



2025

LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY COMPILATION

Session Statistics & Policy Summaries

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

- 3....Florida Leadership & Session Statistics
- 4....Measuring Success: Advocacy Goals for 2025

Bill Summaries

- 7.... HB 85 – Hazardous Walking Conditions
- 7.... SB 108 – Administrative Procedures
- 8.... SB 112 – Children With Developmental Disabilities
- 9.... SB 248 – Student Participation in Interscholastic Sports
- 10.... HB 259 – Special Observances / Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day
- 10.... SB 268 – Public Records/Congressional Members and Public Officers
- 11.... SB 296 – Middle School and High School Start Times
- 12.... SB 356 – Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 12.... HB 443 – Education (Charter Schools)
- 13.... HB 447 – Disability History and Awareness Education
- 14.... SB 462 – Transportation
- 15.... HB 549 – Gulf of America
- 15.... HB 597 – Diabetes Management in Schools
- 16.... HB 681 – Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding
- 17.... SB/HB 693 – Aggravating Factors for Capital Felonies
- 18.... SB 700 – Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- 19.... HB 809 – School Social Workers
- 19.... HB 875 – Educator Preparation
- 21.... HB 958 – Type 1 Diabetes Early Detection Program
- 22.... HB 969 – Reporting of Student Athletes
- 23.... SB 994 – Driver License Requirements
- 23.... SB 1070 – Electrocardiograms for Student Athletes (“Second Chance Act”)
- 24.... SB 1080 – Local Government Land Regulation
- 25.... SB 1102 – School Readiness Program
- 26.... HB 1105 – Education
- 28.... HB 1145 – Workforce Education
- 29.... HB 1237 – Human Trafficking Awareness
- 30.... HB 1255 – Education
- 35.... SB 1344 – Juvenile Justice System Reform
- 36.... SB 1374 – School District Reporting Requirements
- 37.... SB 1402 – Students Enrolled in Dropout Retrieval Programs
- 38.... SB 1470 – School Safety
- 39.... SB 1514 – Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools
- 40.... HB 1607 – Cardiac Emergencies
- 41.... SB 1730 – Affordable Housing

Thank you to the Florida Education Legislative Liaisons and school board members statewide for your insight and efforts throughout the legislative session.

SESSION STATS 2025

GOVERNOR
RON DESANTIS (R)

SENATE

PRESIDENT
BEN ALBRITTON (R)

27 REPUBLICANS
10 DEMOCRATS
1 UNAFFILIATED
2 VACANCIES

HOUSE

SPEAKER
DANIEL PEREZ (R)

87 REPUBLICANS
32 DEMOCRATS
1 VACANCY

1989

TOTAL BILLS FILED

269

BILLS PASSED
BOTH CHAMBERS

246

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

\$115.1 B

TOTAL BUDGET



FSBA



Florida School Boards Association 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD



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

1 Hurricane Relief and Community Resilience

FSBA supports legislative efforts to:

- Hold school districts impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton financially harmless from loss of students and provide funding to districts that support temporarily relocated students.
- Provide funding to school districts to mitigate the financial impact of disaster preparedness, management and recovery for districts impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- Hold school districts impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton harmless from potential consequences due to late submission of required reporting.

RESULTS —

\$3 million was provided from the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to retrofit existing facilities used as a public hurricane shelter in the Division of Emergency Management's budget, Line Item 2461.

2 Administrative Efficiency

FSBA supports legislative efforts to:

- Allow districts to establish school start times based on the input from parents and families with students attending district schools.

RESULTS ✓

SB 296 passed and allows school districts to submit a report to FLDOE that provides information regarding the justification of school start times if middle schools start before 8:00am and high schools before 8:30 a.m.

- Support using additional concordant scores or portfolios to demonstrate proficiency in required state standards to permit students to continue progression and earn a standard high school diploma.

RESULTS —

SB 166, which did not pass the Legislature, would have allowed a score of level 2 or higher on PM1, PM2 or PM3 ELA 3rd grade to be used for promotion to 4th grade; students would not have been required to pass the statewide standardized grade 10 ELA assessment or the Algebra 1 EOC assessment to earn a standard high school diploma. We expect this issue to return in the 2026 legislative session.

- Reduce unnecessary reporting in consolidated funding categories.

RESULTS ✗

These issues did not gain traction.

- Streamline and reduce reporting of required instruction.

RESULTS ✗

These issues did not gain traction.



Florida School Boards Association 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD



- Eliminate teaching certification being tied to a school district to allow greater opportunities for individuals to retain their teaching certificate. Most other professions do not require a license (certificate) to be linked to an employer.

RESULTS ✓

While this issue generally did not gain traction, HB 809 passed and exempts school social workers from having to take the education certification exam.

3 Attendance and Accountability

FSBA supports legislative efforts to:

- Empower districts to address chronic absenteeism by initiating intervention processes after 10 absences. Currently districts are limited to initiating intervention processes until after 10 unexcused absences occur within a 90-day period. Amend 1003.26(1)(b) to allow school districts to initiate chronic absenteeism strategies immediately upon the 10th student absence by eliminating the 90-day period requirement.

RESULTS —

HB 1367 – School Attendance, passed the House, but the Senate companion bill was not heard (SB 938 – Student Absences). The bills were vastly different. We expect this issue to return in the 2026 legislative session.

4 School Safety and Law Enforcement Support

FSBA supports legislative efforts to:

- In consultation with school safety officers, guardians, law enforcement and school districts support continued school safety measures with glitch bill recommendations based on the implementation of HB 1473 School Safety in the 2024-25 school year.

RESULTS ✓

SB 1470 passed the Legislature and addresses several of the glitch issues.

5 Education Funding and Fiscal Responsibility

FSBA supports legislative efforts to:

- Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least 5% and provide additional flexibility. An increase would help ensure school districts can address increased costs related to innovative academic strategies for low performing students, student transportation, teacher recruitment and retention, insurance, cyber security, increased cost for fingerprint clearinghouse, etc.

RESULTS —

The legislature increased the funds per student by \$142.74 (1.59%) and increase from \$8,987.67 to \$9,130.41.



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- Increase the mental health allocation to permit additional evidence driven mental health services and provide up to 20% flexibility to school districts' recruitment and retention efforts for school social workers and guidance counselors.

RESULTS —

The Mental Health Allocation funding was maintained at \$180,000,000, Line Item 88.

- Increase Safe Schools Allocations to include additional funding for school safety initiatives (including after-school activities) and school safety officers.

RESULTS —

The Safe Schools Allocation was maintained at \$290,000,000, Line Item 88.

- Support funding the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (s. 1011.801, F.S.).

RESULTS ✓

The Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program received \$40 million in funding, Line Item 123. The program was funded with \$100 million in the prior fiscal year.

- Provide funding for full-time Prekindergarten to give every family access to a free, public, high-quality, full-time program. 77% of children who successfully complete VPK demonstrate Kindergarten Readiness.

RESULTS ✗

This issue did not gain traction as the estimated statewide impact is about \$400 million.

- Calculate Capital Outlay FTE for both charter and traditional public schools to include all enrolled students. Currently Prekindergarten students, Adult Education students, and Virtual education students who participate in the classroom are not included when calculating proportional share of Charter Capital Outlay funds.

RESULTS ✗

Issue did not gain traction.

HB 85 – Hazardous Walking Conditions

- Expands the definition of hazardous walking conditions for public school students by adding limited access facilities to existing criteria requiring safe walkways at least 4 feet wide adjacent to roads;
- Clarifies that walkways along limited access facilities (as defined in F.S. 334.03(12)) are automatically considered hazardous walking conditions, regardless of other factors like walkway width or setback requirements;
- Maintains existing safety requirements for other roads, including the 3-foot setback requirement for walkways along uncurbed roads with posted speed limits of 50 mph or greater;
- Preserves current exceptions where hazardous walking condition rules don't apply:
 - o Roads with traffic volume less than 180 vehicles per hour, per direction, during school walking times;
 - o Roads in residential areas with posted speed limits of 30 mph or less;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Develop review schedule for existing rules and ongoing schedule for future five-year review of walking surfaces.

