



Florida Department of Education



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice

325 West Gaines Street • Suite 522 • Tallahassee, FL • 32399-0400 • 850/245-0502 • www.floridaschoolchoice.org

2008 Legislative Update for Florida's School Choice Programs

*Jean Miller, Acting Executive Director
Independent Education and Parental Choice*

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Major Legislation

HB 7067 – K-8 Virtual Education Programs

**HB 653 – Corporate Income Tax Credit
Scholarship Program**

**SB 526 – Private school students and
sports in public schools**



House Bill 7067 – Virtual Education

Summary

The bill requires school districts to offer a K-8 virtual education program beginning in 2009-2010, provides the option of providing a program for 2008-2009, revises the current K-8 programs, and outlines responsibilities of the school district, the virtual education providers, and the Department of Education.



House Bill 7067 – Virtual Education

Implementation

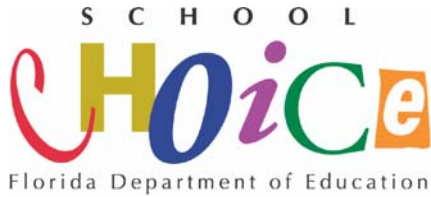
- 2008-09: Districts may offer a K-8 virtual program utilizing a currently approved provider
- 2009-10: Districts must offer a K-8 virtual program with an approved provider or district developed program
- Districts may offer a 9-12 virtual program limited to students in Department of Juvenile Justice Programs, dropout prevention, and career and vocational programs
- Limits current enrollment of K-8 programs to 1,366



House Bill 7067 – Virtual Education

Responsibilities

- Virtual providers must be approved by the Department of Education and an approved list provided by March 1 each year
- Providers must meet all requirements as outlined in Section 1002.45
- School districts must report those students in virtual education through the FEFP
- Students beyond the allowable 1,366 in the state K-8 programs must be reported through the FEFP



House Bill 653 – CTC Program

Summary

The bill increases the annual amount of tax credits available, extends eligibility to foster care students and siblings of currently registered students and requires a study by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Accountability.



House Bill 653 – CTC Program

Implementation

- New provisions effective July 1, 2008
- Increases tax credits from \$88 million to \$118 million
- Removes provision that 1% of total tax credits be reserved for private businesses
- Increases per student amount to \$3,950
- Requires OPPAGA to conduct a financial study and report to the Legislature December 1, 2008



House Bill 653 – CTC Program

Eligibility

- Expands eligibility to include students who are currently placed or were placed in foster care during the previous state fiscal year
- Extends eligibility to siblings of currently enrolled students, if the household income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level



Senate Bill 526 – FHSAA

Summary

Requires the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to establish a 2-year pilot program to permit students enrolled in private schools to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports at public schools.

Implementation

- Program in effect 2008-09 & 2009-10 school year
- Limited to 3 districts (Bradford, Duval, Nassau)
- FHSAA and districts must develop guidelines for program and present to Governor and Legislature by August 1, 2008
- Progress report due to Governor and Legislature January 1, 2010