Union
DISTRICT 19 Melonie Inzetta, Franklin
DISTRICT 20 Deidra Dunnell, Taylor
DISTRICT 21 Saul Speights, Hamilton
DISTRICT 22 Eric Cummings, Marion
DISTRICT 23 Claire Cornell, Hardee
DISTRICT 24 Karema Dudley, Gadsden
DISTRICT 25 Debbie Hawley, St. Lucie
DISTRICT 26 Thomas Edwards, Sarasota
DISTRICT 27 Virginia "Ginger" Bryant, Citrus

COSSBA STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER Beverly Slough, St. Johns



COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

FSBA's governance structure is in place to ensure FSBA MEMBERS lead the way.

ADVOCACY

Chair: *Tim Bryant, Okaloosa
*Angie Gallo, Orange
Vice Chair: *Angie Gallo, Orange
*Debbie Hawley, St. Lucie

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Chair: Bev Slough, St. Johns
Vice Chair: Patty Hightower, Escambia

FINANCE

Chair: *Elizabeth Andersen, Duval
*Tim Bryant, Okaloosa
Vice Chair: Megan Harding, Pasco

LEADERSHIP SERVICES

Chair: Wendy Atkinson, Charlotte
Vice Chair: Eric Cummings, Marion

LEGISLATIVE

Co-Chair: Kim Amontree, Charlotte
Co-Chair: Colleen Conklin, Flagler

EQUITY

Chair: Darryl Willie, Duval
Vice Chair: *Sarah Fortney, Polk
*Caprice Edmond, Pinellas

POLICY

Chair: Terry Castillo, Osceola
Vice Chair: Li Roberts, Martin

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Chair: Tina Certain, Alachua

NOMINATING

Chair: Chris Patricca Lee

PAST PRESIDENTS

Chair: *Jane Goodwin, Sarasota
*Jerry Taylor, Suwannee

***DENOTES HALF-TERM SERVED**

2022-2023 EDUCATION FAST FACTS

- The statewide average teacher salary for all degree levels in 2021-2022 was \$51,598¹. This represents an increase of \$322 over the average teacher salary for 2020-2021. The average benefits package is valued at about 25% of salary.
- The Florida Constitution, as amended in 2002, sets class size limits on core curriculum classrooms with a limit of eighteen students in PreK-3 classrooms, a limit of twenty-two students in grade 4-8 classrooms, and a limit of twenty-five students in grade 9-12 classrooms. Florida's student-to-teacher ratio is lower than the national average, Florida still ranks 29th among the 50 states in average student-to-teacher ratio.
- Florida has about 343,238 full-time public-school employees – including 204,132 full-time instructional staff and 124,499 support staff – making Florida's public school system one of the largest employers in the state and, often, the largest employer in each county. District and school administrators make up about 4.3% of all public-school employees.
- The 2022-2023 basic operating budget for K-12 public education – as provided through the Florida Education Finance Program – is more than \$25 billion. This provides an average of about \$8,243 per student. Florida ranks 45th among the fifty states in per pupil operating expenditures and is \$4,484 below the national average for per pupil expenditures.
- Based on 2022-2023 appropriations, this year Florida will spend an average of more than \$119,000,000 each school day to operate its public schools. Most of these dollars flow into the local economy and support local economic development.
- According to 2022 assessment results, 1,069 schools received an A (compared to 1,181 in 2019), 842 schools received a B (909 in 2019), 1,229 received a C (1,065 in 2019), 182 received a D (159 in 2019), and 26 received an F (14 in 2019). Of the 3,348 schools receiving a grade, 94% received a grade of A, B, or C. 2020 assessments were not given due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 grades were optional for schools.
- There are more than 4,300 public schools in Florida, including elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, ESE centers, alternative schools, vocational/technical, and adult centers. Among the fifty states, Florida has the 2nd largest number of students assigned to each elementary school and exceeds the national average by nearly 200 students per school. Florida has the largest number of students assigned to each secondary school and exceeds the national average by 750 students per school.
- The average cost (not including land purchase) to build a regular elementary school is about \$20 million, a regular middle school costs about \$30 million, and a regular high school costs about \$65 million.

