



2016 Flagler Schools Legislative Priorities

State Accountability System:

- During the transition from FCAT 2.0 to FSA, continue to support a one-year delay in the utilization of the data for school grades, the teacher evaluation system, and mandatory third grade retention requirements.
- Include GED completers in future graduation rates used for grading high schools.
- Revert back to the former definition of “Learning Gains” (See 2013 Guide to Calculating School Improvement Ratings Step 6.1).

Local Authority and Governance

- Give districts at least a full school-year implementation period for any new state laws or rules to accommodate necessary planning and budgeting and/or to make any needed amendments to local school board policies.

Public School Funding:

1. Fully fund all State mandates with State general revenue funding.
 - Adequately fund school-based costs associated with student health, student mental health and student safety from the healthcare and public safety budgets instead of through the FEFP.
 - Provide meaningful increases to Safe Schools funding.
 - Fund CPALMs allowing districts to transition to and successfully implement the new Florida State Standards.
 - Fully fund transportation as designated in F.S. 1011.68. Designate 2/seat instead of 3/seat.
 - Fund School Choice transportation.
 - Fully Fund Governor’s Teacher Allocation as line item in budget.
 - Fund the higher education costs (dual enrollment/instructional materials) within the higher education funding formula instead of the FEFP.
2. Restore the authority for school districts to levy, by simple majority vote, up to 2.0 Capital outlay millage. Restore school board authority to levy a discretionary millage of up to .5 mills to address critical needs.
3. Restore grant funding to the 2014-15 level for the Adults with Disabilities Programs.
4. Include growth factor and cost increases in mandated services for the ESE Guaranteed Allocation. No more mid-year reductions to pay for growth.
5. Oppose any attempt to provide local capital taxes to charter schools as a legislative entitlement.

Virtual Education:

- Undo the fractional FTE concept. Establish a separate funding source for programs taken by students beyond the 1.0 FTE cap or 25 hours a week. Eliminate the cap on funding for courses beyond a base 6-period/1.0 FTE day.
- Provide full funding no matter the completion window for district-run franchises.
- Allow district-run virtual instruction programs to offer all courses year-round instead of limiting to reporting deadline for Survey 4 for courses not tied to credit recovery.

School Choice

- Ensure that all schools that are available as choice options are held to the same fiscal and academic accountability standards.