

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Third Amendment to Agreement and Additional Spending Authority 14-037V – Federal and State Lobbying Services

Broward County Public Schools' (BCPS) lobbying firms worked collaboratively to advocate for the District's priorities in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. Each lobbying firm was responsible both individually and also mutually for monitoring and advocating for the District's legislative priorities. Duties included summarizing committee meetings; testifying in committee meetings on the District's positions; meeting with key stakeholders (legislators and staff members), and providing the entire BCPS legislative affairs team with updates as needed throughout the legislative process.

In order to quantify performance, an evaluation matrix was used. Each individual firm within the state and federal lobbying teams were evaluated based on their knowledge of and skills in handling the issues pertaining to BCPS. They were also evaluated on their ability to achieve results. In order to track progress and results, the BCPS legislative affairs team held weekly calls during the 2016 Florida Legislative Session to collaborate and coordinate BCPS' legislative priorities. Calls are also held on a bi-weekly basis when the legislature is not in session in order to ensure that the state and federal lobbying teams continue to pursue BCPS policy and budget initiatives throughout the year.

For legislators, the legislative affairs team held workshops with legislative aides in order to advance the district's priorities. Additionally, the team met and collaborated (when possible) with the Broward PTA. Furthermore, the Department of Legislative Affairs updated the department's website throughout legislative session with weekly updates. For Board Members and staff, weekly update emails were provided throughout the legislative session. Individual meetings were set up with legislators, the Governor's office, and the Department of Education for the Director of Legislative Affairs and School Board Members.

These efforts strengthened pre-existing legislative relationships; created new relationships; influenced policy; and secured funding. During the 2016 Florida Legislative Session, the state lobbying team advocated for increased funding and various policy items. Although we did not accomplish every stated goal of the district, funding was increased and certain policy goals were attained. In terms of funding, FTE was increased by \$72 (1 %), PECO was increased state-wide to \$75 million (now equal to the state-wide PECO funding for charter schools), and categorical funding within the SAI was established for the Lowest 300 Initiative. The state lobbying team assisted the department in securing two line items in the Florida State Budget (Minority Male Initiative and Adults with Disabilities). The Governor ultimately vetoed the Minority Male Initiative; however, the team was successful in securing \$800,000 for Adults with Disabilities. In terms of policy, charter school accountability was improved and the district's class size flexibility was maintained. A sponsor (school district) can now consider an applicant's financial and academic history when deciding whether to approve or deny an application. Additionally, a charter school now terminates automatically after receiving two consecutive grades of "F". Furthermore, the team successfully blocked a provision that would have eliminated the class size flexibility at our "public schools of choice", saving the district millions of dollars. Finally, the team was successful in blocking a provision that would have required the district to share a portion of our millage with charter schools

During the 114th Congress, the federal lobbying team was able to attain many of the District's priorities in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In terms of policy, Federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets were eliminated. In terms of funding, Title I portability language was successfully blocked and the funding formula remained unchanged.