

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

November 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Ratification and Adoption of The Phoenix Declaration: An American Vision for Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Ratification and Adoption of The Phoenix Declaration: An American Vision for Education

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.02, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This powerful statement of principles calls for a renewal and strengthening of American education that cultivates virtue, strives for excellence, imparts the wisdom of history, fosters a love of country and one's fellow citizens, and teaches children to seek the good, true, and beautiful.

The Phoenix Declaration envisions an education system dedicated to the following principles:

Parental Choice & Responsibility: Parents are the primary educators of their children. Public education funds should always follow the child.

Transparency & Accountability: Schools must be fully transparent with parents about curricula, policies, and student well-being.

Truth & Goodness: Students deserve an education grounded in objective truth, free from ideological fads, and oriented toward the pursuit of the good.

Cultural Transmission: Students should learn about America's founding principles and roots in the broader Western and Judeo-Christian traditions. Students should study the best-competing viewpoints that comprise our intellectual heritage.

Character Formation: Schools must prepare children for the challenges and responsibilities of adulthood by cultivating virtue, personal responsibility, and self-discipline.

Academic Excellence: Schools should prioritize proven teaching methods and a content-rich curriculum rooted in foundational subjects over fads or experimental teaching methods.

Citizenship: Schools should teach students the civic virtues and knowledge necessary for self-government, including the value of civil disagreement. Students should learn the whole truth about America—its merits and failings—without obscuring that America is a great source of good in the world.

Supporting Documentation Included: The Phoenix Declaration

Facilitators/Presenters: Chair Ryan Petty and Commissioner Anastasios Kamoutsas