SB 108 – Administrative Procedures

- Defines "technical change" as corrections limited to citations, grammar, typography, or similar scriveners' errors that don't affect the substance of rules or regulatory cost statements;
- Prohibits rules from including automatic expiration provisions *unless expressly authorized by law*, which prevents agencies from creating self-terminating rules without legislative approval;
- Establishes mandatory rule development notice requirements within 30 days of laws *requiring rulemaking*, removing previous timeframe requirements for drafting and proposing rules;
- Restricts incorporation by reference for rules reviewed after December 31, 2010, and rules proposed after July 1, 2025, requiring materials to be submitted electronically in text-searchable format with specific coding requirements for agency-created documents;
- Mandates minimum timeframes between notices requiring at least 7 days between rule development notice and proposed rule notice, with agencies required to publish proposed rules within 180 days unless they provide quarterly updates explaining delays;

- **Creates a comprehensive rule review system requiring agencies to review all existing rules adopted before July 1, 2025 by July 1, 2030, with at least 20% reviewed annually and new rules reviewed within 5 years of adoption;**
- Expands statement of estimated regulatory costs requirements including detailed market impact analysis, transactional costs definitions, and mandatory agency website publication with standardized forms from the Governor's rules ombudsman;
- Strengthens Administrative Procedures Committee oversight requiring agencies to provide regulatory alternatives and lower-cost proposals to the committee, with expanded review authority over rule materials and documents;
- Closes Preservation of Benefits Plan to new members effective July 1, 2026, while allowing current participants to continue;
- Enhances emergency rule procedures including renewal notice requirements, full text publication in Florida Administrative Code, technical change provisions, and superseding rule authority;
- Requires comprehensive licensing performance reporting beginning October 2026, mandating agencies track application processing times, approval rates, and compliance with statutory timeframes;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure bus routes are reviewed for compliance with the above-mentioned guidelines.

SB 112 – Children With Developmental Disabilities

- Creates the Early Steps Extended Option allowing children with developmental delays to continue receiving Early Steps Program services beyond age 3 until the beginning of the school year following their 4th birthday, with \$720,282 in recurring funding and 6 new state positions;
- Establishes the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to coordinate statewide autism services, administer grant programs, develop professional training credentials, and collaborate with state agencies including Health, Education, and Children and Families;
- Launches startup grant program for autism charter schools providing funding for facilities, specialized equipment, staff training, and transportation for schools exclusively serving students with autism spectrum disorder, with priority given to rural and underserved areas;
- Creates specialized summer program grants funding structured 4-week minimum programs for children with autism, including behavioral support, recreational activities, therapy services, and family training workshops;

- Expands the Cinotti Health Care Screening Grant Program to include autism screening, referrals for treatment, and related services alongside existing health conditions like diabetes, cancer, and heart disease;
- **Requires autism training for educator certificate renewal mandating that instructional personnel complete training in knowledge and skills for supporting students with autism as part of their continuing education requirements;**
- Effective immediately upon becoming law, with federal approval for Early Steps Extended Option required by July 1, 2026;

Board Members: Ensure district professional development plans offer updates on this training.

SB 248 – Student Participation in Interscholastic Sports

- Requires activities and sports to meet designation requirements under Florida Statute 1006;205(3)(a) for schools to officially offer them as extracurricular programs;
- Expands home education student athletic participation by **allowing home-schooled students to participate on interscholastic athletic teams at any public school within their district of residence**, not just their assigned school, while maintaining all existing eligibility requirements;
- Revises private school student eligibility criteria for participating in FHSAA sports, expanding access for students whose schools either are not FHSAA members or are FHSAA members but don't offer the specific sport the student wants to play;
- Removes enrollment size restrictions by deleting the provision that limited FHSAA sports participation to students from non-FHSAA member private schools with 200 students or fewer;
- Maintains transparency requirements for non-FHSAA member private schools, requiring them to make all student records (academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance) available to FHSAA upon request;
- Mandates online publication of FHSAA appeal decisions requiring all decisions by the appeals committee, executive director, and board of directors to be posted online in searchable format while complying with student privacy laws;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Review existing board policy to ensure compliance with the law.

HB 259 – Special Observances / Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day

- Designates August 21 of each year as "Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day" to increase public awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and potential overdoses;

- Encourages state agencies to sponsor awareness events including the Department of Health, Department of Children and Families, local governments, and public schools to promote fentanyl education;
- Specifies educational topics for awareness activities including prevention of fentanyl abuse and addiction, availability of local school and community drug prevention resources, processes for accessing those resources, and health issues related to substance use and abuse;
- Focuses on youth substance abuse education specifically targeting information about substance use and abuse among young people;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Request information from staff on plans for compliance with this law.

SB 268 – Public Records/Congressional Members and Public Officers

- Expands existing public records exemptions to include partial home addresses and telephone numbers of current congressional members and public officers **(including school superintendents and school board members)** and their spouses and adult children;
- Exempts names, home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of minor children of congressional members and public officers, and names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by such minor children;
- Creates exemptions for various government personnel including:
 - o Law enforcement personnel, correctional officers, and personnel from Departments of Children and Families, Health, and Revenue;
 - o Justices, judges, and judicial assistants;
 - o State attorneys, assistant state attorneys, and prosecutors;
 - o General and special magistrates, administrative law judges, and child support enforcement hearing officers;
 - o Human resource directors and managers of local government agencies;
 - o Code enforcement officers;
 - o Emergency medical technicians and paramedics; and
 - o Various other investigative and enforcement personnel.
- Establishes procedures for property appraisers and tax collectors to remove exempt information from publicly available records;
- Allows protected individuals to request release of their exempt information through written, notarized requests;
- Provides retroactive application of exemptions to information held before the effective date;

- Includes sunset review provisions for certain exemptions, with various repeal dates ranging from 2028 to 2030;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: School superintendents and school board members are specifically included as "public officers" eligible for the new public records exemptions protecting their partial home addresses, telephone numbers, and information about their minor children and the schools/day care facilities those children attend.

SB 296 – Middle School and High School Start Times

- Establishes later school start time requirements by July 1, 2026 mandating that middle schools may not begin instruction earlier than 8:00 a.m. and high schools may not begin earlier than 8:30 a.m.;
- Requires community education on sleep deprivation impacts mandating that district school boards inform parents, students, teachers, administrators, coaches, and stakeholders about health, safety, and academic effects of sleep deprivation and benefits of later start times;
- Creates compliance alternative through reporting allowing school districts and charter schools to be deemed compliant **by submitting a comprehensive report to the Department of Education by June 1, 2026, instead of implementing the later start times;**
- Specifies required report elements including current start times for all grade levels, documentation of strategies considered for implementation, financial impact analysis, and identification of unintended consequences from the new requirements;
- Applies requirements to both traditional and charter schools with charter school-in-the-workplace programs exempted from the start time mandates;
- Maintains existing school opening date restrictions preserving the current rule that schools may not open earlier than August 10 of each year;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure compliance with the statute and discuss district start time preference; approve plan to draft a comprehensive report if choosing the reporting alternative to later start times.

SB 356 – Holocaust Remembrance Day

- Requires the Governor to annually proclaim January 27 as "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in honor of the millions of victims killed in the Holocaust, aligning with

International Holocaust Remembrance Day marking the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau;

- Authorizes observance in public schools allowing Holocaust Remembrance Day to be observed in Florida's public schools and through public exercises at the State Capitol and other locations as designated by the Governor;
- Provides flexibility for school observance permitting schools to observe the day on the following school day or as otherwise designated by the district school board when January 27 falls on a non-school day;
- Allows educational instruction authorizing public schools to provide instruction on the harmful impacts of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, as well as the positive contributions of the Jewish community to humanity as part of Holocaust Remembrance Day activities;
- Acknowledges ongoing anti-Semitism recognizing in legislative findings that anti-Semitism and hatred of Jews continues to spread globally and impact Jewish communities in Florida, more than 79 years after the Holocaust ended;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure compliance with the law.

