



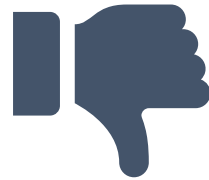
# 2023 Legislative Review

# 60 Days of Session: the good, bad and ugly



## Good

HB 1 – certification changes  
Budget – \$250 million new salary money; salary flexibility start



## Bad

Budget – collective bargaining restrictions on “educational emergencies”



## Ugly

SB 256 – union restrictions  
HB 1 – vouchers for all

# Budget - Changes in Funding & Allocations

## 1. Key Increases

- Unweighted FTE +117,372 (+3.94%) includes +82,099 new voucher students
  - Base Student Allocation: \$5,140, + \$552 +12.04% (5 categoricals added here)
  - Educational Enrichment Allocation (plus Turnaround Supplement): +14.7%
  - ESE Guaranteed Allocation: +10.64%
  - Safe Schools Allocation: +19.05%
  - Mental Health Assistance Allocation: +14.29%
  - Student Transportation Allocation: +4.04%

## 1. Removes 6 Categoricals (funding rolled into BSA and EEA, added flexibility)

- Instructional Materials, Reading Instruction, Teachers Classroom Supplies, Turnaround Supplemental Services, Funding Compression & Hold Harmless, Sparsity Supplement

## 2. Required Local Effort: Increase: +11.71% (\$8,854,248,311 to \$9,891,348,974)

## 3. Discretionary Local Effort: Increase: +12.03% (\$2,106,443,151 to \$2,359,823,691) plus \$436,091,636 as State-Funded Discretionary Supplement for voucher students

## 4. Total Local Funding Increase: +11.77% (\$10,960,691,462 to \$12,251,172,665)

## 5. Total FEFP Funding Increase: +8.40% (net state FEFP funds: +5.66%)

## 6. State & Local Funds per FTE Increase: +2.79% (state), +7.53% (local)

## 7. Funding Percentages State funds: 54.23%, Local funds: 45.77%

# TSIA DISTRIBUTION FLEXIBILITY CHANGES



## TSIA DISTRIBUTION FLEXIBILITY CHANGES

**Legislative Changes:** The new legislation modifies the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to provide more flexibility in how funds are allocated for teacher salary increases. This can assist school districts and charter schools in meeting minimum salary requirements or providing salary raises for instructional personnel, depending on their needs.

**Funding Allocation:** For the fiscal year 2023-2024, \$250,736,276 is specifically appropriated for salary increases for full-time classroom teachers, certified prekindergarten teachers in the FEFP, and other instructional personnel. The exact amount and distribution methodology for these funds are outlined below.

**Use of Funds:** Each school district and charter school must use 1.38% of its base FEFP funding for either a) increasing the minimum base salary on the performance salary schedule to at least \$47,500 (or the maximum achievable amount based on the funds available), or b) providing salary increases to other full-time instructional personnel. The choice depends on the individual needs and constraints of each district or charter school.

**Minimum Base Salary:** The legislation defines "minimum base salary" as the lowest annual base salary for a full-time classroom teacher as reported on the salary schedule. No full-time classroom teacher should receive a salary less than this minimum base salary. If a district or charter school decides to use its allocated funds to increase the minimum base salary, no eligible teacher should receive less than the newly adjusted amount.

**Exclusions:** The legislation specifically excludes substitute teachers from these provisions. The focus remains on full-time classroom teachers and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the FEFP.

# Universal Vouchers, Financial Accommodations, and Charter School Funding

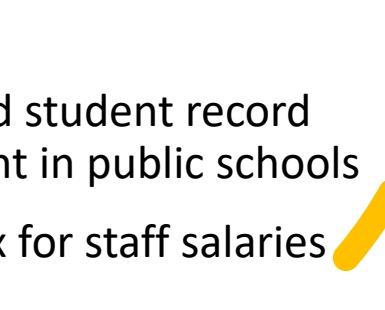
- Private and home school voucher expansion - largest in Florida history
- Family Empowerment program funding remains inside FEFP, some transparency
- Majority of increase will be absorbed by Tax Credit program excess fund balance; next year shifts to FEFP
- Allowable uses expanded beyond tuition to all voucher programs (ESA-style menu of services)
- Public school voucher for afterschool tutoring expanded to include math deficiencies
- Charter schools now included in local discretionary PECO millage funding; loans across districts within networks permitted
  - Phased in over 5 years; 20% per year
  - FTE Based, regardless of district needs assessment plan
  - State PECO support reduced
  - Charter share reduces local district funds

