



2021

End of Session Report

Florida Education Association

2021 End of Session Report Contents

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2021-2022 STATE BUDGET

SB 2500 & 2502: The appropriations and implementing bills authorize the spending of public money on an annual basis. The appropriations measures passed by the Legislature comprise the state budget. The major portions of the education budget are contained within the first **55 pages** of the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

- [Click here to view SB 2500: General Appropriations Act \(GAA\)](#)
- [Click here to view SB 2502: General Appropriations Act Implementing Bill](#)

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Funding Summary

The FEFP is the formula established by the state to equalize funding guaranteed to each student in the Florida public education system and ensure the availability of programs and services appropriate to his or her educational needs. The FEFP is intended to adjust for the level of student services, economic factors, and geographic differences. To equalize educational opportunities, the FEFP formula recognizes:

- (1) varying local property tax bases,
- (2) varying education program costs,
- (3) varying costs of living, and
- (4) varying costs for equivalent educational programs due to sparsity and dispersion of the student population.

In addition, other categorical programs were eliminated or revised. Since categorical allocations are earmarked for specific purposes, increases in total FEFP funds and total FEFP funds per student do not apply to all school districts or to all students, so these increases can be misleading. The Base Student Allocation (BSA) and the resulting Base FEFP Funding represent a better indication of available and flexible funds.

THE 2021-2022 TOTAL FEFP APPROPRIATIONS: \$26.7 billion
Total Funding - Including Local Revenues: \$39.3 billion



K-12 Budget Highlights (includes federal funds)

Early Learning Services Total: \$1.9 billion

- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$408.6 million GR; including \$3.6 million decrease for 1,277 fewer students,
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Funds for Child Care - \$348.3 million total funding - one-time emergency relief funds to meet the childcare needs of essential workers and to stabilize childcare programs by covering a range of expenses such as personnel costs, rent, facility maintenance and improvements, personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-related supplies,
- CRRSA - Funds for Early Learning Instructor Bonuses - \$166 million total funds – Two \$1,000 bonuses for early learning instructors across the state,
- School Readiness Program - \$932.8 million:
 - Targeted Provider Rate Increases - \$100 million TOTAL FUNDING,
 - Additional Waitlist Funding - \$12 million TOTAL FUNDING.



Early Learning /Back of the Bill Total: \$2.5 billion TOTAL FUNDING

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Funding:
 - Child Care Program Stabilization Funds - \$1.5 billion total funding – one-time emergency relief funds to help stabilize childcare programs by covering a range of expenses such as personnel costs, rent, facility maintenance and improvements, personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-related supplies,
 - Essential Workers Child Care Support - \$950 million total funding.

Public Schools/K12 FEFP Total Funding: \$22.8 billion [\$12.9 billion state funds; \$9.9 billion local funds]

- FEFP total funds decrease is \$149.1 million (due to the 2020-21 pandemic-related enrollment decline),
- Increases the total per student funding from \$7,756 to \$7,795 after adjusting for the one-time hold harmless funding provided to school districts in Fiscal Year 2020-21,
- Increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$53 or 1.2%,
- FEFP Base Funds increase of \$473 million or 3.5%,
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$201.4 million; RLE millage maintained at prior level of 3.720 mils,
- Teacher Salary Increase Allocation - \$550 million - funds that school districts must use to increase the minimum salaries of classroom teachers (\$440 million) to at least \$47,500, and to increase salaries for other instructional personnel (\$110 million),
- Safe Schools Allocation - \$180 million for School Safety Officers and school safety initiatives,
- Mental Health Assistance Allocation - \$120 million to help school districts and charter schools address youth mental health issues,
- Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation - \$24.4 million - additional funds for services designed to improve the overall academic and community welfare of students and their families at designated lower performing schools,
- Funding Compression & Hold Harmless Allocation - \$50.2 million - compression funds for districts with total funds per FTE that are less than the statewide average and hold harmless funds for districts that have a reduction in the District Cost Differential,
- Student Reserve Allocation - \$464.3 million GR set-aside to provide additional funds to school districts for students who return to public schools during pandemic recovery and for students who participate in school choice scholarship programs.

Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP Total: \$313.7 million

- Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program - \$6.5 million GR
- Community School Grant Program - \$7.1 million GR
- Mentoring Programs - \$16.3 million GR
- Schools of Hope - \$60 million GR
- Computer Science and Teacher Bonuses - \$10 million GR
- School District Foundation Matching Grants - \$6 million GR
- Florida Association of District School Superintendents Training - \$500,000 GR
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants - \$34.9 million GR
- Exceptional Education Grants - \$8 million
- Florida School for the Deaf & Blind - \$57.4 million
- Reading Scholarship Accounts - \$7.6 million
- School District Intensive Reading Initiative Pilot - \$6 million GR
- School Hardening Grants - \$42 million GR
- Capital Projects - \$7.9 million



Public Schools/Federal Grants: Total: \$4.3 billion

- Federal Grants Funding - increase of \$417.3 million
- CRRSA funds for School Districts - \$2 billion – one-time emergency relief funds for K-12 education to help offset the costs of education related to the pandemic and to reopening schools.

Public Schools/K12 Federal Total: \$7 billion total funding

- American Rescue Plan Act Funding:
 - Funds for School Districts - \$6.3 billion total funding – one-time emergency relief for K-12 education to help offset the costs of education related to the pandemic and to reopening schools.
 - \$1,000 Bonus for full-time public school teachers and principals - \$216 million
 - State Level Discretionary Funds for K-12 Education - \$488 million
- Special Facility Construction - \$210 million
 - Construction in rural districts include: Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Jackson, Levy, and Okechobee

State Board of Education- Total: \$545.1 million

- Assessment and Evaluation - \$134.7 million
 - VPK and Student Literacy Program Monitoring Systems - \$15.5 million TOTAL FUNDING in Assessment and Evaluation and \$6.5 million total funding in Contracted Services
 - Number One Standards Teacher Professional Development - \$1.5 million GR
 - Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds for state education agency reserve \$255 million total funding

School District Workforce Total: \$569.8 million

- Workforce Development for career and technical education and adult education - \$372.3 million
- Perkins Career and Technical Education grants and Adult Education and Literacy funds - \$120.6 million
- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$6.5 million
- Open Door Grant Program - \$15 million
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants - \$1.7 million GR

- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships - \$10 million GR
- No tuition increase



The charts below represent statewide averages.

[Click here for HB 5101, the 2021-22 Florida Education Finance Program \(FEFP\) Conference Report](#) to view the total funds summary and individual district comparisons with initial (pre-COVID impact) 2020-2021, the 2020-21 4th calculation with enrollment based on the Emergency order and next year's projected FTE.

CONFERENCE CALCULATION COMPARISON

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>2020-21</u> <u>(Conference Calc.)</u>	<u>2020-2021</u> <u>(4th Calc)</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>change</u>
Unweighted FTE	2,890,177.17	2,814,128.67	2,868,388.86	54,260.19	1.93%
School Taxable Value	\$2,294,773,411,715	\$2,301,972,931,658	\$2,369,515,452,989	\$67,542,521,331	2.93%
Base Student Allocation (BSA)	\$4,319.49	\$ 4,319.49	\$ 4,372.91	\$53.42	1.24%
Base FEFP Funding	\$13,772,354,070	\$ 13,369,960,681	\$ 13,842,965,369	473,004,688	3.54%
Total FEFP Funds	\$17,729,558,696	\$ 17,229,623,307	\$ 17,820,050,249	\$ 590,426,942	3.43%
From State	\$12,859,590,069	\$ 12,838,500,187	\$ 12,439,488,683	\$ (399,011,504)	-3.11%
From Local	\$9,663,594,905	\$ 9,669,905,315	\$ 9,919,815,731	\$ 249,910,416	2.58%
Total FEFP Funds Per Student	\$7,793.01	\$ 7,998.36	\$ 7,795.07	\$ (203.29)	-2.54%

FEFP Addendum

CAUTION: The 2020-21 FEFP conference calculation is included for comparison. The DOE Emergency Orders during COVID held the number of students in our schools to the pre-COVID projections made during the 2020 legislative session. Districts were funded on that basis for the first semester rather than being funded on the actual student count. That meant school districts received a higher per dollar amount for each student in 2020-21 than they would have earned in a normal year. **In the 4th Calculation, the legislature chose to use the actual per student funding and included that figure in the "Total FEFP Funds Per Student,"** which makes it appear districts will experience an exaggerated cut in funding for the coming year. In fact, school districts will receive a slight increase in per student funding, though this budget also anticipates approximately a 21,000 student reduction in enrollment and leaves districts with fewer total dollars in the FEFP than in the 2021 school year.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENT EQUITABLE COMPARISON				
Description	<u>2020–2021</u> (4th Calc)	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	<u>% change</u>
One-time EO-07 Supplement	(681,007,538)	0	\$681,007,538	-100.00%
Total Funding w/o One-time Supplement	\$21,827,397,964	\$22,359,304,414	\$531,906,450	2.44%
Total Funds per FTE w/o One-time Supplement	\$7,756.36	\$7,795.07	\$38.71	0.50%



IMPORTANT: FEFP Addendum. See page 4

This chart is produced by the Florida Legislature. Legislative leaders have chosen to set the student enrollment number used for this comparison based on Emergency Order 21-07. The enrollment number in the 4th Calculation is about 76,000 less than the original 2020-21 budget, but the hold-harmless provision allowed districts to receive funds based on the actual dollar amounts budgeted in the pre-COVID appropriations, not the actual enrollment in each district. Setting the calculation this way exaggerates the difference in the 2020-21 and the 2021-22 per student budgeted amounts.