1 Source: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7584/urlt/2122TeacherSalaryData.xlsx>

<http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/staff.shtml>

2 Source: www.edstats.fldoe.org 2022-23 Enrollment, State Level, Survey 3 – Fall ; NCES data for state ranking

Florida has the 3rd largest public school system in the country, serving more than 2,870,507² students in the 2022 - 2023 school year.



Melissa Matz, 2023 Florida Teacher of the Year, and Florida Teacher of the Year finalists, Brooke Whittington, Deelah Jackson and Jennifer Jaso joined us for an important teacher panel discussion at the 2022 Annual Joint Conference.

9

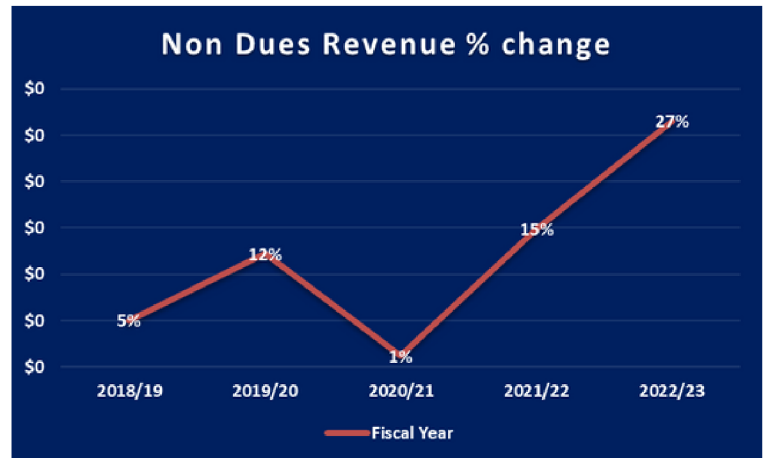
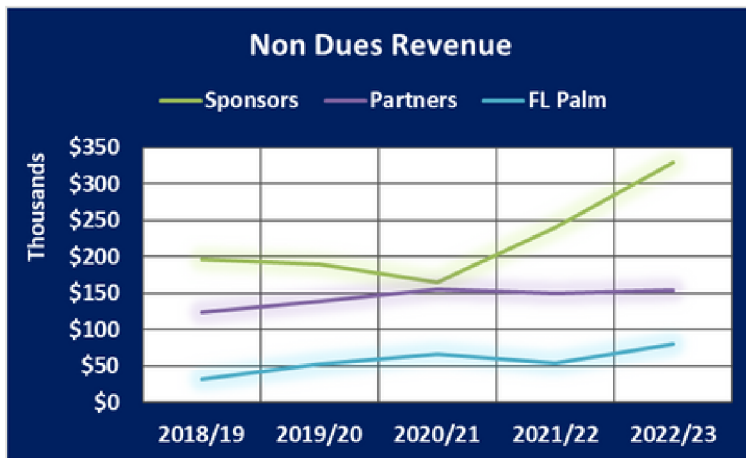


Andrea Messina moderated a panel at COSSBA's Inagural conference with student leaders from the Florida Association of Student Councils. Students shared their insights on various topics and challenges they are facing in their schools, districts, and communities.

In April 2023, the final mortgage payment on FSBA's office at 203 South Monroe Street was made. This, combined with strong maintenance of membership and extraordinary support from our partners and sponsors, reinforced the Association's continued **strong financial position**.

