



Florida State Board of Education

Consideration of 2004 Legislative Agenda

Chiles High School, Tallahassee

November 18, 2003



Florida Department of Education

Office of Governmental Relations

Jim Horne, Commissioner



Legislative Update

- For the 2004 Legislative Session, the House and Senate have filed approximately 381 total bills (as of 11/14/03).
- At this time last year, 24 bills were filed during the interim committee weeks.
- The Governmental Relations office is currently tracking 112 education related bills (29% of all bills filed).



Legislative Calendar – Key Dates

- December 8-12 – Interim Committee Meetings
- January 5-9 – Senate Interim Committee Meetings
- January 12-16 – House Interim Committee Meetings
- January 19-23 – Interim Committee Meetings
- February 2-6 – Interim Committee Meetings
- February 9-13 – Interim Committee Meetings
- February 16-20 – Interim Committee Meetings
- **March 2 – First Day of Session**
- **April 30 – Last Day of Regular Session**

* *PLEASE NOTE: Interim Committee weeks are tentative and subject to change.*



Scholarship Program Accountability



- Clarifies the Department of Education's role and responsibilities related to program oversight and evaluation, school and student eligibility requirements and approval, state enforcement authority, and other rule responsibilities
- Delineates Scholarship Funding Organization, private school, and student eligibility requirements and prohibitions for the Corporate Tax Credit and McKay scholarship programs, such as: criminal background checks, student attendance verification, sworn compliance requirements, warrant approval, and other process controls
- Specifies student testing/assessment requirements for scholarship program participation
- Establishes financial soundness, auditing, and reporting requirements for private schools and Scholarship Funding Organizations
- Prohibits dual membership of students in more than one scholarship program



Universal Pre-kindergarten (UPK)



- This proposal provides recommendations or options to the Legislature and the Governor on Implementation of the UPK constitutional amendment that provides children a high-quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity. These recommendations/options will address:
 - ✓ Curriculum and standards
 - ✓ Expected outcomes
 - ✓ Quality of instruction
 - ✓ Assessment and evaluation
 - ✓ Funding
 - ✓ Best practices to improve the outcome of school readiness coalitions and providers
 - ✓ State governance



Middle School Reform Bill



The purpose of the Middle School Reform Act of 2004 is to require added focus and rigor to academics in middle schools through:

- Reading Readiness - The SBOE shall begin implementing a comprehensive middle school reform by focusing on identifying policies and strategies to increase the reading proficiency of middle school students.
- Comprehensive Reform Study - The SBOE shall conduct a study, in consultation with the Just Read, Florida! Office, school board members, superintendents, school district staff, principals, assistant principals, teachers, parents and deans of colleges of education to identify the essential components of an effective comprehensive middle school reform:
 - o Quality Teachers – Preparedness of teachers to teach rigorous courses, teacher evaluations, substitute teachers, certification/re-certification requirements, staff development requirements linked to student achievement, availability of effective staff development training, options to remove ineffective teachers, teacher recruitment/vacancies, and NCLB requirements for highly qualified teachers.



Middle School Reform Bill

(Continued)



- o School Leadership – Re-examine educational leadership requirements, including a reading component.
- o Parental and Community Involvement - Promote parental and community involvement in all aspects of a child's middle school education.



Teacher Bill

- Keep classrooms safe by granting the Education Practices Commission broader authority to take aggressive disciplinary action against teachers who have been sanctioned for criminal or Code of Ethics violations, and includes an expanded use of permanent revocation
- Increase support for teachers by creating standards for mentoring first-time teachers, establishing district guidelines for induction programs, creating a statewide “Teacher Appreciation Week”, and developing a statewide teacher toolkit to directly connect teachers with the latest research-based information in their fields
- Simplify teacher certification and preparation to allow all certification application components to be completed on–line and by eliminating the duplication of the basic skills examinations currently required for teacher preparation program completers
- Expand the alternative certification program to allow community colleges, colleges, and universities the ability to offer alternative certification programs to individuals who are considering a career in education, and by adding the *Passport Certificate* issued by the American Board of Certification of Teachers Excellence as another alternative method for obtaining initial certification



Baccalaureate Degrees at Community Colleges



- On September 16, 2003 , the State Board of Education adopted the following policy:

"The community college baccalaureate program will remain under the jurisdiction of the State Board for all matters relating to approval, funding, accountability, and planning, to include a separate line item in the budget for the baccalaureate programs. The State Board will review all access tools and develop a comprehensive plan for access to baccalaureate degrees with the Board of Governors that will yield a comprehensive budget strategy to fund the most efficient approaches."

- This proposed legislation will clarify policies that differ in existing statutes, ensure policy and program consistency, and provide guidance in approving programs
- Specifically, the proposal revises the current “site-determined baccalaureate degree access” statute (s. 1007.33, F.S.) to codify recommendations of the SBOE relating to:

Intent – adds intent of the SBOE to expand access to postsecondary education, target critical workforce needs , encourage innovative alternatives, and evaluate cost effectiveness and efficiencies for the state and for students

Authority – retains current language authorizing the SBOE to approve bachelor’s degrees at community colleges



Baccalaureate Degrees at Community Colleges (Continued)



Program approval – retains current process of CEPRI review and SBOE approval for new programs.

Mission – adopts policy emphasizing the community college primary mission as delineated in s. 1004.73, F.S., refers to current statutory authority to provide bachelor's degrees as a secondary role, implements other SBOE recommendations related to policies and performance accountability for community college upper division programs

Student Fees – adopts policy from 1004.73, F.S. except that it requires community colleges to have a less expensive cost structure and limits tuition and out of state fees to no more than 85% of the State University System fee level

Facilities – Implements the policy decision of the SBOE that PECO funding for baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges comes from a separate line item outside both the community college and state university PECO budgets

State Funding – Implements several policy decisions of the SBOE including the decision that funding for the baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges is a separate line item outside both the community college and state university budgets.



Additional Legislative Issues



Legislative Issues to be Considered at the State Board of Education Meeting – December 16, 2003:

- K-20 Accountability
- Acceleration Policies
- Class Size
- Postsecondary Governance
- Higher Education Funding

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