



Legislative Affairs

2019 Legislative Session Update

John J. Sullivan

Director, Legislative Affairs

Major Education Legislation



SB 7070: Voucher Program

- **Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) Program:** Students with household income not exceeding 300 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for FES. Additionally, a student is eligible to enroll in kindergarten or has spent the prior school year in attendance at a public school.
- Scholarship amount for a student is 95 percent of the unweighted FTE or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees, whichever is less.
- 18,000 students annually, 2019-2020 school year. 2020-2021 school year, the number of students participating in the scholarship program may increase in accordance with the percentage increase in the state's public school student population.
- District must publish information about the FES on their website homepages. School districts must inform all households receiving free and reduced lunch about the FES by April 1 of each year. School districts must also notify participating students and their parents about locations and times to take statewide assessment.



SB 7070: Voucher Program

Table 1: Projected Revenue Loss to Florida's Public Schools, 2019-2024

Year	Projected Diversion from Florida Education Finance Program
2019-20	\$131,000,000
2020-21	\$157,986,000
2021-22	\$190,531,116
2022-23	\$229,780,526
2023-24	\$277,115,314
Total	\$986,412,956

Source: Florida Education Association



SB 7070: Schools of Hope

Schools of Hope

- Now includes a school that has earned 3 grades lower than a “C” in at least 3 of the previous 5 years and has not earned a “B” or higher in the most recent 2 years.
- Creates definition for “Florida Opportunity Zone” (“FOZ”) (as defined by IRS Code s.1400Z-1 (b)(1)(B)).
- Allows a hope operator to open a charter school in FOZ.



SB 7070: Turnaround School Supplement

- The Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation within the FEFP-\$500 per-FTE to offer services designed to improve the overall academic and community welfare.
- Schools implementing a turnaround option may receive funding from the allocation for a maximum of four continuous fiscal years. A school that exits turnaround with a grade of “C” or higher will remain eligible to receive the allocation for a maximum of two continuous fiscal years after exiting turnaround status.



SB 7070: Best and Brightest-Instructional Personnel

- Now within the FEFP, Historically outside of the FEFP.
- Removes a teacher's performance on the SAT or ACT.

Three new buckets

- **A one-time recruitment award** (up to \$4K) – “a newly hired classroom teacher must be a content expert, based on criteria established by FLDOE, in mathematics, science, computer science, reading, or civics”.
- **A retention award** – “a classroom teacher must have been rated as highly effective (\$2.5K) or effective (\$1K) the preceding year and teach in a school for 2 consecutive school years, including the current year, which has improved an average of 3 % points or more in the percentage of total possible points achieved for determining school grades over the prior 3yrs.
- **A recognition award** – “must be rated as highly effective or effective and be selected by his or her school principal, based on performance criteria adopted by the district school board or charter school governing board. Recognition awards must be provided after the payment of all teacher recruitment and retention awards and principal awards”.



SB 7070: Best and Brightest - Principals

- Amends the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Program to be based on a school making noticeable academic improvement. A principal is eligible for an award if they have:
 - Served as school principal for at least 4 consecutive school years, including the current school year, and;
 - The school has improved an average of 3 percentage points or more in the percentage of total possible points achieved for determining school grades over the prior 3 years.
 - Award: \$5,000.



SB 7070: Teacher certification requirements

- Only classroom teachers must take the general knowledge (GK) exam.
- School districts must provide teachers that fail the GK exam or any portion of it information regarding the availability of state-level/district-level support & instructions to assist the teacher in passing the test or any portion that they fail.
- Removes the requirement that a teacher issued a temporary certificate must demonstrate mastery of GK by achieving passing scores on all subtests within one calendar year of the date of employment.
- Removes the prohibition on a school district from continuing employment beyond one year for a teacher with a temporary certificate who has not demonstrated mastery of general knowledge.
- Authorizes a temporary certificate to be extended for 2 years if the certificate holder is rated highly effective in the immediate prior year's performance evaluation or has completed a 2-year mentorship program.
- Retake fees cannot exceed the initial testing fee.
- **These provisions are effective upon becoming law (05/09/19)**



SB 7070: School Construction

- Deletes requirement that an educational plant survey and needs assessment must be conducted to spend 1.5 discretionary millage on new construction and remodeling projects, etc.
- If a survey does not accurately reflect need, the Commissioner may only direct that fixed capital outlay funds provided from general revenue or state trust funds be withheld from districts until such time as the survey accurately projects facility's needs.
- Provides more flexibility for school construction by only requiring a majority vote rather than a supermajority vote of the school board to adopt a resolution to implement one or more of the exceptions to SREF. Deletes language requiring a cost-benefit analysis and the requirement that specified public workshops be conducted.



SB 7030: School Safety

- Expands Guardian program to include classroom teachers.
- A Guardian may only serve if appointed by superintendent/charter school principal.
- Requires school boards to promote FortifyFL.
- Requires the FLDOE Office of Safe Schools to convene a School Hardening & Harm Mitigation Workgroup to review school hardening best practices.
- Modifies content of student records and transfer of records.
- Authorizes the Commissioner to oversee compliance with MSD Safety law & recommend sanctions for noncompliance, including withholding of funds.
- Charter Schools are not exempt from safety/mental health requirements.
- Specifies that each school district shall partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, including charter schools.
- If a district school board, through its adopted policies, procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any safe-school officer options the school district must assign a school safety officer to the charter school.