2021-2022 FEFP - SB 2500 CONFERENCE REPORT, APRIL 27, 2021

Public Schools Funding Summary, Comparison with 2020-21 Total All Districts

	4th Calc (EO-07) -1-	SB 2500 - Conference Report -2-	Difference -3-	Percentage Difference -4-
Major FEFP Formula Components				
Unweighted FTE	2,814,128.67	2,868,388.86	54,260.19	1.93%
Weighted FTE	3,092,968.72	3,163,500.13	70,531.41	2.28%
School Taxable Value (Tax Roll)	2,301,972,931,658	2,369,515,452,989	67,542,521,331	2.93%
Required Local Effort Millage	3.720	3.720	0.000	0.00%
<u>Discretionary Millage</u>	<u>0.748</u>	<u>0.748</u>	<u>0.000</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
Total Millage	4.468	4.468	0.000	0.00%
Base Student Allocation	4,319.49	4,372.91	53.42	1.24%
FEFP Detail				
WFTE x BSA x DCD (Base FEFP)	13,369,960,681	13,842,965,369	473,004,688	3.54%
Teacher Salary Increase Allocation	500,000,000	550,000,000	50,000,000	10.00%
Sparsity Supplement	54,796,831	55,500,000	703,169	1.28%
Discretionary Contribution	37,288,348	35,591,194	(1,697,154)	-4.55%
.748 Mill Compression	262,116,216	270,900,495	8,784,279	3.35%
Safe Schools Allocation	180,000,000	180,000,000	0	0.00%
Supplemental Academic Instruction	700,001,348	714,704,630	14,703,282	2.10%
Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation	24,383,050	24,383,050	0	0.00%
Mental Health Assistance Allocation	100,000,000	120,000,000	20,000,000	20.00%
Reading Instruction Allocation	130,000,000	130,000,000	0	0.00%
ESE Guaranteed Allocation	1,035,304,654	1,064,584,063	29,279,409	2.83%
DJJ Supplemental Allocation	5,075,450	5,215,808	140,358	2.77%
Student Transportation Allocation	449,966,033	458,641,984	8,675,951	1.93%
Instructional Materials Allocation	236,574,333	241,135,805	4,561,472	1.93%
Teachers Classroom Supply Allocation	54,143,375	54,143,375	0	0.00%
Virtual Education Contribution	13,535	0	(13,535)	-100.00%
Digital Classrooms Allocation	8,000,000	8,000,000	0	0.00%
Federally-Connected Student Supplement	13,999,453	14,049,285	49,832	0.36%
<u>Funding Compression & Hold Harmless</u>	<u>68,000,000</u>	<u>50,235,191</u>	<u>(17,764,809)</u>	<u>-26.12%</u>
Total FEFP	17,229,623,307	17,820,050,249	590,426,942	3.43%
<u>Less: Required Local Effort</u>	<u>8,016,904,590</u>	<u>8,218,314,071</u>	<u>201,409,481</u>	<u>2.51%</u>
Gross State FEFP Funds	9,212,718,717	9,601,736,178	389,017,461	4.22%
Funding Adjustment	540,878,164	0	(540,878,164)	-100.00%
<u>Proration to Appropriation</u>	<u>(60,892,079)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>60,892,079</u>	<u>-100.00%</u>
Net State FEFP Funds	9,692,704,802	9,601,736,178	(90,968,624)	-0.94%
<u>Class Size Reduction Allocation</u>	<u>3,145,795,385</u>	<u>2,837,752,505</u>	<u>(308,042,880)</u>	<u>-9.79%</u>
Total State Funding	12,838,500,187	12,439,488,683	(399,011,504)	-3.11%
Local Funding				
Total Required Local Effort	8,016,904,590	8,218,314,071	201,409,481	2.51%
<u>.748 Mill Discretionary Local Effort</u>	<u>1,653,000,725</u>	<u>1,701,501,660</u>	<u>48,500,935</u>	<u>2.93%</u>
Total Local Funding	9,669,905,315	9,919,815,731	249,910,416	2.58%
<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>22,508,405,502</u>	<u>22,359,304,414</u>	<u>(149,101,088)</u>	<u>-0.66%</u>
Total Funds per FTE	7,998.36	7,795.07	(203.29)	-2.54%

Equitable Comparison	(681,007,538)	0	681,007,538	-100.00%
Deduct One-time Em Order 07 Supplement	21,827,397,964	22,359,304,414	531,906,450	2.44%
Total Funding w/o One-time Supplement				
Total Funds per FTE w/o One-time Suppl.	7,756.36	7,795.07	38.71	0.50%
Student Reserve Allocation		464,287,903	464,287,903	
Grand Total FEFP Funds including Reserve	21,827,397,964	22,823,592,317	996,194,353	4.56%



HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The House proposed significant cuts to the higher education budget, but the Senate was able to negotiate a reasonable compromise. This budget resembles last year's funding levels. See the highlights below:

- The budget invests a total of \$1.2 billion in state operating funding for Florida's colleges and a total of \$2.7 billion for Florida's universities.
- The budget reorganizes Florida's system for shared library resources and the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network to provide systemic services for libraries and virtual learning resources for institutions. This initiative invests \$9 million to the Florida College System and \$11.8 million to the State University System.
- In addition to the funding provided through the state budget, Florida's higher education institutions received \$873.9 million from the CARES Act and \$1.26 billion from the CRRSA Act. These funds are available to Florida's public state colleges and universities, eligible private institutions, and eligible technical colleges and centers to utilize to ensure educational continuity for students and teachers.

Tuition

The budget prohibits tuition increases for Florida's colleges and universities.

Performance Funding

The budget maintains the following performance funding at career technical centers, state colleges, and state universities:

- \$6.5 million for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at career technical centers,
- \$14 million for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at Florida colleges,
- \$30 million in performance funding for state colleges through the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund and the Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund, and
- \$560 million in performance funding for state universities.

Workforce Initiatives

The budget includes \$510 million in state and federal funding to support workforce education programs. This includes maintaining \$10 million for the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program to establish or expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students.

In addition to the funding provided through the state budget, the following workforce initiatives received funding from the CARES Act: \$35 million for Rapid Credentials to enroll and complete students in in-demand, high-value, short term career and technical education credentialing programs.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

- The budget includes \$119 million for Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Colleges and Universities Capital Outlay and Projects
- Florida College System Projects - \$26 million [\$10.6 million GR, \$15.4 million PECO total funding]
- State University System Projects - \$37.8 million [\$18.5 million GR, \$19.3 million PECO total funding]

- Higher Education Capital Outlay - \$190.9 million
- Florida College System Projects - \$97,355,738 million
- University System Projects - \$93,590,822 million
- University Funding \$464,518,872
- Colleges \$196,932,429



FEFP SELECT POLICY ALLOCATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Funding for the FEFP combines state and local funds:

- **State Support funds** for school districts are provided primarily by legislative appropriations from General Revenue mainly garnered from the sales tax proceeds on goods and services, the Educational Enhancement Trust funds from Florida Lottery proceeds, the State School Trust Fund, and taxable proceeds on slot machines in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

- **Local Support** results from local property tax levied by Florida's 67 school districts which is added to the state's contribution for local district support. Each school board participating in the state's education allocation for school operations must levy the millage set for its Required Local Effort (RLE) from property taxes. Also included as part of the local support for the FEFP is revenue from the district Discretionary Local Effort that districts are authorized to levy for operating purposes. The main elements that make up the FEFP include the following:

- o **Required Local Effort (RLE)** is the amount of funding that each district is required to levy through property tax to participate in the FEFP. Every school district generates its RLE by levying a legislatively approved millage rate on real estate properties within the county school district. The total amount shall include adjustments made for the calculation required in s. 1011.62(4)(a) through (c), F.S.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the RLE shall be **3.720 mills** to generate **\$8,218,314,071** or 2.51% increase. The total amount shall include adjustments made for the calculation required in s.1011.62(4)(a) through (c), Florida Statutes. This millage shall be used to calculate the discretionary millage compression supplement as provided in s. 1011.62(5), Florida Statutes. To be eligible for the supplement, a district must levy the maximum. (*GAA – Appropriations 90, page 23; FEFP Conference Report – pages 1 & 20*)

- o **Discretionary Local Effort** is the amount of funding that districts may levy through property tax. The maximum millage rate for this discretionary levy is set in the GAA. Districts that levy the maximum millage rate but generate less than the state average per FTE receive additional funds from the state Millage Compression Allocation to equal the state average.

For 2021-2022, the Discretionary millage rate is set at **0.748 mills** to establish a total millage of 4.468 to generate **\$1,701,501,660** or 2.93% increase over the current year. In addition, the budget includes **\$50,235,191** for the Compression & Hold Harmless adjustment.

(*GAA – Appropriations 90, page 23; FEFP Conference Report – pages 1 & 20*)

- **The Base Student Allocation (BSA)** is the amount of money the state allocates for each FTE. Minimally, the BSA should be based on the previous year's BSA, plus an appropriate increase to reflect inflation and program needs. This is rarely the case. For 2021-2022, the BSA is set at **\$4,372.91** per FTE, an increase of **\$53.42** or 1.2% per student over the 4th calculation of the current year.

- The BSA multiplied by Weighted FTE and by the District Cost Differential (DCD) generates **\$13,842,965,369** in Base FEFP Funding, an increase of **\$473,004,688** or 3.54%. (*GAA – Appropriations 90, page 23; FEFP Conference Report – page 1 & 14*)

Revision of the DCD calculation has been under consideration by the legislature to gradually replace the Florida price level index (FPLI) with the new Comparable Wage Index, but no revisions have been made. However, previous revisions have been made to the Funding Compression Allocation that will provide additional funding to allow districts to recover some funds if the year-to-year calculations cause funding reductions under the DCD calculation. The district cost differential for each district shall be calculated pursuant to the provisions of s. 1011.62, F. S.

