

# 2016 Legislative Review

April 26, 2016



# Legislative Platform

## Funding

- **Support a PECO Construction allocation for high growth school districts.**
  - No Movement
- **Support the continued restoration of the Base Student Allocation to the 2007-2008 funding levels.**
  - Increase in the BSA of \$6 from \$4,154.45 to \$4,160.71.
  - BSA remains \$68.45 below 2007-2008 level.



# Legislative Platform

## Funding

- **Support an increase in the Digital Classrooms Allocation in the FEFP for statutorily required technology needs, including infrastructure, hardware, software, training, and portable delivery devices, resulting from the statutory requirements to expand on-line testing, digital and virtual instruction/textbooks and data collection.**
  - \$20 million increase in the Digital Classrooms Allocation from \$60 million statewide to \$80 million statewide.
- **Support parity in bonus funding for Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) program teachers to put them in line with AP and IB program teachers.**
  - HB 443 by Representative Plasencia and SB 982 by Senator Hutson. House bill passed all committees, Senate bill did not move.



# Legislative Platform

## Assessment and Instructional Materials

- **Support additional paper/pencil options for the Florida Standards Assessments, provided by the State, until adequate infrastructure, devices, and students' digital skills are in place and ready for successful administration.**
  - No Movement
- **Support a state requirement for all digital instructional materials, including those associated with print materials, meet a set of generally accepted standards.**
  - No Movement



# Legislative Platform

## Charter School Accountability

- **Support increased local control in charter school application reviews by allowing districts to take past history of charter school operators into account as part of the application evaluation.**
  - Accomplished - Included in HB 7029
- **Oppose any proposal to redistribute a portion of the district's 1.5 capital outlay millage to charter schools.**
  - Successfully opposed



# Legislative Platform

## Charter School Accountability

- **Support a proportional distribution of PECO dollars between traditional public schools and charter schools.**
  - No Movement
  - \$75 million each for public schools and charter schools



# Legislative Platform

## School Safety

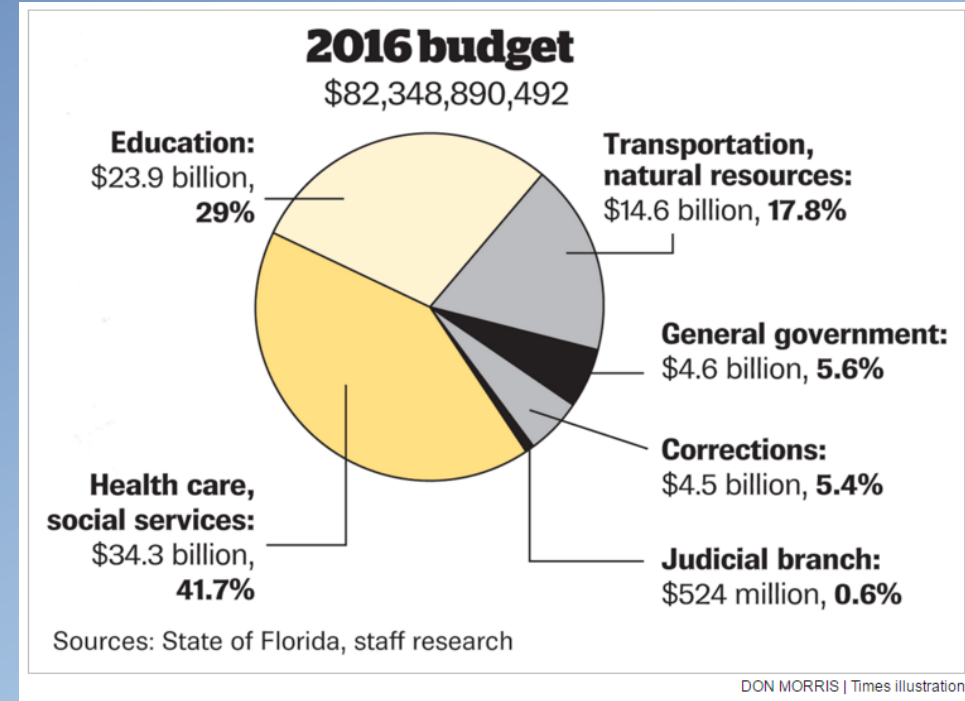
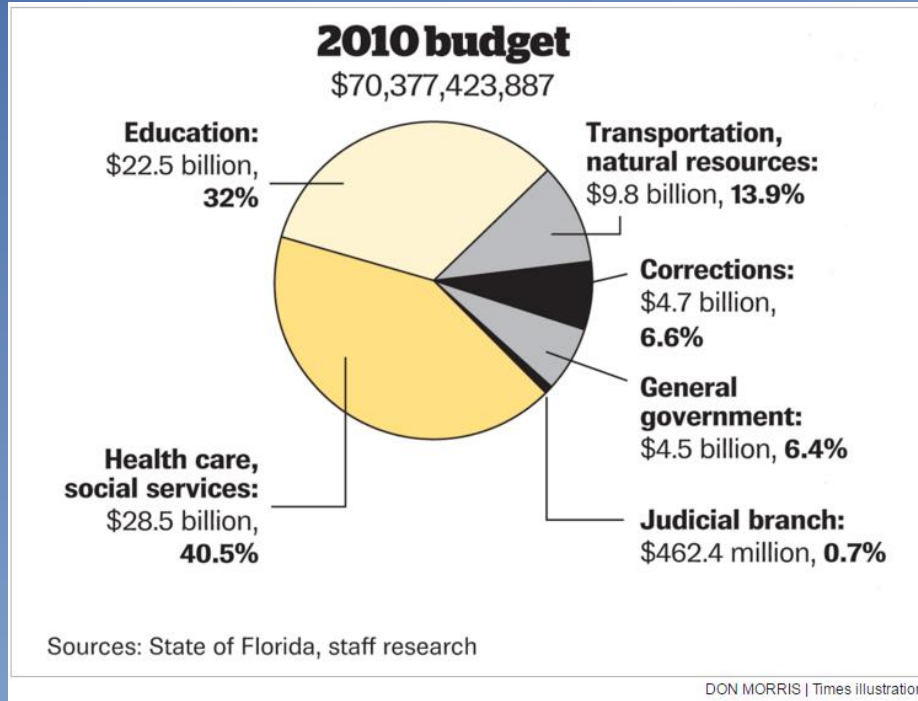
- **Support legislation requiring individuals making public records requests at a school site to check in with proper identification which aligns with protocol for all other individuals entering our schools. Anonymous requests may continue to be made through the district office.**
  - No Movement





