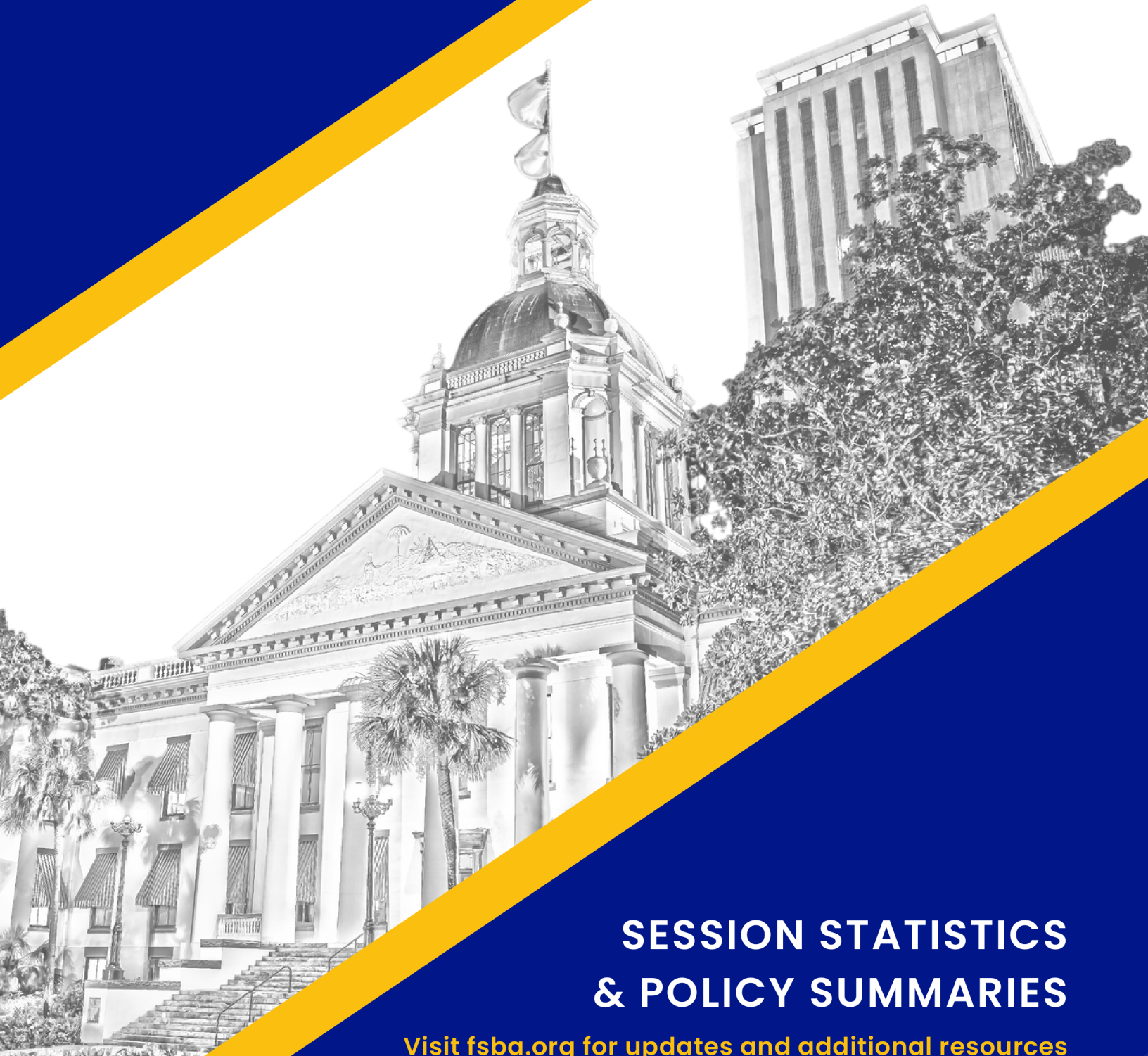




FSBA

**2024 SESSION SUMMARY
COMPILATION**



**SESSION STATISTICS
& POLICY SUMMARIES**

Visit fsba.org for updates and additional resources

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

This document was published on April 11, 2024. Updates based on actions of Governor DeSantis will be made electronically on the FSBA website. Check back often or contact info@fsba.org with questions.



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SESSION STATS 2024

GOVERNOR
RON DESANTIS (R)

SENATE

KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO,
PRESIDENT (R)

28 REPUBLICANS
12 DEMOCRATS

1957

TOTAL BILLS FILED

325

BILLS PASSED
BOTH CHAMBERS

HOUSE

PAUL RENNER,
SPEAKER (R)

84 REPUBLICANS
36 DEMOCRATS

\$117.4 B

TOTAL BUDGET*

*PRIOR TO LINE ITEM VETO



FSBA



MEASURING SUCCESS: ADVOCACY GOALS FOR 2024

Significant gains can be seen in FSBA's four legislative platform priority areas: deregulation, student achievement, facilities and funding.

