



Florida School Boards Association

The voice of education in Florida.

APRIL GRIFFIN
PRESIDENT
GAINESVILLE

ANDREA MESSINA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TALLAHASSEE

State Board of Education Legislative Workshop

July 17, 2017

The Florida School Boards Association is currently in the process of developing our 2018 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 2018 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.

Develop an environment for all students to achieve

- Establish appropriate and clearly defined alternative pathways for student promotion, progression, and graduation.
- Apply consistent fiscal and academic accountability standards for all schools that receive public funds.
- Proceed with the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and employ strategies to address any areas where the state and federal accountability systems may not align.
- Create or revise standards and assessments for students in special populations such as English language learners and students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Promote school district authority to make decisions to better serve students

- Ensure that all public education choice programs are subject to uniform accountability and comply with the district school board responsibility to operate, supervise, and control all free public schools within the district.
- Ensure that only publicly accountable entities may achieve the designation of Local Education Agency.
- Protect the district school board responsibility to negotiate and enter into all contracts.

Provide adequate funding that reflects Florida's commitment to public schools

- Continue the ongoing effort to restore FEFP funding lost during Great Recession.
- Safeguard an appropriate balance between state and local funding of the FEFP, recognizing the importance of a stable, reliable, and sustainable education for Florida's future.
- Ensure that the distribution of federal funding is consistent with federal law and maximizes the efficient use of these funds.
- Ensure that local capital outlay funding is distributed to all public schools in accordance with a prioritized plan to address demonstrated capital needs.
- Restore the local capital outlay millage authority to levy a maximum of 2 mills.

Attract and retain the country's top educators

- Remove financial and policy disincentives for effective teachers and school administrators to serve in struggling schools.
- Ensure that all public school instructional personnel are properly certified.
- Revise performance awards to focus on enhancing salaries rather than providing bonuses.
- Improve the availability of school counseling services and related mental health services.

The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.