



## FEA Fights for You

The FEA has been fighting for teachers, education staff professionals and students for more than a century.

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### [View Seeds of Change: FEA Union Activism](#)

Florida Education Association: 40+ Years of Education Union Activism



### 2012

- FEA Argues Before Florida Supreme Court for State Employees in Pensions Challenge
- Florida Administrative law Judge John G. Van Laningham invalidated in its entirety a State Board of Education and Department of Education rule established for the implementation of The Student Success Act (SB-736 Teacher Evaluations)
- Favorable Ruling from State Court in FEA Pension Challenge
- 2012 Legislative Victory- FEA Stopped Anti- Union Bills
- **Prison Privatization**
- **Paycheck Protection**
- **PEN Protection**
- **Parent Trigger**
- FEA Files FL-Department of Education Rules Challenge Opposing Implementation of The Student Success Act (SB-736 Teacher Evaluations)

## 2011

- FEA Files SB-736 Legal Challenge
- FEA Sues the State of Florida Challenging the 3% Pension Tax on State workers
- Senate Bill 736 –Passes

## 2010

- Supported and helped to pass the Education Jobs Bill in Congress, which helped keep teachers and other education workers from being laid off.
- Supported and helped to pass health care reform in Congress, assuring that many of our students became covered by insurance.
- Helped to pass Amendments 5 and 6, which set up a mechanism for the drawing of more fair legislative districts.
- Lobbied against and helped stop in court Amendment 7, which would have made the passage of Amendments 5 and 6 moot.
- Drafted and passed the bus driver bill - SB 1058.
- Stopped wholesale changes to the Florida Retirement System.
- Defeated a proposed constitutional amendment that would have paved the way for universal vouchers for all.
- Objected to and unified support of locals to decline participation in the first round of the federal Race to the Top grant proposal.
- Increased stakeholder support, participation and encouraged locals to sign on to the successful second round of Race to the Top.

## 2009

- Successfully steered all gaming proceeds to supplement the public education budget- SB 788.
- Helped to draft language that won the right for unions to act as supplemental education providers.
- Organized a statewide Penny for Schools movement to raise awareness on increased funding for the education budget.
- Stopped a bill on the 65 percent solution that would have directed 65 percent of every dollar to be spent in the classroom, while virtually eliminating funding for all other areas.
- Stopped a TABOR (acronym comes from the term Taxpayers Bill of Rights) proposal that would have limited the amount of money a municipality could raise to help fund its schools.
- Stopped the first anti-teacher-contract bill (The precursor of SB 6-type bills) - HB 1411.
- Helped to implement the credible use of federal stimulus funds.

## 2008

- Added revised language to the Florida statutes to improve the Anti-Bullying Bill - HB 669.
- Passed language to establish the Workplace Safety Acts - HB 967.
- Redirected and reshaped the Ethics in Education Act - SB 1712.
- Revised the A-Plus plan with new high school grading policies – SB 1908.
- Helped to defeat a bill that would have required the teaching of evolution in science classes - SB 2692.
- Successfully won legal challenges on proposed constitutional amendments from the Tax and Budget Reform Commission, including an 18-month lobbying effort that outright defeated proposals weakening class size rules and establishing TABOR.

## 2007

- Defeated vouchers for low performing schools - SB 2380.

- Stopped school district breakup proposals - SB 2428.
- Successfully negotiated implementation of MAP, which was a merit pay proposal that was vastly superior to those imposed by the Florida Department of Education - SB 1226.

## **2006**

- Passed some accountability for charter schools.
- Won repeal of the BEST/Performance Pay Career Ladder law - HB 388.
- Helped to maintain a positive number in the total education budget.
- Forced repeal and revision of STAR and E-Comp merit pay plans.
- Elected Alex Sink CFO, Charlie Justice to the Florida Senate, and Ron Klein to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Re-elected Republican Alex Villalobos to the Florida Senate, despite a multimillion dollar effort by Jeb Bush to defeat him.

## **2005**

- Passed the Paperwork Reduction Bill - HB 281.
- Passed language requiring the Legislature to budget on three-year outlooks - SB 2144.
- Passed voucher accountability legislation.
- Passed two-mill flexibility language - SB 57.
- Stopped a TABOR proposal- SB 362.
- Defeated a huge voucher bill - HB 439.
- Stopped the weakening of the class size language - SB 2090.
- Offered to legislators a reasonable approach to class size, which is in vogue again in 2011 - HB 813 – Simmons.
- Stopped Academic Freedom Higher Ed Bill - HB 837.
- Helped to maintain a positive number in the total education budget.