HB 443 – Education (Charter Schools)

- Designates charter schools as public facilities for concurrency purposes allowing them to be considered in local comprehensive planning requirements alongside other public facilities;
- Expands lab school capital funding authority permitting laboratory schools to use discretionary capital improvement funds for real property purchase, facility construction, vehicle acquisition, and other specified purposes, with expenditures required to be at or below appraised value;
- Authorizes charter school governing boards to adopt their own student conduct codes requiring these codes to meet or exceed sponsor standards, with more stringent provisions requiring parent acknowledgment and complaints resolved by the charter school's governing board;
- Allows charter schools **to increase enrollment beyond charter capacity under certain conditions**, requiring written notification to sponsors by March 1 with specified enrollment increase details, provided the school is not under improvement or corrective action plans;
- Revises charter school sponsor duties and deadlines prohibiting sponsors from imposing administrative deadlines earlier than 15 days before their own deadlines and requiring

the Department of Education to provide student performance data to charter schools and contractors;

- Prohibits charter school landlords from serving on governing boards unless the charter school was established as a charter school-in-a-municipality, preventing conflicts of interest in governance;
- **Permits high-performing charter schools to assume existing charters within the same school district**, expanding options for successful charter operators to take over struggling schools;
- **Extends athletic participation rights to virtual school students allowing full-time virtual instruction students to participate on interscholastic athletic teams at public schools in their district of residence or develop agreements with private schools;**
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Coordinate with staff to ensure compliance with the law.

HB447 – Disability History and Awareness Education

- Provides official short title designating the legislation as the "Evin B. Hartsell Act" to honor contributions to disability awareness education;
- Mandates specific grade-level disability instruction content **requiring schools to include structured material during the existing 2-week disability history and awareness period with age-appropriate topics for each grade band;**
- Establishes kindergarten through grade 3 curriculum focusing on anti-bullying conversations covering victim support, bystander intervention, types of bullying, and school policies, plus activities teaching about physical disabilities;
- **Requires autism spectrum disorder education for grades 4-6 providing students with information about autism during their elementary to middle school transition years;**
- **Mandates hearing impairment instruction for grades 7-9 educating middle school students about hearing disabilities and related challenges;**
- **Requires learning and intellectual disability education for grades 10-12 ensuring high school students understand different types of cognitive and learning disabilities before graduation;**
- Authorizes Department of Education consultation permitting the department to work with the Evin B. Hartsell Foundation to further develop and enhance the required instructional materials;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Request information from staff on plans to ensure compliance.

SB 462 – Transportation

- School Bus Safety & Infraction Detection Systems:
 - Extends timeframe for requesting administrative hearings for school bus violations from 30 to 60 days after notice of violation;
 - Authorizes school districts and counties to appoint local hearing officers to conduct administrative hearings for school bus infractions instead of going through court system;
 - Requires local hearing officers to be attorneys with 5+ years of good standing with The Florida Bar (for school districts) or existing county staff (for counties with interlocal agreements);
 - Establishes administrative hearing procedures including virtual hearing options, 120-day processing timeline, and appeal rights;
 - Sets minimum civil penalties of \$200 for school bus violations enforced by infraction detection systems;
 - Requires civil penalties to be remitted to school districts at least monthly for technology, operational costs, and school transportation safety initiatives;
 - Allows hearings not conducted before July 1, 2025, to be conducted under new procedures within one year.
- Transportation Safety:
 - Revises definitions for "micromobility device" and "vehicle" that may affect student transportation policies;
 - Creates new violation for operating vehicles at speeds creating excessive wakes on flooded streets/highways;
 - Authorizes local governments to adopt ordinances for minimum age requirements and ID requirements for electric bicycle and motorized scooter operators;
 - Allows local governments to provide safety training for electric bicycle and micromobility device operation.
- Construction Workforce Development:
 - Authorizes Department of Transportation to spend up to \$5 million annually (2025-2030) in grants to state colleges and school districts for construction workforce development programs;
 - Prioritizes rural communities for grant funding;
 - Requires programs to include equipment simulators with authentic controls, instructional aids, and heavy civil construction elective courses;
 - Mandates OSHA 10-hour certification and equipment simulator certification for students.
- Effective July 1, 2025

Board Members: Review current school bus safety policies and procedures in light of new administrative hearing processes; evaluate potential need for updated student transportation safety policies regarding new vehicle definitions and local ordinances.

HB 549 – Gulf of America

- Requires all state agencies to **update geographic materials to reflect the new federal designation changing "Gulf of Mexico" to "Gulf of America" in official state documents and resources;**
- Mandates updated instructional materials in **schools requiring that all instructional materials and library media center collections adopted or acquired on or after July 1, 2025, by district school boards or charter school governing boards reflect the "Gulf of America" designation;**
- Applies to new acquisitions only specifying that the requirement covers materials adopted or acquired after the effective date, **not requiring immediate replacement of existing materials already in use;**
- References existing statutory definitions incorporating the instructional materials definition from Florida Statute 1006;28(1)(a) to ensure consistent application across educational institutions;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure compliance with the law.

HB 597 – Diabetes Management in Schools

- Defines key terms including "authorized health care practitioner," "participating school," and "undesignated glucagon" to establish clear parameters for school-based diabetes emergency response;
- Authorizes schools to acquire and maintain undesignated glucagon supplies allowing school districts and public schools to stock emergency glucagon for treating students experiencing severe hypoglycemic episodes, with required secure but immediately accessible storage;
- Establishes multiple procurement methods permitting schools to obtain glucagon through wholesale distributors, manufacturer arrangements at reduced or free prices, donations of new unexpired medication, monetary donations, grants, or prescriptions from county health departments;

- Enables institutional prescriptions allowing authorized health care practitioners to prescribe glucagon in the name of school districts or public schools, with licensed pharmacists authorized to dispense pursuant to such institutional prescriptions;
- Requires emergency response protocols mandating that after glucagon administration, school employees must immediately call for emergency assistance, notify the school nurse, and contact the student's parent, guardian, or emergency contact;
- Mandates State Board of Education rulemaking requiring adoption of rules in cooperation with the Department of Health to implement diabetes management provisions and encourage training of school personnel in routine and emergency diabetes care;
- Provides comprehensive **immunity protections shielding school nurses, trained personnel, school districts, prescribing practitioners, and dispensing pharmacists from civil and criminal liability when acting in good faith and following proper procedures;**
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Develop policies for acquiring and maintaining undesignated glucagon supplies, ensure emergency response protocols are established, ensure staff training compliance, and ensure implementation secure storage procedures for emergency diabetes medications.

HB 681 – Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding

- Requires partnerships between local educational agencies and apprenticeship programs to include equitable funding splits in uniform minimum standards, with mandatory documentation in agreements or contracts and transparency requirements for all parties;
- Changes annual apprenticeship report deadline from September 1 to November 30, expanding requirements to include detailed financial breakdowns by training provider, program, and occupation including administrative costs, personnel hours, and instructional expenses;
- Mandates Department of Education create standard model contract template for partnerships between local educational agencies and apprenticeship/preapprenticeship programs, including specific sections for parties, duration, funding, responsibilities, legal compliance, and execution requirements;
- Establishes funding allocation restrictions based on service levels:
- Administrative-only role limited to maximum 10% funding share if no classroom space, instruction, or training provided
- Shared responsibility funding must be directly tied to actual partnership responsibilities

- Requires apprenticeship funding transparency tool by July 1, 2026, showing historical funding amounts to school districts and Florida College System institutions from workforce development and legislative funds, searchable by source and institution for preceding 3 fiscal years;
- Expands reporting requirements to include retention/completion rates, wage progression data, promotional activities documentation, and application resources for new programs;
 - o Enhances District Workforce Education Funding Steering Committee transparency requiring 7-day public notice, open meetings, public comment opportunities, published workpapers, and allowing virtual participation via communications technology;
 - o Accelerates legislative funding model deadline from March 1 to at least 2 months before regular legislative session to assist appropriations committees.
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Approve staff-reviewed and updated apprenticeship partnership agreements to comply with equitable funding requirements, ensure transparency in funding allocations, and ensure procedures for enhanced reporting and committee transparency requirements are established.