- ✓ **1. Deregulation:** FSBA supports legislative efforts to provide greater instructional flexibility, reduce administrative reporting and provide greater capital flexibility for traditional public schools **all of which was provided in the final legislation of SB 7002 and SB 7004.**
- ✓ **2. Student Achievement Success Initiatives:** FSBA advocates for students and their families to have every potential opportunity for success **now includes the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program.**
- ✓ **3. Facilities:** Parents and families believe an investment in our school districts is an investment in our students and Florida's future. To assist with new construction costs, the **moratorium on the cost per student station has been extended until July 1, 2028.**
- ✓ **4. Funding:** FSBA supports legislative efforts to increase the BSA by at least 5%. The BSA was **increased by 3.72%. This results in a \$191.25 per student increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA).**

HB 3 Online Protections for Minors

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Prohibits children under the age of 14 from using social media.
- Allows social media companies to permit parental consent for children ages 14 and 15 to use social media platforms.
- Allows children ages 16 and up to use social media platforms.
- Social media platforms must terminate all accounts of minors younger than 14 as well as those accounts of 14 & 15 year olds in which the platform has not received consent from parents or guardians.
- Allows parents and guardians to terminate these accounts.
- Social media platforms must permanently delete all personal information held by the platforms relating to terminated accounts unless otherwise required by law to maintain the personal information.
- Social media platforms are regulated under HB 3 if:
 - The platform allows users to upload content or view content activity of other users;
 - 10% or more of the daily users younger than 16 years of age spend on average 2 hours per day or longer on the online forum, website, or application on days when using the online forum, website or application during the previous 12 months (prior month if new online forum, website or application);
 - Employs algorithms that analyze user data or information to select content for users; and
 - Has any of the following addictive features:
 - Infinite scrolling: which means continuous loading content or seamless content loading – effectively the look and feel of an Instagram or Facebook page that seems to never end or use page breaks/force changing to a separate interface;
 - Push Notifications or alerts;
 - Displays interactive metrics showing user engagement with content;
 - Auto-play video or videos which play without user having to click a button;
 - Live-streaming or a function that allows similar live footage to be broadcast
- Restricts access to material harmful to minors via website or online forum, mainly prohibiting minors' access to pornographic material by requiring age verification and restricts access to any person younger than 18 years of age.
 - Age verification can be anonymous or through standard age verification methods
 - If anonymous, the age verification method used must be conducted by a nongovernmental, independent third party organized under federal law.
- Information used to verify age must be deleted once age is verified.
- Companies regulated under this bill are subject to the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act and subject to a \$50,000 fine per violation, reasonable attorney fees and court costs, and punitive damages under certain conditions by the Department of Legal Affairs (Attorney General's office)
- Signed by the Governor. Effective January 1, 2025.

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

- Modifies the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program to expand tutoring availability to during or after the school day.
- Allows high school students who meet the following criteria to tutor K-3 students to enhance their literacy skills.
 - GPA 3.0 or higher
 - No history of disciplinary issues
- Requires participating school districts to recruit, train, and deploy eligible high school students for tutoring.
- Permits a participating student tutor to earn up to three elective credits for high school graduation based on verified tutoring hours. Also counts tutoring hours toward high school graduation and Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program community service requirements.
- Designates high school students who provide at least 75 hours of tutoring as New Worlds Scholars, awarding them a pin.
- Authorizes participating school districts to provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students serving as tutors after-school.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2024.

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

- Minors 15 years old or younger may not work more than 15 hours in any one week while school is in session.
- Provides an exception for minors 16 and 17 years old to work more than 8 hours in any one day when school is scheduled the following day and the day of work is a holiday or a Sunday.
- Provides that the cap on hours of work to 30 hours per week when school is in session for minors ages 16 and 17 may be waived by the minor's parent or custodian or by the school superintendent or designee.
- Allows minors 16 and 17 years old to work more than 6 consecutive days in any one week, but lowers current age limitation to those minors ages 15 years old or younger.
- Requires that minors 16 and 17 years old may work for 8 hours in any one day, but must not work more than 4 continuous hours without a 30 minute meal break and maintains existing requirements for minors 15 years old or younger to have a 30 minute meal break in the permitted 4 hour work period;
- Provides that work restrictions do not apply to:
 - Minors enrolled in educational institutions who qualify for on a hardship basis and receive a waiver on hours from the school superintendent.

- Minors 16 and 17 who are in a home education program or virtual education program in which the minor is separated from the teacher by time only.
- HB 49 clarifies that DBPR may grant a waiver of these restrictions and that an employer in violation of this law is punishable by a fine and a second-degree misdemeanor as provided in s. 450.141, F.S.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2024.

HB 151 **Florida Retirement System**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Enhances a benefit for retirees who are rehired after six months of separation from an FRS employer by another FRS employer whereby the retiree/employee no longer had to waive retirement income for months 7 through 12 after initial termination. In other words, rehires can both receive retirement benefits and access their DROP accounts during months 7 through 12 after separation and receive their salaries. This applies to rehires after July 1, 2024.
- Closes the “Preservation of Benefits Program” that was only used by employees who earned extremely large salaries from an FRS employer starting two years from now for new participants. Existing participants and those who enter prior to July 1, 2026 would be able to continue within the program.
- Sets rates for the next year to reflect the two changes above and the changes to reflect the most recent actuarial study of the pension plan:
 - Changes the “normal cost” for the pension plan for Elected Class: Legislators, Governor, Lt. Governor, Cabinet Officers, State Attorneys, Public Defenders from 10.45% to 10.70% starting July 1, 2024. (increase of 0.25%);
 - Changes the rates for the Unfunded Actuarial Liability for the following classes in the following ways:
 - Regular Class rate changed from 4.78% to 4.84% (increase of 0.06%);
 - Special Risk Class changed from 11.95% to 12.07% (increase of 0.12%);
 - Elected Class: Justices and Judges changed from 27.93% to 28.49% (increase of 0.56%); and,
 - All other classes/rates remain the same as the current year.
- Establishes as important state interest in the bill because of certain Constitutional mandates.
- If approved by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 187 **Antisemitism**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Defines “antisemitism” based on the working definition developed and adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) as a certain perception of Jewish individuals which may be expressed as hatred toward such individuals.

- Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and their property and toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.
- Codifies the definition and examples in Chapter 1 of the Florida Statutes, relating to Definitions, making them applicable to all sections of Florida Law.
- Specifies that the definition of “antisemitism” does not include criticism of Israel that is similar to criticism of any other country and that the definition and examples of “antisemitism” may not be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or to conflict with federal or state antidiscrimination laws.
- If approved by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024

HB 357 Special Observances

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Designates November each year as "Veterans Appreciation Month" and removes references to Veterans Week, allowing for a month-long recognition of veterans.
- Changes the observance from a week to the entire month of November.
- Authorizes the Governor to issue an annual proclamation to designate November as Veterans Appreciation Month.
- Encourages counties, municipalities, public schools, and residents to observe the occasion with special programs and events that show appreciation for veterans.
- If approved by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 362 Medical Treatment Under the Worker’s Compensation Law

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Increases the fee schedule physicians can charge for treating a worker’s compensation patient.
- Increases the maximum reimbursement allowances (MRA) for physicians licensed under ch.438, F.S. or ch.459, F.S., from 110 percent to 175 percent of the reimbursement amount allowed by Medicare.
- Increases the MRA for surgical procedures from 140 percent to 210 percent of reimbursement amount allowed by Medicare.
- If approved by the Governor, effective January 1, 2025.

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

- Establishes the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program within the FLDOE by encouraging student to develop expertise in the performing or visual arts and recognize high school graduates who have met benchmarks in fine arts coursework.
- Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, the Seal of Fine Arts must be awarded to a high school student who has earned a standard high school diploma and successfully completed at least three year-long courses or earned three sequential course credits in dance, music, theatre, or the visual arts with a grade of “A” or higher in each course and meets a minimum of two of the following requirements:
 - Successfully completes a fine arts IB, AP, dual enrollment, or honors course in dance, music, theatre, or the visual arts with a grade of “B” or higher;
 - Participates in a district or statewide organization’s juried event as a selected student participant for two or more years;
 - Records at least 25 volunteer hours of arts-related community service and presents a comprehensive presentation on his or her experiences;
 - Meets the requirements of a portfolio-based program identifying the student as an exemplary practitioner of the fine arts; or
 - Receives district, state, or national recognition for the creation and submission of an original work of art, which is defined as a musical or theatrical composition, visual artwork, or choreographed routine or performance.
- The Commissioner of Education must provide to each school district a Seal of Fine Arts to be affixed to a student’s diploma and provide benchmarks for a school district to implement the program.
- School districts must provide the Commissioner with the number of students who have met the requirements to receive a seal, affix the insignia to the student’s diploma, and indicate on the student’s transcript that they have earned a Seal of Fine Arts.
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules administering the program and allows the SBE to establish additional criteria for the award of the Seal of Fine Arts.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2024

HB 537 Student Achievement

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Establishes a two-year Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program within FLDOE.
- The pilot program is open to school districts in Alachua, Marion, and Miami-Dade counties. Approved and participating districts will each receive \$6 per student.
- School districts must utilize the adopted music-based supplemental materials at least twice per week to supplement mathematics instruction by teachers who are certified to teach mathematics.
- Participating middle schools must be in the same attendance zone as an elementary school that participated in the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program.
- School districts must annually certify to the FLDOE that the participating schools meets statutory requirements.
- Requires the UF College of Education to evaluate the program's effectiveness and annually share the findings with the FLDOE and the Legislature.
- \$400,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated in the budget for the pilot program.
- If approved by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 832 Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Requires agencies involved in the Employment First Act, which includes the Department of Education, to enhance collaborative efforts by collecting and sharing data between agencies.
- Ensures that the interagency cooperative agreement identifies the roles, responsibilities, and objectives of state agencies and organizations, including data collection and sharing to support individuals with disabilities.
- Mandates the identification of accountability measures for the sustainability of the agreement, specifically focusing on increasing competitive integrated employment, decreasing subminimum wage employment, and reducing nonintegrated employment settings for individuals with disabilities.
- Directs the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to issue an annual statewide report by December 1 each year, detailing the act's implementation progress and the effectiveness of accountability measures.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 865 Youth Athletic Activities

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Requires each athletic coach employed by any public school to hold a valid coaching certificate, which can be temporary, professional, or specifically for athletic coaching.
- Mandates all such coaches to obtain and maintain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, and the use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED), aligning with national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines.
- Excludes volunteer athletic coaches not employed by any public school district from these requirements.
- If signed by the Governor effective July 1, 2024.

SB 883 Short Acting Bronchodilator in Schools

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Authorizing students to carry and use short-acting bronchodilators and their components for asthma relief. The bill enables schools to acquire, stock, and administer these medications under certain conditions as relates to use for the quick relief of asthma symptoms.
- A public school may obtain the acting bronchodilators and any components needed for disbursement from a licensed pharmacist or a wholesale distributor.
- Participating public schools must adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician.
- The school district must adopt protocols which provide guidance for administering short-acting bronchodilators or components in instances of respiratory distress for a student with a known diagnosis of asthma and for students with no known diagnosis of asthma if the school district approves this administration.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2024.

HB 917 Career and Technical Education

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Repeals the Talent Development Council (TDC) and revises the Reimagining Education and Career Help Act by removing reference to TDC and requiring coordination with CareerSource Florida and Dept. of Commerce to coordinate publication of a statewide asset map of career and technical education by March 1, 2025, with specific criteria for report identified. Also required to coordinate and communicate annually on efforts to meet the state's health care workforce needs using specific criteria. Replaces references to TDC with Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help throughout statutes.

