

Legislative Update

2017

Impact of HB 7069

- Out of State Dual Enrollment for private colleges and Universities
- Sparsity Supplement modified
- Digital Classroom Allocation – repeals the extensive district digital classroom plan
- Safe Schools Allocation codified – priority given to establishing school resource officer program.
Calculation is $\frac{2}{3}$ of Florida Crime Index and $\frac{1}{3}$ based on total unweighted FTE

Impact of HB 7069

- Total allocation of State funds- if district made an underfunding error will not be the basis of a positive adjustment of funds in the current year.
- Educator certification requirement – streamlines the application process for a teaching cert. Charter school can provide a competency-based certification program for candidates to achieve certification
- Civic Literacy added as a priority to mission and goals of K-20 schools

Impact of HB 7069

- Charter Schools – Ability of sponsor to negotiate a contract severely restricted. Required to use the standard charter contract
- Students in a blended learning course no longer required to receive online instruction in a classroom setting at charter school
- Charter Schools are exempted from controlled open enrollment
- Sovereign immunity applies to charter employees and governing body – does not apply to for profit entity

Impact of HB 7069

- Significantly expands the charter school systems that could be designated as LEA's that will allow them to receive federal funds
- School district virtual course offering – blended learning do not have to receive the online instruction in a classroom setting.
- Students who transfer to private school now factored into the school grade
- Requires school boards to appropriate revenue from the 1.5 discretionary millage to charter schools; charter schools can use these funds to payout sick and annual leave

Impact of HB 7069

- Charter school capital outlay funding. Districts must distribute capital outlay funds no later than February 1 of each year
- Repeals the Algebra II EOC; repeals the personal fitness test requirement for students participating in sports at the JV and Varsity level for two full seasons to satisfy the one-credit P.E. requirement.
- Standardized assessments – ELA and math assessments grades 3-6 must be delivered only in a paper-based format; assessments are to be given later in the school year. Paper-based format assessments must be delivered no earlier than May 1 each year.
- Independent Study to determine if SAT and ACT may be administered in lieu of grade 10 ELA assessment and Algebra 1 EOC

Impact of HB 7069

- Schools of Hope provision – consistently low performing schools
- Best and Brightest scholarship - \$6000 beginning in 20-21. 77% or higher on SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT or if cum laude or higher a 71%
- Principals are eligible for Best & Brightest – 2 school years including current year at same school and the school has a ratio of 80% or higher of teachers
- Gardiner scholarship – eligible disabilities expanded to include dual sensory impaired

Impact of HB 7069

- In addition to the PE requirements K-5 students must be provided 100 minutes of recess. Does not apply to Charter schools.
- Students retained or participating in summer reading camp must be provided with a highly effective teacher. Beginning 2020 teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.
- Attendance – adds an excuse from attendance to attend autism spectrum appointment
- Instructional materials – except for district or consortium that implements own materials program, school board must use allocation only for the purchase of materials that align with state standards and are on the state adopted list
- Pilot program for early childhood music education for schools; must be close proximity University of Florida. Selected District will receive \$150 per FTE student in the K-2 enrolled in the program

HB1239 & HB 39

- School Bus Safety – enhanced penalties for persons violating state law related to traffic stopping for a school bus. Person has to serve 120 community service hours at a trauma center and participate in a victim's impact panel session, if it exists or attend an approved driver improvement course in addition to a \$1500 penalty.
- Requires FDLE to establish a continued employment training component relating to Autism Spectrum Disorder.

SB 436 – Religious Expression in public schools

- School district may not discriminate against a student, parent or school personnel on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression.
- Students may wear clothing, accessories, and jewelry that display a religious message/symbol in the same manner and to the same extent that secular types of clothing, etc. that display messages or symbols are permitted to be worn.
- May not prevent school personnel from participating in religious activities on school grounds initiated by students at reasonable times before or after school
- Religious groups must be given access to the same school facilities for assembling as given to secular groups
- District must adopt a policy that establishes a limited public forum for student speakers at any school event at which a student is to speak publicly.
- School District must deliver the disclaimer that a student's speech does not reflect the endorsement of the school district.

HB 293- Middle Grades

- DOE to issue a competitive solicitation for a contract to conduct a study of states with high-performing students in grades 6-8 in reading and math based on the states' performance on the NAEP. The report of the findings is due December, 2017.
- The bill deletes the requirement of one course in career and education planning. Students no longer have to formulate a personal education plan.
- \$50,000 appropriated to conduct the study.

HB 989- Instructional Materials

- The bill provides definitions for adequate instructional materials, as well as resident.
- School board must adopt a policy regarding an objection by a parent or a resident of the county. The process must provide the parent or resident the opportunity to proffer evidence to the school board that the instructional material does not meet the criteria specified in statute
- School Board must discontinue the use of the instructional material if it finds it does not meet statutory criteria.
- School Board is responsible for the content of all materials, not just instructional materials, used in a classroom.

HB 15 – Choice/Charter Schools

- Gardiner Scholarship Program – bill changes the definitions for program eligibility. The student's account reverts back to the state if there are three consecutive years in which an account has been inactive.
- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program – There is now also a requirement that within 10 days a letter of denial is provided. Dependent child of parent in US armed forces is eligible to apply for the scholarship at anytime.

HB 371 – Assistive Technology Devices

- Requires that a framework is in place to inform all stakeholders about the utilization and coordination of assistive technology devices and that mechanism is established for persons and parents to request that the device remain with the person as he/she moves through school or post school.

SB 80 – Public Records

- To be entitled to Attorney's fees the court must determine: the agency unlawfully refused to permit a public record to be inspected or copied; and the complainant provided written notice identifying the public record request to the public records custodian at least 5 business days before filing the civil action. The notice period begins on the day the written notice is received by the custodian, excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays and runs until 5 business days have elapsed.
- Written notice is not required if the agency does not prominently post the contact information for the agency's primary administrative building in which public records are routinely created, sent, received, maintained and requested and on the agency's website.
- Court must also determine if the request to inspect or copy a public record is for an improper purpose.
- Does not create a private right of action authorizing an award of monetary damages