SB/HB 693 – Aggravating Factors for Capital Felonies

- Adds a new aggravating factor for capital felony sentencing when the victim was gathered with one or more persons for a school activity, religious activity, or public government meeting;
- Enhances potential penalties for capital crimes committed against victims participating in school activities;
- Applies to any school activity where victims are gathered with others;
- Effective October 1, 2025;

Board Members: Review with legal counsel regarding the enhanced protections for school activities; consider further coordination with state and local law enforcement during activities.

SB 700 – Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- Prohibits local governments from adopting ordinances, regulations, rules, or policies that restrict activities of public educational facilities and auxiliary facilities constructed by school boards for agricultural education, Future Farmers of America (FFA), or 4-H activities;

- Requires that lands used for agricultural education or FFA/4-H activities be classified as agricultural lands under property tax law (s. 193.461), potentially reducing property tax assessments on school-owned agricultural education facilities;
- Directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to extend state and national FFA opportunities to any public school student enrolled in agricultural education at little or no cost to the student or school district, and to support statewide FFA programming;
- Revises food permit requirements and renewal schedules that may affect school food service operations, including allowing the department to establish single permit renewal dates for food establishments owned by the same entity (potentially benefiting districts with multiple food service locations);
- Other Notable Provisions (Not Directly School-Related):
 - o Extensive changes to mosquito control districts and programs;
 - o New regulations for electric vehicle charging stations;
 - o Agricultural land protections and drone operation restrictions; and
 - o Various licensing and regulatory updates across multiple agriculture-related programs.
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Review current policies regarding agricultural education facilities and FFA programs to ensure compliance with new protections.

HB 809 – School Social Workers

- Exempts school social workers from specific educator certification requirements relating to mastery of general and subject area knowledge as outlined in s; 1012;56(2)(g) and (h);
- Effective July 1, 2025;
- Areas needing clarification:
 - o This is a very straightforward, single-purpose bill that removes certain testing or knowledge demonstration requirements for school social workers while presumably maintaining other certification standards; The exemption appears to recognize that social workers may have different professional training and expertise requirements compared to traditional educators, allowing them to focus on their specialized role without meeting general teaching knowledge standards that may not be relevant to their position.

Board Members: Ensure hiring and certification procedures for school social workers to ensure compliance with modified certification requirements are reviewed and update personnel policies accordingly.

HB 875 – Educator Preparation

- The bill aims to ensure that all students have access to well-qualified teachers by revising educator preparation programs, certification requirements, and professional learning standards;
- Florida Educator Accomplished Practices Changes:
 - o Requires the Department of Education to establish a workgroup by September 1, 2025 to update and revise the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices; and
 - o Final recommendations due to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2026;
 - o Effective immediately upon becoming law.
- New Teacher Examination Changes:
 - o Creates the “Florida Teacher Excellence Examination” beginning July 1, 2027, aligned with revised practices;
 - o Effective July 1, 2027.
- Uniform Core Curricula (Section 1012;551) Changes:
 - o Establishes standardized teacher preparation curricula starting August 1, 2027;
 - o Prohibits content on “identity politics” or theories about systematic racism/oppression;
 - o Emphasizes evidence-based reading instruction grounded in phonics and science of reading; and
 - o Requires training on state-approved instructional materials;
 - o Effective August 1, 2027.
- School Counselor Flexibility Changes:
 - o Reduces internship requirements from 600 hours to 300 hours for experienced teachers (5 or more years experience) seeking counseling certification; and
 - o Establishes flexible internship guidelines and potential scholarship programs;
 - o Effective immediately upon becoming law.
- Alternative Certification Pathways:
 - o Florida Center for Teaching Excellence to be established at Miami Dade College to develop evidence-based professional learning; and
 - o CERT Program: Creates “Coaching for Educator Readiness and Teaching” certifications as alternative pathway for temporary certificate holders;
 - o These requirements become effective immediately upon becoming law.
- Hiring Flexibility Changes:

- Allows hiring of non-degreed teachers for fine and performing arts with 3 years experience and professional training requirements;
- Effective immediately upon becoming law.
- Certification Changes, Generally:
 - Modifies general knowledge requirements – allows for completion of specific education courses instead of exams;
 - Eliminates professional education competency exam requirement for candidates completing programs meeting new standards; and
 - Updates mentor and clinical educator requirements;
 - Effective July 1, 2029.
- Professional Development Changes:
 - Requires training on instructional materials and mentor preparation; and
 - Updates professional learning standards to align with Florida Educational Leadership Standards;
 - Effective immediately upon becoming law.
- Implementation Timeline:
 - Core curricula requirements begin August 1, 2027;
 - Some certification changes effective July 1, 2029; and
 - Most provisions take effect immediately upon becoming law.

Board Members: Prepare for implementation of new teacher certification requirements, review hiring policies for alternative certification pathways and non-degreed fine arts teachers, and ensure professional development programs align with new standards and requirements.

HB 958 – Type 1 Diabetes Early Detection Program

- Creates comprehensive informational program establishing Florida Statute 381.992, which requires the Department of Health to develop educational materials for parents and guardians focused on early detection of Type 1 diabetes in students;
- **Mandates Department of Health collaboration with school districts statewide to develop standardized methodology for distributing early detection materials, requiring completion within 90 days of July 1, 2025 (by September 30, 2025);**
- Establishes annual notification requirements for school districts, early learning coalitions, and charter schools to notify parents and guardians of voluntary prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first-grade students about the availability of Type 1 diabetes early detection materials, beginning September 30, 2025, **and continuing annually thereafter;**
- Specifies mandatory content requirements for informational materials including description of Type 1 diabetes, risk factors and warning signs, screening process using

blood autoantibody tests, and recommendations for further evaluation when warning signs appear or positive screening results occur;

- Amends Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program statute (s; 1002;53) adding Type 1 diabetes early detection notification requirements to existing parent notification responsibilities for early learning coalitions participating in the VPK program;
- Targets early elementary grades focusing notification efforts specifically on parents and guardians of students in voluntary prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first-grade to maximize early detection opportunities during critical developmental years;
- Effective July 1, 2025.

Board Members: Ensure procedures for annual notification to parents of VPK, kindergarten, and first-grade students regarding Type 1 diabetes early detection materials are established and ensure compliance with distribution requirements beginning September 30, 2025.

HB 969 – Reporting of Student Athletes

- Creates comprehensive evaluation framework establishing Florida Statute 394;4575 requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct multi-phase evaluation of school district mental health assistance programs in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, Department of Education, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, and other relevant stakeholders;
- Mandates initial evaluation by December 31, 2025 requiring OPPAGA to assess school district compliance with existing mental health statutes (ss; 1001;212(11), 1006;041, and 1012;584(4)), treatment outcomes, system capacity, performance of mental health services, policies and procedures informing district reporting, and integration with coordinated systems of care;
- Establishes final comprehensive review by December 1, 2026 requiring OPPAGA to provide complete evaluation of mental health assistance programs including compliance assessment, treatment outcomes analysis, ongoing integration levels with coordinated care systems, and specific recommendations to enhance program effectiveness and system integration;
- Requires extensive data collection coordination mandating Department of Education and school district threat management coordinators and mental health coordinators to provide requested information including aggregate referrals from behavioral threat processes, performance metrics, treatment outcome metrics, and system capacity metrics as identified by OPPAGA;

- **Expands reporting requirements for school districts compelling districts to provide detailed information about mental health services, referral patterns from threat assessment processes, and integration efforts with broader coordinated care systems beyond current statutory reporting obligations;**
- Integrates multiple state agencies requiring coordination between OPPAGA, Department of Education, Department of Children and Families, and Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to ensure comprehensive evaluation of mental health program outcomes and performance across integrated care systems;
- Effective upon becoming law.