- **The Funding Compression & Hold Harmless Allocation** is a revised version of the former Funding Compression Allocation. It provides additional dollars to partially address funding inequities in total funds per FTE and in reductions due to the DCD calculation. For 2021-2022, the total provided is **\$50,235,191** for a decrease of **\$17,764,809** or 26.12%. To determine the funding compression allocation, 25% of the difference between the district's prior year funds per FTE and the state average is used, not to exceed \$100 per FTE. The school district funding adjustment assists any district that has a decrease in its DCD compared to the prior year. The DCD decrease is multiplied by an index factor of 11.03 and by the district's weighted FTE to produce a hold harmless factor. The total amount of a district's funding compression and/or hold harmless funding are combined and then adjusted so that the total does not exceed the annual total allocation. (*GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 25; FEFP Conference Report – pages 1, 14, 38*)

- **The Teacher Salary Increase Allocation** was established during the 2020 Legislative Session as a new categorical to increase the base starting salaries to \$47,500 for the state's newly hired public school classroom teachers, as defined in s. 1012.01(2)(a), F.S. A total of **\$550,000,000** is allocated. 80% of the total allocation is provided for school districts to increase the minimum base salary for full-time classroom teachers, plus certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program, but not including substitute teachers, to at least \$47,500, or to the maximum amount achievable based on the school district's allocation. No eligible full-time classroom teacher shall receive a base salary less than the minimum base salary as adjusted by the school district's allocation. 20% of the total allocation, plus any remaining funds from the district's share of the eighty percent allocation, shall be used by school districts as specified in s.1011.62, Florida Statutes. (*GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, pages 21 & 23; FEFP Conference Report – pages 1 & 16*)

- **The Student Reserve Allocation** is a new categorical. For the 2021-22 school year it is funded at **\$464,287,903**. Monies from the allocation shall only be distributed to school districts if the state funds appropriated for current operation of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) are not sufficient to pay for any increase to the FTE beyond the current projections, pursuant to s. 1011.62(19), Florida Statutes. (*GAA - Appropriations 7 and 90, page 25*)

- **The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Guaranteed Allocation** as authorized by law to provide educational programs and services for exceptional students. For the 2021-22 school year **\$1,064,584,063** or 2.83% increase is allocated for the program. The ESE Guaranteed Allocation funds are provided in addition to the funds for each exceptional student in the per FTE student calculation. School districts that provided

educational services during the fiscal year for exceptional students who are residents of other districts shall not discontinue providing such services without the prior approval of the Department of Education. Expenditure requirements for the ESE Guaranteed Allocation shall be as prescribed in s. 1010.20(3), F.S. (*GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 23*)

The value of 43.35 weighted FTE students is provided to supplement the funding for severely handicapped students served in ESE programs 254 and 255 when a school district has less than 10,000 FTE student enrollment and less than three FTE eligible students per program. The Commissioner of Education shall allocate the value of the supplemental FTE based on documented evidence of the difference in the cost of the service and the amount of funds received in the district's FEFP allocations for the students being served. The supplemental value shall not exceed three FTE. (*FEFP Conference Report – pages 1 & 26*).

- **The Reading Allocation** funds K-12 comprehensive, district-wide system of research-based reading instruction pursuant to s. 1011.62, F. S. For the 2021-22 school year, **\$130,000,000** has been budgeted. The amount of **\$115,000** shall be allocated to each district and the remaining balance shall be allocated pursuant to s. 1011.62, F. S. (*GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 24*)

- **The Safe Schools Allocation** has been a major source of funding for school districts to implement school safety and security programs and initiatives pursuant to s. 1011.62, F.S. For 2022-2022, the total allocation remains at **\$180,000,000**. From this total, each district receives a minimum allocation of \$250,000, and the remaining balance shall be allocated pursuant to s. 1011.62, F.S. (*GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 24; FEFP Conference Report – page 1 & 21*)

- **The Mental Health Assistance Allocation** has been established to help districts improve the quality and expand the accessibility of school-based mental health care services for all students pursuant to s.1011.62(16), F.S. For 2021-2022, the total allocation is increased to **\$120,000,000**. (*GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 25; FEFP Conference Report – page 1 & 24*)

- **The Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) Allocation** provides funds to be used pursuant to s. 1011.62(1)(f), F.S., for school improvement, intervention and support for salary incentives or supplements. The requirement that districts use these funds to provide an additional hour per day of intensive reading for the students at the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools is no longer required. For 2021-2022, the total allocation is **\$714,704,630**. (*GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 24*)

- **The Instructional Materials Allocation** assists school districts cover the costs for materials aligned with applicable state standards and course descriptions used for the instruction of students as provided in s. 1011.62, F.S. For the 2021-22 school year, **\$241,135,805** is provided for Instructional Materials, including **\$12,733,273** for Library Media Materials, **\$3,480,428** for the purchase of science lab materials and supplies, **\$10,794,729** for dual enrollment instructional materials, and **\$3,255,285** for the purchase of digital instructional materials for students with disabilities. The growth allocation per FTE shall be **\$317.36** for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. School districts shall pay for instructional materials used for the instruction of public high school students who are earning credit toward high school graduation under the dual enrollment program as provided in s. 1011.62, F.S.

The funds provided for Instructional Materials may also be used by school districts to purchase electronic devices and technology equipment and infrastructure that comply with the eligible expenditures authorized pursuant to s. 1011.62, Florida Statutes. Prior to release of the funds by the department to a school district for the purchase of electronic devices or technology equipment or infrastructure, the district must: (1) certify that

it has the instructional materials necessary to provide instruction aligned to the adopted statewide benchmarks and standards, and (2) include an expenditure plan for the purchase of electronic devices and technology equipment, and infrastructure that demonstrates its compliance with s. 1011.62 F. S. The department shall provide a report to the Legislature on or before March 1, 2022, that details the district expenditures for these funds to demonstrate compliance with the amount made available for such purchases. *(FEFP Conference Report pages 1 & 32)*

- **The Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation** provides funding for wrap around services for struggling and recently improved schools pursuant to s. 1011.62(21), F.S. For 2021-2022, the total allocation of **\$24,383,050** and remains the same as the current year. Eligible schools receive approximately \$500 per FTE. *(GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 24; FEFP Conference Report – pages 1 & 23)*

- **The Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program** provides funds to classroom teachers for supplies and materials pursuant to s. 1012.71, F.S. A classroom teacher is defined as a certified teacher employed by a public school district or a public charter school in that district on or before September 1 of each year with full-time or job-share responsibility in the classroom instruction of students in prekindergarten through grade 12, including full-time media specialists and guidance counselors serving students in prekindergarten through grade 12, who are funded through the FEFP. For 2021-2022 the total allocation of **\$54,143,375** and remains the same as the current year. The allocation shall not be recalculated during the school year. *(GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 24; FEFP Conference Report – pages 1 & 33)*

- **The Digital Classroom Allocation** provides funds to support technology integration for classroom teaching and learning pursuant to s. 1011.62(12), F.S. Each school district receives a minimum allocation of \$100,000 with the balance allocated based of FTE enrollment. 20% of the allocation may be used for professional development, including in-state conference attendance or online coursework, to enhance the use of technology for digital instructional strategies. For 2021-2022, the total allocation is **\$8,000,000** and remains the same as the current year. *(GAA – Appropriations 7 and 90, page 25; FEFP Conference Report – page 23)*

- **The Class Size Reduction** funds are used for the operating costs of compliance with the class size requirements of s. 1003.03 and 1011.685, F.S., and the Florida Constitution. The allocation is based on allocation factors for each grade grouping that are multiplied by weighted FTE and the DCD. The class size reduction allocation shall be recalculated based on enrollment through the October 2021 FTE survey except as provided in s. 1003.03(4), F. S. If the total class size reduction allocation is greater than the designated appropriation, funds shall be prorated to the level of the appropriation based on each district’s calculated amount. The Commissioner of Education may withhold disbursement of these funds until a district is in compliance with reporting information required for class size reduction implementation. Although compliance requirements have been significantly watered down over the years, this important allocation constitutes a substantial portion of total FEFP funding.

The class size reduction allocation is:

- for grades prekindergarten to grade 3 shall be \$989.06
- for grades 4 to 8 shall be \$944.34, and
- for grades 9 to 12 shall be \$946.63.

For 2021-2022, the Class Size Reduction allocation is **\$2,837,752,505**, a decrease of **\$308,042,880** or -9.79%

(GAA – Appropriations 8 and 91, page 25; FEFP Conference Report – pages 1 & 42)



The District Lottery and School Recognition Program allocation is primarily used to reward school performance pursuant to s. 1008.36, F.S. During the Covid-19 crisis, state testing and school grades for the 2019-20 school year were suspended. This resulted in a lack of current data to determine the level of recognition funding for district schools.

NON-FEFP ALLOCATIONS

In addition to funding through the FEFP, the state provides funding for several programs and services in non-FEFP line-item allocations including the following:

- **The Educator Professional Liability Insurance Program** continues at **\$908,000**. 100 percent of the funds shall be released to the Department of Education at the beginning of the first quarter. The current policy remains unchanged. (*GAA – Appropriations 92 & 100, page 25 & 27*)
- **School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Programs** have been administered by the Office of Early Learning. Funds are provided for the VPK evidence-based pre-and post-assessments as required by s. 1002.67, F.S. In addition, funds are provided to the Office of Early Learning to implement Voluntary Prekindergarten accountability standards, as required by s. 1002.67, F. S., including the maintenance of the website. These funds shall also be distributed to Voluntary Prekindergarten providers, early learning coalitions and school districts to support the continued implementation of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Progress Monitoring Assessment developed by the Department of Education in collaboration with the Florida Center for Reading Research and for professional development opportunities and online training for Voluntary Prekindergarten providers with a focus on emergent literacy and mathematical thinking. **\$689,927,228** is provided for the 2021-22 School Readiness program to be allocated to the state’s 30 early learning coalitions. (*GAA – Appropriation 84, page 21*)

The VPK Program is funded at **\$408,568,112**, an increase of **\$3,140,715**. For the 2021-22 school year, the VPK BSA per full-time equivalent student shall be **\$2,486**, and the base student allocation for the summer program shall be **\$2,122**. The allocation includes four percent in addition to the base student allocation to fund administrative and other program costs of the early learning coalitions related to the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. (*GAA- Appropriation 86, page 21*)

POLICIES FUNDED FROM GENERAL REVENUE

- **The School District Intensive Reading Initiative Pilot** is allocated to districts to provide additional reading intervention opportunities to students in kindergarten through grade 5 enrolled in a public school who either scored below a Level 3 on the English Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior year or a student the district has determined through progress monitoring to perform below grade level and would benefit from additional reading intervention. Each school district shall receive **\$300,000** plus a pro rata share of the balance of the appropriation based on the district’s 2020-2021 K-5 student FTE. School districts may use the funds for: (a) salaries and stipends for reading coaches, specialists, interventionists, and other instructional staff qualified to provide reading intervention as defined in s. 1011.62 (9)(d)1., F. S., during the school year or a summer program; (b) salaries or stipends for local reading coordinators to facilitate a district-managed reading intervention response to improve student reading outcomes; or (c) curriculum, resources, and materials necessary to implement explicit and systematic instructional strategies. For the 2021-22 school year, **\$2,530,645** in recurring funds and **\$3,469,355** in nonrecurring funds will be distributed to the following districts: Collier, Escambia, Gulf, Highlands, Lafayette, Indian River, Pasco, St. Johns, Santa Rosa, and Sarasota.

