



Broward County Public Schools

2018 State Legislative Priorities

As the 6th largest school district in the Nation, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) educates 10 percent of Florida's student population. The Florida Legislature should boost funding and adopt policies that educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world. [BCPS will advocate for legislation consistent with School Board policy.](#)

School Board Authority

- Preserve school board constitutional and home rule authority and oppose legislation that would subvert, bypass or undermine that authority.
- Specify that school boards have the same constitutional authority over approval and oversight of charter schools as district schools within their county lines.
- Restore local school boards' authority to levy allowable discretionary capital outlay millage by .25 mills over a two (2) year period until full restoration of 2 mills for capital outlay needs.
- Include personal financial enrichment language for [charter schools managed by for-profit entities](#) who receive capital dollars for maintenance and construction in order to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

Funding

- Support an increase in per-pupil funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), allowing Florida school districts to be competitive nationwide. Currently, the national average is approximately \$11,000, while in Florida the average is only \$7,296.
- Redirect Best and Brightest funding and [additional revenue sources](#) to establish a supplemental salary allocation within the FEFP for teachers. Support professional development, area certification (including ESOL, CTE, [ESE](#), etc.), and financial incentives for teachers.
- Maintain the Required Local Effort rate to allow for growth to pay for FEFP enhancements such as Base Student Allocation, Safe Schools Allocation, and supplemental services for additional students.
- Continue \$800,000 in funding for the BCPS Adults with Disability (AWD) program.
- Fully fund \$90 million categorical program (with the SAI) for the 300 lowest performing elementary schools and allow school districts the flexibility in providing the additional time.
- Allocate non-millage funding for charter schools to minimize the impact of sharing capital millage.
- Redirect Schools of Hope funding to district schools for wraparound services.
- Support funding for full-day Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs for all eligible students.
- Allow Title I funding to be used for district-wide initiatives.
- Expand funding for student health services.
- Oppose any redirection of tax-payer funding to voucher programs.
- Restore funding to cover the costs associated with the Dual Enrollment program.
- The Legislature should continue to fund the Matching Fund program for BCPS students.
- [Conduct an impartial third-party study to develop a cost of education index which focuses on cost difference integral to K-12 public school district operations reflecting such costs as average teacher salaries, health insurance for employees, property insurance per FTE, and transportation per FTE.](#)
- [Restore funding to the FLDOE for school district workforce education programs for postsecondary students who earned specific industry certifications.](#)
- [Increase funding for the Technical College System to meet the FLDOE recommendation of 100% equity as specified in the State Funding Model. In Broward, this is estimated to be \\$5 million in 2017-2018.](#)
- [Provide \\$3 million for the Florida Apprenticeship Grant Program to provide funding to develop/expand new apprenticeship programs statewide.](#)

Accountability

- Require the State Board of Education and Commissioner to conduct a concordance of national assessments for all grade levels including, but not limited to, SAT and ACT, of Florida's standards that districts may use in lieu of FSA.
- Florida should not exceed the accountability requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Florida should use the new flexibility under ESSA to make the accountability system more equitable for all students and teachers.
- The Legislature should not require high-stakes statewide assessments for graduation or promotion.