- Redefines "journeyworker" as someone who has completed a registered and state-approved apprenticeship program or met industry-specific experience and testing requirements.
- Creates a hazardous occupations exemption for minors to work in construction under certain conditions related to OSHA certification and supervision if work performed is not in violation of federal laws or OSHA or rules.
- Allows counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses in electrical and alarm trades if complete registered and state-approved program or 12,000 hours of on-the-job (OJT) training and requires recognition of journeymen licensed in these trades by other counties or municipalities.
- Allows district school boards to provide other career and industry networking opportunities as an alternative to career fairs after consulting with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups.
- Requires the Commissioner of Education to include a representative from the Department of Commerce and specifies business and industry leaders for "in-demand careers" to those reviewing and commenting on academic standard revisions.
- Specifies that apprenticeship programs must be registered with FDOE and that students must complete one year of related technical instruction to count toward career education courses that satisfy graduation requirements. Requires existing statutorily required workgroup to convene by December 1, 2024.
- Exempts private, home school, and personalized education program graduates from having to complete career education basic skills requirements prior to entry into CTE certification programs.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 931 **School Chaplains**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Gives school boards authorization to implement a policy allowing volunteer chaplains within public and charter schools.
- Volunteer chaplains must go through a Level 2 background screening process before working within the schools.
- Requires school boards to specifically assign the permitted duties of a chaplain within the school district. The policy must address:
 - Support they can provide;
 - Services they may offer;
 - Programs to students they can provide.
- Requires school districts to publish the list of authorized chaplains on the school district website and denote religious affiliations if any.
- Requires principals to notify parents and receive written consent for child participation.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 958 Local Government Employees

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

- Increases the base salary of both elected superintendents and county tax collectors by \$5,000.
- Includes provisions related to tax collector offices and employees.
- Allows school boards to contract with the local tax collector to have an employee of the tax collector’s office administer road tests on school grounds.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 994 Student Transportation Safety

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

- Clarifies language adopted during the 2023 Session in SB 766 Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions which established the allowability of video-based “school bus infraction detection systems.”
- Clarifies that proceeds from the collection of fines may be used to support the operation of the system including paying for the program, equipment, and maintenance.
- Adds that the funds collected from violations may also be used for other student transportation safety initiatives, bus driver recruitment and retention stipends, or other student transportation safety enhancements.
- Removes the requirement that signage on the rear of the bus must be reflective.
- Adds that if a violator fails to pay the civil penalty or contest the violation within 30 days, a court with jurisdiction may assess the penalty and court costs if they find by a preponderance of the evidence the violation occurred.
- If signed by the Governor, bill is effective upon becoming law.

SB 1264 History of Communism

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

- Requires the DOE to create standards and requirements for instruction of communism within Florida public schools at age and developmental appropriateness to cover:
 - History of Communism in the US and movements to include their history and tactics.
 - Foreign country atrocities which were guided by communist regimes.
 - Comparative political analysis of democracy v. totalitarianism.
 - Discussion of 20th century rise of communist threat to the US referencing:
 - The Chinese cultural revolutions.

- Spread through Cuba and Latin America.
- Calls for the creation of the Institute of Freedom in the Americas at Miami-Dade College with a 5 member appointed board.
- Calls for DOE and DOS to provide the Legislature recommendations on the creation of a museum by December 1, 2024.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1285 Education

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Changes that charter schools now must notify the property appraiser when the property is no longer being used for a charter school. There is no longer a requirement to file an annual exemption application for property tax exemptions for property being used to house a charter school.
- Creates the Office of Ocean Economy Development at FAU.
- Authorizes charter schools using the classical school model can give enrollment preference to students transferring from another classical school in the state.
- Changes that charter schools can now also target students whose parent or guardian works in the development that provided land or facilities to the charter school.
- Allows charters to target a student whose parent “is employed within a reasonable distance of the charter school, as described in paragraph (20)(c).” Students eligible under this new subparagraph are subject to random lottery.
- Requires charter and sponsor to cooperate to make sure that transportation is not a barrier for students residing “within a reasonable distance of the charter school as determined in its charter.”
- Authorizes private schools to use facilities owned by a library, museum, theater, church, college, etc., without the need for rezoning or special exception. The same applies if they purchase such a facility from one of those entities.
- Changes that it is the virtual program provider’s responsibility to provide a list of students to the district, including their ID number, grade, and needed assessments. Districts and virtual providers can agree to testing elsewhere, but the default is testing at the zoned school. The district must give students access and tell them when and where to be.
- Creates Purple Star School District Program. If 75% or more of the schools in a district are Purple Star Campuses and the district has a website with resources and info for military families, the district can be a Purple Star School District. The Department of Education may adopt additional criteria.
- Requires every district and charter school to give 11th and 12th graders an opportunity to take the ASVAB during normal school hours. New language also says they should allow the students to consult with a military recruiter “if the student selects.”
- Clarifies that districts can assign to a disciplinary program or an alternative school setting or other program pursuant to section 1006.13 (zero tolerance statute). Also adds:
 - Language saying that a student’s disability cannot be the sole reason for reassigning the student.

