



2021 Legislative Review

St. Johns County School Board Workshop

June 22, 2021



Session Overview

- March 2nd-April 30th
- 1,839 General Bills Filed
 - Only 248 bills were passed by both chambers and will be sent to the governor
- Generally, bills are expected to be signed into law





St. Johns County School District 2021 Legislative Platform

State Funding

- Maintain the fiscal year 2020-2021 Required Local Effort millage rate, resulting in an increase in the Base Student Allocation, as recommend by the Florida Department of Education
- Maintain funding of the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation

State Policy

- Provide a safe harbor year for testing accountability ensuring student measurement without negative consequence
- Support efforts to reduce barriers to the recruitment and retention of high-quality personnel
- Support legislation that recognizes and preserves the constitutional and local decision-making authority of school boards

Federal

- Support federal infrastructure funding to provide internet connectivity ensuring all students have the access needed to participate in 21st-century learning
- Support an increase in federal dollars for mental health and school safety
- Support an increase in federal dollars to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



Legislative Platform: Funding

- Maintain the fiscal year 2020-2021 Required Local Effort rate, resulting in an increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA), as recommended by the Florida Department of Education
 - RLE rate maintained at 3.720 mills
- Maintain funding of the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation
 - Increased by \$50M statewide and increased \$1,057,102 for SJCSD



Legislative Platform: Policy

- Provide a safe harbor year for testing accountability ensuring student measurement without negative consequence
 - DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02
- Support efforts to reduce barriers to the recruitment and retention of high quality personnel
 - Teacher Salary Increase Allocation \$50M Increase
- Support legislation that recognizes and preserves the constitutional and local decision-making authority of school boards
 - SB 72 COVID-19 Liability Protections



2021 Legislative Session

General Bills



HB 3 New Worlds Reading Initiative

- Creates the New Worlds Reading Initiative statewide book distribution program for elementary students reading below grade level
- A hardcopy book is delivered on a monthly basis to eligible students from October through June
- Requires school districts to partner with a local nonprofit organization to raise awareness of the initiative, coordinate book delivery, and identify eligible students and provide the required notification to the parents of eligible students
- Creates the New Worlds Reading Initiative Tax Credit for corporations to fund the program



HB 5 Civics Education Curriculum

- Requires the US Government course to include a comparative discussion of political ideologies that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy in the nation's founding principles
- Requires DOE to develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum for public school students in K-12
- Requires DOE to curate oral history resources for use alongside the civic education curriculum



HB 35 Legal Notices

- Permits school boards to publish notices on a newspaper website instead of the print version if a majority of the school board finds, at a public hearing, that an internet-based publication is in the public interest and the residents of the district have sufficient access to the Internet
- All Internet notices must be published on the statewide legal notice website
- If a government agency publishes Internet-only notices, the agency must provide notice at least once per week in the print edition of a newspaper within the region which states that notices pertaining to the agency do not all appear in the print edition of the newspaper and that additional legal notices may be accessed on the newspaper's website



HB 131 Educator Disqualification List

- Upon receiving a notification from an employer that the subject of a complaint resigns or is terminated before the conclusion of an investigation, DOE is required to place the person on the disqualification list
- When an employee separates from employment due to termination or resignation in lieu of termination, the bill requires execution of an affidavit of separation explaining the reasons for the separation and a disclosure when the separation is due to sexual misconduct with a student
- Before employing an individual in any position that requires direct contact with students, the bill requires the employment history check to include a review of each affidavit of separation from the applicant's previous employers



HB 146 Civics Literacy Practicum

- Requires DOE to develop minimum criteria for a civic literacy practicum that may be included in a high school United States Government course, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year
- The practicum must provide students with an opportunity to be civically engaged through activities that include unpaid government internships, government simulations or observations, and observing the naturalization process
- Encourages school districts to include and accept civic literacy practicum activities and hours toward requirements for academic award



HB 149 Student Restraint & Seclusion

- Prohibits school districts from placing students in seclusion
- Requires school districts to adopt policies and procedures related to positive behavior interventions and supports and to identify all school personnel authorized to use restraint techniques
- Requires school districts to develop a crisis intervention plan for a student who is restrained more than once during a semester
- Creates a pilot program in Broward County for the use of video cameras in classrooms in which a majority of the students are provided special education services



HB 157 First Aid & CPR Training

- Requires school districts to provide basic training in first aid, including one hour of CPR instruction, for public school students in grades 9 and 11
- CPR training must be based on a nationally recognized program that uses the most current evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines. Instruction must allow students to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing CPR
- If a school district has the necessary equipment, students must also be provided instruction in the use of an AED
- Encourages school districts to provide basic first aid training, including CPR instruction, to students in grades 6 and 8