- **Reading Scholarship Accounts** are available to public school students in grades 3 through 5 who score below a Level 3 on the English Language Arts assessment during the prior school year. Funding is provided pursuant s. 1002.411, F. S., with a portion allocated for awards in the amount of \$500 per student, and a portion available for the SFO's administrative expenses. For 2021-2022, the total allocation is **\$7,600,000**. (GAA – Appropriation 108, page 29)

- **Community School Grant Program** supports the planning and implementation of community school programs pursuant to s. 1003.64, F.S. These programs support a long-term partnership among a school district, a community organization, a college or university, and a health care provider to establish, develop, and sustain a system for addressing student, family, and community needs during and outside of the school day. Services may include but are not limited to before and after school programs, healthcare, counseling, and parental support. The total allocation is the same as the current year: **\$7,180,571**. (GAA – Line 109, page 29)

- **Schools of Hope** are high performing, privately run, public charter schools that have received a special designation to operate in low income communities within a 5 mile radius of a struggling public schools. The schools are eligible to extra state funding, millions more than average charter schools. Florida has approved 5 charter networks to operate as Schools of Hope. The 2021-22 allocation is **\$60,000,000**. **\$40,000,000** in recurring funds and **\$20,000,000** in nonrecurring funds, but **\$50,000,000** of the 2017 carry-over funds were reverted to general revenue. (GAA – Line 108A, page 29)

FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF

The following federal funds, Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER II and ARP), were included in the 2021-22 state budget. ESSER II funds are available to the LEAs on the attached list. The “Advance Lump Sum” column indicates LEAs that will receive an advance allocation of their ESSER II funds for use in FY 2020-21. Once the remaining LEAs have spent at least 45 percent of their original ESSER funds remaining, they will have access to the remaining funds. This chart was effective on April 22, 2021. The ESSER II advance funds must be spent by September 1, 2021:

- **Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund - NONENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND...\$112,329,220 (GAA L-115A, page 33)**
- **Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund - ACADEMIC ACCELERATION FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . \$561,646,121 (GAA L-115B, page 34)**
- **Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund - TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . \$140,411,531 (GAA L-115c, page 35)**
- **Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND Total \$1,158,329,431 (GAA L- 116A, page 36)**
- **Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund – STATE EDUCATION AGENCY RESERVE FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . \$255,009,999 (GAA - 134A page 46)**

SECTION 45. For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, there is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education in the Federal Grants Trust Fund the nonrecurring sum of **\$6,822,520,978** awarded to the department in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. These funds shall be placed in reserve. The department is authorized to submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds pursuant to the provisions of chapter 216, Florida Statutes. Release of the funds shall be contingent upon submission of detailed plans that describe how the funds requested for release will be expended in compliance with the provisions of the ARP Act. The unexpended balance of funds as of June 30, 2021, shall revert and is appropriated to the department for the

same purpose for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This section shall take effect upon becoming a law.
(GAA Section 45, pg. 435)

SECTION 46. For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, there is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education in the Federal Grants Trust Fund the nonrecurring sum of **\$215,725,460**, from the state education agency's portion of the funds awarded to the department in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. These funds are provided for the department to provide full time classroom teachers, to include certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program, and principals in district schools and charter schools and the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind with a one-time bonus of \$1,000. In addition to funds for the **\$1,000** bonus, funds are provided for the employer share of FICA and **\$3,519,100** for the department to administer the program. The unexpended balance of funds as of June 30, 2021, shall revert and is appropriated for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to the department for the same purpose. This section shall take effect upon becoming a law.
(GAA Section 46, pg. 436)

SECTION 47. For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, there is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education in a lump sum appropriation category the nonrecurring sum of **\$46,104,268** awarded to the department under section 2001(b)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. These funds are provided for the department to identify homeless children and youth and provide wraparound services considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide the assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, including in-person spring and summer learning and enrichment programs. The department is authorized to submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds pursuant to the provisions of chapter 216, Florida Statutes. Release of the funds for each budget amendment shall be contingent upon submission of a detailed plan that describes how the funds requested for release will be expended in compliance with the applicable provisions of the ARP Act. The unexpended balance of funds as of June 30, 2021, shall revert and is appropriated for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to the department for the same purpose. This section shall take effect upon becoming a law. (GAA Section 47, pg. 436)

Florida Department of Education Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act)							
Dist. #	District	CRRSA ESSER II Allocation	Non-enrollment Assistance Allocation Line Item 115A	Academic Assistance Allocation Line Item 115B	Technology Assistance Allocation Line Item 115C	Advance Lump Sum	Balance of Lump Sum Line Item 116A
1	Alachua	\$27,363,861	\$1,094,554	\$5,472,772	\$1,368,193	\$12,628,422	\$6,799,920
2	Baker	\$3,890,641	\$155,626	\$778,128	\$194,532		\$2,762,355
3	Bay	\$24,910,520	\$996,421	\$4,982,104	\$1,245,526	\$11,496,205	\$6,190,264
4	Bradford	\$3,741,780	\$149,671	\$748,356	\$187,089		\$2,656,664
5	Brevard	\$64,196,707	\$2,567,868	\$12,839,341	\$3,209,835		\$45,579,663
6	Broward	\$256,878,407	\$10,275,136	\$51,375,681	\$12,843,920		\$182,383,670

7	Calhoun	\$2,393,515	\$95,741	\$478,703	\$119,676	\$1,104,607	\$594,788
8	Charlotte	\$12,599,751	\$503,990	\$2,519,950	\$629,988	\$5,814,785	\$3,131,038
9	Citrus	\$15,193,568	\$607,743	\$3,038,714	\$759,678	\$7,011,831	\$3,775,602
10	Clay	\$15,862,284	\$634,491	\$3,172,457	\$793,114	\$7,320,444	\$3,941,778
11	Collier	\$36,369,117	\$1,454,765	\$7,273,823	\$1,818,456		\$25,822,073
12	Columbia	\$10,907,635	\$436,305	\$2,181,527	\$545,382	\$5,033,874	\$2,710,547
13	Dade	\$468,534,260	\$18,741,370	\$93,706,852	\$23,426,713	\$216,228,561	\$116,430,764
14	DeSoto	\$7,710,082	\$308,403	\$1,542,016	\$385,504		\$5,474,159
15	Dixie	\$2,909,355	\$116,374	\$581,871	\$145,468	\$1,342,667	\$722,975
16	Duval	\$143,953,318	\$5,758,133	\$28,790,664	\$7,197,666	\$66,434,456	\$35,772,399
17	Escambia	\$48,476,112	\$1,939,044	\$9,695,222	\$2,423,806		\$34,418,040
18	Flagler	\$10,054,980	\$402,199	\$2,010,996	\$502,749	\$4,640,373	\$2,498,663
19	Franklin	\$2,055,353	\$82,214	\$411,071	\$102,768		\$1,459,300
20	Gadsden	\$14,814,009	\$592,560	\$2,962,802	\$740,700		\$10,517,947
21	Gilchrist	\$2,348,505	\$93,940	\$469,701	\$117,425	\$1,083,835	\$583,604
22	Glades	\$1,533,962	\$61,358	\$306,792	\$76,698	\$707,924	\$381,190
23	Gulf	\$1,821,505	\$72,860	\$364,301	\$91,075		\$1,293,269
24	Hamilton	\$3,092,956	\$123,718	\$618,591	\$154,648		\$2,195,999
25	Hardee	\$8,257,714	\$330,309	\$1,651,543	\$412,886		\$5,862,976
26	Hendry	\$10,473,462	\$418,938	\$2,094,692	\$523,673		\$7,436,159
27	Hernando	\$19,826,423	\$793,057	\$3,965,285	\$991,321	\$9,149,894	\$4,926,866
28	Highlands	\$22,801,554	\$912,062	\$4,560,311	\$1,140,078		\$16,189,103
29	Hillsborough	\$219,012,834	\$8,760,513	\$43,802,567	\$10,950,642	\$101,074,423	\$54,424,689
30	Holmes	\$3,324,313	\$132,973	\$664,863	\$166,216	\$1,534,170	\$826,091
31	Indian River	\$13,336,912	\$533,476	\$2,667,382	\$666,846	\$6,154,985	\$3,314,223
32	Jackson	\$8,790,481	\$351,619	\$1,758,096	\$439,524	\$4,056,807	\$2,184,435
33	Jefferson	\$1,814,606	\$72,584	\$362,921	\$90,730	\$837,441	\$450,930
34	Lafayette	\$1,181,307	\$47,252	\$236,261	\$59,065		\$838,729
35	Lake	\$39,485,832	\$1,579,433	\$7,897,166	\$1,974,292		\$28,034,941
36	Lee	\$84,144,214	\$3,365,769	\$16,828,843	\$4,207,211		\$59,742,391
37	Leon	\$29,957,041	\$1,198,282	\$5,991,408	\$1,497,852	\$13,825,174	\$7,444,325

