



2008 Legislative Update Division of Public Schools

Commissioner Eric J. Smith
Chancellor Frances Haithcock

May 19, 2008

This presentation is available at www.fldoe.org/GR.



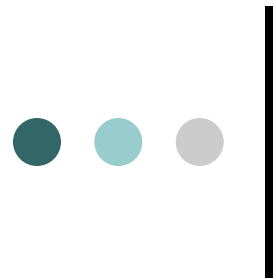
Next Generation Supporting Legislation

- SB 1908 – Standards, Assessment,
High School Grades
- SB 1906 – Alternative Credit Pilot



SB 1908 – Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

- Adopted for each subject by December 31, 2011.
 - **Language arts** standards adopted in 2007 must be reviewed and replaced, and identify significant literary genres and authors that encompass a comprehensive range of historical periods.
 - **Math** and **reading** standards adopted in 2007 and **science** standards adopted in 2008 are considered Next Generation.



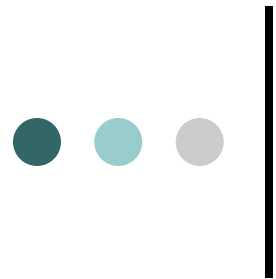
SB 1908 – School Grades

- Revises **high school grading formula** and alternative school improvement rating system beginning 2009-10.
- High schools must demonstrate adequate progress of at-risk students to earn a grade of “A.”
- School Recognition Program Funds include schools that improve more than one letter grade and sustain that improvement in the following year.



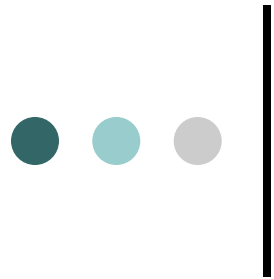
SB 1908 – Assessment

- Statewide **end-of-course assessments** can be developed.
- Norm-referenced tests are eliminated.
- FCAT Writing will be revised.
- Commissioner will post FCAT testing and reporting schedules by August 1; dates will be later beginning 2010-11.



SB 1908 – Assessment

- DOE will purchase or develop assessments for high schools to **evaluate college readiness** of selected students prior to grade 12, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. High schools must provide 12th grade students access to remedial instruction prior to graduation.
- Requires the subject area examinations of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination program to be aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.
- Requires school districts to prohibit each public school from suspending a regular program of curricula in order to administer practice tests, with exceptions.



SB 1908

Electronic Personal Education Plan (ePep)

- Requires each student's plan to be reviewed **annually** once they enter high school.

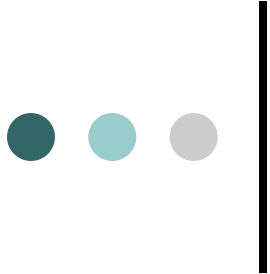
● ● ● | SB 1906 – Alternative Credit for High School Courses Pilot Program

- Three districts may pilot beginning 2008-09.
- Credit awarded for two courses if enrolled if program has national or state recognition as **industry certified** and pass end-of-course assessment in Algebra 1a, Algebra 1b, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology.
- Assessments can be those of the Florida Virtual School or those statewide, standardized and adopted or developed by DOE.
- Calculate completed credit as 1/6 of an FTE, if it is not reported as a portion of the 900 net hours of instruction.



Additional PreK-12 Bills Passed

- SB 1712 – Ethics (State Board Priority)
- SB 610 – Physical Education (Governor’s Priority)
- HB 669 – Bullying
- HB 7067 – Virtual Education
- HB 1313 – ESE Terminology (State Board Priority)
- SB 1414 – Grading of SES Providers
- SB 242 – Single-gender Education
- HB 251 – ROTC
- HB 1203 – Military Children
- SB 856 – Disability History and Awareness
- SB 642 – Classroom Placement of Multiple Birth Siblings
- HB 879 – Early Learning



SB 1712 – Ethics in Education

- Requires districts, charter schools, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (FSDB), and private schools that accept state scholarship students to:
 - **Adopt policies** establishing standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and school administrators
 - **Ban confidentiality agreements** and require that employment recommendations for future educational settings disclose the misconduct.
 - **Disqualify** instructional personnel and school administrators from employment in any position that requires direct contact with students if they have been convicted of offenses listed in s. 1012.315, F.S.
 - Conduct “**employment history**” checks for instructional personnel and school administrator candidates for positions requiring direct student contact, screen with **DOE tools** and document findings. This is new for private schools accepting state scholarship money.
 - **Post** in a prominent place, at the school and online, the policies for reporting abuse and misconduct, contact information, and penalties for failure to report.