- Such programs shall utilize instructional teaching methods and student services that lead to improved student behavior as appropriate to the specific needs of the student.
- When a student is enrolled in a dropout prevention program, an academic intervention plan has to be developed with goals and progress monitoring procedures. If applicable, it must also be consistent with a student's IEP.
- Adds that teachers in the program must be certified.
- Clarifies that residents of a county who are not the parent of a student “with access to school district materials” can only object to one book per month. SBE can adopt rules for this new provision. In addition, districts must discontinue the use of a book throughout the district if the school board does not allow a parent the right to read passages because of sub-sub-subparagraph b.(l) (pornographic).
- Requires that publishers of instructional materials make sample student editions of instructional materials on the Commissioner's list of state-adopted materials electronically available below cost for use by educator prep programs and institutes so that educators can practice teaching with currently adopted materials.
- Requires districts to make reasonable efforts to enter into dual enrollment articulation agreements with a Florida College System institution that offers online dual enrollment courses.
- Clarifies that districts using the charter school option for turnaround continue to operate the school for another year. It must:
 - Enter into an agreement with the charter school by October 1st and give the charter an opportunity to evaluate the program and personnel to help prepare for assumption of full control of the school and facility by July 1st of the following year.
 - The district cannot reduce or remove resources during this time.
 - The charter school must provide enrollment “preference” to students currently attending the school and those zoned to attend it. The district and charter must consult every three years to see if attendance zones need to be adjusted.
 - The charter school must keep the current grades served by the school, but it can also elect to serve additional grades.
 - Districts cannot charge rent for the facility. The charter and district must agree to reasonable maintenance provisions to maintain the facility “in a manner similar to all other school facilities in the school district.”
 - The district may not withhold any administrative fees for services provided under section 1002.33(20)(a).
 - If the school gets a C during the evaluation year before the charter takes over, the school must still go to the charter. It does not exit turnaround status.
 - DOE needs to adopt a standard charter school turnaround contract, standard facility lease, and a mutual management agreement.
- Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, any changes to the school grading model or scale adopted by the SBE cannot go into effect until the following school year.
- State Board of Education shall adopt rules for issuing a classical education teaching certificate. Such a certificate would only be valid at a classical school.

- Authorizes DOE to give \$50 bonus to IB teachers for each student who receives a C or higher on a Theory of Knowledge subject examination. The bonuses will be prorated if not enough funds are available to give \$50 per student. \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds appropriated.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1291 Educator Preparation Programs

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Prohibits educator and school leader preparation programs at both colleges/universities and school districts from including curriculum that teaches identity politics.
- Prohibits teacher preparation courses from distorting significant historical events and from teaching curriculum based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the U.S. institutions.
- Requires teacher preparation courses to provide opportunities for candidates to think critically, achieve mastery of academic content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.
- Extends these prohibitions and requirements to postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, and school leader preparation programs.
- Mandates that school leader preparation programs also focus on candidates demonstrating mastery of program content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1317 Patriotic Organizations

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Defines the term “patriotic organization” as a youth membership organization serving young people under the age of 21 that is listed in specified sections of Title 36, U.S.C., with an educational purpose that promotes patriotism and civic involvement. The organizations defined in the bill are:
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of America;
 - Boy Scouts of America;
 - Boys & Girls Clubs of America;
 - Civil Air Patrol;
 - Future Farmers of America;
 - Girl Scouts of the United States of America;
 - Naval Sea Cadets;

- Little League Incorporated; and
 - Marine League Corp.
- Authorizes a school district to:
 - Allow a representative of a patriotic organization the opportunity to speak with and distribute informational materials in a classroom setting to students to encourage participation in the patriotic organization and inform students of benefits to the student and the community.
 - Provide opportunities for a patriotic organization to have displays at schools within the district to provide opportunities for student recruitment.
- Requires that if a school district authorizes a representative of a patriotic organization to speak with students the school district must:
 - Provide a specific date and time for the patriotic organization to speak to students.
 - Notify parents or guardians of each patriotic organization’s expected presentation and the option to withhold consent for their child participating in such presentation.
- Requires that a school district may not discriminate against a patriotic organization in the use of any school building or property for activities that occur outside of the school day.
- Specifies that a school district that allows a patriotic organization to speak with and distribute informational materials to students or use school buildings or property is not required to provide equal access to an organization that is not designated as a patriotic organization.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1329 **Veterans**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Collect and preserve stories of veterans through the Major John Leroy Haynes Florida Veterans' History Program.
- Adjust the corporation governance provisions for Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. to serve as the state's military transition assistance board which aims to provide employment opportunities and promote the hiring of veterans and their spouses.
- Amends the current list of required instruction topics which reside in §1003.42, FS to include appropriate instruction in middle grades and high school on the history and importance of Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. The instruction may include two 45-minute lessons that occur on or before the respective holidays.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1361 Education

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Implements grants to support the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in schools for students in grades 6-12 and requires selected platforms to provide comprehensive support and resources for both students and teachers.
- Establishes a grant program to expand AI for student outcomes and reduce teacher workload.
- Establishes that districts may receive grant funds for subscription fees and professional learning.
- Expands the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts eligibility to students enrolled in VPK Education Program.
- Revokes the requirement for quarterly payments of scholarships and certain fund transfer methods, emphasizing direct purchases by parents if an available system exists.
- Designates the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning as the administrator for the New Worlds Reading Initiative and lists its responsibilities, including annual reporting and support for literacy improvement.
- Creates the Lastinger Center for Learning, focusing on enhancing student outcomes, educator professional development, and research in early learning, literacy, and mathematics.
- Requires school districts to notify parents of eligible students about the process to request funds when providing results from the standardized coordinated screening and progress monitoring.
- Introduces the New Worlds Tutoring Program to provide academic support in reading and math, requiring annual reporting on program efficacy and student outcomes.
- Funds the Lastinger Center with \$2 million for grants.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1403 School Choice

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Defines eligibility and contribution requirements for nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations and penalties for non-compliance or fraud.
- Specifies eligibility for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, adding provisions for students with disabilities and prekindergarten programs including setting numerical limits on scholarships under the FES-UA program for the 2024-25 school year with plans for incremental increases in subsequent years tied to exceptional student education enrollment figures.
- Adjusts eligibility and scholarship application processes for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, including prohibitions and scholarship amounts.
- Amends the Hope Scholarship Program, focusing on student eligibility, parental options, and district obligations without providing detailed procedural changes.