# HB 1: Universal Vouchers and Additional Provisions

## **VOUCHERS:**

- Expands eligibility for Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Family Empowerment Scholarship Program ***to any student who is a Florida resident and eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school.***
- Removes enrollment caps and increases annual scholarship growth rates for disabled students from 1% to 3%
- Introduces personalized education program and additional authorized uses for scholarships

## **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS:**

- State Board of Education to recommend reductions to the Florida Early Learning-20 education code by November 2023
  - Immediate flexibility for school districts in construction costs and student transportation
  - Revises teaching certificate requirements, extended student record transfer timelines, and permits part-time enrollment in public schools
  - Allows additional flexibility of the district school tax for staff salaries and benefits
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# Curriculum and Accountability

## **READING and MATHEMATIC INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION:**

- Just Read, Florida! office required to develop an online repository of digital resources
- Phonics required as primary strategy for teaching word reading; funds for replacing instructional resources
- Permits use of other strategies for comprehension, background knowledge, and context
- K-3 reading intervention programs for students with deficiencies or dyslexia characteristics
- Early warning systems and parental notification expanded to include K-4 students with "substantial mathematics deficiency"
- Expands PreK students' plan of services and interventions for reading and math deficiencies, with monthly reports to parents

## **SCHOOL GRADES:**

- Grade 3 reading performance added to school grade calculation

## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION:**

Guidance counselors provide comprehensive info on CTE, IB, and apprenticeship programs from 6th grade

Tuition supports expanded using Florida Bright Futures scholarships

# Student Services and Student Discipline

## **ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND RIGHTS:**

- Requires transition plans and legal complications for parents of students who are nearly 18 and have an IEP.
- Permits parental decision on pre-K retention for students with disabilities, revising "good cause exemptions" for grade 3 retention

## **OPERATIONAL CHANGES AND FLEXIBILITY:**

- Removes class size penalty, simplified reporting, and permits military parents to choose school for children to attend.
- Shift term PD to professional learning

## **TEACHER AUTHORITY:**

- Restates teacher authority act provisions: right to control classroom, right to set classroom rules and provide input and feedback on student disciplinary referrals, right to designate digital device storage, right to request a special magistrate for allegations of rule or law violations
- Right to receive support and training for classroom management difficulties, right to enroll in collage classes for free



# Required Instruction and District Compliance

## REQUIRED INSTRUCTION AND DISTRICT COMPLIANCE:

- Districts to certify compliance with state standards for African American History instruction
- New requirements for coverage of Asian American, Pacific Islander history, and WWII Japanese internment camps
- Designation of "9/11 Heroes' Day" and updated social studies standards
- Contract with outside entities for training and resources
- Plans for teaching standards posted on district websites
- Instruction on negative effects of social media, filtering internet websites, designated areas for storage of student wireless communication devices

## INTERNET SAFETY, PRIVACY AND SOCIAL MEDIA EDUCATION:

- Instruction in internet safety, negative effects of social media, and personal security online for secondary students
- Limitation on the use of personally identifiable information
- TikTok use banned for all school organizations and with district resources

# Ethics and Elections

## **ELECTION OVERHAUL:**

- Extensive election package, changes to election process including reporting requirements, 3PVPO organizations
- Partisan School Board Elections ballot initiative for the November 2024 ballot, effective 2026 elections
- Lowering term limits for school board members from 12 to 8 years
- Residency requirements for school board candidates

## **TAXATION AND LOCAL REFERENDA:**

- Local sales tax referenda – renewal period once every 48 months and only during general elections
- Hernando County: Decision on elected Superintendent in the 2024 Primary Election

# Teacher Preparation & Certification

## KEY CHANGES:

- Extends temporary certificate durations: 3 to 5 years
- In-field master's degrees for subject area mastery
- Exempts general knowledge test with 3 years E or HE evaluations
- Exempts professional knowledge test with 3 years E or HE evaluations and professional development certification program completion
- Allows teaching interns in teacher education program to apply for temporary certificates
- Introduces teacher apprenticeship program and special certificate
- Lower experience requirement for local certifications for non-degreed teachers to 3 years of occupational experience
- Extends adjunct teaching certificates to 5 years; charter schools set own qualification requirements if outside existing tests
- Tuition waivers (BOGO) for state-approved teacher preparation program students
- Maintains provisions for 2-year emergency extension