SB 610 – Physical Education

- Include in written physical education policy the availability of one-on-one counseling.
- **30 consecutive minutes** of physical education instruction on any day during which it is conducted for K-5 (and 6 if part of elementary school).
- **One class period per day** of physical education for one semester of each year for 6-8, beginning in 2009-2010.
- Notify the parents of the waiver options.
 - Student enrolled in a remedial course.
 - Parent requests that the student enroll in another course offered as an option by the district.
 - Student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.



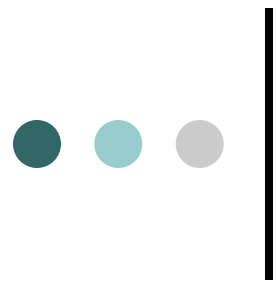
HB 669 – Bullying

- Defines “bullying” and “harassment” and requires school districts to **adopt a policy** prohibiting such during any education program or activity including a computer network within the scope of the district school system by December 1, 2008.
- Requires DOE to develop a **model policy** by October 1, 2008.
- District policies must be in substantial conformity to state policy, or Safe Schools funds could be withheld.



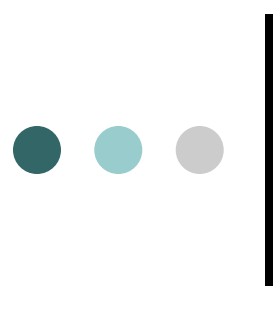
HB 7067 – Virtual Education

- School districts are required to offer virtual instruction programs beginning in 2009-10 and may offer them in 2008-09.
- 9-12 is limited to students in Department of Juvenile Justice, dropout prevention, and career and vocational programs.
- Approved providers are to include Florida Virtual School (FLVS) and providers of the state-level K-8 Virtual School Program.



HB 1313 – ESE Terminology

- Updates to federal categorical language.
- Examples:
 - “Mentally handicapped” or “mental retardation” is now “intellectual disabilities.”
 - “Autism” is now “autism spectrum disorder.”
 - “Impaired and learning disabled persons” is now “persons with disabilities.”



SB 1414 – Grading of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Providers

- Based on a combination of student learning gains and student proficiency.
- Grades of A-F assigned for SES providers based on 2007-2008 school year and reported March 1, 2009.



SB 242 – Single-gender Education

- Allows school boards to establish and maintain a single-gender:
 - nonvocational class
 - extracurricular activity
 - school
- Must also offer options for a coeducational group.
- Participation must be voluntary.



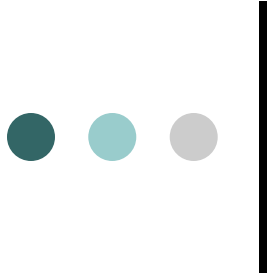
HB 251 – JROTC Programs

- Prohibits school districts from banning JROTC at public high schools.
- Students can enroll in JROTC at another public high school if certain conditions are met.
- Grants military recruiters the same access to campuses as postsecondary educational institutions or prospective employers of students.
- Grants military recruiters access to personal student information per federal law. Prior written parental consent must be obtained.



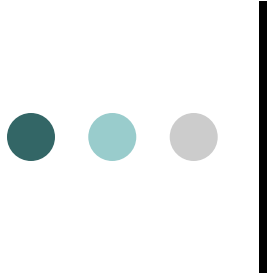
HB 1203 – Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

- The purpose of the compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents (24 other states are considering).



SB 856 – Disability History and Awareness Week

- Districts must designate such during the first two weeks in October each year
- Districts may provide instruction on disability history and awareness



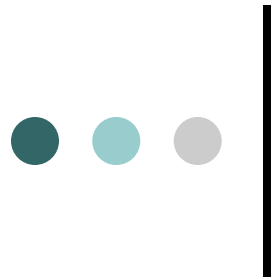
SB 642 – Classroom placement of multiple birth siblings

- Allows parents to choose classroom placement in writing 5 days before each school year begins or within 5 days of new students' arrival at a school unless the students' performance indicates otherwise or if it would require adding another class.
- Principal can change the students' placement if their behavior is disruptive.
- Parents have the right to appeal.



HB 879 – Early Learning

- Allows private and public VPK providers to assign a **substitute instructor** to replace a credentialed instructor temporarily and requires the substitute instructor be of good moral character and have a level 2 background screening.



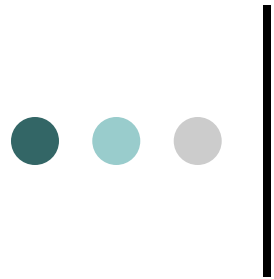
SB 1908

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Codifies legislative intent that Florida's K-20 education performance accountability system will comply with IDEA.

School Advisory Councils (SAC)

- Majority of members of a SAC must not be employed by the school **district**.



SB 1908

Foreign Language Educator Certification

- New option for demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge for the Professional Certificate.
- Accepts a score above the intermediate level on the oral and written tests administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) for which there is no Florida-developed foreign language certification exam.