- Extends access to scholarship programs to dependent children of active-duty members of the US Armed Forces who have received permanent change of station orders to Florida or whose home of record or state of residence is Florida.
- Updates requirements for middle grade promotion and high school diploma criteria, emphasizing the importance of civics education.
- Revises guidelines for virtual instruction program providers, including the removal of sectarian provider restrictions.
- Authorizes for personalized education program (PEP) students to enroll in private schools if they attend in-person classes for a minimum of two days per week, aligning with their individualized learning plans.
- Mandates annual financial auditing and operational review of eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations by independent entities.
- Establishes stringent deadlines for Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFOs) and parents regarding scholarship application and renewal processes with priority given to renewal students in the disbursement of funds.
- Allows for the transfer of scholarship funds between organizations and outlines the use of contributions for administrative expenses and book purchasing within specific programs.
- Requires development and annual revision of purchasing guidelines for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program by the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1473 **School Safety**

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Allows certain individuals to be certified as school guardians without completing specific training requirements, adjusting training mandates.
- Requires schools and sheriffs to timely report information regarding school guardians and their programs to the Department of Law Enforcement, which will maintain a comprehensive list and report non-compliant entities.
- Establishes penalties for drone operation over public and private schools, including potential criminal charges for unauthorized video recording.
- Mandates district school boards and charter schools to provide instruction on the use of a mobile suspicious activity reporting tool to students each school year.
- Obligates superintendents to notify appropriate officials at postsecondary institutions of certain alleged acts by dual-enrolled students within a specific timeframe.
- Directs the Office of Safe Schools to develop and adhere to a school safety compliance inspection report, conduct unannounced inspections, and refer non-compliant personnel for disciplinary action.
- Stipulates that schools must keep records of emergency drills, including active assailant emergency drills, and comply with specified safety requirements such as locking classrooms and identifying safe areas.
- Requires district school boards and charter school governing boards to adopt a progressive discipline policy for personnel who knowingly violate school safety protocols.

- Requires all gates or other access points that restrict ingress to or egress from a school campus shall remain closed and locked when students are on campus. A gate or other campus access point may not be open or unlocked, regardless of whether it is during normal school hours.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

HB 1509 Public Records/School Guardians

[Bill Text](#)

[Final Bill Analysis](#)

- Provides an exemption for any data revealing whether a person has been certified to serve as a school guardian by the Department of Law Enforcement, law enforcement agencies, school districts, or charter schools from state public records laws.
- Subjects the exemption to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, setting an expiration date of October 2, 2029, unless the Legislature reenacts it.
- Declares it a public necessity to protect the identities of certified school guardians to maintain school security, the safety of guardians, and the effectiveness of school guardian programs.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024 with HB 1479.

SB 1688 Career Themed Courses

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Enhances the Florida Career and Professional Education Act by revising strategic plan requirements, annual review data inclusion, and informational provisions for students and parents.
- Requires strategic plans to include strategies for informing and promoting career and technical education opportunities to students, parents, the community, and stakeholders.
- Mandates the Department of Education to collect student achievement and performance data in industry-certified career education programs and career-themed courses as part of the annual review.
- Obligates school districts to inform students and parents during middle school course selection of the career and professional academy or career-themed courses available within the district.
- Each career and professional academy and secondary school providing a career-themed course is required to:
 - Provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum integrated with a career curriculum;
 - Consider multiple styles of student learning;
 - Promote learning by doing through application and adaptation;
 - Maximize relevance of the subject matter;
 - Enhance each student’s capacity to excel;
 - Include an emphasis on work habits and work;

- Include one or more partnerships with postsecondary institutions through specified articulation agreements, businesses, industry, employers, economic development organizations, or other appropriate partners from the local community.
- Each district school board, in collaboration with local workforce development boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary institutions, is required to include plans to implement a career and professional academy or a career-themed course in at least one middle school in the district as part of the strategic 3-year plan.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 1746 Public Employees

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

- Provides some additional clarifying language related to SB 256 from 2023.
- Amends Florida Statutes Section 447.201, the Act Pertaining to Public Employees, to provide clarification that a mass transit employee can have his dues deducted by the employer.
- Clarifies that a public employee must provide a signed copy of the membership authorization form to the bargaining agent.
- Stipulates that the new SB 256 procedures to not apply to unions where a "majority" of its unit are law enforcement officers, correctional officers, probation officers, and firefighters.
- Extends this exemption to bargaining units where a majority of its unit are "public telecommunicators, emergency medical technicians, or paramedics."
- The bargaining agents must now identify the uniform assessments that a member must pay and how often membership dues should be paid.
- Signed by the Governor. Effective upon becoming law.

HB 5101 Education Funding

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

- Allows K-8 public school students to receive transportation stipends if they are attending a different public school than assigned or a developmental research school. Requires application and approval through scholarship funding organization (SFO), with amount specified in the state budget annually. Students already using a stipend will be prioritized each year based on total amount allocated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), then new applicants on a first come, first served basis. Stipend for 2024-25 SY is \$750. Total amount appropriated approx. \$14m.
- Removes hold harmless provision for school districts that approve charter school applications after the FTE projection window.