# General Appropriations Act

## HB 5001





# General Appropriations Act

## HB 5001

### Public Schools/K12 FEFP Total Funding

- \$20.2 billion (\$11.3 billion state funds; \$8.9 billion local)
- FEFP Increase is \$458 million or 2.33%
- FEFP Increase in Funds per FTE of \$71 or 1.0% - from \$7107 to \$7,178
- Enrollment Workload Increase – additional \$143 million for additional 36,356 students
- RLE Millage reduction of .29 mill from 4.9 to 4.6 - \$428 million in Local Property Tax Relief



# General Appropriations Act

## HB 5001

### Programs and Initiatives Funded

- \$9.3 million for Educator Professional Development and Recognition
- \$49 million for The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program
- \$71.2 million for the Gardiner Scholarship Program
- \$96.1 million increase in the ESE Guaranteed Allocation - return to pre-recession funding level
- \$80 million in the Digital Classrooms Allocation - additional \$20 million over prior year
- \$61 million increase in Supplemental Academic Instruction Allocation - \$52.9 million is for 300 Lowest Elementary Schools



# General Appropriations Act

## HB 5001

### Fixed Capital Outlay - \$2.02 billion

- \$248 million for Maintenance, Repair, Renovation and Remodeling, includes:
  - \$75 million for Public Schools
  - \$75 million for Charter Schools
  - \$36 million for the Florida College System
- \$9.1 million for Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
- \$75.4 million for Special Facility Construction Account projects
- \$139 million for Florida College System projects
- \$1.3 billion for Debt Service



# Budget Implementing Bill

## HB 5003 - Revisions to FEFP components

- Exceptional Student Guaranteed Allocation – Recalculation following the October FTE student membership survey
- Supplemental Academic Instruction categorical – recalculation following October FTE student membership survey
  - 300 lowest-performing elementary schools – funds allocated to specific districts through the Supplemental Academic Instruction categorical
- Continues the federally connected student supplement within the FEFP - \$12.1 million
- Prohibits FEFP adjustment for under allocation caused by district FTE reporting error in a prior year