Board Members: Ensure district mental health service reporting procedures are reviewed for compliance with expanded requirements including mental health coordinators and threat management coordinators preparation to provide comprehensive data to OPPAGA evaluations.

SB 994 – Driver License Requirements

- Modifies age requirement for traffic law and substance abuse education amending Florida Statute 322;095 to specify that applicants for driver licenses who are 18 years of age or older must complete a traffic law and substance abuse education course, unless previously licensed in another jurisdiction or completed a Department of Education driver education course pursuant to s; 1003;48;
- **Enhances learner's permit education requirements amending Florida Statute 322;1615 to require applicants for learner's driver licenses to complete a driver education course** approved by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles that meets or exceeds the Department of Education Driver Education/Traffic Safety-Classroom 1900300 course version description, replacing the previous requirement for only the traffic law and substance abuse education course;
- Effective July 1, 2025.

Board Members: Ensure district driver education programs are reviewed to ensure compliance with enhanced course requirements and verify alignment with Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles standards.

SB 1070 – Electrocardiograms for Student Athletes (“Second Chance Act”)

- Establishes mandatory electrocardiogram requirements beginning in the 2026-2027 school year requiring all high school students (grades 9-12) participating in interscholastic athletic competition or trying out for athletic teams to complete at least one electrocardiogram screening administered according to FHSAA Sports Medicine

Advisory Committee standards, with electrocardiograms completed up to 2 years prior to the 2026-2027 school year satisfying the requirement;

- Expands authorized medical practitioners allowing out-of-state licensed practitioners who hold active equivalent licensure in the state where the medical evaluation is performed and are in good standing with their regulatory board to conduct required medical evaluations for student athletes, broadening the pool of qualified practitioners beyond Florida-licensed professionals;
- Mandates FHSA prohibition policies requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws prohibiting student athletes with abnormal electrocardiogram results from participating in tryouts, practice, or competition until they submit written medical clearance from appropriately trained health care practitioners specializing in electrocardiogram diagnosis, evaluation, and management;
- Requires school district partnership pursuit compelling each school district to actively seek public and private partnerships to provide low-cost electrocardiograms to students, with student athletes exempt from electrocardiogram requirements if their district cannot obtain partnerships providing electrocardiograms at rates below \$50 per student;
- Provides comprehensive liability protections shielding school districts from civil and criminal liability when relying on electrocardiogram results and medical clearances for damages resulting from student cardiac events during athletic participation, and protecting districts when parents object to medical evaluations or electrocardiograms based on religious grounds or secure medical exceptions;
- Establishes religious and medical exemptions allowing students to participate in athletics if parents object in writing to electrocardiograms based on religious tenets or practices, or if physicians provide certificates of medical exception, while maintaining liability protections for schools when undisclosed medical conditions that would have been revealed through screening cause injury or death;
- Effective July 1, 2025.

Board Members: Enable staff to actively pursue partnerships to provide low-cost electrocardiograms for student athletes, ensure procedures for managing religious and medical exemptions are established, and preparations for mandatory ECG screening implementation by the 2026-2027 school year.

SB 1080 – Local Government Land Regulation

- Establishes streamlined development permit processing requiring counties and municipalities to specify minimum information necessary for development applications and implement strict review timeframes of 120 days for non-hearing applications and

180 days for applications requiring quasi-judicial or public hearings, with automatic refund penalties ranging from 10% to 100% of application fees for jurisdictions that fail to meet deadlines;

- **Restricts school district fee collection authority prohibiting school districts from collecting, charging, or imposing alternative fees in lieu of impact fees to mitigate educational facility impacts unless such fees meet specific statutory requirements, with school districts bearing the burden of proof by preponderance of evidence that fee imposition and amounts comply with state legal precedent;**
- Modifies impact fee increase procedures revising voting thresholds for local governments, school districts, and special districts **from requiring unanimous approval to requiring two-thirds majority vote for impact fee increases beyond statutory phase-in limitations**, while mandating that approved increases be implemented in 2-4 equal annual increments and prohibiting increases if no increase occurred within the past 5 years;
- Expands building permit fee usage authority allowing local governments to use building code enforcement fees for any process or enforcement related to obtaining or finalizing building permits, broadening the scope of allowable activities beyond traditional building inspections and plan reviews to include permit processing and finalization activities;
- Establishes comprehensive plan amendment transmission requirements extending the timeframe for local governments to transmit adopted comprehensive plan amendments to reviewing agencies from 10 to 30 working days, while requiring formal adoption within 180 days of second public hearings or amendments are deemed withdrawn, streamlining the state review process;
- Defines substantive changes for permit applications establishing that substantive changes triggering timeframe restarts occur when applicants make changes of 15% or more in proposed density, intensity, or square footage, providing clarity for both applicants and reviewing jurisdictions on when development review timelines reset;
- Effective October 1, 2025 (with impact fee provisions effective January 1, 2026);

Board Members: Review and modify impact fee policies to comply with new two-thirds majority voting requirements and ensure any alternative fees meet statutory requirements with proper burden of proof documentation.

SB 1102 – School Readiness Program

- Expands special needs eligibility criteria revising requirements for children with special needs to receive priority in the school readiness program by broadening documentation requirements **to include current individualized education plans, individualized family**

support plans, diagnosed special needs, or written determinations from licensed professionals, while removing the previous age restriction that excluded children younger than 3 years old;

- Enhances special needs accommodation validation **requiring that children's special needs and associated accommodations be validated by licensed health care professionals, licensed mental health professionals, or educational psychologists, with specific prohibitions preventing parents, relatives, or child care provider employees from serving as validators to ensure independent professional assessment;**
- Establishes provider eligibility requirements for special needs funding creating new qualification standards beginning July 1, 2027, requiring school readiness program providers to meet minimum program assessment composite scores, complete staff training on early identification of social and communication delays, and ensure instructors assigned to special needs children complete 10 hours of inclusive education training within 90 days of enrollment;
- Mandates ongoing professional development for special needs services requiring instructors serving children with additional accommodations to complete a minimum of 2 hours of relevant training annually after initial eligibility determination to maintain qualification for special needs differential rate funding, ensuring continuous improvement in service delivery;
- Clarifies funding eligibility for special needs differential allocation specifying that school readiness program providers may receive additional funding through the special needs differential allocation to implement enhanced rates for children requiring additional accommodations, with reimbursement based on actual expenditures and subject to legislative appropriation;
- Maintains sibling priority provisions preserving existing priority preferences for eligible siblings of children already enrolled in the school readiness program, with first priority for sibling funding coming from local revenues available to coalitions for direct services;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure school readiness program procedures to accommodate expanded special needs eligibility criteria are established and ensure provider compliance with new qualification standards and training requirements by July 1, 2027.