To help ensure our financial position, mitigate fraud risk, reduce cost, and develop a beneficial banking partnership, the Finance Department issued a RFP for banking services in early January. We sought and received responses from three institutions and, after comprehensive research, we chose to partner with Servis First Bank, a full-service commercial bank with competitive products and a focus on state-of-the-art technology. We completed the transition in June and are very pleased with the service provided, the competitive earnings rates, and the streamlining of daily banking activities. For the upcoming budget year, we anticipate significant savings in banking fees as well as a substantial increase in earnings on deposit.

For the fiscal year 2022-2023, we again recognized significant growth in non-dues revenue, particularly within the sponsor program and the FL PALM categories. FL PALM's significant growth was primarily due to market conditions and increased participation by both school districts and other government entities.



To continue the tasks outlined in the FSBA Strategic Plan 2021-26, the Finance Committee initiated actions this year to include regular training during committee orientation on non-dues revenues (Strategic Goal Strategy 3.3.2). This annual training will ensure participants are up to date on the various types of non-dues revenue, as well as educated on expectations of Association members as related to non-dues revenue.

In addition, a detailed policy review (Strategic Goal Strategy 3.3.3) was undertaken that resulted in several policy updates, most specifically, updating policy to align with processes related to online banking and ACH payments, codifying how staff salaries are determined, and establishing that non-member school boards will be charged at non-members rates for services provided.

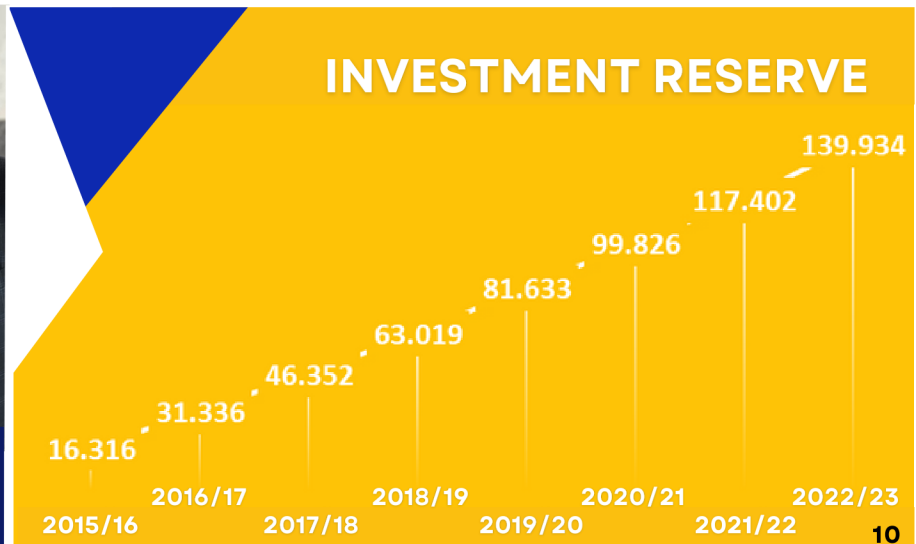
In accordance with FSBA Policy 5012 – Reserves, approved in 2015, the Association's reserves continue to increase, ensuring the association's health and stability, without which we could not serve our members.



Saul Speights
(Hamilton) with
sponsor, Jamie
Gansmann of Gaggle.



President Thomas
Kennedy (Citrus) with
sponsor, Brendan
Smith of Varsity Tutors.



SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH SERVICES

In the dynamic landscape of Florida's education system, this year has witnessed a remarkable shift in senior executive leadership within the state's school districts. A total of 13 appointed superintendents bid farewell between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. With twenty-four out of twenty-nine appointed Superintendents being newcomers since 2020, it is evident that Florida's educational landscape is experiencing a significant transformation.

For a school district with an appointed superintendent, selecting the right leader becomes the single most pivotal decision a school board member will make during his or her tenure. Recognizing the significance of this undertaking, FSBA's Superintendent Search team rises to the occasion, providing a "white glove" service to districts across the state.

