



2016 Legislative Review Webinar Q & A March 30-31, 2016

Question #1: (Broward)

For the new options to meet the online course requirement (HB 7029, section 13) for high school graduation will FDOE provide the assessment or will each district create their own?

Answer:

The Governor has not acted on the bill that contains this provision (HB 7029) as of yet. If the bill is signed we will begin implementation which will entail determining additional information including this question.

Question #2: (Broward)

Will the SAT II test count for the Seal of Biliteracy?

Answer:

The State Board of Education will adopt rules that must include the assessments and corresponding test scores required to earn the Gold Seal of Biliteracy or the Silver Seal of Biliteracy, which may not be lower than at least one of the following: International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, SAT Subject Test (SAT II), or an Advanced International Certificate of Education examination in the foreign language.

Question: (Citrus)

Will students who are now eligible for taking the AP test without the AP course as well as those students taking the college level CLEP test be responsible for the cost of that test or is that cost the responsibility of the school at which the student attends?

Answer:

This is a local decision.

Question: (Miami-Dade)

What are the HB 5003 changes to Capital Outlay FTE? Does it include VPK head count/enrollment? When will the counts be taken?

Answer:

This budget implementing bill has language that the department recommended about space for brick and mortar based on head count versus recalibrating the FTE figure. This change is beneficial to districts. It is based on K-12 student membership and becomes effective July 1, 2016, so the changes will be in effect for the 2016-17 school year. FDOE will use FTE survey membership data and adjust for students not in a district's schools (e.g., virtual, homebound).

Question: (Volusia)

What will be the process for OPPAGA and EDR's reviews of SREF and construction costs?



Answer:

We are in the initial phase of implementation and have not yet met with the representatives of OPPAGA or EDR to begin the review process. That will occur in the next few weeks. As soon as we have additional information, the department will update school districts.

Question: (Sumter)

How are reading allocation funds calculated for charter schools?

Answer:

The bill does not explicitly provide a methodology; however, the bill provides that charter schools are entitled to a proportionate share of the research-based reading allocation. Charter schools are required to submit, as part of their charter application, a reading curriculum and set of strategies that are research-based.

Question (Pasco):

Regarding the controlled open enrollment process, we currently have employees who live outside the district and whose children attend within the district, and these employees have in their contract a preferential treatment provision for the placement of their children? Will this still be allowed?

Answer:

Section 5 of HB 7029 requires districts to adopt, by rule, a controlled open enrollment plan that must provide preferential treatment for the following four groups of students (lines 533-540):

- Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;
- Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone;
- Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent; and
- Students residing in the school district.

Additionally, the law requires districts to afford parents of students in multiple session schools preferred access to controlled open enrollment.

Question: (Pasco)

The bill says students must stay in the school program until they complete the highest grade. If a school boundary changes, do they need to reapply? We just opened elementary school in a populous part of district.

Answer:

If a student utilizes the district's controlled open enrollment process to select and enroll in a school, that student is entitled to stay at that school until s/he completes the highest grade level at the school.

Question:

Will Section 19 of HB 7029, regarding classroom transfer requirements, be applicable to charter schools or only traditional public schools?



Answer:

It is not applicable to charter schools.

Question:

Will the department issue a technical assistance paper to provide charter schools detailed instructions on how they may apply for the student uniform allocation authorized by SB 672?

Answer:

The department will provide guidance.

Question: (Lake-Sumter State College)

When will we know where colleges stand on performance rankings for 2016-17?

Answer:

We hope to have the information available around May 1 so colleges have enough time for budget presentations to their boards of trustees in May-June-July.

Question: (St. Johns River State College)

Does the HB 7019 requirement for colleges to publicly notice fee increases being voted on by the Board of Trustees apply to just tuition and registration fees? What about lab fees and testing fees that are increased to recover the cost of supplies used in the classroom? Do these need public notice?

Answer:

Yes, the use of the word "fee" in the newly created subsection (20) for s. 1009.23, F.S., should be interpreted to apply to each fee that is authorized in s. 1009.23, F.S.