- Outlines operational funding for charter schools sponsored by state universities or Florida college system institutions to align with student's program, have a CWF of 1 and include the BSA, discretionary millage compression supplement and the state funded discretionary contribution. Students also qualify for a pro rata share of any categorical for which they qualify. Provides formula for allocating discretionary capital outlay funding provided by the state (\$9.2m in 2024-25 GAA).
- Creates the Bridge to Speech program to fund auditory-oral education programs and funded in the GAA (\$875k in 2024-24) Grant qualifications are outlined in proviso.
- Removes transportation as authorized use of funds for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Family Empowerment Scholarship Programs.
- Moves VPK provider use of performance metrics for provider designations to the 2024-25 School year. Increases to 5% amount Early Learning Coalitions (ELC's) may retain for administrative expenses.
- Requires FDOE to collect School Readiness program cost data, to include salary data from Dept. of Commerce and operational, material and salary cost data from providers, and submit to legislature by November 1 annually along with current reimbursement rates, specified survey data and federally required cost analysis data.
- Requires ELC's to implement a parent sliding fee scale that must increase according to family income. Parent copayment must be established at time of eligibility determination and be redetermined annually. Also required to distribute funding to providers based on county reimbursement rate, provider type and care level and clarifies program fund policies are established by the Legislature. Provides formula for calculating number of adjusted weighted FTE school readiness children to be used for distributing each county's pro rata share of funds. Removes Gold Seal Quality designation as qualifier for differentiated market rates. Repeals cost of care reporting statute for school readiness.
- Creates the Charity for Change program for implementing character education standards. Authorizes use of third-party provider for after-school and summer services. Aligns with \$4.7m in GAA allocated to FDOE to support program.
- Creates the AMI Kids program as alternative to commitment or institutionalization for young people to be used for education, behavior modification etc. Aligns with \$1.1m provided for program in GAA.
- Requires each school district to establish a threat management coordinator to serve as primary point of contact for threat management program and report data to Office of Safe Schools.
- Repeals the Driving Choice Grant Program.
- Establishes criteria for referral of VPK students with substantial deficiencies in early literacy to districts and allows participation in summer bridge program prior to entering kindergarten. Program required to meet FDOE requirements for 4 hours per day with a minimum of 100 hours.
- Renames FL Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to FL First Responder Academy Scholarship Program and expands eligibility to emergency medical technicians, firefighters and paramedics. Requires FDOE to consult with Dept. of Health and Dept. of Financial Services regarding administration of program. Removes limitation of state colleges to offer program and establishes eligibility criteria based on type of first responder.
- Requires FDOE to have a system to track all school bond referenda and debt incurred by school districts as a result of both capital outlay and operational referenda. DOE must also have database of bonds not yet retired, in effect and any future district referenda. Establishes criteria for database operations, reports and alerts.

- Requires legislature to provide funds for the Educational Enrollment Stabilization Fund to annually begin with a minimum of \$250m. Allows carryforward of unspent funds for up to 10 years after initial appropriation.
- Defines district education foundations to include any meeting definition of direct-support organizations, along with FLVS Foundation for purposes of receiving matching grants from the Academic Improvement Trust Fund.
- Deletes subject area mastery from requirements to receive temporary apprenticeship certificate for educators.
- Provides special calculation for Wakulla County School District taxable value millage for one year.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 7002 Deregulation of Public Schools

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Allows districts to publish their intent to adopt budget notice on a county public notice website, instead of just in the newspaper. A “publicly accessible website” can include the district’s own website if it meets the requirements of section 50.0311.
- Requires districts provide “access” to facilities, but not “staff.” Districts must also follow the shared use agreement as part of the county’s emergency management plan and program, which is where staffing considerations can be addressed.
- Clarifies that signage on the back of buses regarding infraction detection systems no longer needs to be “high-visibility reflective.”
- Allows districts to use the funds collected from bus infraction detection systems to recruit and retain bus drivers in addition to other allowed uses.
- Allows districts to use the county’s public notice website or district’s own website to publish notices for school board meetings.
- Establishes a process for the review and approval of districtwide policies and procedures, through the formal delegated authority of the district school board, pertaining to the district school system as the district school superintendent may consider necessary for its more efficient operation.”
- Allows a parent to agree to receive written notice of placement in a dropout prevention by a method other than certified mail.
- Allows a parent to agree to receive written notice of suspension by a method other than US mail.
- Repeals the requirement that the district give middle and high school students a two-page summary of the economic security report from DEO upon enrollment.
- Allows newly hired pre-K teachers 45 days to complete the three emergent literacy training courses.
- Provides board policy may allow parents to agree to receive electronic notice or other alternative forms of notice, instead of certified mail, before placing a student in dropout prevention.
- Requires program participants to meet certification requirements “before participating in field experiences.”
- Repeals the annual guidance report sent to Commissioner.

- Allows parents to agree to alternative notification instead of US mail for suspension notices.
- Allows districts to submit financial reports only quarterly or less frequently, unless State Board of Education rule identifies the district as having financial concerns, in which case it will still have to submit monthly.
- Exempts school districts from section 668.50(18)(b), which allows Department of Management Services (DMS) to prescribe requirements for the creation and management of electronic records. This allows districts to follow the Uniform Electronic Transaction Act without having to follow DMS rules.
- Allows districts the option to post their tentative budget on the county's legal notices website instead. Also, districts need only submit one copy of the final, adopted budget to DOE, instead of 2 copies.
- Allows that if a district is unable to purchase transportation equipment and supplies at or under the DOE price limits, the district can ask DOE for help and then make purchase in excess of those limits if the DOE cannot help.
- Raises the amount per unweighted FTE from \$175 to \$200 from 1.5 capital millage funds that districts can use for driver's ed vehicles and payment of property and casualty insurance premiums.
- Allows board policy for mentors to include DOE guidelines, but no longer must be based upon those guidelines.
- Reduces from twice per year to once per year the required submission to DOE of school email addresses for all instructional and administrative personnel. The submission is now only due on September 15th. Districts will no longer need to submit another report on February 15th.
- Requires the State Board of Education to develop strategies to address critical teacher shortage areas annually.
- Allows districts to pay teachers for advanced degrees in the salary schedule if the degree is in the area of certification. The new provision also removed the date, making this potentially apply to all teachers, not just those hired after July 1, 2011.
- Provides various board duties cannot be constrained by collective bargaining, such as incentives for highly effective teachers, student discipline, school safety, correspondence to parents and community, the school calendar, and a few more.
- Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to require the union president to appear before it whenever the SBE requires a superintendent to appear before it for a Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) update.
- Adds the SAT, ACT, and CLT to the list of tests someone can pass to show mastery of general knowledge (the law currently lists only GRE but uses "including but not limited to the GRE" language).
- Allows a certificate holder to place his or her certificate in inactive status. The SBE shall adopt rules for requirements to reactivate if inactive for more than one year.
- Changes the reference from "temporarily certified" to "inexperienced," meaning a teacher who has been teaching three years or less. With this change, schools may not assign too many "inexperienced" teachers to a D or F school.
- Clarifies that a district's ability to provide incentives without interference from collective bargaining includes incentives paid for with federal funds.
- Aligns teacher apprenticeship program requirements with other programs by setting the GPA at 2.5 instead of 3.0. It also says that a mentorship needs to be "at least" 2 years, and the bill reduces the required experience for a mentor from 7 years to 5.

