



St. Johns County School District 2025 State Legislative Platform

Support School Safety

- Fund Alyssa's Alert to cover a wearable mobile panic button for each school staff member, providing a hardware-based solution that allows each school staff member to initiate a school lockdown.
- Increase the School Hardening Grant Allocation, allowing school districts to fund school safety enhancements identified through school security risk assessments.
- Provide clarity for the campus access control requirements detailed in HB 1473 (2023) by incorporating definitions and terminology from the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.
- Extend Florida's Harm Prevention and Threat Management tools to private schools and postsecondary institutions, including access to the Florida portal for maintaining and transferring records.

Increase Administrative Efficiency

- Improve school operational efficiency by removing excessive state regulations. Ensure legislation maximizes local control and empowers local educators and school leaders.
- Allow districts to set school start times based on community input and available resources. Local control will allow districts to identify start times that best serve the unique needs of their students, communities, and schools.
- Streamline the initial teacher certification and teacher recertification process by removing duplicate and unnecessary requirements, including eliminating the General Knowledge Exam for initial certification and allowing banking of in-service hours for recertification in all certification and endorsement areas.
- Set effective dates for education bills that allow adequate time for districts to conduct analysis, properly plan, and implement.

Fund Schools Adequately

- Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to at least match the level of inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index, addressing increased district operating costs.
- 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 assist school districts with high growth in ESE programs.
- 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.
- Fully fund the Transportation Categorical. Currently, the Transportation Categorical is 45% funded statewide.

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