

2002-03 EDUCATION BUDGET TALKING POINTS

GOVERNOR BUSH PROPOSES NEARLY \$1 BILLION IN NEW FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- Record education budget increases
- Expanded flexibility for the K-20 system
- Several new and expanded policy-driven statewide initiatives.

Governor quote:

"When we took office in 1999, Lt. Governor Brogan and I affirmed our commitment to education with the A+ plan in conjunction with historic spending increases. This vision has yielded higher accountability, rising student achievement, and greater flexibility for schools.

"With the passage of this education budget, our schools will continue to see an increase in spending despite these difficult economic times. We have had to make some tough decisions, however our commitment to education has never wavered."

Chairman Phil Handy quote:

"The Governor's budget recommendations support the state's new K-20 system and this board's call for flexibility, devolution and recognition of the state's education priorities," Chairman Handy said. "Any review of this budget recommendation will leave no doubt that education is the Governor's top priority."

Secretary Jim Horne quote:

"Governor Bush's education budget contains two elements that are critical to student success: increased funding for priorities and greater flexibility coupled with accountability," Secretary Horne said.

Continued Increase in education funding over past three years of Bush-Brogan administration:

- Real increase of 17.7%, nearly \$2 billion
- Per student increase of 9.6% or \$513 per pupil.

If approved by the Legislative appropriations process, the Governor's budget recommendations would reflect a 24.4% CUMULATIVE INCREASE since Governor Bush took office in 1999:

- \$2,698,786,548 billion
- 12.5 % per student increase (\$660 per student).

\$983 million in new funding for the K-20 education system

K-12 Overall -- \$726 million increase for K-12 -- 6.1% increase in total funds (compared to 3% increase in fiscal year 2001-2002)

Per Student -- 3% increase in per student funding (includes funding for projected 72,386 new public school students).

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- \$93 million increase (3.9%), including tuition increases.
- 5% tuition increase for all students in the State University System
- Provides flexibility for universities to increase graduate and out-of-state tuition by an additional 5%, within guidelines ***established by the Florida Board of Education.***
- \$48 million for universities to be spent as determined by each local board of trustees.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- 6.3% increase for community college board of trustees
- 2.5% tuition increase

Community College Workforce

- \$25 million increase to restore community college funding to pre-Special Session levels
- Commits an additional \$19 million in General Revenue to the community college program fund.

FLEXIBILITY For SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Recommends greater flexibility for state universities, community colleges, and school districts:

- Allows universities to set tuition rates for graduate and out-of state students
- Grants public universities independence over their operations similar to what is currently enjoyed by community colleges.

K-20 Leadership Training

- \$2 million for K-20 Leadership Training for key educators and education administrators on critical K-20 issues such as accountability, standards, administrative and academic best practices, remediation, and articulation to help ensure no student is left behind.

2002 POLICY-DRIVEN STATEWIDE INITIATIVES:

Just Read, Florida! - \$52 million

\$10 million in state and \$42 million in federal funds for K-8 reading programs.

Goal: All students to be able to read on grade level or higher by fourth grade, and to continue reading on grade level or higher throughout their school years. The Executive Order (#01-260), signed on September 7, 2001, directs the Florida Department of Education to work with local school districts, educators, parents and community members to review current reading programs and to make commendations on reading standards, effective strategies and reading course requirements. The Department will inventory and review reading programs utilized in Florida schools to provide an assessment of the effectiveness of these programs and determine the cost per student of these

programs. The Department will also review recommended statewide standards for reading programs based on the latest scientific research. A final report is due by February 15, 2002.

Readiness - \$160 million

Educational and support services, including preschool instruction, family literacy, parenting skills, and subsidized child care to hard-working families to ensure that their children are ready to enter school and meet the challenges that await them.

Target school readiness funding to those age groups with the greatest need for Services. *Provide sufficient funding to readiness programs for the 43,159 financially eligible four year olds in families at 150% of federal poverty level.*

Rewarding schools for achievement and improvement - \$123.5 million

Each school determines how it will spend the reward money it receives from the School Recognition Program. For the 2000-2001 school year, 843 (out of 2,431) schools received an A grade or improved their letter grade, qualifying for school recognition award (\$100 per student).

Helping low performing schools - \$5 million

Schools with added challenges need our additional help and attention.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention - \$40 million

To give school districts the local flexibility to meet their unique teacher recruitment and retention needs.

- 500 new slots in Excellent teaching Program.

Improving Technology - \$3.9 million

To upgrade the state's K-20 education Internet network. The upgrade will provide a faster connection to the World Wide Web for classrooms and media centers.

Workforce Development - \$5 million

To advance nursing and teaching programs in community colleges. In total, the budget proposes to increase workforce development spending by \$25 million to restore community college funding to pre-Special Session levels and commits an additional \$19 million in General Revenue to the community college program fund.

Mentoring - \$13.1 million

Governor Bush is working to recruit 200,000 Floridians to become mentors. Statistics show that a young person who meets with a mentor is: 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 27% less likely to begin drinking alcohol, 52% less likely to skip school, and 33% less likely to engage in a fight.