

St. Johns County School District
2026 State Legislative Platform

 1. Harm Prevention and Threat Management Expansion

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.

 2. Teacher Certification Modernization

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.

 3. Adjust Program Cost Factors for ESE Matrix

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.

 4. Transportation and PIP Clarification

Redefine 'commercial motor vehicles' to not include school buses as it relates to PIP (personal injury protection) benefits; exclude school buses from PIP benefit requirements due to sovereign immunity status.

 5. Advanced Degree Supplement Recognition

Consideration for acceptance of all advanced degree majors to count toward awarding the advanced degree supplement.

The St. Johns County School District respectfully urges Florida legislators to consider these priorities to support student safety, educator excellence, and operational efficiency. Together, these measures reflect a shared commitment to ensuring that every student in Florida learns in a safe, supportive, and high-performing environment.