The FSBA Superintendent Search team expertly guided four school boards through every step of the selection process, ensuring that each district discovered a superintendent who can positively impact its future trajectory. With a deep understanding of their unique needs, culture, and challenges, FSBA assisted these school boards in making informed decisions for the benefit of their educational communities.

By entrusting this responsibility to FSBA, these school boards were able to remain steadfastly focused on their core responsibilities, secure in the knowledge that a dedicated team was working tirelessly to identify the most qualified candidates for their district.



FSBA COMPLETED SUPERINTENDENT SEARCHES FY 2022 - 2023

District & Student Count	Applicants	States Represented	Dr. Degrees	Current Superintendents	Community Advisory Members	Search Timeframe
Brevard 73,000	33	12	24	5/3 former	n/a	January 2023 - May 2023
Charlotte 16,000	22	11	10	2/4 former	n/a	January 2023 - May 2023
Manatee 48,458	27	9	13	3/6 former	n/a	January 2023 - May 2023
Osceola 81,000	32	10	18	4/6 former	18	January 2023 - June 2023



Mark J. Rendell, Ed.D.
BREVARD



Mark Vianello
CHARLOTTE



Dr. Jason Wysong
MANATEE



Dr. Mark Shanoff
OSCEOLA

ADVOCACY

This was a busy year in the area of Advocacy and especially busy for the Legislative and Federal Relations Subcommittees. Throughout our work, each of the committees remained focused on the Advocacy Goals of the strategic plan, including being proactive on policy and legislation, effective year-round advocates, and communicating to engage all members.

Much of the work on policy and state legislation focused on our platform items, including recovery for districts devastated by Hurricane Ian, the health and safety of our students, and the recruitment and retention of high-quality professionals. This year, we were able to provide members with information sessions to prepare and educate on some of the legislation that passed this legislative session including expansion of scholarships, regulation of cell phone use at school, and the expansion of industry certifications as options for our students. These became key areas in which substantial legislation was passed and signed into law. Of course, we also provided knowledge and feedback on other major issues during the session, including the change to school board term limits from twelve years to eight years, changes to reading instruction to the science of reading, and the changes to concordant scores, which helped many high school seniors graduate this school year.

We also had opportunities to strengthen and broaden our stakeholder relationships at a federal level this year as FSBA provided feedback to the Committee on Education and

Labor regarding the new proposed child nutrition standards as well as encouraged members to review and submit their feedback during the open comment period.

FSBA was also provided opportunities to provide information on federal policy with the senior policy staff of the Committee on Education and Labor. These demonstrate the continued strength of our relationships with key stakeholders as they look to use to provide knowledge, expertise, and feedback on standards and legislation.

As an organization, we also continued to provide resources to assist school board members in being effective year-round advocates for their districts. This became the focus of the Advocacy Committee as they worked to create an Advocacy Tool Kit. Work groups were formed to focus on different areas of the tool kit including advocating for schools/community, legislative toolkit, fillable resources, and a calendar of events. While this toolkit is still being finalized, the workgroups, and committee as a whole, demonstrated great commitment to the members in providing helpful information and resources to make it easier for all school board members to be effective advocates.

While the work continues, as it always does, the impact of our members and their advocacy on behalf of students and families is undeniable. The impact of that advocacy is being felt in your local communities as well as in Tallahassee and in Washington, D.C.

YOUR LEADERSHIP LED TO LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS



FSBA members met in Tallahassee for the 36th Annual Day in the Legislature, March 15 - 16, 2023.



MEASURING OUR SUCCESS: ADVOCACY GOALS FOR 2023

In partnership with parents, families, students and staff, FSBA supported several legislative recommendations for increased student success. Through careful cooperation and consistent effort, **we saw success in all of our priority areas**. Specifically, the legislature supported our platform in the following ways:



MENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

- Increased the mental health and safe schools allocations.



WORKFORCE

- Provided funding for high-skilled/high-wage Career Technical Education (CTE) adjunct teachers.
- Created and funded a statewide grant program for school districts to apply for start-up funds to develop programs for high-wage, in-demand jobs.
- Provided operational funding in the FEFP to support the expansion of secondary career and technical programs.



PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- Provided teachers additional time to complete certification requirements.
- Extended temporary teaching certification to paraprofessionals and those pursuing education majors/minors.
- Funded the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) and increased the categorical eligibility.



FUNDING

- Held school districts impacted by Hurricane Ian financially harmless.
- Increased the Base Student Allocation by more than 5% to help offset increased operational costs.
- Ensured the increases expected for the FES program were included in the 2023-24 FY budget.
- Expanded funding to provide increased access to summer and after-school learning opportunities.
- Increased the Student Transportation categorical funding.
- Funded cybersecurity threat mitigation services via grants.
- Exempted cost per student station requirements for an unfinished construction project.



Legislative Session Review and Legislator Q&A with Rep. Kaylee Tuck

One of our Advocacy goals was to create more face-to-face opportunities so FSBA members could interact with state legislators.

During the 2023 Annual Summer Conference, we hosted a legislative session review and legislator Q&A with Representative Kaylee Tuck to discuss the biggest education topics coming out of the 2023 Legislative Session including HB 1 School Choice and other impactful legislation.



From left to right: Dr. Danielle Thomas, Dr. Kim McDougal, Rep. Kaylee Tuck, Andrea Messina and Kim Amontree (Charlotte).



The most informative session was the Legislative Session review with Kaylee Tuck. She was able to answer some questions that we had about HB 1 and its implementation.” - Jean Prowant (Glades)



36TH ANNUAL DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE



“

This was one of the best Day in the Legislature events I have attended. Wednesday's programming prepared attendees for the visits and taught them how to engage during their visits.” - Patty Hightower (Escambia)



LEADERSHIP SERVICES

Leadership Beyond Limits begins with our Leadership Services Program, led by Director, Tina Pinkoson. The FSBA Consultant team consisting of Paula Wright Coles, Carol Cook, April Griffin, and Stacy Kirvin consistently make themselves available to all members to strengthen and enhance their leadership skills.

We are pleased to share that we have achieved several of the strategic goals outlined in our strategic plan, namely:

- We created a special New School Board Member track for the Annual Joint Conference, which included Effective Advocacy training and Pathways to Leadership.
- To improve relationships with district charter schools, the New School Board Academy Part Two invited the Senior Director of School Choice Services from Orange County Public Schools, Dr. Kia Sweeney-Scott to share insights and answer questions about charter schools.
- We expanded online learning opportunities by adding webinars of various topics to our training library. Many were provided by some of our top tier sponsors.
- The FSBA consultant team facilitated the popular, **Meaningful Conversations and Collaboration with Members of Like-Size Districts** sessions at both annual conferences, allowing members additional time to network and share ideas.



FSBA Consultants from left to right: Carol Cook, Paula Wright Coles, April Griffin, Tina Pinkoson, and Stacy Kirvin.



One of the highlights of this year was the success of our New School Board Member Program. Tina began communicating weekly with the ninety-four newly elected school board members as they won their elections. Informational webinars were held the first Wednesday of each month, and emails were sent each week. By connecting with the newly elected School Board Members early and often, it helped build strong relationships with new members, which led to our largest New School Board Member Academy in recent history.

“The New School Board Member training put me on the right track to being an effective member of the board. Without the training I would have been like a fish out of water.” - Chephus Granberry (Jackson)

To meet the strategic goal of increasing networking opportunities for our members, a welcome reception for new board members was held at the Annual Joint Conference and many members participated in a “speed-networking” activity.

The Peer 2 Peer Advisory program provided over 50 new school board members with a peer advisor, further expanding networking opportunities for both new and experienced board members.



