

2005 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FY06 FEDERAL EDUCATION SPENDING

The School Board of Broward County strongly opposes the Administration's FY2006 education budget proposal which includes the elimination of funding for the Perkins Vocational Education Program, Title II-D Technology Program and Title IV Safe & Drug-Free Schools Program and others. Adequate federal funding must be provided to continue the expansion of Title I to meet the additional costs required to meet the federal mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (IDEA)

We support mandatory full IDEA funding (40% of the national average per pupil expenditures), including preschool, early intervention and discretionary programs, and greater flexibility for the use of IDEA funds. Congress should approve full funding for IDEA, as provided in the reauthorization of the Act in 2004.

CARL PERKINS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT

We support the reauthorization of the Perkins Act and hope to see its funding increased; we support a reduction of the state set-aside from the current 15% to 10%; we support an increase in the poverty weighting of the formula to 80%; we oppose proposals for individual career plans for students without a commensurate increase in funding to cover additional expense; and we oppose NCLB-like accountability proposals that are not based on multiple measures and learning gains of students.

HEAD START

We support the reauthorization of Head Start and the proposed emphasis on instruction in pre-academic skills; more rigorous educational requirements; better alignment with K-12 education; and oppose any proposal to permit a block grant of Head Start funds to states.

E-RATE (TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT)

We support maintaining the Universal Service Fund as the funding source for the E-Rate Program in the reauthorization of the Telecommunications Act and encourage the Congress to enact a permanent solution to exempt the E-Rate Program from the requirements of the Anti-Deficiency Act to avoid further suspensions of funding as were experienced in 2004. We urge the Congress to preserve the present EBS (Educational Broadband Spectrum) spectrum for the use of educational license holders only.

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

We oppose provisions of the new Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) Guide that discriminates against school districts as legitimate providers of health services to all children, especially low-income, disabled students.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

Federal regulations implementing NCLB should carry out the legislative intent and reflect the will of the Congress to provide maximum flexibility. Revisions are needed specifically with regard to: imposing sanctions prior to a full year of implementation of school improvement measures; imposing a required supplemental education services expenditure in excess of the law; prohibition on certain districts which are making substantial education progress serving as supplemental education service providers; shortening of the timeline for implementing school transfers in direct contrast to the legislation; and revising the "Safe Harbor" provision to include a Progress Accountability model.