38	Levy	\$6,189,418	\$247,577	\$1,237,884	\$309,471		\$4,394,486
39	Liberty	\$1,129,773	\$45,191	\$225,955	\$56,489	\$521,390	\$280,748
40	Madison	\$4,525,471	\$181,019	\$905,094	\$226,274	\$2,088,505	\$1,124,579
41	Manatee	\$39,530,206	\$1,581,208	\$7,906,041	\$1,976,510		\$28,066,447
42	Marion	\$56,545,982	\$2,261,839	\$11,309,196	\$2,827,299		\$40,147,648
43	Martin	\$12,377,084	\$495,083	\$2,475,417	\$618,854		\$8,787,730
44	Monroe	\$5,744,284	\$229,771	\$1,148,857	\$287,214	\$2,650,987	\$1,427,455
45	Nassau	\$5,442,931	\$217,717	\$1,088,586	\$272,147	\$2,511,913	\$1,352,568
46	Okaloosa	\$23,041,507	\$921,660	\$4,608,301	\$1,152,075	\$10,633,656	\$5,725,815
47	Okeechobee	\$8,306,187	\$332,247	\$1,661,237	\$415,309		\$5,897,394
48	Orange	\$244,651,865	\$9,786,075	\$48,930,373	\$12,232,593	\$112,906,836	\$60,795,988
49	Osceola	\$60,599,040	\$2,423,962	\$12,119,808	\$3,029,952	\$27,966,457	\$15,058,861
50	Palm Beach	\$171,382,964	\$6,855,319	\$34,276,593	\$8,569,148	\$79,093,238	\$42,588,666
51	Pasco	\$57,532,623	\$2,301,305	\$11,506,525	\$2,876,631		\$40,848,162
52	Pinellas	\$85,133,708	\$3,405,348	\$17,026,742	\$4,256,685	\$39,289,206	\$21,155,727
53	Polk	\$122,495,839	\$4,899,834	\$24,499,168	\$6,124,792		\$86,972,045
54	Putnam	\$19,301,258	\$772,050	\$3,860,252	\$965,063	\$8,907,530	\$4,796,363
55	St. Johns	\$9,874,189	\$394,968	\$1,974,838	\$493,709	\$4,556,938	\$2,453,736
56	St. Lucie	\$40,224,723	\$1,608,989	\$8,044,945	\$2,011,236		\$28,559,553
57	Santa Rosa	\$14,168,510	\$566,740	\$2,833,702	\$708,426	\$6,538,767	\$3,520,875
58	Sarasota	\$30,266,964	\$1,210,679	\$6,053,393	\$1,513,348	\$13,968,204	\$7,521,340
59	Seminole	\$39,342,911	\$1,573,716	\$7,868,582	\$1,967,146	\$18,156,754	\$9,776,713
60	Sumter	\$6,781,283	\$271,251	\$1,356,257	\$339,064		\$4,814,711
61	Suwannee	\$7,553,833	\$302,153	\$1,510,767	\$377,692	\$3,486,094	\$1,877,127
62	Taylor	\$4,001,973	\$160,079	\$800,395	\$200,099	\$1,846,910	\$994,490
63	Union	\$1,585,804	\$63,432	\$317,161	\$79,290		\$1,125,921
64	Volusia	\$64,104,440	\$2,564,178	\$12,820,888	\$3,205,222	\$29,584,199	\$15,929,953
65	Wakulla	\$2,751,217	\$110,049	\$550,243	\$137,561	\$1,269,687	\$683,677
66	Walton	\$8,484,018	\$339,361	\$1,696,804	\$424,201		\$6,023,652
67	Washington	\$4,492,325	\$179,693	\$898,465	\$224,616	\$2,073,208	\$1,116,343

69	FAMU Lab School	\$872,024	\$34,881	\$174,405	\$43,601		\$619,137
70	FAU - Palm Beach	\$730,794	\$29,232	\$146,159	\$36,540	\$337,261	\$181,602
71	FAU - St. Lucie	\$824,727	\$32,989	\$164,945	\$41,236	\$380,612	\$204,945
72	FSU Lab - Broward	\$259,347	\$10,374	\$51,869	\$12,967		\$184,137
73	FSU Lab - Leon	\$657,376	\$26,295	\$131,475	\$32,869		\$466,737
74	UF Lab School	\$470,457	\$18,818	\$94,091	\$23,523	\$217,116	\$116,909
75	Virtual School	\$2,834,675	\$113,387	\$566,935	\$141,734	\$1,308,202	\$704,417
557	FSDB	\$441,626					\$441,626
48K	UCP	\$1,204,289					\$1,204,289
50D	South Tech Charter	\$1,786,962					\$1,786,962
53D	Lake Wales Charter	\$5,730,504					\$5,730,504
98Z	KIPP Miami	\$1,433,845					\$1,433,845
99H	IDEA	\$1,663,019					\$1,663,019
		\$2,820,490,851	\$112,329,220	\$561,646,121	\$140,411,531	\$847,774,548	\$1,158,329,431



STATE ADMINISTERED RETIREMENT SYSTEM (FRS)

HB 7018 sets the employer contribution rates paid by employers participating in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) beginning July 1, 2021. The rates are based on an annual actuarial study of the system, as required by s. 121.031, F.S. These rates are intended to fund the full normal cost and the amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability of the FRS. With these modifications to employer contribution rates, the FRS Trust Fund will receive roughly \$373.5 million more in revenue on an annual basis beginning July 1, 2021. The public employers that will incur these additional costs are state agencies, state universities and colleges, school districts, counties, municipalities, and other governmental entities that participate in the FRS. The bill conforms the law to the 2021-22 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

For all membership classes, except DROP and certain members with renewal membership, employees contribute three (3) percent of their salary towards retirement.

Membership Class	Current Rates Effective July 1, 2020		Recommended Rates Effective July 1, 2021		
	Normal Cost	UAL Rate	Normal Cost	UAL Rate	HIS Rate
Regular Class	4.84%	3.44%	4.91%	4.19%	1.66%
Special Risk Class	15.13%	7.60%	15.27%	8.90%	1.66%
Special Risk Admin. Support Class	9.89%	24.23%	9.73%	26.31%	1.66%
Elected Officer's Class Legislators	8.38%	48.81%	8.49%	53.52%	1.66%
Justices and Judges	13.31%	24.70%	13.38%	25.81%	1.66%
County Officers	10.07%	37.39%	10.28%	39.42%	1.66%
Senior Management Service Class	6.39%	19.18%	6.49%	20.80%	1.66%
Deferred Retirement Option Program	7.03%	8.29%	7.23%	9.45%	1.66%

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy: Eligible Florida retirees can receive a health care subsidy to offset some health insurance costs. This benefit is designed to encourage them to maintain health insurance after they retire. The amount of the monthly subsidy is \$5 for each year of service in the FRS. The subsidy is not less than \$30 and no more than \$150. It is funded through a contribution by employers participating in the FRS. The current contribution rate is 1.66 percent of the employer's monthly payroll and did not change for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year.

The aggregate employer contributions anticipated to be paid into the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 will increase by approximately **\$373.5 million** when compared to the employer contributions paid in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Employer Group	Additional Contributions
State Agencies	\$52.8 million
Universities	\$40.9 million
Colleges	\$11.2 million
School Boards	\$134.2 million
Counties	\$114.0 million
Other	\$20.4 million
Total	\$373.5 million

2021 BILLS THAT PASSED

1. **[HB 1: Combating Public Disorder](#)**: by Rep. J. A. Fernandez-Barquin (R-Miami, Dist. 119) and (Rep. C. Byrd, R-Jacksonville Beach, Dist. 11) | SB 484, by Sen. D. Burgess, (R-Zephyrhills, Dist. 24) | How did your legislator vote? ([H- 76-39](#)) ([S- 23-17](#))

This new law, a priority of Governor DeSantis amends the laws governing public disorder and displays. The most concerning provision in the bill would hold all participants of a rally or march responsible for the actions of one or two bad actors. An innocent by-stander at a protest that becomes disruptive or violent can be charged with a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison. The crime rises to a second-degree felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison if 25 or more people are present at a disruptive event. It increases penalties for participating in a riot and assault on a law enforcement officer, and creates new penalties for mob intimidation, or the act of a group of people compelling or inducing another person to maintain a particular viewpoint against their will. The measure also increases the severity level ranking for many misdemeanor and felony offenses. Governor DeSantis signed the bill into law on 4/19/21. Effective immediately.

2. **[HB 3: Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students](#)**, by Rep. D. Trubulsky (R-Fort Pierce, Dist. 84) | SB 1372, By Sen. D. Burgess (R-Zephyrhills, Dist. 20) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-114-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

The law would establish the “New Worlds Reading Initiative”, a statewide book distribution program, and the tax break initiative to fund it. The program, operating under the DOE, is designed to improve reading among Florida elementary students by providing monthly free home delivery of a hardcover book to Florida’s K-5th grade students enrolled in public and charter schools. The state estimates more than 557,344 kindergarten through grade 5 students could benefit from the initiative. The program includes assistance for parents to read with their children. To fund the literacy initiative, the law

establishes the New Worlds Reading Initiative Tax Credit program under the DOE to encourage business contributions in lieu of tax breaks. The tax break has an annual escalating cap for all credits: \$10 million for FY 2021-22, \$30 million for FY 2022-23, and \$50 million for each following year. \$25,000,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and \$25,000,000 in nonrecurring federal Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Funds are provided to implement the New Worlds Reading Initiative. Effective upon becoming law.