HB 1105 – Education

- Charter School Provisions
 - o Requires local government infrastructure surtax revenues shared with school districts to be proportionally shared with eligible charter schools based on enrollment;

- Mandates sponsors use standard monitoring tools and provide annual transparency reports to Department of Education;
- Prohibits district school boards from charging rental fees for existing facilities when schools convert to charter status; and
- Creates new category allowing municipalities to establish charter schools designed to attract job-producing entities;
- Student Device Restrictions
 - Elementary/Middle Schools: Complete prohibition of wireless communications devices during entire school day;
 - High Schools: Prohibition during instructional time only, with required designated storage areas; and
 - Exceptions: Allows use for students with disabilities, medical needs, or emergency situations;
- Graduation and Academic Requirements
 - Allows 2 years of marching band to satisfy physical education or performing arts requirements;
 - Requires work-related internships to be included in graduation counseling materials; and
 - Creates specialized credential programs for students with autism spectrum disorders;
- Scholarship and Financial Aid
 - Adds Advanced Placement Capstone designation as qualifying criteria for Academic Scholars awards to Bright Futures;
 - Excludes transportation access fees from scholarship amount calculations; and
 - Adjusts volunteer service requirements across different scholarship levels;
- Safety and Security
 - Expands law enforcement authority for warrantless arrests on school grounds; and
 - Strengthens penalties and notice requirements for unauthorized school bus boarding;
- Workforce Development
 - Includes charter schools in Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program;

- Requires annual agreements between career centers and high schools; and
- Gives priority funding to job engine charter schools;
- Administrative Requirements
 - Requires Department of Education to establish mathematics instructional competencies by August 2026;
 - Mandates evaluation of comprehensive device ban policies in six selected school districts; and
 - Requires detailed annual funding reports from school districts to charter schools;
- Financial Provisions
 - Allows use of certain district tax revenues for liability insurance coverage; and
 - Prohibits removal of property normally inventoried to conversion schools;
- Effective Dates
 - July 1, 2025 – effective date for the bill itself;
 - January 31, 2026 – Department of Education must develop and implement workforce credential program for students with autism spectrum disorders;
 - August 1, 2026 – Department of Education must establish mathematics endorsement competencies; and
 - December 1, 2026 – Report on wireless device policy study due to the Legislature;

Board Members: Update policies to implement wireless device restrictions for elementary/middle schools and high schools, establish charter school funding sharing procedures, and create designated device storage areas. Update graduation requirements to include marching band options, and prepare for specialized credential programs for students with autism spectrum disorders.

HB 1145 – Workforce Education

- Expands charter school eligibility for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program, **allowing charter schools to compete alongside school districts and Florida College System institutions for grants funding career and technical education programs that lead to industry certifications;**
- Doubles money-back guarantee program requirements increasing the minimum number of programs that school districts and Florida College System institutions must offer with money-back guarantees from three to six programs total by July 1, 2026, with notification required to the State Board of Education;

- Establishes comprehensive student eligibility criteria for tuition reimbursement under money-back guarantee programs, requiring students to meet specific benchmarks including attendance standards, program performance metrics, career service participation, internship or work-study involvement, job search documentation, and development of career plans with institutional career services departments;
- Limits work search requirements ensuring that job search documentation and participation requirements for students cannot exceed the work search standards established under Florida's unemployment compensation law (s; 443.091);
- Enhances annual reporting requirements mandating the Department of Education provide detailed performance results and eligibility criteria for tuition reimbursement by school district, Florida College System institution, and individual program to the Governor and legislative leadership by November 1 each year;
- Provides workforce development funding equity ensuring charter schools have equal access to state capitalization grants for establishing or expanding career and technical education programs, with priority given to high-performing, high-demand programs that maximize workforce development funding utilization;
- Requires geographic distribution consideration in grant awards, ensuring statewide dispersion of workforce development funding while maintaining program quality standards;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure expansion of money-back guarantee programs from three to six programs by July 1, 2026, establish comprehensive student eligibility criteria for tuition reimbursement, and ensure charter schools have equal access to workforce development funding opportunities.

HB 1237 – Human Trafficking Awareness

- Mandates Department of Education curriculum development requiring the department to identify a free human trafficking awareness training curriculum by December 1, 2025, covering definitions of sex trafficking versus labor trafficking, student victim identification guidance, employee reporting roles, and mandatory reporting protocols;
- Establishes comprehensive training requirements for all public school instructional personnel, administrative personnel, and educational support personnel who have contact with students, requiring completion of human trafficking awareness training with written acknowledgment of completion retained by schools;
- Defines specific curriculum components including guidance for identifying students who may be trafficking victims, protocols for school employee reporting and response

procedures, and mandatory reporting requirements to the Department of Children and Families or Florida Human Trafficking Hotline;

- Authorizes flexible training delivery allowing human trafficking awareness training to be conducted either in-person or online to accommodate different school district needs and scheduling constraints;
- Extends requirements to charter schools adding human trafficking awareness training compliance to the list of statutory requirements that charter schools cannot claim exemption from, ensuring uniform training standards across all public education settings;
- Creates mandatory reporting protocol requiring suspected human trafficking of children to be reported to the Department of Children and Families or the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline at designated telephone numbers, establishing clear reporting pathways for school personnel;
- Requires documentation and retention mandating that each trained employee submit written acknowledgment of training completion to their school, with schools responsible for maintaining these records for compliance verification;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Require all instructional, administrative, and educational support personnel complete mandatory human trafficking awareness training and appropriate record-keeping procedures for training documentation. Ensure mandatory reporting protocols exist and are followed for suspected trafficking cases.

HB 1255 – Education

- Florida School for Competitive Academics Elimination
 - o Repeals Section 1002;351 eliminating the Florida School for Competitive Academics entirely from Florida statutes;
 - o Removes the school from audit requirements, classification and pay plans, public employer definitions, and components of Florida's Early Learning-20 education system;
 - o Deletes legislative budget request and funding provisions for the Florida School for Competitive Academics;
 - o Removes the school from Family Empowerment scholarship and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship prohibitions; and
 - o Eliminates oversight responsibilities for the school from the Office of Inspector General within the Department of Education.
- Teacher Shortage and Workforce Provisions

- Renames "critical teacher shortage areas" to "high-demand teacher needs areas" throughout Florida statutes;
 - Authorizes recruiting within the career service system to include apprenticeship programs and eliminates open competition requirements for positions filled by apprenticeship program graduates;
 - Requires the Department of Education to publish annual apprenticeship reports by November 30 instead of September 1; and
 - Allows Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Education award submissions from charter school consortia with at least 30 member schools in addition to traditional school districts.
- Academic Standards and Assessment Changes
 - Requires academic standards documents to contain only academic standards and benchmarks, mandating the Commissioner of Education to revise all currently approved standards documents by July 1, 2026;
 - Adds Classic Learning Test (CLT) scores as acceptable criteria for preeminent state research university program qualification (average CLT score of 83 or higher on 120-point scale);
 - Expands high school examination requirements to include CLT10 alongside existing PSAT/NMSQT and PreACT options for 10th grade students; and
 - Authorizes the department to join or establish national consortia as alternative methods to develop advanced placement courses.
- Corporal Punishment Regulations
 - Requires district school board policies authorizing corporal punishment to include mandatory parental consent before administration;
 - Extends corporal punishment compliance requirements to charter schools, removing their exemption from these provisions;
 - Mandates district school boards review corporal punishment policies every 3 years during public board meetings with required public testimony; and
 - Establishes automatic policy expiration if required review meetings are not held in accordance with statutory requirements.
- Emergency Medical Provisions
 - Expands public school authority to purchase emergency opioid antagonists beyond just naloxone to include any FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist;

- Revises the definition of "emergency opioid antagonist" in college and university housing provisions to include broader categories of opioid overdose reversal medications; and
 - Maintains existing immunity protections for school employees who administer emergency opioid antagonists in compliance with applicable laws.
- Charter School Facility and Zoning Reforms
- Prohibits local governing authorities from imposing building requirements, site-development restrictions, or operational requirements on charter schools that are more stringent than state requirements or not uniformly applied to public schools;
 - Requires local governing authorities to administratively approve charter schools meeting state law requirements;
 - Establishes immediate right to circuit court injunctive relief for charter schools facing non-compliance from local authorities, with attorney fees available for prevailing parties; and
 - Prohibits local authorities from requiring charter schools to obtain special exemptions or conditional use approvals for operation.
- Private School Construction Authorization
- Authorizes private schools in counties with four incorporated municipalities to construct new facilities on property owned by libraries, community service organizations, museums, performing arts venues, theaters, cinemas, churches, college institutions, or recently used schools/child care facilities;
 - Allows construction under preexisting zoning and land use designations without requiring rezoning, special exceptions, or land use changes; and
 - Requires new facilities meet applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws while being located on property used solely for described purposes.
- Background Screening Enhancements
- Expands ineligibility for educator certification to include owners and operators of private schools participating in state scholarship programs;
 - Updates background screening requirements to reference Section 1012;315 instead of Chapter 435 for private school personnel;
 - Maintains existing background screening requirements but clarifies they remain in place for specified time periods for certain personnel; and
 - Extends provisions relating to educator certification ineligibility to private school owners and operators.