“FSBA’s new school board member training introduced me to many stakeholders throughout the state that are working towards the same goals (Student Achievement). Working and learning with my fellow freshmen classmates has instilled leadership qualities to be a successful School Board member for my County.” - Kimberly Clement (Glades)

GOVERNANCE TEAM TRAINING

Governance team training continues to be of value to both School Boards and Superintendents. The 2023-2024 Master Board program launched in January. By the time this report was published, twenty-eight school districts were participating and upon completion, a record number of thirty-five Master Boards will earn their designation.

To address another strategic goal, additional criteria were added to the program and leadership teams determined themselves whether their actions and program completion earned them the Certified Master Board Distinction.



Since January, the Leadership Services Team has **traveled over 7,000 miles** and **delivered over 250 hours** of facilitation to help boards learn to work together more effectively.

Attendance at the School Finance Forum and Finance 2.0 and More Forum shows the value of these events. The School Finance Forum was held in Kissimmee in early February and had seventy-six participants. Finance 2.0 & More was held in Gainesville with fifty-two members participating. At the request of our members, Tina is working with the presenters to schedule Finance 3.0.

The Policy Governance and Bargaining 101 Forums will be held in September in Gainesville. Upon completion of these forums, there are many new School Board members that will earn the distinction of Emerging Leader and we will be adding many new Certified Board Members to our current seventy-four.

The Leadership Services team is constantly evolving to bring members the best and most up-to-date training possible. The goal has not changed – to provide the tools for a leadership team to work effectively, efficiently, and collectively while maintaining a focus on student achievement and establishing a district culture in which students feel safe and eager to learn. This is what Leadership Beyond Limits is all about!



Gretchen Saunders, CFO, (St. Johns),
Leanne Evans, CTP, Treasurer (Palm Beach),
Scott Ward, Chief Financial Officer (Lake).



76 FSBA members participated in the
School Finance Forum in February 2023.



52 FSBA members participated in
School Finance 2.0 & More in April 2023.

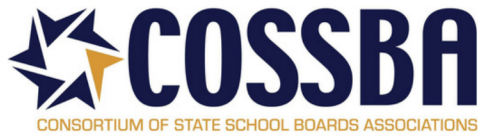


- **74 CBMs** as of 6.30.23
(The end of the fiscal year.)
- **56 New School Board Members**
are participating in the CBM
program.
- **8 School Board Members** earned
their CBM status in 2022-2023
(The end of the fiscal year.)
- **7 Certified Boards** as of 6.30.23
(The end of the fiscal year.)



Last year, we created a webinar series to connect with district support staff, **At Your Service - Supporting School Board Support Staff**. Hosted by FSBA Member Services Associate, Carolyn Sanders, these monthly webinars are held on various topics to ensure staff is well-informed. Carolyn has also built customizable tools and documents to help guide district support staff. These resources are all accessible from the Resource library, housed in BoardDocs.

“Each presenter at Finance 2.0 & More, Gretchen, Scott, and Leanne, brought such valuable and different information. The entire forum was meaningful so it's hard to pick just one thing. I appreciated going through DOE's website, the entire audit piece by piece and all the intricate parts of finance that Leanne shared.” -Laura Lawhon (Wakulla)



FSBA is one of twenty-two founding members of the Consortium of State School Boards Association (COSSBA), a non-partisan, national alliance that supports, promotes, and strengthens state school boards associations, whose membership grew to twenty-five members by year end.

In 2023, COSSBA had its first full year of operations with the help of state association volunteers, and hosted several events that showcased the achievements and challenges of school boards across the country.

URBAN BOARDS ALLIANCE SYMPOSIUM

The Urban Boards Alliance (UBA) of COSSBA focuses on improving the educational outcomes of students and schools in challenging environments. The alliance provides school boards with knowledge, skills, training, and experiences to address the issues they face.

Dr. Steve Gallon III, (Miami Dade) serves on the UBA Advisory Panel. Gallon helped plan the first UBA Symposium, where he was also featured on stage. The event was attended by FSBA President, Thomas Kennedy (Citrus), President-elect, Tina Certain (Alachua), and CEO, Andrea Messina.