- Adds the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation to the list of those who can design a teacher preparation program for teachers to obtain additional endorsements.
- Requires the DOE to waive subject area examination fees and certification fees for ESE K-12 teachers looking to add Elementary K-6 and for Elementary K-6 teachers looking to add ESE K-12.
- Requires the Commissioner to recommend to the Governor and Legislature policy and funding changes to enhance the development and retention of ESE teachers. The report should consider alternative certifications, financial incentives, ways to reach high school students to get them to consider ESE programs, FEFP funding, and innovative ideas for supporting ESE teachers in their work.
- Repeals the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program.
- Repeals the Florida College System Institution Employment Equity Accountability Program.
- Adds ancillary and auxiliary facilities, instead of just schools, to the list of facilities that can be rented or leased. It also adds them to the list of facilities that can be part of a lease-purchase agreement.
- Removes the requirement that the school board must have a long-term lease of land for at least 40 years before it constructs any facility on the land. Now, the lease must be for at least as long as the life expectancy of the permanent facility constructed on the land.
- Removes the requirement that districts submit a plan, within the 5-year work plan, to Commissioner for approval for the use of existing portables and then submit an annual progress report on portable usage.
- Repeals the reduction of relocatable classrooms law.
- Removes school districts from the requirement to submit an educational plant survey every five years.
- Provides flexibility for districts to opt out of educational facility construction requirements, allowing districts to build a school that only has to meet the same requirements as charter schools. There are restrictions if there is a deficit of necessary shelter space within the district, but no one can require districts to build more shelter space than identified as needed in the statewide emergency shelter plan.
- Increases the day-labor contract limitation from \$280,000 to \$600,000.
- Removes the requirement that districts report on change orders as part of its facilities plan under section 1013.35.
- Extends the moratorium on cost-per-student station limitations for an additional two years. Now, there will be no CPSS limits for new construction started on or before July 1, 2028, instead of 2026.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 7004 Deregulation of Public Schools

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

- Eliminates the State Board of Education's responsibility to establish the cost of certain tuition and fees.
- Removes the requirement for the state board to identify metrics and develop plans relating to the Florida College System.

- Deletes the necessity for a performance contract in the Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning option, instead allowing principals to use it at their discretion.
- Repeals sections related to single-gender programs, the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program, and fine arts reports.
- Removes the mandate for annual comparative evaluation of charter and public technical centers by the Commissioner of Education.
- Modifies virtual instruction program requirements, including providing part-time and full-time options, deleting the nonsectarian requirement for virtual instruction program providers.
- Updates the review cycle for school readiness program plans from every 2 years to every 3 years.
- Changes eligibility requirements for high school equivalency examination and revises student assessment procedures in Department of Juvenile Justice education programs.
- Removes requirement for academically high-performing school districts to submit an annual report to the state board.
- Repeals the automotive service technology education program certification.
- Modifies that money collected for lost or damaged instructional materials may be collected by the principal.
- Adjusts definitions and requirements for "adequate instructional materials" and modifies related notification and purchasing procedures including specifying the adoption cycle must include 6 months between bid specifications and publication of the list of state-adopted instructional materials no later than July 31 in the year preceding the adoption.
- Modifies the requirements for the student progression plan when a student in grades K-2 demonstrates a deficit in English Language Arts and math.
- Modifies to include students in VPK who demonstrate substantial deficiency in early literacy and math skills to receive remedial and supplemental instruction as well as notification to the parent on reading deficiency.
- Modifies when PreK students in the summer program would be assessed using the progress monitoring system.
- Authorizes districts to offer virtual instruction to certain students and allows for the contracting with certain providers to satisfy program requirements.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.

SB 7032 **Education**

[Bill Text](#)

[Staff Analysis](#)

- Creates the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program within the Department of Education to offer education and workforce opportunities to students who have withdrawn from high school prior to graduation.
- Requires institutions to waive 100% of fees for GATE Program students, with waivers provided after state aid is applied.
- Sets eligibility requirements for GATE Program participants, including not having earned a high school diploma or equivalent, have been withdrawn from high school, be a resident of the state, and be 16 to 21 years old at the time of enrollment.

- Sets requirements for continued participation in the GATE program including maintaining a 2.0 GPA for career and technical education coursework, complete the programs within 3 years of initial enrollment unless an extension is warranted.
- Stipulates that participants are eligible for a stipend under certain conditions.
- Prohibits institutions from imposing additional criteria for fee waivers.
- Outlines Department of Education responsibilities, including disseminating information, connecting students to institutions and provide access to online career planning tools.
- Requires annual reporting to document program metrics, such as student achievements and program costs.
- Amends related sections of Florida Statutes to incorporate references and responsibilities related to the GATE Program.
- Establishes the GATE Scholarship, Startup Grant, and Program Performance Fund to support institutions and reward successful student outcomes.
- If signed by the Governor, effective July 1, 2024.