3. **[HB 5: Civic Education Curriculum](#)**, by Rep. A. Zika (R-Land O'Lakes, Dist. 37) | **SB 1450**, by Sen. A. Rodriguez (R- Doral, Dist. 39) **How did your legislator vote? ([H-115-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))**

This law amends the required United States Government class to include additional standards. Florida high school students will spend part of their required social studies class engaged in comparative discussions on political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of democracy and freedom. The DOE is required to develop the curriculum for use throughout the social studies sequence in K-12 district public and charter school classrooms. The mandatory instruction would include the "Portraits in Patriotism", an oral history collection to supplement the lessons. Students would hear personal stories from a diverse mix of civic minded individuals to encourage civic and political engagement. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

4. **[SB 52: Postsecondary Education](#)**, by Sen. R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers, Dist. 27) | **Rep. W. Duggan (R-Jacksonville, Dist. 15) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-83-32](#)) ([S-26-14](#))**

The law would require the Collegiate High School Program (now Early College Program) to prioritize general education courses and removes grade level and credit thresholds for Early College Programs. It allows colleges to authorize charter schools to operate the college's Early College Program and creates a reimbursement program for colleges and universities who have private and home school students enrolled dual enrollment courses for the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022 and adds public school students for the 2022 summer term, subject to yearly appropriations bills. The measure authorizes a Board of Trustees (BOT) to propose a bonus scheme to include awards for work performance, employee recruitment and retention subject to the approval of the Board of Governors. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

5. **[SB 82: Sponsorship Identification Disclaimers](#)**, by Sen. D. Baxley (R-Lady Lake, Dist. 12) | **HB 0659**, by **Rep. R. Andrade (R- Pensacola, Dist. 2) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-111-3](#)) ([S-40-0](#))**

This law would amend s. 106.011(8)(a) F. S. to include text messages in the definition of "Electioneering communication" and requiring text messages to contain a sponsorship identification disclaimer. It allows for text messages to include hyperlink/URL to websites that contain electioneering disclosure and requires that a website identified by URL, contained in campaign text messages, be active for 30 days after the date of election in which the candidate or ballot measure was voted on. It allows for one disclosure for a series of text messages sent in the same day and establishes compliance for electioneering disclaimers based on the intent of the sender in the event a telephone carrier does not adequately display disclaimer. Polling calls for candidates or elected officials are exempted from including electioneering disclaimers. It also exempts text messages sent manually and text messages that require prior opt-in from recipients. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

6. **[SB 90: Election Administration](#)**, by Sen. D. Baxley (R-Lady Lake, Dist.12) | **HB 7041**, by Rep. B. Ingoglia (R-Spring Hill, Dist. 35) **How did your legislator vote? ([H- 77-40](#)) ([S- 23-17](#))**

A Georgia-style election “reform” legislation that could make it difficult for some voters to participate. The law makes several changes to Vote-by-Mail requests and returns, Voter Registration, and other Election related issues. It changes the length of time Vote-by-Mail requests are valid, from two election cycles to one election cycle. Voters will only be allowed to return two (2) Vote-by-Mail ballots aside from their own and only an immediate family. Vote-by-Mail drop-boxes must be designated 30 days prior to an election and may only be used during Early Voting hours of operation. The measure specifies that completed Voter Registration forms must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections office within 14 days of completion. It requires a risk assessment to be completed on the Online Voter Registration System to ensure that the system is not vulnerable to cyberattacks. It requires the Supervisor of Elections post turnout data, Vote-by-Mail return data, and Canvassing Board Members on their website. The law increases the no solicitation zone from 100 feet to 150 feet from the polling site and/or drop-box site and bans anyone other than Supervisor of Elections staff from giving anything to people waiting to vote within the no solicitation zone. The Supervisor of Elections is not allowed to use private funds or grants for election related expenses. The measure specifies that any elected office is considered vacant upon the effective date of the resignation submitted by the official and should a vacancy occur at the county level, the Governor would have the power to appoint someone for a vacancy based upon the rules set forth by the County Charter. The law requires that any candidate wishing to qualify for an election as an NPA (No Party Affiliation) Candidate must be registered as an NPA for 365 days prior to qualifying. Signed into law by Gov. DeSantis on May 7th. It takes effect July 1, 2021. Laws of Florida: [Chapter No. 2021-11](#)

7. **[HB 131: Educator Conduct](#)**, by Rep. W. Duggan (R-Jacksonville, Dist. 15) and Rep. J. Buchanan (R-North Port, Dist. 74) **SB 1864**, by Sen. K. Perry (R-Gainesville, Dist. 8) **How did your legislator vote? ([H-116-0](#)) ([S-40- 0](#))**

The law would require the Department of Education to maintain a disqualification list of employees who have been arrested for certain offenses, or who have separated from employment through resignation or termination while under investigation for misconduct. It adds education staff professionals to the list of employees the district must report to the department for inclusion on the disqualification list. It provides for the removal of a person from the list under certain circumstances and requires the department to provide access to specified information to schools for pre-employment screening. The Commissioner of Education is authorized to permanently revoke an owner's or operator's authority to establish or operate a private school in the state under certain circumstances and requires employers execute and maintain an affidavit of separation, detailing facts, reasons for separation, and express disclosure of sexual misconduct with a student. It requires the commissioner to make a determination of probable cause within 90 days for complaints relating to sexual misconduct with a student and it provides for such timeframe to be held in abeyance under certain circumstances. It requires certain individuals to be placed on a disqualification list and conditions for removal from the disqualification list. Law enforcement must notify an employer of an employee arrest for charges of abuse of a minor child or sale or possession of a controlled substance. The principal is required to notify parents within 24 hours if a student had direct contact with employee. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

8. [**HB 149: Students with Disabilities in Public Schools**](#), by Rep. B. Dubose (D-Fort Lauderdale, Dist. 94) and Rep. R. Plasencia (R-Titusville, Dist.50) | [**SB 192**](#), by Sen. L. Book (D-Plantation, Dist. 32) | **How did your legislator vote?** ([H- 118-0](#)) ([S- 40-0](#))

This prohibits the use of seclusion on students and revises provisions relating to use of restraint on certain students. It amends the reporting requirements for when restraint is used and establishes a pilot project in Broward County for placement of video camera in self-contained classrooms and requirements surrounding placement, recording, storage and viewing of said cameras. It requires continuing education and Inservice training for teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

9. [**HB 157: First Aid Training in Public Schools**](#), by Rep. D. Busatta Cabrera (R-Coral Gables, Dist. 114) **How did your legislator vote?** ([H-114-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

Florida high school students may soon become proficient in the basic skills to save lives. This measure encourages school districts to provide basic first aid training, including CPR instruction, to students in grades 6 and 8. The CPR training must be based on a one-hour nationally recognized program that uses the most current evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines. Students would be allowed to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing CPR. If a school district has the necessary equipment, students must also be provided instruction in the use of an automated external defibrillator. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

10. [**HB 173: Individual Education Plan Requirements for Students with Disabilities**](#), by Rep. A. Tant (D-Tallahassee, Dist. 9) | [**SB 726**](#), by Sen. A. Taddeo (D- Miami, Dist. 40) | **How did your legislator vote?** ([H-118-0](#)) ([S-39-0](#))

Students with disabilities and unique skills may find it easier to find work after graduation following the implementation of this new law. It modifies the process, including communications and timelines, for developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to ensure parents and students have additional information and time to make informed decisions to meet the student’s post-secondary educational and career development needs. Requires the first transition IEP be completed by high school enrollment or age 14, whichever occurs first. The IEP should contain a statement of intent to pursue a standard high school diploma that must include:

- Document discussion of the option(s) for a student with a disability to defer the receipt of a high school diploma even though the student meets the requirements for a standard high school diploma.
- At the beginning of the projected graduation year, document with a signed statement by the parent or guardian, or the student that he or she understands the process for deferment and identify if the student will defer the receipt of his or her standard high school diploma.

Requires the DOE to conduct a review of existing transition services and programs for students with disabilities and establishing uniform best practices for such programs, which must be done in conjunction with the Project 10: Transition Education Network. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

11. [HB 233: Postsecondary Education](#), by Rep. Roach (R-North Fort Myers, Dist. 79) | SB 264, by Sen R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers, Dist. 27) How did your legislator vote? ([H-77-42](#)) ([S-23-15](#))

When Florida students return to the halls of higher education, they will be asked to complete a voluntary survey asking whether they feel free to openly express their views. This law requires Florida Colleges, universities, and postsecondary institutions to conduct an annual “Intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity” survey of students and staff. Beginning in September 2022, results from the survey would be compiled and published each September by the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Board of Governors (BOG). Provisions in the law prohibit institutions from shielding students and staff from offensive, hateful content, and allows students to record video and audio in classrooms without prior approval for personal educational use; in connection with a complaint to the public institution of higher education where the recording was made; or as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. An amendment set damages for an unauthorized recording being published without prior consent. The lecturer may be entitled to damages, plus court costs and reasonable attorney fees. Sets an administrative review of student government disciplinary actions notwithstanding the determination of a student judiciary panel; outlines and requires due process protections for students or student organizations that are accused of violating the institution’s code of conduct. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

12. [HB 241: Parent Bill of Rights](#), by Rep. E. Grall (R-Vero Beach, Dist. 54) | SB 582: Sen. R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers, Dist. 27) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-78-37](#)) ([S-24-15](#))

The Parent Bills of Rights legally confirms a parent’s decision to choose their child’s education, their religious upbringing, and direct their children healthcare. The law contains a laundry list of parental rights, including the rights to opt out their children from classroom curriculum, instructional materials, even vaccines. The law prohibits any government interference or infringement upon a parent’s rights. The legislation blocks students from receiving medical care unless schools have prior parental consent, except during a medical emergency. A school nurse or healthcare practitioner could face severe penalties for violating the law. School staff are prohibited from withholding sensitive or confidential information from parents about their child. The Florida K-20 Education Code s.1002.20, F.S., already addresses K-12 student and parental rights. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

13. [HB 259: Safety of Religious Institutions](#), by Rep. J. Williamson (R-Pace, Dist. 3) and Rep. C. Byrd (R-Jacksonville Beach, Dist. 11) | SB 498, by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 23) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-76-37](#)) ([S-24-16](#))

The measure authorizes, for specified purposes, concealed weapons, or firearms licensee to carry a firearm on certain property of church, synagogue, or other religious institution. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

