



2019 Legislative Review

St. Johns County School Board Workshop

June. 4. 2019



St. Johns County School District 2019 Legislative Platform

State Funding

- Maintain the fiscal year 2018-2019 Required Local Effort millage rate, resulting in an increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA).
- Provide greater flexibility in the use of the Safe Schools funds allocated in SB 7026.
- Support additional funding and programmatic opportunities for VPK and early learning programs.

State Policy

- Provide flexibility to school boards with capital outlay revenue for new school construction by excluding local capital outlay revenue sources from the statutory per student station cost caps.
- Support parity for district virtual programs by allowing them to operate with the same calendar freedom as Florida Virtual School by ensuring consistency in funding throughout both the regular and summer terms.
- Expand opportunities for advanced degree supplements to be granted by school districts for a Master's degree earned in classroom oriented, student centered general education majors, such as Curriculum and Instruction or Teaching and Learning.

Federal

- Support the repeal of federal sequestration for education programs.
- Support an increase in federal dollars for mental health and school safety.



Legislative Platform: Funding

- Maintain the fiscal year 2018-19 Required Local Effort rate, resulting in an increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA)
 - Allowance for new construction factored into the roll back of the RLE
- Provide greater flexibility in the use of Safe Schools funds
 - Clarification provided for use of allocation
- Support additional funding and programmatic opportunities for VPK and early learning programs
 - \$73.8 million increase in program funding, as well as professional development opportunities (HB 1027)



Legislative Platform: State Policy

- Provide flexibility to schools boards with capital outlay revenue for new school construction by excluding local capital outlay revenue sources from the statutory per student station cost caps
 - Exception to caps when using a lease-purchase agreement
- Support parity for district virtual programs by allowing them to operate with the same calendar freedom as Florida Virtual School by ensuring consistency in funding throughout both the regular and summer terms
 - No movement



Legislative Platform: State Policy

- Expand opportunities for advanced degree supplements to be granted by school districts for a Master's degree earned in classroom oriented, student centered general education majors, such as Curriculum and Instruction or Teaching and Learning
 - No movement



2019-2020 General Appropriations Act

SB 2500



SB 2500—General Appropriations Act

- Total funding: \$21.8 billion
 - \$12.4 billion in state funds, \$9.4 billion in local funds
- Per student funding: \$7,672.02
 - An increase of \$242.60 per student or 3.27 percent
- FEFP increase of \$783 million
- Base Student Allocation increase of \$75.07 per student
 - *Was \$0.47 last year*
- RLE millage reduction of .148 mills from 4.075 to 3.927 mills to provide property tax relief



FEFP Highlights

- Safe Schools Allocation: \$180M (\$18M Increase)
 - \$2,231,213 for St. Johns County, \$225,000 increase over last year
- Mental Health Allocation: \$75M (\$5.7M Increase)
 - \$1,130,197 for St. Johns County, \$135,000 increase
- ESE Guarantee funding: \$12.5 million increase
 - \$14,187,246 for St. Johns County, \$1.2M increase
- Funding Compression Allocation: \$54.1M
 - \$629,564 for St. Johns County, \$815,000 reduction
- Best & Brightest: \$284.5M (\$50M Increase, now included in FEFP)
 - \$4,334,416 for St. Johns County



Programs and Initiatives Funded

- \$284.5 million for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher and Principals program
- \$7.1 million for Community Partnership School grant program
- \$10 million in computer science certification grants
- \$40 million for Schools of Hope



SB 2502: District Cost Differential

- Requires the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) to develop a new DCD calculation based on a wage-level index for each district
- EDR must include broad range of stakeholders and identify key factors resulting in cost differences
- Must provide a transition plan to minimize negative effects on districts
 - Plan must begin with 2020-2021 fiscal year
- EDR must submit the plan to the House, Senate, and Governor by October 1, 2019
- Implementation of the plan will require legislative approval



K-12 Education

SB 7070



Family Empowerment Scholarships

- Up to 18,000 students for the 2019-2020 school year
 - Each year after, number may increase by .25 percent of the state's total public enrollment
- Available to families earning up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level
 - Priority given to students whose household income level does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level
- Scholarship to be funded at 95 percent of local unweighted FTE amount, plus a per-FTE share of all categoricals besides ESE
- **By July 15th 2019, and by April 1st each year thereafter,** each school district shall inform all free or reduced lunch students of their eligibility to apply



Best & Brightest Teacher and Principal Program

- Recruitment: Up to \$4,000
 - One-time award for newly hired teachers qualified as “content experts” in core subjects
- Retention: \$2,500 for “Highly Effective,” \$1,000 for “Effective”
 - Must have taught in same school for 2 years and school must show at least 3 percent improvement over prior 3 years
- Recognition
 - To be awarded to instructional personnel with remaining funds after all other categories are paid
- Principals: \$5,000
 - Must serve as principal in the same school for 4 years and school must improve at least 3 percent over prior 3 years



