

# 2018 ADDITIONAL ISSUES

## Accountability

- Extend the option of **paper/pencil exams for expansion to grades 7-10** for Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics.
- **Establish and administer only one high school ELA/ FSA requirement for graduation in grade 9** as this would reduce required assessments at an entire grade level and allow greater flexibility for students to self-select assessments, such as the SAT and/or ACT or industry certification programs.
- Continue to **streamline and reduce the amount of state-required student assessment** to bring it in line with requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), also ensuring the FLDOE concordance with SAT/ACT exams with FSA is completed; and provide state funds to cover the cost of SAT/ACT test administration in districts.
- **Continue the use of the Postsecondary Educations Readiness Test (PERT)** as an alternative to FSA Algebra and continue state funding of district administration costs.
- Require the **Department of Education to implement concordance scores** between FSA and nationally-normed assessments, including ACT/SAT, AP, IB, and others, and allow for districts to substitute national exams in lieu of FSA for reading and/or mathematics.

## Workforce Education

- Maintain the **dual education delivery system** that allows both the local school district and community/state college to offer post-secondary career, technical and adult education programs.
- Accurately align our funding model and **provide additional dollars to reflect student enrollment growth** in career, technical, and adult education programs throughout Florida.

## FUNDING

- Provide state funding for any increased costs to the employer's contribution to the **Florida Retirement System**.
- Maintain **Adults with Disabilities (AWD) program** funding.
- Allow for **voter approval of the half-cent sales tax** for operational as well as capital construction purposes.
- Reinstate the funding for **251, 252, 253 on a per student basis, and eliminate the arbitrary cap on gifted students**.
- Extend the term of **locally voted levy from four (4) years to ten (10) years**.
- **Revise the TRIM notice** to advertise a tax increase only when the cumulative tax millage levy is greater than the prior year tax levy and not based on the amount of proceeds received.
- Provide **funding for school counselors** at all grade levels.
- Create a **waiver of tuition for parents and/or guardians of students at Title I elementary schools** who take workforce development programs offered by technical colleges or technical centers on the campus of their child's school.
- Collect and earmark the **internet sales tax** for public schools.

- Restore the FTE definition to provide for **six (6) periods** and fund additional instructional time for **dual enrollment, IB, AICE, and virtual programs** up to a maximum of **eight (8) classes** per student.
- **Fully fund** and **provide the flexibility in providing the additional time during summer school** or a combination to meet the additional 180-hour reading instruction requirement at the lowest performing elementary school.
- **Increase safe schools funding** to provide for the actual expenditures **for school resource officers** and other related expenses.
- **Eliminate** the **wealth adjustment** from the sparsity formula.
- Oppose the automatic increase each year for the **Tax Credit Scholarship Program**.

### Capital Outlay

Increase the cap for **vehicle purchases** and **property and casualty insurance** from \$100 to \$150.

### Student Station Costs

**Provide for a district or regional index for the per-student-station cost cap** to keep pace with changing market place increases for labor, materials, and code requirements.

### Hurricane/Disaster Relief

Establish **permanent statutory authority to assist** school districts **with hurricane damage** without negatively affecting resources for other districts, including:

- Providing **an avenue for school boards to seek** necessary **waivers of state law for up to a year**, such as shortening the school year, in order to resolve some of the immediate impact of hurricane damage; and,
- **Funding all costs** associated with shelter operations.

### Student Safety

Increase penalties for **firing a gun within 1000 feet of a school**.

### Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Funding

Allow districts to **waive the \$45 fee for adult education basic or GED courses** offered to students in jails, stockades, or DJJ facilities.

### Charter Schools

- Focus the **approval of charter applications** to a specific academic or space need which the local district does not or cannot meet or if the district determines the application is in the best interest of the student.
- Exempt school districts from paying **ad valorem tax for leased properties** similar to charter schools.
- Require a **charter school to return any and all public funds**, excluding the Charter School Planning Grant funds, to the sponsor upon the charter school's election of any deferral of opening the charter school.