- Reading Instruction Improvements
 - Authorizes inclusion of intensive reading interventions in comprehensive reading instruction plans delivered by personnel with micro-credentials or reading certification/endorsement;
 - Requires personnel with micro-credentials to be supervised by certified/endorsed reading specialists;
 - Defines "supervised" as ability to communicate and consult through telecommunication or in-person with certified personnel; and
 - Allows reading instruction plans to include descriptions of how districts prioritize assignment of highly effective teachers in kindergarten through grade 2.

- Mathematics Support Enhancements
 - Requires parents of students with substantial mathematics deficiencies to be notified in writing about eligibility for New Worlds Scholarship Accounts and New Worlds Tutoring Program;
 - Mandates the New Worlds Tutoring Program provide best practice guidelines for mathematics tutoring in consultation with the Office of Mathematics and Sciences;
 - Changes annual reporting deadline for New Worlds Tutoring Program from July 1 to August 31; and
 - Allows unpaid tutoring hours by high school students to count toward Bright Futures Scholarship Program community service requirements.

- Student Discipline and Safety Measures
 - Expands school principal duties relating to student discipline to include mandatory referral to child study teams for continued behavioral issues;
 - Requires child study teams to implement specific interventions including frequent family communication, alternative education evaluations, and behavior contracts;
 - Requires district school superintendents to provide written determinations for student expulsion period extensions with specific requirements and parental notification; and
 - Establishes threat management team involvement in expulsion period extension decisions.

- Early Learning Program Modifications

- Changes economic disadvantage definition from 150% of federal poverty level to 55% of state median income for school readiness programs;
 - Revises uniform waiting list requirements to track children based on family household income and established priorities;
 - Allows children to withdraw and reenroll in prekindergarten programs under good cause with specific completion percentage thresholds; and
 - Adds new at-risk child category for children in custody with parents receiving comprehensive services at licensed residential behavioral health treatment centers.
- Higher Education Licensing Reforms
 - Streamlines exemption process for nonpublic religious postsecondary educational institutions from Commission for Independent Education oversight;
 - Requires annual affidavit submissions with specific religious education program affirmations and degree title requirements;
 - Mandates commission review of affidavits in public meetings with approval unless facially invalid or contradicted by evidence; and
 - Authorizes commission to adopt rules for exemption administration and provides enforcement mechanisms for noncompliance.
- Hillsborough Community College Rename
 - Renames Hillsborough Community College as "Hillsborough College" in Florida statutes effective upon the act becoming law.
- Interstate Compact Extension
 - Extends scheduled repeal date of Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028;
 - Requires development and implementation of training modules for facilitating transfer of K-12 student education records from out-of-state schools;
 - Mandates Department of Education provide training modules to district school boards for distribution to public and charter schools; and
 - Requires training availability for employees working directly with military students and families.
- Effective Dates
 - Most provisions take effect July 1, 2025;
 - Hillsborough Community College renaming and Interstate Compact extension effective upon becoming law;

- Early learning program changes effective October 1, 2025; and
- Specific timeline requirements for standards document revisions by July 1, 2026;

Board Members: Review and update corporal punishment policies with mandatory parental consent requirements and schedule mandatory 3-year policy reviews, require implementation of CLT10 testing options for 10th grade students, require procedures for notifying parents of students with mathematics deficiencies about scholarship eligibility, and ensure compliance with policy on military student transfer training modules.

SB 1344 – Juvenile Justice System Reform

- Renames Chapter 984 to "Children and Families in Need of Services; Prevention and Intervention for School Truancy and Ungovernable and Runaway Children";
- School Attendance and Truancy Provisions:
 - Allows child study team meetings with parents to be conducted virtually or by telephone when parents cannot attend in person;
 - Permits child study team meetings to proceed in the absence of parents, legal guardians, or custodians;
 - Allows promotion of truant students who are responsive to interventions and meet grade-level requirements, even if they don't meet perfect attendance standards;
 - Requires school principals to report students with 15+ unexcused absences in 90 days to district school boards quarterly;
 - Mandates school boards verify compliance with truancy remediation requirements and develop remedial action plans for non-compliant schools within 30 days.
- Early Truancy Intervention Process:
 - Maintains superintendent authority to file truancy petitions for students with 5+ unexcused absences in a month or 10+ in 90 days;
 - Expands court-ordered services for truant students to include alternative classes, community service, parenting classes, counseling, and educational meetings with school officials;
 - Requires courts to refer cases to Department of Juvenile Justice case staffing committees if students don't comply with truancy interventions.
- Interagency Coordination:
 - Requires cooperative agreements between Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families, and school districts for handling truant students;

- Mandates court orders involving student school attendance be provided to the student's school;
- Allows school superintendents or designees to initiate legal proceedings for truancy cases.
- Information Sharing:
 - Requires Department of Education and Department of Children and Families to post juvenile justice information guides on their websites;
 - Expands confidentiality protections to include school employees and district superintendents in juvenile proceedings.
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Review current truancy intervention policies and procedures to ensure alignment with new requirements; ensure protocols for virtual parent meetings and quarterly reporting are established; require coordination with juvenile justice agencies on cooperative agreements.

SB 1374 – School District Reporting Requirements

- Volunteer Background Screening:
 - Authorizes school districts and other specified entities to conduct background screenings on volunteers at their discretion;
 - If districts choose to screen volunteers, they may use either the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse process or standard background screening procedures.
- Temporary Removal Policy:
 - Requires district school boards to adopt policies for temporarily removing instructional personnel from classrooms within 24 hours after notification of arrest for felony offenses or misdemeanor offenses listed in F.S. 435.04(2).
- Law Enforcement Notification Requirements:
 - Mandates law enforcement agencies notify appropriate school authorities within 48 hours when school employees are arrested for:
 - Felony offenses;
 - Misdemeanor offenses involving crimes listed in F.S. 435.04(2);
 - Abuse of a minor child;
 - Sale or possession of controlled substances; and
 - Notification must include specific charges against the employee.
- Employee Self-Reporting Requirements:

- Requires instructional and administrative personnel to self-report arrests within 48 hours to district authorities for felony offenses or misdemeanor offenses listed in F.S. 435.04(2);
- Requires self-reporting of convictions, guilty findings, withheld adjudications, pretrial diversion programs, or guilty/nolo contendere pleas within 48 hours of final judgment (excluding minor traffic violations);
- Self-reports are not admissions of guilt and not admissible in legal proceedings.
- Parent Notification:
 - Requires school principals to notify parents of enrolled students who had direct contact with arrested employees within 24 hours, including employee name and specific charges.
- Confidentiality Requirements:
 - Mandates school districts comply with confidentiality provisions when handling sealed and expunged records.
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Develop policies for temporary removal of personnel from classrooms; ensure procedures for handling employee arrest notifications and self-reports are established; ensure policy compliance with confidentiality requirements for sealed/expunged records; consider requesting review of volunteer background screening protocols.