Community School Grant Program

- \$7.1 Million in GAA
- Grant established through the University of Central Florida to facilitate implementation of community school model
- After receiving initial award, the center shall condition the award of subsequent grant funds upon matching funds secured through the long-term partnerships



Teacher Certification

- Specifies general knowledge mastery is only required for classroom teachers
- Requires districts to provide information regarding state and district-level supports and instruction to assist individuals who do not pass any one of the exam subtests
- Extends timeline for those holding a temporary certificate to pass the exam from 1 year to 3 years
- Exam fees are adjusted



School District Construction Flexibility

- Removes plant survey requirement when using 1.5 capital millage on new construction or remodeling
- Provides an exception to cost per student station requirements when the amount exceeding the cap is paid under a lease-purchase agreement
- Provides an exception to cost caps by excluding capital construction items approved by the school safety specialist to ensure building security
- Removes legal and administrative costs, along with site improvement costs, from cap limits
- Provides that a board may implement one of the exceptions to SREF requirements by majority vote
 - Previously required a supermajority vote



Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission

SB 7030



Workforce Education

HB 7071



Apprenticeship Training

- By September 1st of each year, DOE must publish a report on apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs to include, at a minimum:
 - A list of all programs sorted by district or FCS institution and apprenticeship sponsor
 - Summary of each local educational agency's expenditures of funds in certain program areas and administrative categories
 - Program completion rates
 - Documentation of promotional activities conducted in support of programs
- DOE must provide assistance in notifying the public of availability of apprentice and preapprentice opportunities



Academic Scholarship Signing Day

- Removes language related to the suggested date of the event
 - Was previously the 3rd Tuesday in April
- Districts are encouraged to declare a “College and Career Decision Day”
 - To recognize seniors for postsecondary plans and to encourage postsecondary attainment of industry certifications



Middle Grade Promotion Requirements

- Requires one course in career and education planning be completed between grades 6-8
- The course may be implemented as a stand-alone course or integrated into another course or courses and may be taught by any member of the instructional staff
- The course must be internet-based and must include research-based assessments to assist students in examining future options
- The course must result in a completed personalized academic and career plan for the student that may be revised throughout middle and high school



Standard High School Diploma Requirements

- Permits a student to earn 2 math credits by successfully completing Algebra I through 2 full-year courses
- Provides that a computer science credit may substitute for up to 1 math credit
 - With the exception of Algebra I and Geometry
- Provides that a computer science credit may substitute for one science credit
 - With the exception of Biology I
- The computer science credit may not count towards both a math and a science credit
- A student earning an industry certification in 3D rapid prototype printing may satisfy up to two credits of the math requirement, with the exception of Algebra I



Financial Literacy

- All districts must offer at least one-half credit course in financial literacy
- Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year
- May be offered in-person or online



CTE Graduation Pathway Option

- Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a standard diploma may be earned through the successful completion of at least 18 credits with a 2.0 GPA
- Credits required: 4 Math, 4 ELA, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 2 CTE credits resulting in program completion and industry certification, and 2 work-based credits
- A student may substitute up to 2 electives, including the half-credit in financial literacy to fulfill the work-based credit requirement
- Adjunct educators may teach courses in the CTE pathway option



Florida Career and Professional Education Act

- Students whose cumulative GPA drops below 2.0 must be provided in-person academic advising from a certified school counselor, principal, or principal designee
 - Advising must include discussion of CTE opportunities and must occur during any semester the student is at risk of dropping out or has a cumulative GPA below a 2.0
- The Commissioner of Education must conduct an annual review of k-12 and postsecondary CTE offerings in consultation with stakeholders
- Review must identify CTE offerings linked to occupations that are in high demand by employers, require high-level skills, and provide middle-level and high-level wages
- CTE offerings not aligned with these findings shall be phased out and the Commission must encourage districts/FCS institutions to offer new programs



Career Center Dual Enrollment

- Each career center must enter into an agreement with each high school in any school district it serves
 - Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the agreement must be completed annually
- The agreement must:
 - Identify the courses and programs available to students and the clock hour credits that students will earn upon completion of each course
 - Delineate the high school credit earned for the completion of each career dual enrollment course.
 - Identify any college credit articulation agreements associated with each clock hour program
 - Describe how students and parents will be informed of career dual enrollment opportunities and related workforce demand
 - Establish any additional eligibility requirements for participation
 - Delineate costs incurred by each entity and determine how transportation will be provided for students who are unable to provide their own transportation



Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program

- Created to assist in the expansion or creation of apprenticeship or preapprenticeship programs
 - Available to high schools, career centers, charter technical career centers, and FCS institutions
- Funds may be used for instructional equipment, supplies, personnel or other expenses associated with creation or expansion of the program
- Funds may not be used for recurring instructional costs
- \$10 million provided in GAA



2019 Legislative Tax Package

HB 7123



Local Referendum Sharing

- Requires school districts to share operational millage referendum dollars with charter schools on a per-student basis for use in a manner consistent with the levy
- Referendum ballot language must contain an explanation of the distribution methodology
- Requirement is prospective beginning July 1, 2019



Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday

- August 2 to August 6, 2019
- Includes:
 - clothing, footwear, and backpacks costing \$60 or less
 - school supplies costing \$15 or less
 - personal computers or personal computer-related accessories costing \$1,000 or less per item



2019 Legislative Session

Additional Bills



HB 5: Ballot Measures

- A referendum to adopt or amend a local discretionary sales surtax must be held at a general election
- Provides requirements for completion of OPPAGA review and audit ahead of election



HB 107: Texting and Driving

- Beginning July 1, 2019, the bill amends the Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law to change the current enforcement of the ban on texting while driving from secondary to primary offense
- Beginning October 1, 2019, the bill prohibits the use of a wireless communications device in handheld manner while driving in a designated school crossing, school zone, or work zone area
 - Punishable as a moving violation with 3 points assessed against license



Impact Fees: HB 207 & HB 7103

- Prohibits local governments from requiring the payment of impact fees prior to issuing a property's building permit
- Codifies the 'dual rational nexus test' for impact fees, which requires the fee to have a reasonable connection, or rational nexus, between
 - 1) the proposed new development and the need and the impact of additional capital facilities, and
 - 2) the expenditure of funds and the benefits accruing to the proposed new development
- Impact fees may not be used to pay existing debt or pay for prior approved projects unless such expenditure has a rational nexus to the impact generated by the new construction
- A county may waive an impact fee for the development or construction of affordable housing



SB 292: Graduation Dress Code

- Prohibits a school district from preventing a student from lawfully wearing to his or her graduation ceremony a dress uniform of any of the Armed Forces of the state or of the United States.



HB 741: Anti-Semitism

- Adds religion as a protected class with regard to discrimination against students and employees in Florida's K-20 public education system
- Requires a public K-20 institution to treat discrimination by students or employees or resulting from institutional policies motivated by anti-Semitism in an identical manner to discrimination motivated by race
- States that this law may not diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment or the Florida Constitution



HB 807: Civics Education

- Requires the Commissioner of Education to review the instructional materials for the middle school civics education course in consultation with stakeholders and other organizations
- The commissioner must correct any errors identified in state-adopted materials
- The commissioner must review the state-approved civics education course instructional materials and specifications for the statewide EOC assessment and must make recommendations for improvements by December 31, 2019
- Requires the department to complete a review of the statewide course standards by December 31, 2020
- Provides that time spent participating in certain civic-related programs will count towards the Bright Futures Scholarship service work requirement



HB 1027: Office of Early Learning

- Codifies early learning professional development standards and career pathways in law
- Requires OEL to develop professional development training and course standards for school readiness program providers and identify both formal and informal early learning career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications, which allow early childhood teachers to access specialized professional development
- Requires the established credentials and certifications to align with the training for K-12 teachers, reading coaches, and school principals to the greatest extent possible



SB 1418: Mental Health

- Discussed by Mr. Dresback at prior workshop
- Requires DOE and the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention to develop a list of approved suicide screening instruments to be included in training materials for k-12 personnel
- Provides requirements to qualify for designation as a “Suicide Prevention Certified School”
 - Each school district must post an online list of certified schools and each participating school must post this information on their website



HB 7021: Financial Disclosure

- Provides that those required to file a Form 6 financial disclosure with the Commission on Ethics (e.g. school board members) will be required to file their forms electronically beginning January 1, 2022
- Those required to file a statement of financial interests (Form 1) with the Commission will be required to file electronically beginning January 1, 2023



HB 1279 (2018): School District Accountability

- Effective date: July 1, 2019
- Requires prior school board approval for reimbursement of **out-of-district** travel expenses exceeding \$500
 - Any request for **out-of-state** travel must also include an itemized list of all anticipated expenses, including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of all means of travel, lodging, and subsistence
- The public must have an opportunity to comment on the travel agenda item
- Requires school districts to provide an explanation of, and approve, and budget amendment and approve the amendment at the next scheduled public meeting
- Requires districts to provide financial efficiency data and fiscal trend information on school-by-school and district-wide basis