# Budget Implementing Bill

## HB 5003 – Best and Brightest

- \$49 million allocated in the budget for 2016-17 (increase of \$5 million over last year)
- Classroom teachers, who were rated highly effective on their most recent evaluation, and who earned a composite score at or above the 80th percentile on SAT or ACT are eligible for an award up to \$10,000.
- Eligibility is retained as long as criteria are met
- Teachers submit records to the district by November 1
- Districts submit number of eligible teachers to FDOE by December 1
- FDOE will disburse funds to each district by February 1
- Districts will disburse funds to teachers by April 1



# Budget Implementing Bill

## HB 5003 – Digital Classrooms Allocation

- \$80 million allocation statewide
- Revises minimum district amount from \$250,000 to \$500,000
- Districts are required to place a preference in their digital classrooms plans to funding the number of devices that meet minimum technology requirements in s. 1001.20(4)(a)1.b., F.S., and that are needed for each school to administer the Florida Standards Assessment to an entire grade at the same time.
- SJCSD Allocation - \$1,085,424





# Budget Implementing Bill

## HB 5003 — Educator Liability Insurance

- \$1.2 million allocation
- Requires districts to notify students performing a clinical field experience of the availability of educator liability insurance under Florida Statutes
- Prohibits postsecondary institutions or districts from requiring students in state-approved teacher preparation programs to purchase liability insurance as a condition of participation in clinical field experiences
- Extends the educator liability insurance program until July 1, 2017





# Initiatives That Did Not Pass

- Reading Instruction Bill
- Changes to local referendum requirements
- Statewide system for approval of charter schools
- Mandatory recess
- Codifying language for the Best and Brightest Scholarships and the Lowest 300 Schools program



# Education Legislation That Passed

- HB 189 – Teacher Certification
- HB 229 – Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools
- SB 350 – Procurement Procedures
- SB 672 – Educational Options
- HB 701 – Art in the Capitol Competition
- HB 719 – Education Personnel
- HB 793 – Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
- HB 1147 – Character Development Instruction
- HB 7019 – Education Access and Affordability
- HB 7029 – School Choice



# HB 189

## Teacher Certification

by Representative Diaz

- The bill creates an expedited pathway for an individual holding a Florida temporary educator certificate to earn a Florida professional educator certificate for grades 6 through 12. The bill allows an individual to earn a professional certificate if the individual:
  - Meets the general certification requirements;
  - Holds a master's or higher degree in a STEM area;
  - Teaches a high school course in the subject of the advanced degree;
  - Is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher's performance evaluation system;
  - Passes the Florida professional education competency examination required by State Board of Education rule.



# HB 229

## Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools

by Representative Geller

- The bill requires a school district's policy on prohibiting bullying and harassment to be implemented by each school principal and reviewed at least every 3 years.
- The bill also requires such policy to include a procedure for receiving reports of alleged acts of bullying or harassment and a list of bullying prevention and intervention programs authorized by the school district.



# SB 350

## Procurement Procedures

by Senator Montford

- The bill requires each district school board and Florida College System institution board of trustees to:
  - Review the purchasing agreements and state term contracts available through the Department of Management Services before purchasing nonacademic commodities and services; and
  - Include in each bid specification for nonacademic commodities and services a statement that the purchasing agreements and state term contracts have been reviewed.
- These requirements do not apply to services that are eligible for reimbursement under the federal E-rate program.



# SB 350

## Procurement Procedures

by Senator Montford

- The bill also authorizes each district school board to use the cooperative state purchasing programs managed through the regional consortium service organizations.
- The bill authorizes district school boards, Florida College System institution boards of trustees and university boards of trustees to make purchases through an online procurement system, electronic auction service, or other efficient procurement tool.



# SB 672

## Educational Options

by Senator Gaetz

### Gardiner Scholarship Program

- The bill Renames the “Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program” as the “Gardiner Scholarship Program,” and expands the definition of disability to include autism spectrum disorder, muscular dystrophy, and specified 3- and 4-year olds.
- Streamlines the program’s implementation and tightens program accountability requirements.
- Provides partial scholarships for late-filed applications
- Expands list of allowable uses of funds
- Clarifies how and when accounts are closed





# SB 672

## Educational Options

by Senator Gaetz

### Standard Student Attire

- Codifies the program in law and names it the Students Attired for Education (SAFE) Act.
- Provides an incentive payment of not less than \$10 per student for school districts and charter schools that implement a standard student attire policy for all students in kindergarten through grade 8.
- \$14 million Appropriation awarded in order received.
- Requires the district school superintendent or the charter school governing board to certify to the commissioner prior to funding but no later than September 1 of each year.