HB 173 IEP Requirements

- Requires the IEP team to identify a student's need for transition services before the student enters high school or attains that age of 14, whichever occurs first
- Establishes that the planning process and IEP development must include providing the student and parent with information about specific services and programs for students with disabilities and referral forms, links, and technical support for accessing such services and programs
- Requires DOE to conduct a review of existing transition services and programs for students with disabilities in order to establish uniform best practices. DOE must publish the uniform best practices on its website by July 1, 2022



HB 241 Parents' Bill of Rights

- Prohibits any government entity from infringing upon the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child
- Requires school districts to adopt a policy that governs the plans and procedures by which the district will promote parental involvement. School districts must also adopt parental notification procedures for parental rights
- Creates an appeal process for parents if a request for information is denied



HB 259 Safety of Religious Institutions

- Authorizes a concealed carry permit holder to carry a concealed firearm for any lawful purpose, including safety, security, and personal protection, on any property owned, rented, leased, borrowed, or lawfully used by a church, synagogue, or other religious institution
- The bill does not limit the private property rights of a religious institution to exercise control over property that the church, synagogue, or other religious institution owns, rents, leases, borrows, or lawfully uses



HB 337 Impact Fees

- Provides that the assignability and transferability of impact fees apply to all impact fee credits regardless of whether the credit was established before or after the effective date of the bill
- If an impact fee increases 25% or less, the increase must be phased in over 2 years
- If the fee increase is between 25% and 50% it must be phased in over 4 years
- No impact fee increase may exceed 50% and an impact fee may not be increased more than once every four years
 - Provides an exception if a local government applies the rational nexus test, uses a study showing the extraordinary circumstances requiring the additional increase that was completed within 12 months before the increase, holds at least two public workshops, and adopts the increase by at least a two-thirds vote



SB 366 Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment

- Provides that a school district or college is considered the employer for purposes of securing workers' compensation insurance coverage for students 18 years of age or younger who are in unpaid work-based learning opportunities
- Authorizes the DOE to reimburse employers, including school districts, for the proportionate cost of workers' compensation insurance premiums for students in work-based learning opportunities
- Appropriates \$2M for reimbursements



HB 419 Early Learning

- Establishes a timeline for phasing in a new VPK accountability system based on a performance metric that includes student outcomes, learning gains, and observations of child-teacher interactions
- Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each private Pre-K provider and public school participating in the VPK must participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program
- Requires each school district to administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-2022 school year
- For the 2021-2022 program year, kindergarten screening results may not be used in the calculation of readiness rates
- \$7.5M in ESSER funds appropriated in line 135 of GAA



HB 429 Purple Star Campus Program

- Requires DOE to establish a Purple Star Campus Program that identifies schools that support military-connected children when certain criteria are met
- DOE is authorized to establish additional criteria to identify schools that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for military-connected families



HB 519 Required Health Education Instruction

- Revises the required comprehensive health education curriculum for K-12 public schools to include instruction on the prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking
- Clarifies that the comprehensive health curriculum must be age and developmentally appropriate
- Limits the existing requirement to provide instruction to all students on abstinence and the consequences of teen pregnancy so that it is only provided to students in grades 6 through 12



HB 529 Moments of Silence in Public Schools

- Directs the principal of each school to require first-period classroom teachers in all grades to set aside 1 to 2 minutes for a moment of silence
- Prohibits a teacher from making suggestions about the nature of a student's reflection during the moment of silence
- Teachers must encourage parents to discuss the moment of silence with their children and to make suggestions to their children about how they should use this time
- Prohibits students from interfering with each other's participation in the moment of silence



HB 545 Reproductive Health & Disease Education

- Requires districts to notify parents of their right to exempt their child from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, through the submission of a written request
 - Requires a district to notify parents of this right by posting information about how to request the exemption on the homepage of the school district's website
- Requires the district homepage must include a link for a parent to access and view the instructional materials used in reproductive health and disease curriculum
- Requires school boards to annually approve all instructional materials used to teach reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in a noticed public meeting
- Districts are required to provide a process for the public review of and comment on the adoption of such instructional materials



SB 590 School Safety

- Requires a principal or designee to make a reasonable attempt to contact and notify a student's parent, guardian, or other emergency contact prior to the involuntary examination of the student
- States that parents have a right to timely notification of threats, unlawful acts, and significant emergencies and a right to access school safety and discipline incidents data
- Requires codes of conduct to include criteria for students who commit criminal offenses to be allowed to participate in a pre-arrest diversion program
- Permits districts to provide accommodations for emergency drills conducted by ESE centers



SB 590 School Safety (cont'd)

- Requires school boards to adopt a policy to require the superintendent to annually report to DOE the number of involuntary examinations initiated a school, on school transportation, or at a school sponsored activity
- Requires school safety officers to complete mental health crisis intervention training
- Requires student ID cards in grades 6-12 to include crisis hotline numbers beginning in the 2021-2022 school year