SB 7030: School Safety

- In addition to school safety officers, a school district/charter school governing board may contract with a security agency as defined in law to employ as a school security guard an individual who holds a Class “D” and Class “G.”
- Clarifies that drills for active shooter and hostage situations be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures.
- Requires each school board to adopt policies to ensure the accurate and timely reporting of incidents related to school safety and discipline.
- Superintendent is responsible for school environmental safety incident reporting. A superintendent who fails to comply is subject to penalties.
- Authorizes the transfer of funds from other categoricals to the safe schools allocation.
- Modifies Safe School Allocation formula to 1/3 FL Crime Index and 2/3 FTE.



SB 7030: Mental Health Assistance Allocation

- Expedites services for students with mental or behavioral disorders by mandating that students who are referred to school-based mental health services must be assessed for a mental health disorder within 15 days of a referral.
- Establishes a standardized behavioral threat assessment instrument.
- Requires districts plans to focus on a multi-tiered system of support to deliver evidenced-based mental health care.
 - School-based mental health providers are trained to infuse mental health prevention and intervention.
 - System of care is collaborative network of services and support.
- Requires that provision of school based mental health services be coordinated with a student's primary health care provider.



SB 7030: Mental Health Assistance Allocation

- Extends the allowable expenditures to include training for educators and staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues.
- Requires district plans include all public schools (including charter schools), unless charters choose to submit their plan independently.
- Each district must submit a report on its program outcomes and expenditures which include, among existing criteria, the number of:
 - Students referred to either school-based or community-based providers.
 - Students who receive either school-based or community-based interventions.
 - School-based and community-based mental health providers.



HB 7071: Workforce Education

- For a student to be promoted to high school from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the student must complete, among other requirements, one course in career and education planning to be completed in grades 6, 7, or 8, which may be taught by any member of the instructional staff.
- Allowing students to earn two mathematics credits for Algebra I.
- Allowing a computer science credit to substitute for a mathematics or science credit without having to earn an industry certification.
- High School Graduation Requirements/New CTE Option:
 - Students eligible to complete an alternative pathway to earn a standard high school diploma.
 - School Board are required to incorporate the CTE pathway option to graduation in the student progression plan.
- Removes financial literacy as a component of economics.
- Specifying that school districts must offer at least a half-credit financial literacy course as an elective.
- Doubles the cap on career & professional education Digital Tool certificates.



Future Ballot Measures

HB 7123: Taxation: Requires School Districts to share funds generated through referendum with Charter Schools. This would apply to collect to levies authorized by voters after July 1, 2019.

HB 5: Discretionary Sales Tax: Amends process for levying discretionary sales surtax. Ballot measure must be placed on the general election ballot.



Additional Bills

HB 807-Civics Education: Requires that all instructional materials for Civics education be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner in consultation with civic organizations, stakeholders, teachers, parents, and the public.

HB 107: Wireless Communication While Driving: Prohibiting a person from operating a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner in a designated school crossing, school zone, or work zone.

HB 629: Lottery: Adds warning labels to lottery games.

HB 7103, HB 207: Modifies methodology for collecting impact fees.

SB 292: Education: Prohibiting a district school board from prohibiting a student from lawfully wearing the dress uniform of any of the Armed Forces at graduation.

SB 7014: Government Accountability: Authorizes the Governor or Commissioner of Education, or designee, to notify the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee if an entity fails to comply with certain auditing and financial reporting requirements.



Additional Bills

HB 741: Anti-Semitism: Modifies Anti-Semitism policies for PK-20 educational institutions.

HB 1027: Early Learning: Requires OEL to develop certain training & course standards for school readiness program providers; requires training & standards to be integrated into certain preservice and inservice training requirements.

HB 213: Immunization: Modifies immunization record requirements.

SB 620: Military: Requiring a student whose parent is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation within a school district to be considered a resident of the district and provided preferential treatment in enrollment.

HB 7021: Financial Disclosure: Modifies financial disclosure process.



Budget

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)	\$245 increase in per-student funding. Broward per-student funding: \$7,643
Base Student Allocation	\$75 per-student
Safe Schools Allocation	\$180 million (11% increase) state-wide
Mental Health Assistance Allocation	\$75 million (8% increase) state-wide
Digital Classrooms Allocation	\$20 million (\$50 million decrease) state-wide
District Cost Differential (SB2502)	Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall develop a methodology for calculating each school district's wage level index using appropriate county-level and occupational-level wage data.



Capital/Additional Funding

PECO

Public: \$0 Charter: \$158 million

With language from HB 7055 from last session, this funding will not require school districts to share discretionary millage with charter schools.

School Hardening

~\$50 million state-wide has been allocated to the Department of Education for school hardening grants.

Additional funding:

\$800,000 for BCPS Adults with Disabilities.



Budget: Workforce

- Increase of 4.1% (\$3,018,548) in our base allocation, the most of any school district in FL.
- Increase of \$2 million statewide in Performance Based Funding (Industry Certifications). This increase raises the allocation from \$4.5 million to \$6.5 million which will increase the value of each certification earned back to the original amount of \$1,000.
- Created the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant in the amount of \$10 million. These grant funds are to be used exclusively for the establishment/expansion of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that meet regional workforce demand.
- Created the Workforce Diploma Program in the amount of \$1.25 million.



2020 Legislative Dates

First Day of Session: January 14, 2020

Last Day of Session: March 13, 2020



Legislative Affairs Website

- Redesigning the website.
- Making the website mobile/user friendly.
- Develop a process for stakeholders to sign up for legislative updates and alerts.
- Keep stakeholders informed during the entire session.



Discussion & Questions

John J. Sullivan, Director of Legislative Affairs
JohnJ.Sullivan@browardschools.com

Angel Gomez, Coordinator of Governmental Affairs
Mr.Gomez@browardschools.com

Office: 754-321-2608

Please visit our website for more information:
<http://www.browardschools.com/gr>



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