Every child's future begins with a quality education, and a quality education begins with the ability to read.

– Governor Bush

Ensuring our public schools and postsecondary institutions teach our students to read, is the highest priority of the Department of Education.

– Commissioner Horne

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For additional information or questions regarding the State Board of Education’s 2003 Legislative Agenda, contact Kim McDougal, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Governmental Relations at: 850-201-7171 or SunCom 213-7171.
Enhance Teacher Recruitment and Retention and School Administrator Preparation

- Create a prestigious Florida Teaching Fellows program
- Develop accelerated paths to the classroom for prospective teachers
- Establish an optional differentiated pay framework for teachers
- Create a Teacher First Response Center
- Require educational leaders to be trained on the latest reading research
- Establish alternate paths for aspiring school administrators
- Create K-20 Leadership Training Academies
- Establish performance standards for school administrators

Promote Parental Involvement and Empowerment

- Parents and guardians should be involved in all aspects of their child’s educational program
- Establish alternate pathways for aspiring school administrators
- Create K-20 Leadership Training Academies
- Establish performance standards for school administrators

Implement Select Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Students with Disabilities

- Expand options for students with disabilities to earn a high school diploma through the use of alternative assessments
- Clarify that students with disabilities who have not yet graduated with a standard diploma (i.e., certificate of completion) have access to community college upon completion of curricular requirements.
- Clarify that students with disabilities who are not yet graduated with a standard diploma are eligible to remain in school until they earn the diploma, or up to their 22nd birthday, whichever occurs first.

Strengthen Charter School Accountability

- Increase charter school application standards
- Strengthen reading strategies and initiatives in charter schools
- Create a Charter School Accountability and Funding Authority
- Develop an accountability system for charter schools that reflects the intent of the K-20 Accountability System and provides a mechanism for the disbursement of Public Education Capital Outlay funds
- Allow postsecondary institutions to sponsor charter schools
- Modify the School Recognition Program eligibility criteria so charter schools can participate.

Promote Tuition Flexibility Linked to Institutional Performance, Including Student Achievement

- Provide universities flexibility for all out-of-state, in-state graduate, and in-state professional degree students
- Better align financial aid through state goals and student needs.

Revise School Recognition Criteria

- Modify eligibility criteria to include other State Board of Education approved accountability measures
- Establish a Charter School Accountability and Funding Authority
- Create a Charter School Accountability and Funding Authority
- Develop an accountability system for charter schools that reflects the intent of the K-20 Accountability System and provides a mechanism for the disbursement of Public Education Capital Outlay funds
- Allow postsecondary institutions to sponsor charter schools
- Modify the School Recognition Program eligibility criteria so charter schools can participate.

Ensure the Confidentiality of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

- Clarify existing law to state that all student assessment instruments are not student records and are therefore protected from disclosure.

Amend the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) Requirement for Participation in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program

- Eliminate the requirement that all Bright Futures Scholarship recipients take at least five examinations
- Implement Select Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Students with Disabilities
- Align “Weighting” of Advanced Course Work
- To maximize clear and consistent guidance to students seeking advanced curricula and accelerated access to higher education, the state Board of Education will align the weighting of courses for credit and admission.

Identify School Code Bill Recommendations

- Work with the Legislature to identify technical changes that need to be made to the School Code
- Ensure the Confidentiality of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test
- Promote Tuition Flexibility Linked to Institutional Performance, Including Student Achievement
- Revise School Recognition Criteria
- Amend the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) Requirement for Participation in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program
- Align “Weighting” of Advanced Course Work
- To maximize clear and consistent guidance to students seeking advanced curricula and accelerated access to higher education, the state Board of Education will align the weighting of courses for credit and admission.