14. [HB 311: Pub. Rec./Assessment Instruments](#), by Rep. D. Silvers (D-West Palm Beach, Dist. 87) | SB 1456, by Sen. R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers, Dist. 27) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-118-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

This law creates a new public records exemption that protects and removes all K-20 state assessments, examinations, developmental materials, and other proprietary documents from the state’s sunshine laws of public disclosure. The exemptions would include the following materials: the kindergarten screening assessment; a Department of Juvenile Justice assessment to measure learning gains for students in an education program; an assessment to identify students struggling with English; the new

civic literacy assessment to be administered by state colleges and universities, all state standards assessments and end of course exams as well as teacher certification tests. The exemption automatically repeals in 2026, unless the legislature acts to renew it. The measure passed with the required 2/3rd vote to create a new public records exemption. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

15. [SB 366 Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment](#), by Rep. T. Hutson (R-Palm Coast, Dist. 7) | **How did your legislator vote? ([H-116-0](#)) ([S-39-0](#))**

This measure would encourage school districts to place students in paid work-based learning programs. Students in the programs, 18 years or younger who suffer work-related injuries, would be considered state employees for the purposes of workers compensation coverage for medical costs directly resulting from the injury. Student in grades 6-12 performing unpaid work-based learning activities would receive the same coverage. FCS institutions now accept out-of-state diploma equivalents which allow for alternatives to common placement tests to measure a student's readiness for dual enrollment courses. The SBE would be allowed to adopt rules to develop and implement alternative methods for assessing basic skills in addition to the common placement tests for FCS students. It removes requirements for SBE to maintain a list of "meta majors" and academic paths but creates a requirement for 3 specific mathematics tracks to be created that lead into different types of majors. It also creates procedures for fee waivers for homeless students and establishes a tuition grant for students in particular in-state aviation maintenance program. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

16. [HB 419: Early Learning and Early Grade Success](#), by Sen. G. Harrell (R-Stuart, Dist. 25) | **SB 1282 by, Rep. E. Grall (R-Vero Beach, Dist. 54) | How did your legislator vote? ([H- 118-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))**

The bill moves the Office of Early Learning under the Department of Education, creates a Vice Chancellor of Early Learning, and increases the number of members on the Council for Early Grade Success. It gives authority to school districts to revoke participation in the VPK program if minimum measurements are not met by public schools who offer the program, while still leaving the authority of revocation for private providers in the hands of Early Learning Coalitions. It assigns the responsibility to set measurements for private and public school providers to the Department of Education instead of independent contractor and sets aside \$3,0880,000 in recurring funds for the implementation of coordinated screening and progress monitoring for the 2022-2023 school year with \$3,000,000 of those funds placed in reserve for use to be requested as needed by the Department of Education. The law would set aside another \$100,000 for the 2021-2022 school year for an independent third party contractor to conduct a review of the school readiness payment rates. The Department is required to establish procedures for the adoption of the market rate schedule only in the absence of an alternative model approved by the Administration of Children and Families. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

17. [HB 519: Required Health Education Instruction](#), by Rep. C. Yarborough (R-Jacksonville, Dist. 12) **SB 1094, by Sen. A. Bean (R-Jacksonville, Dist. 4) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-117-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))**

This adds a provision to the public school K-12 general required health education curriculum to be developmentally and age-appropriate and must include information on the prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking. The law modifies the existing health education requirement to specify that instruction on abstinence and the consequences of teen pregnancy applies only to students in grades six through 12. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

18. [HB 529: Moments of Silence in Public Schools](#), by Rep. R. Fine (R-Palm Bay, Dist. 53) | SB 282, by Sen. D. Baxley (R-Lady Lake, Dist. 12) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-94-24](#)) ([S-32-6](#))

K-12 classroom teachers will be required to include a moment of silence during their first period class. Teachers are prohibited from making suggestions of what to do during that time but are required to encourage parents to discuss the moment of silence with their children and to make suggestions as to the best use of this time. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

19. [HB 545: Reproductive Health and Disease Education](#), by Rep. L. Chaney (R- St. Petersburg, Dist. 69) SB 410, by Sen. A. Rodriguez (R-Doral, Dist. 39) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-82-24](#)) ([S-36-4](#))

Parents will be able to use a district website to access school curriculum used to teach reproductive health and diseases including HIV/AIDS and decide if they wish to opt their student out of this instruction. Districts would publish a notice on its website concerning a parent's right to exempt a student from reproductive health and disease education and provide a link on the homepage for parents to access all instructional materials used to teach reproductive the curriculum. The district must make all reproductive health and disease education instructional materials available for public review and comment. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

20. [SB 590: School Safety](#), by Sen. G. Harrell (R-Stuart, Dist. 25) | HB 7035, by Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee | How did your legislator vote? ([H-116-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

This would require schools to make a reasonable effort to notify parents before a student is removed from school for an involuntary psychiatric examination, AKA Baker Act. It requires parents receive timely notifications of school safety and emergency incidents. It abolishes the requirement for districts to create model emergency management and notification procedures and requires districts to include in its code of conduct criteria for recommending civil citations and other diversionary programs instead of arrest by law enforcement. Districts are required to have criteria for student conduct to be dealt with within the school environment. It requires DCF to collect data on the number of students involuntarily submitted to psychiatric evaluations by schools and make recommendations based on data biennially. Replaces the term "active shooter" with "active assailant" to provide more latitude in emergency notification and training. School safety officers must complete mental health crisis intervention trainings with a focus on de-escalation techniques. It requires the school and law enforcement to make an attempt to contact a qualified mental health professional to initiate involuntary examinations, before conducting the examination themselves. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

21. [HB 845: State University Free Seat Program](#), by Rep. D. Smith (R-Winter Springs, Dist. 23) SB 1672, by Sen. M. Diaz R-Miami (R-Hialeah, Dist. 36) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-114-2](#)) ([S-29-10](#))

Any association or membership organization is prohibited from the use of state funds to cover the cost to join or maintain association membership, such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association, that retaliates based on a legislative decision and would result in a negative fiscal impact to the State. The measure cancels the provisions in SB 1028 that delayed the implementation of the student athlete Name-Image-Likeness provision of HB 7051 (2020.) Takes effect July 1, 2021 or retroactively upon the enactment of SB 1028.

22. [HB 429: Purple Star Campuses](#), by Rep. A. Learned (D-Riverview, Dist. 59) | SB 938, by Sen. T. Wright (R- Port Orange, Dist. 14) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-117-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

This law may make it easier for students by helping military-connected families identify schools that are committed to helping their students manage the frequent transitions and identify critical supports.

Schools that choose to participate in the program will be designated as Purple Star campuses if they:

- Designate a staff member as a military liaison,
- Maintain a webpage on the school’s website which includes resources for military students and families,
- Maintain a student-led transition program to assist military students in transitioning into the school,
- Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students, and
- Reserve at least five percent of open enrollment seats for military-connected students.

Any Florida school public, charter or a school accepting state voucher funds may participate. The law authorizes a school to partner with the district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance as necessary to implement the criteria of the program. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

23. [SB 1028: Education](#), by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Palm Coast, Dist. 7) | HB 51, by Rep. S. McClain (R-Ocala, Dist. 23) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-79-37](#)) ([S-23-16](#))

This charter school bill became a train of education policy. The law allows colleges and universities to open lab schools on military base in addition to their current authorized lab school. Colleges and universities may authorize charter schools across district boundaries and independent of district authorization and requires the DOE to develop a charter school sponsor evaluation framework. The law specifies penalties for districts losing in court on charter authorization challenges. It sets conditions and process for termination of a charter and adds priority for admission to charter schools for students living in a development if developer or related entity contributes to school. It specifies funding mechanism for higher ed sponsored charter schools and expands the “high performing charter school” designation; allows “school of hope” to become LEA and allows “school of hope” to occupy vacant, underused, or surplus district facilities and transfer assets from one school to another and part-time virtual charter schools. It requires public schools to provide water safety information to parents upon initial enrollment and authorizes “academically high performing districts” to hold up to 2 days of virtual classes. The measure prevents trans students from participating in female sports and allows ESE charter centers to be “high performing” and replicate if receive “maintaining” or higher school program. Parents may request their K-5 student be retained or follow a catch-up plan to recover grade level progress. A provision in the law delays NCAA player name-image-likeness compensation provision (F.S. 1009.30) for one year. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

24. [SB 1108: Education](#), by Sen. M. Diaz (R-Hialeah, Dist. 36) | HB 507, by Rep A. Rizo (R-Hialeah, Dist. 110) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-116-0](#)) ([S-39-0](#))

To protect against cheating, Protects DOE assessments and materials from copywrite and trademark infringement; established “innovative blended learning and real-time student assessment pilot program to allow blended in person and out of classroom synchronous participation for commissioner-approved high -performing charters and academically high performing districts; character development

curriculum must include instruction on voting; adds civic literacy assessment as low stakes in senior US Government course; allows some ESOL students alternative to 10th grade ELA graduation requirement; adds civic literacy course requirement for college and university students; adds low stakes SAT or CAT to 11th grade required assessments; pushed required publication of sample state assessments to June 30, 2024; reinforces test security for all DOE assessments PreK through university. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

25. [HB 1159: Education](#), by Rep. D. Busatta Cabrera (R-Coral Gables, Dist. 114) | SB 934, by Sen. T. Wright (R-Port Orange, Dist. 14) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-114-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

Allows a parent to request student in grades K-5 be retained, or participate in 1 year catchup plan to recover grade level progress; requires teacher prep programs include use of technology and distance learning and strategies for early identification and referral for students with mental health challenges; allows Master's degree from accredited postsecondary institution in lieu of passing score on General Knowledge exam; allows Private and charter school consortia to offer alternative teacher preparation program if approved by DOE; expands mission of William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program to include teacher leaders and others. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

26. [HB 1261: Higher Education](#), by Rep. J. Toledo (R-Tampa, Dist. 60) | SB 7070, by Senate Education | How did your legislator vote? ([H-102-11](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