COSSBA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The COSSBA Leadership Institute program equips state association presidents and presidents-elect with the skills they need to lead their peers. The program also helps them to strategically plan for their upcoming year of service, build networks among states, and discuss emerging national issues.

President Kennedy and President-elect Certain participated in the Leadership Institute, along with their counterparts from other states.

COSSBA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The COSSBA National Conference was held in Tampa, Florida, March 30 - April 2, 2023. The annual event served as an opportunity for school board members from member states to share best practices and learn from each other.

FSBA played an active role in the conference. Its facilitator team, led by Tina Pinkoson, welcomed all attendees. FSBA also facilitated a panel discussion with students from Florida who challenged the school board members to consider their perspective when making decisions. Additionally, FSBA hosted several breakout sessions with its facilitators, staff, and members, such as Patty Hightower from Escambia, who presented on Crisis Preparedness, and Darryl Willie, from Duval, who presented on Giving Young Black Educators a Seat at the Policy Table.



Dr. Steve Gallon III (Miami-Dade) was recognized for his service on the UBA Advisory Committee.



From left to right: President Thomas Kennedy (Citrus), Andrea Messina, and President-elect Tina Certain (Alachua).



Darryl Willie (Duval) presents a breakout session at COSSBA Inagural National Conference.



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND MEETING



ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE 2022



“ Networking was the most valuable part of the conference. Connecting with peers and meeting other new school board members I can talk to is a gift! ”
- Michele Hanson (Clay)



ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE 2023



“

I value the opportunities and sessions that allowed me to hear feedback and discussion from other districts.” - Jill Holcomb (Okeechobee)



2023 LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR



Representative
Robin Bartleman (D-103)

In the sunlit corridors of progress, where the future of Florida's youth takes shape, the names of Senator Simon and Representative Bartleman resonate as symphonies of dedication and transformation. We applaud the virtuoso leadership of Senator Simon for leading the charge on adjusting concordant scores to ensure the maximum number of high school seniors could graduate and for being a champion for career and tech education; And Representative Bartleman for her focus on expanding KidCare access, allowing PreK retention count towards the mandatory retention exemption, and allowing those in FRS to volunteer during their first year of eligibility.

As recipients of the esteemed Legislator of the Year award by the Florida School Board Association, they have orchestrated a harmonious partnership between policy and possibility. Their unwavering commitment to nurturing minds and fostering growth has elevated them as true champions of education. In their legislative journey, they have not only authored laws but have penned the dreams of countless students, turning aspirations into attainable realities.

Through their advocacy, Florida's educational landscape blooms with promise, and their legacy as luminaries of learning is etched in the annals of history."

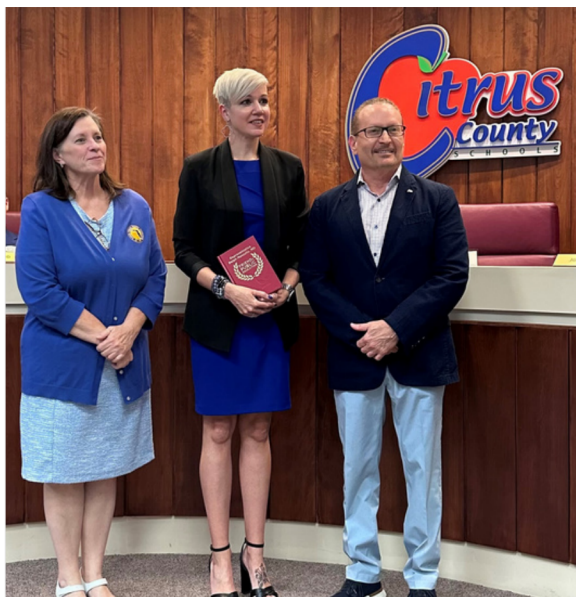
Dr. Colleen Conklin, Flagler County School Board Member and FSBA Legislative Committee Co-Chair