# HB 701

## Art in the Capitol Competition

by Representative Lee

- The bill creates the Art in the Capitol Competition, a statewide visual arts competition for all public, private, and home education students in grades 6 through 8.
- The bill requires each school district to annually hold an Art in the Capitol Competition with the submissions to be judged by a selection committee consisting of art teachers whose students have not submitted artwork.
- The winning artwork to be submitted to the office of the legislator of the legislative district in which the student resides no later than 60 days prior to the start of the regular legislative session.
- The legislator must submit the artwork to the DMS to be displayed in the Capitol Building during the regular legislative session.



# HB 719

## Education Personnel

by Representative Spano

- Adds Department of Education (DOE) employees and agents, who investigate or prosecute educator misconduct, to the list of individuals authorized to access records relating to child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
- Authorizes the DOE to use information from the Central Abuse Hotline for educator certification discipline and review.
- Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to issue a letter of guidance to an educator in lieu of finding probable cause to prosecute misconduct.
- Modifies the membership of the Education Practices Commission.
- Makes permanent the educator liability insurance program.



# HB 719

## Education Personnel

by Representative Spano

- Authorizes DOE to sponsor an educator job fair.
- Requires DOE to coordinate a best practices community to assist school districts with teacher recruitment and other human resource functions.
- Establishes in law state approval of school leader preparation programs.
- Institutes two types of school leader preparation programs leading to state certification: Level I programs offered by postsecondary institutions and school districts and Level II programs offered by school districts.
- Establishes an initial and continued program approval process for school leader preparation programs effective for five years.
- Requires each training program to be competency-based and aligned to the principal leadership standards adopted by the State Board of Education.



# HB 793

## Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

by Representative O'Toole

- Defers eligibility for students unable to accept an award due to full-time religious or service obligations of at least 18 months.
- Prohibits students from receiving remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service.
- Requires students to identify a civic issue or professional area of interest as part of their volunteer service plans.
- Expands volunteer work to include an internship with a business, government or nonprofit organization, or activity on behalf of a candidate for public office.
- Requires documentation of volunteer service performed.



# HB 793

## Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

by Representative O'Toole

- Makes SAT and ACT test score requirements for the Florida Medallion Scholars award the same for all students, including home education program students.
- Creates Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars Award as alternative to current Gold Seal Vocational award.
  - Students may use award to complete an applied technology diploma program, technical degree program or career certificate program at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution.
  - CAPE scholars completing a technical degree program may use award for certain BS or BAS degree programs.





# HB 1147

## Character Development Instruction by Representative Latvala

- The bill expands the requirements for high school character-development programs to include instruction on developing life and career-related skills.
- Specifically, the bill requires instruction on:
  - Developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;
  - Creating a resume;
  - Developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;
  - Conflict resolution, workplace ethics, and workplace law;
  - Managing stress and expectations; and
  - Developing skills that enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.





# HB 7019

## Education Access and Affordability by Representative Porter

- The bill modifies requirements related to higher education textbooks and instructional materials affordability and promotes public awareness on higher education costs.
- Requires consultation with school districts to identify practices that impact the cost of dual enrollment textbooks and instructional materials to the school districts, including, but not limited to, the length of time that such textbooks and instructional materials remain in use.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Membership Associations

- Allows school board members to use dues to join any “membership association.”

### Visitation of Schools

- Revises the powers and duties of school board to include visiting schools, giving suggestions for improvement, and advising citizens to promote interest in education and improve the school.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Higher Education Provisions

- Creates the Distinguished Florida College System Program
- Creates the Florida College System Performance-Based Incentive
- Make changes to the State University System Shared Governance Collaboration – includes emerging preeminence and revises unique course requirements
- Makes changes to the University Board of Trustees membership
- Codifies the State University System Performance-Based Incentive



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Student and Parent Rights

- Revises student and parent rights statutes to reflect all choice options, including CAPE digital tools, CAPE industry certifications, collegiate high school programs, and PLSAs.
- Requires the school financial report be provided to parents and indicate the average amount of money expended per student in the school. Must also be included in the student handbook or similar publication.

### Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

- Allows 5 year olds to enroll in VPK if they were not enrolled when they were 4 years old.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Controlled Open Enrollment

- Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, as part of a district's controlled open enrollment process, a parent may enroll their student in any public school, including charter schools, in the state that has not reached capacity.
  - Child may not be subject to a current expulsion or suspension
  - Parent must transport the child (school district MAY provide transportation)
  - School District determines capacity
  - Subject to maximum class size



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Capacity determinations must be current and must be identified on the school district and charter school's websites.
- In determining the capacity of each district school, the school board shall incorporate the specifications, plans, elements, and commitments contained in the school district educational facilities plan and the long-term work programs required in statute.
- Charter schools shall determine capacity based upon its contract.
- Students residing in the district may not be displaced by a student from another district.





# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Preferential treatment must be provided to:
  - 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
  - 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.
  - Students residing in the school district.
- A student who transfers may remain at the school chosen by the parent until the student completes the highest grade level at the school.





# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Each district school board shall adopt by rule and post on its website the process required to participate in controlled open enrollment.
- Existing academic eligibility criteria for public school choice programs must be maintained as part of the process.
- A school district or charter school may not delay eligibility or otherwise prevent a student participating in controlled open enrollment or a choice program from being immediately eligible to participate in inter/intrascholastic extracurricular activities.
- A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless they meet certain criteria.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Charter Schools

- Requires the sponsor to consider past performance of charter school applications in deciding whether to approve or deny and requires disclosure of certain information by the applicant.
- If a charter applicant is denied and they filed an appeal, the bill requires a copy of the appeal to be provided to the sponsor.
- Allows an approved charter school to defer the opening of the school for up to 2 years to provide time for adequate facility planning. Written notice must be provided to the sponsor and the parents of enrolled students at least 30 days before the first day of school.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Prohibits admission or dismissal of a charter school student from being based on a student's academic performance.
- Outlines procedures for termination of a charter school by its governing board through voluntary closure.
  - Must be done at a public meeting
  - Parents and the sponsor must be notified in writing
  - Requires the governing board to follow the procedures for dissolution and reversion of public funds outlined in statute.
- Requires monthly financial statements be provided to the sponsor upon approval of the charter contract and requires the sponsor to review them to identify the existence of a deteriorating financial condition.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Clarifies that a charter contract is automatically terminated if the school earns two consecutive grades of “F”.
- Allows members of a charter school governing body to attend meetings by means of communications media technology.
- Adds two enrollment preferences charter schools may give:
  - Children of an employee of a municipality that allows a charter school to use a school facility or portion of land provided by the municipality for the operation of the charter school.
  - Students who attended or are assigned to failing schools.
- Adds the research based reading allocation to those charter schools are entitled to if their students or programs meet the eligibility requirements in statute.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Adds language regarding the timing of payments to charter schools and states a district may not delay payment to a charter based on the timing of receipt of funds by the school district.
- Requires a charter school to be located in the State of Florida to be eligible for PECO funds.
- Allows a charter school to bring an action in circuit court if the local governing authority tries to impose any local building requirements, etc. that are more stringent than those found in the SREF of the Florida Building Code.
- Removes the prohibition on high performing charters increasing enrollment or expanding grade levels if they receive a grade of “C” or below.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

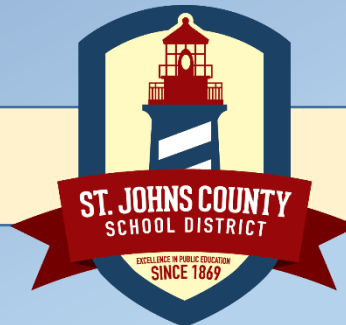
by Representative Cortes

### Online Course Requirement

- Authorizes a student to satisfy the online course requirement by earning an industry certification in information technology or passing an online content assessment by which the student demonstrates skills in locating information and applying technology for instructional purposes.

### Charter Capital Outlay

- Revises current eligibility criteria of charter schools:
  - 2 years in operation, rather than 3 years
  - Annual audit showing no emergency conditions for most recent year available





# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Revises the distribution of funding by dividing the total weighted FTE for all eligible charter school to determine the base allocation amount. All eligible charters will receive the base amount per FTE.
- Charters that meet the following criteria will received weighted FTE as follows:
  - Additional 25% of the standard base if the school has either:
    - A 75% or more free and reduced lunch enrollment, or
    - A 25% or more ESE enrollment
  - Charter schools with both 75% or more free and reduced lunch enrollment and 25% or more ESE enrollment will receive an additional 50% of the standard base amount.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Special Facility Construction Account

- Revises requirements for qualifying for funds from the Special Facility Construction Account relating to district effort and participation, construction plans, the special facility construction committee, application review, determining critical need, educational plant surveys, and project cost overruns.