## **2004**

- Passed a code of conduct bill limiting use of cell phones and pagers - SB 184.
- Limited terminal pay for administrators, but retained it for educators - SB 300.
- Successful implementation of Universal Pre-K program.
- Stopped food service privatization - HB 1773.
- Put the 60 percent threshold in place, requiring all future constitutional amendments on the ballot to pass with 60 percent voter approval - HB 1723.
- Helped to maintain a positive number in the total education budget.

## **2003**

- Made improvement to the Teacher Authority Act -- a bill FEA drafted and passed - SB 30A.
- Amended Charter School bill to include significant Charter Accountability Language - HB 55A.
- Defeated Paycheck Deception Bill - HB 1357.
- Defeated Anti-Collective Bargaining Bill for teachers - HB 173.
- Defeated Privatization Bill HB 29.
- Defeated a repeal of class size provisions - HB 1295.
- Defeated class size voucher legislation- HB 45.
- Defeated anti-collective bargaining on resolution of impasse - HB 1421.
- Helped to maintain a positive number in the total education budget.

## **2002**

- School Code Rewrite -- stopped all bad changes and maintained every significant provision FEA wanted (a nine-month project).
- Preserved university boards as agent for collective bargaining. 2000 FTP-NEA and FEA United Merger. The New FEA was formed.  
2000 FES Defined Contribution Option Established
- Maintained full credit for teaching experience.
- Kept the FEFP as Florida's funding formula.
- Passed ESOL exception and credit.
- Drafted and passed compensation for National Board Certification -HB 807.
- Drafted and passed a bill which allowed school boards to be a part of Growth Management/Concurrency laws - SB 1906.
- Defeated Universal Vouchers - HB 1587.
- Defeated Privatization - HB 217.
- Defeated provision of non-certified teachers in charter schools -HB 1665.
- Helped to maintain a positive number in the total education budget.

## **2001**

- Helped to maintain a positive number in the total education budget.
- Defeated effort to give vouchers to students in overcrowded schools.- HB 303.
- Passed Charter School Accountability on sponsorship and oversight - HB 269.
- Defeated an effort to allow a rival organization (PEN) to administer liability insurance.
- Defeated an effort to privatize school services.
- Defeated Paycheck Deception.
- Defeated provision to limit union use of funds to just bargaining.
- Helped pass Sharpen the Pencil Act, which is a mart accounting of school districts budgets and spending habits. This helped districts use best financial practices and smartly use state financial resources.
- Passed Barry Grunow Act, which provides benefits for the families of teachers who are killed on the job.
- Weakened the Educator Liability Insurance Act.
- Passed DROP extension for teachers.
- Defeated sick leave limitations bill - SB 638.

## **2000**

- FTP-NEA and FEA United Merger. The New FEA was formed.
- FRS Defined Contribution Option Established

## **1999**

- Florida Retirement System (FRS) Surplus (Over 100% Funded) (No Direct Benefit for Employees)

## **1998**

- Last Health Insurance Subsidy Increase (Effective 1/1/99)
- Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program Becomes Law (National Board Certification)
- Optional Career Development Plan for ESPs
- Jeb Bush Elected Florida Gov. (Progress Slows- Vouchers, Charter Schools, etc.)

## **1997**

- Stopped Efforts to Eliminate Due Process

- Teacher Lead Program Created
- DROP Becomes Law

## **1996**

- Law Regulating Administering Medications
- Teacher Authority Act
- Florida Legislature Funds Class Size Reduction

## **1995**

- Terminal Pay Protected

## **1994**

- ESP Fair Dismissal

## **1992**

- UFF Lawsuit to Restore Pay Raise

## **1991**

- Blueprint 2000

## **1990**

- Child Abuse Investigations involving schools were placed under school district jurisdiction s and not a state agency (2006 Law reverses 1990 Law and charges Department of Children and Families with school related child abuse investigations)

## **1988**

- FEA Reclaim Education's Share (RES) Campaign

## **1987**

- Health Insurance Subsidy

## **1983**

- Rights Pertaining to Personnel Files
- Professional Service Contracts

## **1981-86**

- Average Teacher Pay Increases by 45%

## **1980**

- Teachers Gain Up to 6 Paid Holidays

- ESP Terminal Pay

## **1979**

- Sick Leave Bank

## **1977**

- 30 Year Retirement

## **1975**

- First Negotiated Contracts: Planning Time and Duty Free Lunch

## **1974**

- Bargaining Statute Enacted (Chapter 447)
- FRS Non-Contributory
- Accrual of Sick Leave and Paid Personal Leave

## **1970**

- Florida Retirement System Created

## **1969**

- Florida Teacher Salary Increases 18%

## **1968**

- Florida Teacher Strike – the first statewide teacher walkout in U.S. history
- Constitutional Right to Collective Bargaining