Senator
Corey Simon (R-3)

We want to express our deep appreciation to Senator Simon and Representative Bartleman for their continued dedication to the students and families of Florida. Their leadership, especially in the area of education and children's health and safety shows their commitment to the future generations of this state." - FSBA Director of Advocacy, Dr. Danielle Thomas

2023 FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD



From left to right: Andrea Messina,
Dr. Danielle Thomas,
Rep. Ralph Massullo, M.D. (R-23)

We are proud to recognize Representative Ralph Massullo, M.D. as the 2023 Friend of Education. As the Chair of the Education and Employment Committee, Dr. Massullo played an instrumental role in ensuring that our at-risk students in the Class of 2023 continued to have opportunities to graduate high school by maintaining concordant scores. Due to his efforts, thousands of students achieved a high school diploma. His success in this matter has had a significant impact on students who have fulfilled all the requirements to graduate but have not yet passed the State Standardized tests.

In addition, Dr. Massullo is known for being a strong advocate for Career and Technical Education opportunities for students. His advocacy for students has led to more Florida students graduating from high school and being career ready."

Kim Amontree, Charlotte County School Board Member and FSBA Legislative Committee Co-Chair

PAST PRESIDENTS



A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

2022	Thomas Kennedy, Citrus	1994	Joyce Hobson, Martin
2021	Chris Patricca, Lee	1993	Sharon Hartsell, St. Johns
2020	Jane Goodwin, Sarasota	1992	Janice Mee, Sarasota
2019	Tim Weisheyer, Osceola	1991	Barbara Wallace, Lee
2018	Jerry Taylor, Suwannee	1990	Dr. Bill Gene Smith, Highlands
2017	April M. Griffin, Alachua	1989	Jan Cummings, Broward
2016	Tim Harris, Polk	1988	Judy Cross, Hendry
2015	Caroline Zucker, Sarasota	1987	Charles Chestnut, III, Alachua
2014	Patty Hightower, Escambia*	1986	Barbara Moore, Okaloosa
2014	Karen Disney-Brombach, Indian River*	1985	Holmes Braddock, Miami-Dade
2013	Patty Hightower, Escambia	1984	Carol Hyde, Gilchrist
2012	Joie Cadle, Orange	1983	Susan Pell, Palm Beach*
2011	Lee Swift, Charlotte	1983	James Westberry, Jr., DeSoto*
2010	Candace Lankford, Volusia	1982	Billie Jean Reynolds, Okeechobee*
2009	Georgia "Joy" Bowen, Leon	1982	Susan Pell, Palm Beach*
2008	Beverly Slough, St. Johns	1981	Bob Howe, Alachua
2007	Jeanne Dozier, Lee	1980	Ethel Kennedy Lyons, Orange
2006	Sue Hershey, Martin	1979	Joe Idlette, Indian River
2005	Dr. Jack Lamb, Hillsborough	1978	Deane Bozeman, Bay
2004	Tom Greer, Osceola	1977	Dr. Pete Everett, Leon
2003	Andy Griffiths, Monroe	1976	Ethel Beckham, Miami-Dade
2002	Judy Conte, Volusia	1975	Allan Keeth, Seminole
2001	Barbara Sharpe, Alachua	1974	Rayma Page, Lee
2000	Jane Gallucci, Pinellas	1973	Pete Gindl, Escambia
1999	Patricia Riley, Lee	1972	George Miller, Jr., Putnam
1998	Bill Graham, Palm Beach	1971	Broward Davis, Leon
1997	Andrea Whiteley, Polk		
1996	Linda Sutherland, Orange		
1995	Margaret Sirianni, Lee		

*Denotes half-term served



FSBA Past Presidents are acknowledged at the 2022 Annual Joint Conference.



FSBA Past Presidents are acknowledged at the 2023 Annual Summer Conference.



SPONSORED BY:



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