### School District Construction Costs

- Requires districts to maintain accurate documentation relating to the costs of all new construction or educational plant space reported to DOE and requires the Auditor General to review the documents and verify compliance with the statutory per student station costs during its scheduled operational audits of the school district.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- Requires the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, in consultation with the DOE to conduct a study of the cost per student station using the most recent available information on construction costs.
- Costs per student station should represent the costs of classroom construction, administrative offices, as well as supplemental costs of core facilities, including required media centers, gymnasiums, music rooms, cafeterias and their associated kitchens and food service areas, vocational areas and other defined specialty areas, including ESE areas.
- The study must also take into account appropriate cost-effective factors in school construction and should include input from industry experts.
- The report must be completed by January 31, 2017.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- OPPAGA study of SREF to identify requirements that can be eliminated or modified in order to decrease the cost of construction while ensuring student safety. The study must be completed by January 31, 2017.
- Effective July 1, 2017, a district school board may not use funds from ANY source for new construction of education plant space with a total cost per student station, including change orders, which equals more than the adjusted amounts provided through the study.
- Districts who exceed the caps ineligible for PECO funds for the next 3 years in which the school district would have received allocations had the violation not occurred and will be subject to the supervision of a district capital outlay oversight committee, who is authorized to approve all capital outlay expenditures of the school district for 3 fiscal years following the violation.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Auditory-Oral Education Programs

- Requires school districts to add four consideration points to the calculation of a matrix of services for a student who is deaf and enrolled in an auditory-oral program beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

### Performance Funding

- Repeals the provision in several sections of statute requiring a student to pass the Algebra I EOC or be enrolled in a segmented remedial course delivered online in order to receive FTE for the student.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Teacher Transfers

- Requires a school district to establish a transfer process for a parent to request his or her child be transferred to another classroom teacher.
  - Does not give a parent the right to choose a specific classroom teacher.
  - A school must approve or deny the transfer within 2 weeks of receiving the request.
  - If the request is denied, the school must notify the parent and specify the reasons for the denial.
- An explanation of the transfer process must be made available in the student handbook or similar publication.





# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Credit Acceleration Program (CAP)

- Allows students, including Home Education, to use AP, and CLEP exams to earn high school credit for courses required for high school graduation.

### Student Athlete Eligibility

- Defines “Eligible to participate” to include, but not limit, a student participating in tryouts, off-season conditioning, summer workouts, preseason conditioning, in-season practice, or contests.
- The term does not mean that a student must be placed on any specific team for extracurricular activities.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- A school district or charter school may not delay eligibility or otherwise prevent a student participating in controlled open enrollment, or a choice program, from being immediately eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.
- A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in the same sport at another school during that school year unless the student's transfer is based upon their military parent's transfer, foster care, change in custody, or for good cause as determined by the school district.
- A student may immediately join an existing team if the roster for the specific activity has not reached the identified maximum size and if the coach determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate.
- A student may not be declared ineligible because they did not have the opportunity to comply with qualifying requirements.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### School Board Responsibility for Determining Eligibility

- Requires a school board to establish through the code of student conduct, student eligibility standards and related student disciplinary actions regarding student participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.

### The code of conduct must provide the following:

- A student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities as long as they are not currently suspended from extracurricular activities or suspended or expelled from school.
- A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in the same sport at another school during that school year unless they meet one of the statutory exemptions.
- A student's eligibility to participate in any extracurricular activity may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Athletics

- Requires the FHSAA to allow a private school the option of joining the association by sport and may not discourage a private school from simultaneously maintaining membership in another athletic organization.
- The FHSAA may allow a public school the option to apply for consideration to join another athletic association.
- Establishes escalating punishments for recruiting violations by a school district employee or contractor.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

- First offense - \$5000 forfeiture of pay
- Second offense – suspension without pay for 12 months from coaching, directing, or advertising an extracurricular activity and a \$5,000 forfeiture of pay
- Third offense - \$5,000 forfeiture of pay. If the individual holds an educator certificate, the FHSAA shall refer the violation to the department for review. If probable cause is found, the commissioner shall file a complaint against the individual, which if upheld, the individual's certificate shall be revoked for 3 years (also applied to adjunct teaching certificates).
- A student's eligibility may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation.
- Ineligibility must be established by a “preponderance of the evidence” (changed from “clear and convincing”)