SB 1402 – Students Enrolled in Dropout Retrieval Programs

- Virtual Instruction Program Assessment Requirements:
 - Maintains requirement for virtual instruction program providers to participate in statewide assessment programs and state education performance accountability systems;
 - Requires virtual instruction providers to receive school grades or school improvement ratings for each district they contract with, based on assessment scores of students served within that district.
- Dropout Retrieval Program Exemptions:
 - Exempts virtual instruction program providers operating exclusively as dropout retrieval programs from receiving district-wide grades based on aggregated statewide assessment scores;
 - Allows these providers to focus on district-specific performance ratings rather than statewide aggregated ratings.
- Dropout Retrieval Program Definition:

- Defines dropout retrieval programs as serving students who have officially withdrawn from high school before graduation and are not engaged in the education system at the time of enrollment;
- Requires each dropout retrieval program to choose between receiving either a school grade (under F.S. 1008.34) or a school improvement rating (under F.S. 1008.341).
- Assessment Flexibility:
 - Provides dropout retrieval programs with options for accountability measures that better reflect their unique student population and mission;
 - Maintains assessment participation requirements while allowing for more appropriate evaluation methods.
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure review of any existing dropout retrieval programs or partnerships with virtual instruction providers; understand new assessment and accountability options for dropout retrieval programs; consider how these changes may affect district accountability ratings and program evaluations.

SB 1470 – School Safety

- Guardian Program Expansion:
 - Extends the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to include child care facilities;
 - Requires sheriffs to establish guardian programs when local school boards vote to implement them or contract for school security guards;
 - Allows child care facilities to partner with law enforcement or security agencies to establish safe-school officers;
 - Child care facilities must pay full costs of guardian programs, though sheriffs may waive costs for facilities (but not for initial security guard training).
- School Security Requirements:
 - Mandates all gates and access points to school "exclusive zones" remain closed and locked during school hours (30 minutes before start to 30 minutes after end);
 - Requires all classrooms and instructional spaces be locked when occupied by students, except during class transitions;
 - Authorizes temporary door locks for active assailant incidents with specific operational requirements;
 - Exempts certain career and technical education spaces from locking requirements under specific circumstances;

- Requires locked barriers between classrooms and open school campuses for schools without secure exclusive zones.
- Centralized Emergency Systems:
 - Directs Department of Education and Department of Management Services to identify a centralized system for panic alert systems and digital maps;
 - Requires all public and charter schools to connect their panic alert systems to the centralized system;
 - Mandates integration of digital school maps with the centralized system for emergency response.
- Office of Safe Schools Updates:
 - Requires convening a workgroup to make recommendations for establishing a Florida Institute of School Safety;
 - Removes requirement to evaluate safe school allocation methodology;
 - Updates behavioral threat management processes and portal requirements.
- Training and Certification:
 - Requires sheriff approval before school security guards can work in any county;
 - Mandates substitute teachers receive all school safety protocols and policies before beginning work;
 - Requires ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification for school security guards.
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Require comprehensive review and update of physical security measures for all school facilities; ensure compliance with new locking and access requirements; require coordination with sheriff's offices on guardian programs to ensure compliance; require review to update emergency response protocols if needed; require training for substitute teachers on safety procedures; request review to assess panic alert system connectivity requirements.

SB 1514 – Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools

- Training Requirements:
 - Requires district school boards and charter school governing boards to mandate anaphylaxis training for schools serving students in kindergarten through grade 8;
 - Training must be provided to an adequate number of school personnel and contracted personnel;
 - Training must include recognizing signs of anaphylactic reactions and administering FDA-approved epinephrine delivery devices with pre-measured, appropriate weight-based doses.
- Emergency Action Plan Requirements:

- Mandates that emergency action plans for students with anaphylaxis (K-8) remain in effect and accessible at all times when students are on school grounds.
- Coverage extends beyond regular school hours to include:
 - School-sponsored activities;
 - Extracurricular activities;
 - Athletics;
 - School dances;
 - Contracted before-school or after-school programs at the student's school.
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Ensure schools serving K-8 students have adequate personnel trained in anaphylaxis response; request verification of emergency action plans' accessibility during all school activities; ensure plan for compliance with new state rules on approved training is developed; enable coordination with contracted service providers on training requirements.

HB 1607 – Cardiac Emergencies

- CPR Training Requirements:
 - Changes CPR training from optional to mandatory for school districts;
 - Requires basic first aid and CPR training once in middle school (physical education or health class) and once in high school (physical education or health class);
 - Mandates CPR training for all students in grades 9 and 11;
 - Training must be based on one-hour, nationally recognized programs using current evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines;
 - Must include practice of psychomotor skills and use of automated external defibrillators when equipment is available.
- PULSE Plan Requirements:
 - Requires each public school to develop a Plan for Urgent Life-Saving Emergencies (PULSE) to address sudden cardiac arrest and similar life-threatening emergencies on school grounds;
 - PULSE must integrate evidence-based core elements and consider American Heart Association recommendations for schools responding to cardiac emergencies;
 - Requires school officials to work with local emergency service providers to integrate PULSE into community emergency responder protocols.
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Requirements:

- Mandates all public schools, including charter schools, have at least one operational AED on school grounds by July 1, 2027;
- AEDs must be placed in clearly marked and publicized locations;
- Schools must maintain AEDs according to manufacturer recommendations and keep verification records;
- AED locations must be registered with local emergency medical services medical director.
- Staff Training and Liability:
 - Requires appropriate school staff to be trained in first aid, CPR, and defibrillator use;
 - Provides immunity from liability for school employees and volunteers under Good Samaritan Act and Cardiac Arrest Survival Act.

Board Members: Require implementation of mandatory CPR training in grades 9 and 11 and PULSE plans for all schools; ensure review of coordination with local emergency services occurs; require plan for AED installation by July 2027; ensure staff training in cardiac emergency response; ensure registration of AED locations with local EMS.

SB 1730 – Affordable Housing¹

- Authorizes county commissioners and municipal governing boards to approve affordable housing development (including mixed-use residential) on any parcel owned by religious institutions, regardless of underlying zoning, if at least 10% of units are affordable housing;
- Requires counties and municipalities to authorize multifamily and mixed-use residential development in commercial, industrial, or mixed-use zones (including portions of flexibly zoned areas like planned unit developments) if at least 40% of residential units are rental units affordable for 30+ years;
- Counties and municipalities may not require proposed multifamily developments to obtain zoning changes, special exceptions, conditional use approvals, variances, density transfers, development of regional impact amendments, or comprehensive plan amendments for building height, zoning, and densities authorized under this act;
- For mixed-use residential projects, at least 65% of total square footage must be residential, and counties/municipalities cannot require more than 10% of total square footage be used for nonresidential purposes;
- Establishes minimum thresholds below which counties and municipalities cannot restrict development density, height, or floor area ratios, based on highest currently allowed standards in the jurisdiction or as of July 1, 2023;

- Proposed developments meeting land development regulations must be administratively approved without further action by governing bodies or quasi-judicial boards, with exceptions for developments within one-quarter mile of military installations;
- Counties and municipalities must reduce parking requirements by 15% for developments near transit stops, by 20% for developments near major transportation hubs or with available parking within 600 feet, and eliminate parking requirements entirely for mixed-use developments in transit-oriented areas;
- Counties and municipalities may not enforce building moratoriums affecting multifamily or mixed-use residential developments authorized under this act, except for limited 90-day moratoriums in any 3-year period with specific assessment requirements;
- Beginning November 1, 2026, counties and municipalities must provide annual reports to the state land planning agency summarizing litigation and projects under this act;
- Creates new section 420.5098 supporting affordable workforce housing for employees of hospitals, health care facilities, and governmental entities (including public schools, state universities, and Florida College System institutions), allowing developers receiving tax credits or public funds to create housing preferences for such employees;
- Effective July 1, 2025;

Board Members: Review district policies and procedures to ensure compliance with new affordable housing development requirements, particularly regarding any district-owned properties that may be affected by the new provisions.