

2018 Proposed Legislative Priorities

Strategic Plan Goal Alignment: Higher Student Achievement

1. Major Legislative Initiative: Computer Coding Instruction

Expands opportunities for middle and high school students to learn coding and computer science.

- Computer science/coding courses available to students
- Increases teacher training for computer science/coding
- Rewards teachers that receive certification and teach computer science
- Provides resources for computer science/coding to high-needs districts
- Appropriates funds to accomplish this initiative

2. Major Legislative Initiative: Student Protection

Promotes processes and policies that further provide increased safety and protection of students in our K 12 education system.

- Promotes Test Integrity for Industry Certifications Exams by requiring violations of industry certification test administrations and security protocol to be treated the same as other high stakes tests.
- Strengthens Accountability for Educators by allowing the Education Practices Commission to discipline an educator's certificate for a more complete range of offenses and defining screening standards for the denial of an application for educator certification
- Background Screening Exemption for instructional and noninstructional personnel who also provide services to VR clients in the same districts.

3. Major Legislative Initiative: Public Records Exemption

- To protect the personal, identifiable information of the department's investigative staff and prosecuting attorneys whose duties are to investigate and prosecute educators for misconduct

Strategic Plan Goal Alignment: Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access

4. Major Legislative Initiative: Bright Futures

Provide assistance to our brightest students through the Bright Futures Scholarship program which entices our brightest students to attend a Florida postsecondary institution and hopefully remain in the state and contribute to the growth of Florida's economy.

- Expands the Bright Futures Scholarship to allow the scholarship dollars to be used to pay tuition differential and technology fees for the Academic Scholars award.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Workforce and Economic Development

5. Major Legislative Initiative: Workforce Readiness

Increase options for individuals with disabilities to gain valuable work experience in order to meet their ultimate goal of being independent through gainful employment.

- Expand access to Work Experience by providing students and adult customers of Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services with expanded opportunities for work experiences to better prepare them for the workforce by providing workers compensation coverage while they are participating in work experiences.