# Health and Safety

## **GUN POLICY CHANGES:**

- Concealed carry without a license, gun-free zones maintained, additional school safety measures, maintains the purchase age of 21
- Behavioral threat management, active assailant response policy, safe schools canine program

## **SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY AND STUDENT PRIVACY:**

- Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits
- Student Online Personal Information Protection
- Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions, school bus infraction detection system, new signage
- Requirements for all people involved with students including volunteer athletic coaches to undergo Level II background checks

# Retirement Changes

## Retirement Package - Key Modifications:

- Health Insurance Subsidy: Increase monthly benefit and employer contribution rate
- Special Risk: Redefine normal retirement date
- DROP: Remove entry window, extend participation time, increase interest rate
- Instructional Personnel: Extend DROP participation
- Normal Cost Contribution: Set contribution rates based on 2022 actuarial valuation
- Investment Plan Contribution Rate: Increase allocations for each membership class

# Union Issues

- Makes significant changes to public sector unions except police, firefighter, corrections, and probationary officers' unions
- Beginning July 1, 2023, requires members who wish to be a member of the union to join using a prescribed membership authorization form that contains a statement in 14-inch font and includes the salary and disbursements of the top five highest paid officers and employees
- Beginning July 1, 2023, prohibits a member from choosing to pay their union dues through payroll deduction
- Beginning October 1, 2023, renewals through PERC requires a minimum 60% membership threshold and an annual financial audit by an independent certified public accountant, among other requirements

# Non-Instructional - Educational Opportunities & Policy Changes

## School Facility Upgrades

- Improve suitability as hurricane shelters
- Up to \$2 million in enhancements not counted against capital outlay budgets

## Florida High School Athletic Association

- State Board of Education holds direct authority
- Reduced board size (13 members); 8 appointed by Governor
- Simplified process for student athletes transferring schools
- Expands private and charter school student access to participate in sports

## Middle & High School Start Times

- By July 1, 2026, implement start times no earlier than 8:00 a.m. (middle schools) and 8:30 a.m. (high schools)

# SB 266 Continued Attack on Higher Education

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- Board of Governors is required to review and update university missions, assess academic program alignment, and direct any curriculum contrary to s. 1000.05 or based on theories of systemic inequities.
- University presidents have final hiring authority, report on employment practices, and their personnel decisions are final and non-arbitrable.
- Presidents must annually present evaluations and high-earner salaries, and their executive team selections are reviewed by trustees.
- Florida College System institutions and state universities can't use funds for programs violating s. 1000.05, advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion, or political/social activism, but student-led organizations can be exceptions.
- Funding established for conservative think-tanks within major universities.
- Core courses must not distort history or teach identity politics or systemic inequities, but must promote effective communication, critical thinking, understanding of social science concepts, evaluation of scientific method, and mathematical mastery.
- General education courses must foster informed citizenship, emphasize historically accurate content, with annual review and approval, data reporting, penalties for non-compliance, and prohibition on additional course requirements if a distribution requirement was previously met.



# Higher Education Legislative Impacts

Undermines students' and faculties' rights

Prohibits subjects on historical oppression

Defunds programs misaligned with Governor's views on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Controls faculty speech

Excludes faculty input in hiring

Impedes faculty unions

Cuts funding for dissenting student groups

Transforms non-partisan entities into partisan ones

intimidates accrediting bodies - potential for increased state control

Bans political loyalty tests for employment, admission, promotion and establishes Office of Public Policy Events (OPPE) for diverse policy discussions

Requires reporting of bonuses awarded to faculty and staff and ensures consistency in bonus awards through Board of Governors regulations

# Miscellaneous - Legislative Changes & Sales Tax Holidays

## 1. Hometown Heroes Act

- Down payment & closing cost assistance for educators & public sector workers (first home purchase)

## 2. Permanent Sales Tax Exemptions

- Baby & toddler products, diapers, oral hygiene products, firearm safety devices

## 3. Sales Tax Holidays

- Back-to-School: July 24-Aug 6 and Jan 1-Jan 14 (clothing, school supplies, computers)
- Disaster Preparedness: May 27-June 9 (flashlights, radios, batteries, waterproof sheeting)
- Freedom Summer: May 29-Sept 4 (admissions, summer sports & recreation equipment)
- Tool Time: Sept 2-Sept 8 (tools and equipment for skilled workers)
- Energy Star Appliances and gas ranges/cooktops (yearlong exemption)