



St. Johns County School District 2024 Legislative Platform

State Funding

- Through an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), promote employee retention by providing the funding necessary to address salary compression on the teacher and support employee pay scales
- Allocate funding through an increase to the BSA or special allocation to cover the costs of coaching, mentoring, and supporting new teachers transitioning into the field, alternative certification teachers, and the teacher apprenticeship program
- Adjust the program cost factors for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to align with the costs of increasingly complex ESE services and help school districts with high growth in ESE programs
- Increase the appropriation for Student Transportation to fund up to the state-wide average district expenditure of \$1,129 per eligible student transported
- Support an increase to the Safe Schools Allocation to fund Alyssa's Law with fidelity and fully fund a School Resource Officer at each school
- Support high growth districts by permitting the local school board the option to increase local capital outlay millage rate to an amount not to exceed two mills

State Policy

- Provide state catastrophic coverage for up to \$25M for School District losses due to a named storm
- Maintain current sovereign immunity limits of \$200,000 per person/\$300,000 per incident
- Encourage new teacher recruitment by waiving the fee for the initial attempt for teacher certification exams
- Support student mental health by introducing incentives such as include tuition reimbursement or scholarships to encourage individuals to pursue a master's degree in mental health counseling, school counseling, or social work
- Extend transportation eligibility under hazardous walking conditions to students in grades 7-12 and update criteria to prevent the crossing of railroad tracks along the walking path to school
- Support modification of the controlled open enrollment process by removing the requirement that student capacity be determined by grade level
- Adjust the committee and legislative session schedule in years following an election to complete the session earlier, maximizing the time for school districts to adjust to budget and policy changes

Federal

- Support legislation that funds the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to honor the commitment to pay 40% of the average pupil expenditure for special education
- Support federal infrastructure funding to ensure high speed internet connectivity reaches all areas, ensuring students have the tools for 21st century learning
- Continue to strengthen Career and Technical Education by funding the Carl Perkins Act beyond Perkins V, which ends in July 2025

St. Johns County School Board

Beverly Slough
District 1

Anthony E. Coleman Sr.
District 2

Jennifer Collins
District 3

Kelly Barrera
District 4

Patrick Canan
District 5