

FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC

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The Florida School Boards Association is currently in the process of developing our 2017 Legislative Platform, but the process will not be completed until later this year. As a result, we have provided an outline of many of the issues that we believe will be in the spotlight during the 2017 Legislative Session. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer more detailed commentary at the State Board of Education Legislative Workshop and we look forward to working collaboratively with the Board and the Department to develop thoughtful, effective, and equitable recommendations to address these issues.

Accountability

- ❖ Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and strategies to address any areas where the state and federal accountability systems may not align
- ❖ Consistent fiscal and academic accountability standards for all schools that receive state funds
- ❖ Appropriate use of assessment results for diagnostic purposes only
- ❖ District flexibility to substitute a nationally recognized assessment, on a district-wide basis, in lieu of statewide standardized assessment
- ❖ Development and/or revision of standards and assessments for students in special populations such as English language learners and students with significant cognitive disabilities
- ❖ Appropriate alternative pathways for promotion, progression, and graduation

Local Governance and Administration

- ❖ Logistics and implementation of open enrollment provisions
- ❖ Adjustments to the Florida Retirement System
- ❖ Adjustments to Workers' Compensation program

Operating and Capital Funding

- ❖ Continued restoration of education funding lost during Great Recession with a focus on restoring funding levels for each program and categorical within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
- ❖ Safeguard an appropriate balance between state and local funding of the FEFP
- ❖ Evaluate the results of studies of the cost-per-student-station and State Requirements for Educational Facilities and consider adjustments to local revenue expenditure limits and related provisions
- ❖ Restoration of local capital outlay millage authority to a maximum of 2 mills.