SB 1028 Education

- Provides that members of district special committees and advisory committees may attend meetings in person or through the use of telephonic and video conferencing
- Permits a state university to solicit applications and sponsor a charter school to serve students from multiple school districts
- Permits a Florida College System institution to solicit applications and sponsor a charter school in any county within its service area to meet workforce demands and may offer postsecondary programs leading to industry certifications to eligible charter school students
- Provides that a student enrolled in a charter school sponsored by a state university or college system institution may not be included in the calculation of the school district's grade for the school district in which he or she resides



SB 1028 Education (cont'd)

- Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year each public school must provide information on the important role water safety education courses and swimming lessons play in saving lives to a parent who initially enrolls his or her child in a school
- Provides that a academically high-performing school district may provide up to 2 days of virtual instruction as part of the required 180 teaching days or the equivalent on an hourly basis each school year
 - Virtual instruction that is conducted in accordance with a plan approved by the department is teacher-developed and is aligned with the standards for enrolled courses. The day or days must be indicated on the calendar approved by the school board. The district shall submit a plan for each day of virtual instruction to the department for approval before the start of each school year
- Interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by a public secondary school or public postsecondary institution must be expressly designated based on the biological sex at birth of team members



SB 1108 Education

- Creates the Innovative Blended Learning and Real-Time Student Assessment Pilot Program within DOE to develop and measure innovative blended learning and real-time weekly student assessment educational models that improve the progress students and help close achievement gaps for traditionally underserved students. Academically high-performing school districts, high-performing charter schools and charter systems are eligible to apply to participate
- Requires the character development curriculum for grades 11 and 12 to include instruction on voting using the uniform primary and general election ballots
- Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, students taking the US Government course are required to take the assessment of civic literacy identified by the State Board of Education. Students earning a passing score on the assessment are exempt from the required postsecondary civic literacy assessment
- Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, students enrolled in an ESOL program for less than 2 school years and that meet all requirements for the standard diploma may meet the requirement to pass the statewide, standardized grade 10 ELA assessment by demonstrating grade level expectations on formative assessments, in accordance with state board rule



SB 1108 Education (cont'd)

- Beginning with students initially entering a FCS institution or state university in the 2021-2022 school year, each student must demonstrate competency in civic literacy by achieving a passing score on an assessment *and* by successfully completing a civic literacy course. Credits earned for such courses via articulated acceleration mechanisms will count toward the requirement
- Requires the statewide, standardized ELA and Mathematics assessments in grades 3 through 6 be delivered in a paper-based format
- Each district shall, by the 2021-2022 school year and subject to appropriation, select either the SAT or ACT for districtwide administration to each student in grade 11, including students attending public high schools, alternative schools, and DJJ education programs



HB 1507 Workforce Programs & Career Planning

- Creates the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) in the Executive Office of the Governor to provide coordination and alignment in Florida's workforce development system
- Creates a public online portal to provide Floridians with access to identify in-demand jobs, the skills needed, where to obtain those skills, available services, and program performance employability and economic mobility
- Requires the CareerSource board to appoint a Credentials Review Committee to identify degree and non-degree credentials of value, develop a Master Credentials List for performance funding
- Creates the Money-Back Guarantee Program, requiring each school district and FCS institution to refund the cost of tuition to students who are not able to find a job within 6 months of completing select programs
- Creates a new workforce performance funding model for school district and FCS workforce programs, requiring one-third of performance funding to be based on rewarding student job placement and the remaining two-thirds be based on student earnings, with a focus on increasing the economic mobility of underserved populations



HB 7011 Student Literacy

- Requires the implementation of a VPK through 8th grade progress monitoring system beginning in the 2022-2023 school year
- The system must be designed to provide educators with sufficient, high quality data to identify students with substantial deficiencies in reading and monitor the effectiveness of interventions through continuous data collection
- Provides that results from the kindergarten screening may not be used in the calculation of readiness rates for the 2021-2022 program year and those readiness rates will be for informational purposes only
- Establishes the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE) Program, a system of statewide literacy supports provided through 20 regional literacy expert support teams
- \$14.5M in ESSER funds appropriated in GAA



HB 7045 School Choice

- Repeals the Gardiner Scholarship and transitions students to the Family Empowerment Scholarship, revises the current McKay scholarship amount to match FES, and repeals the McKay scholarship effective July 1, 2022 and transitions the McKay scholarship students to the FES
- Expands FES eligibility to students with disabilities currently authorized under McKay and Gardiner
- Increases the scholarship amount for the Tax Credit Scholarship, FES, and Hope Scholarship to the full amount provided for a student from the current 95 percent of the calculated amount
- Requires all FES scholarships to be funded in the FEFP with state funds only



Looking Ahead

- 2022 Legislative Platform Development
- Implementation of new laws along with new State Board of Education rules
- Legislative committee work begins the week of September 20th
- Regular Session convenes Tuesday, January 11, 2022



Questions?