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Program Renaming

- Renames the Preliminary ACT (PLAN) as ACT Aspire throughout statute
- Renames the National Merit Scholar Incentive Program as the Benacquisto Scholarship Program and requires all eligible state universities to become college sponsors of the National Merit Scholarship Program





# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### FEFP Provisions

- Deletes provision for double-session schools and schools using an experimental calendar to operate for less than the minimum term
- Provides proportional FEFP funding for schools operating less than the minimum term
- Removes requirement for department to determine and implement equitable funding method for experimental schools



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Funds for Operation of Schools

- Requires ESE Guaranteed Allocation to be recalculated after the October FTE survey
- Allows students who earn CAPE industry certifications to generate additional FTE like students in other courses, under certain circumstances (dual enrollment)
- Increases teacher bonus for certain CAPE industry certifications from \$50 to \$75 or \$100
- Increases the annual teacher bonus cap for CAPE industry certifications from \$2,000 to \$3,000
- Codifies the federally connected student supplement passed in the budget last year.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Teaching Out-of-Field

- Requires school districts to report out-of-field teachers on their website within 30 days before the beginning of each semester
- The parent of a student assigned an out-of-field teacher may request the child be transferred to an in-field teacher
- School districts must approve or deny the request and transfer the student to a different classroom teacher within two weeks if an in-field teacher for the course or grade level is employed by the school and the transfer does not violate maximum class size provisions
- An explanation of the transfer process must be made available in the student handbook or similar publication



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Professional Education Competence in Charter Schools

- Authorizes a charter school to develop and maintain a professional development system for its instructional employees to demonstrate Professional Education Competence (PEC) as a requirement for issuance of a Professional Educator's Certificate
- Requires a charter school to base its approved PEC program on classroom application of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs) and align the PEC program with its evaluation system established under s. 1012.34, F.S.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention

- Requires FDOE, in consultation with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts, to develop a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials for K-12 instructional personnel
- Requires training to include identification of appropriate mental health services and how to refer students and families for those services
- A school that chooses to incorporate two hours of approved training for all instructional personnel shall be designated as a “Suicide Prevention Certified School”



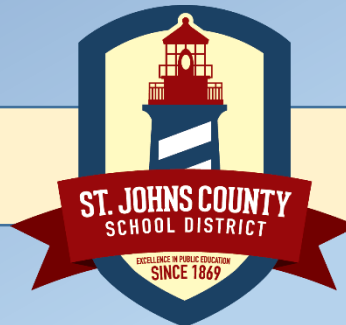
# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### School District Construction Flexibility

- Allows exceptions to SREF, if authorized by supermajority vote of district school board following a public hearing and cost-benefit analysis, relating to:
  - Fire-rated wood-stud interior non-load- bearing walls
  - Gravel or grassed student parking areas
  - Omission of covered walks to relocatables
  - Reduced building and site lighting





# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Kindergarten Readiness Rate

- Freezes the current VPK readiness rates through the 2015-2016 school year.

### Contracts for Instructional Personnel (Rehiring Retirees)

- Requires retired individuals who are reemployed as instructional personnel to be under a one-year probationary contract as defined in s. 1012.335(2), F.S.
- Allows district school boards to reemploy retirees who successfully complete the probationary contract under an annual contract as defined in s. 1012.335(1), F.S.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

- Requires VR to develop and implement a performance improvement plan to achieve specified goals, primarily incorporating federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) measures.
- Requires VR to submit a performance report with specified data by December 1 of each year to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### Pledge of Allegiance

- Students must be informed of their right to not participate in the reciting of the pledge of allegiance by written notice in the student handbook or a similar publication.



# HB 7029

## School Choice

by Representative Cortes

### Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program

- Establishes the program to recognize a high school graduate who has attained a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more foreign languages.
- Creates both a Gold Seal of Biliteracy and a Silver Seal of Biliteracy
- Beginning in 2016-17, high school graduates with a standard diploma who attain one the following will receive signification on their diploma and transcript:
  - Four foreign language course credits in the same foreign language with a cumulative 3.0 grade point average or higher on a 4.0 scale,
  - A qualifying score on a foreign language assessment, or
  - Satisfaction of alternative requirements as determined by the State Board of Education