The bill provides liability protections for educational institutions for actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides that these liability protections apply retroactively to causes of actions accruing on or after March 1, 2020, the date of the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency by the State Surgeon General and apply prospectively to causes of action that accrue before the end of the academic term during which the emergency declaration expires or is terminated. However, the bill specifies that the liability protections do not apply in a civil action against a particular named defendant which is commenced before the provision's effective date. The bill provides a 'buy one, get one free' tuition and fee waiver on upper-level courses in a program of strategic emphasis as identified by the Board of Governors (BOG). A student receiving Bright Futures will receive a disbursement for the tuition and fees waived that is equal to his or her award amount. A state university is eligible to earn incentive funding, subject to appropriation, based on the number and value of waivers it grants pursuant to the bill's provisions. The bill specifies this funding would be in addition to Performance-based Funding Incentive. Additionally, the bill provides an out-of-state fee waiver for top-performing, out-of-state high school graduates who have a grandparent that is a Florida resident. The bill also provides minimum performance standards for institutions to be eligible to participate in the Effective Access to Student Education tuition assistance program. The bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on colleges and universities. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

27. [HB 1507: Workforce Related Programs and Services](#), by Rep. L. Melo (R-Naples, Dist. 80) and Rep. C. Yarborough (R-Jacksonville, Dist. 12) How did you legislator vote? ([H-117-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

This measure creates the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) within the Governor's office to coordinate a new online workforce system that aligns various state agencies, including the Departments of Economic Opportunity, Education, Children and Families, and CareerSource with REACH to create an online workforce portal for Floridians to access important employment information and resources to help them identify programs that provide the skills and services that would lead to meaningful long-term employment. Provisions in the law create the Open

Door Workforce Grant Program to provide grants to school districts and state colleges for students enrolling in eligible technical education or high-demand certificate programs, includes grants that cover 2/3 of the program costs leaving the student responsible for 1/3 of the cost or any unmet debt, and the Money-Back Guarantee Program requires school districts and state colleges to refund a student's tuition costs if they're not able to find a job within 6 months of completing their degree programs. The measure also establishes a new workforce performance funding model for school district and postsecondary workforce programs, requiring one-third of performance funding to be based on rewarding student job placement and the remaining two-thirds on student earnings, with a focus on increasing the economic mobility of underserved populations.

**28. [SB 1890: Campaign Financing](#), by Sen. R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers, Dist. 27) |
HB 0699, by Rep. B. Payne (R-Palatka, Dist. 19) How did your legislator vote? ([H-75-40](#)) ([S-23-17](#))**

Amends 106.08(1)(a) to limit contributions to political committees sponsoring or opposing a constitutional amendment proposal by initiative to \$3,000 until the Secretary of State issues a certificate of ballot position and designating number for the proposed amendment. The bill also restricts local governments and municipalities from enacting any limitations in conflict with the previously stated limits. Prohibits candidates from donating unused campaign funds from nonprofit organizations that employ them. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

29. [SB 2500: Appropriations](#), by Appropriations | How did your legislator vote? ([H-117-1](#))([S-39-0](#))

2500 is the General Appropriations Act. It authorizes the spending of public money for the annual period beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, and provides for supplemental appropriations for the period ending June 30, 2021, to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government. The 2021 – 2022 state budget is the largest in Florida history at \$101,543,642,583. The major portions of the education budget are contained within the first 55 pages of the [General Appropriations Act \(GAA\)](#).

30. [5101: Education Funding](#), by Rep. R. Fine (R-Palm Bay, Dist. 53) and H PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee | How did your legislator vote? ([H-116-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

This measure could create greater difficulty for district and union negotiators attempting to bargain equitable, non-compressed salary schedules. It mandates the use of confusing salary percentages to supplement the implementation of the TSIA allocation: *‘Beginning July 1, 2021, and until such time as the minimum base salary as defined in s. 1011.62(16), equals or exceeds \$47,500, the annual increase to the minimum base salary to be no less than 150 percent of the largest adjustment to a salary on the grandfathered schedule. Thereafter, the annual increase to the minimum base salary shall not be less than 75 percent of the largest adjustment for an employee on the grandfathered salary schedule.’* It also requires the annual salary adjustment under the performance schedule for highly effective educators must be at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary adjustment to another employee in the same classification. The law amends the calculation methodology for the FLVS funding in the FEFP by adding to the calculation the mental health assistance allocation for FLVS and repeals the Virtual Education Contribution and the Decline in Full-Time Equivalent Students Allocations. It eliminates the 300 lowest performing elementary schools’ requirement to use their SAI monies to cover costs for the extra daily hour of intensive reading for students. It also requires all district schools to offer at least one option for part-time and full-time virtual instruction. Districts can contract with the FLVS or an approved virtual instruction provider, but the law would set enrollment limits on the number of

virtual full-time students residing outside of the school district to not exceed the total number of reported students residing inside the district. The bill requires school districts to use a specified portion of the \$3.1 billion in ESSER funds: (1) to locate unaccounted students within their school districts and (2) to remediate the learning loss among kindergarten to grade 12 students. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

31. [HB 5601: Higher Education](#), by Rep. R. Plasencia (R-Titusville, Dist. 50) & Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee | How did your legislator vote? ([H-110-7](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

The bill specifies that all funds appropriated for Preeminent State Research Universities must be distributed equally. It also eliminates the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program and requires minimum performance standards for institutions to be eligible to participate in the Effective Access to Student Education tuition assistance program. The bill also expands the existing faculty salary cap from state university administrative employees to include all university faculty, excluding those in specified high-demand fields and reestablishes the Florida Integrated Library System to provide funding for critical library services, a distance learning catalog, and transient student applications. This bill also revises limitations on compensation from appropriated state funds for Florida College System (FCS) institution and State University System (SUS) university employees, including presidents. The bill expands the cap to include all faculty and staff of FCS institutions and SUS universities, specifically including teaching faculty and medical school faculty and staff. However, salaries may be paid from tuition funds or other funds that are not “appropriated state funds”. [View Higher Education Budget Highlights](#). Takes effect July 1, 2021.

32. [HB 7011: Student Literacy](#), by House Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee, Rep. V. Aloupis, Jr. (R-Miami, Dist. 115) | SB 1989, By Sen. A. M. Rodriguez (R-Doral, Dist. 39) and Sen. G. Harrell (R-Stuart, Dist. 25) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-117-0](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

Specifies responsibility for literacy instruction with “Just Read!”; adds requirements for professional development in emergent literacy instruction for prekindergarten teachers; requires completion of all five competencies for certification or endorsement in reading for all teacher preparation program completers in subjects that may support students requiring intensive reading support, beginning with 2022-23 school year; requires supervising teachers of teacher preparation candidates be certified or endorsed in reading if teaching K-3 or subjects covered in s. 1012.585(3)(f) [ELA, ESOL, elementary or reading] ; creates R.A.I.S.E program in DOE to assist districts/administrators and teachers in high needs schools organized into regional teams assigned to low performing schools; RAISE program includes assistance creating a high school tutoring program; requiring each school district to provide literacy support for students entering from PreK programs who may be at risk of a reading deficiency; District reading plans must include input from teachers and principals; after July 1, 2024, a reading endorsement may not be earned through the certification test alone. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

33. [SB 7018: Employer Contributions to Fund Retiree Benefits](#), Governmental Oversight and Accountability

This provision revises the annually required employer retirement contribution rates for each membership class and subclass of the Florida Retirement System. [View Above](#). Takes effect July 1, 2021.

34. [HB 7045: School Choice](#), by Rep. R. Fine (R-Palm Bay, Dist. 53)

SB 48, by Sen. M. Diaz (R-Hialeah, Dist. 36) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-79-36](#)) ([S-25-14](#))

Reduces audit requirements for Scholarship Funding Organizations to every three years; expands private school voucher programs by merging the Empowerment, Gardiner and McKay vouchers into one program with two parts, all funding through the traditional school funding program (the Florida Education Funding Program, the FEFP); Gardiner remains as an Education Saving Account and McKay and Empowerment as tuition reimbursement programs; increases funding levels to 100% of traditional students using categorical funds as well as base allocation. Automatic income eligibility escalators and enrollment caps for students outside current public-school students; no enrollment caps for students currently in public schools; requires districts honor all outside evaluations for voucher student IEPs, provide IEP within 30 days of parent request; Increases SFO total administrative fee allowance; allows for electronic fund transfer to parents; reimbursements for curriculum and instructional aides, authorization for purchase for other services and equipment; removes prohibition of Teacher Salary Increase Allocation in voucher award calculation. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

35. [HB 7061: Taxation](#), by Rep. B. Payne (R-Palatka, Dist. 19) | How did your legislator vote? ([H-117-1](#)) ([S-40-0](#))

Reestablishes or creates three Sales Tax Holidays:

- Disaster Preparedness, May 28-June 6
- Back to School, July 31-August 9
- Florida Freedom Sales Tax Holiday, July 1-July 7

The new sales tax holiday (Florida Freedom Sales Tax Holiday) would allow for no sales tax on admissions to music events, sporting events, movies, state parks, fitness facilities, boating and water activities, camping supplies, fishing supplies and general outdoor supplies. Creates Florida Internship Tax Credit Program, which would allow qualifying businesses to receive a \$2,000 tax credit for each qualifying student intern. Takes effect July 1, 2021.

BILLS THAT FAILED TO PASS

1. [SB 84: Retirement](#), by Sen. R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers, Dist. 27)

The bill was a key priority of the Senate President. It would have closed the defined benefit pension program to new state hires, excluding the special risk class members who are police, firefighters, and corrections officers. All new public employees would be forced into the less stable investment plan. Senate leaders claimed the state's unfunded liability was too high and continuing to increase. Lawmakers waited most of session for the actuarial report which returned with a limited in scope and missed several key highlights about the strength of the system. The proposal passed the Senate but did not have a House companion. During the final weeks, the measure received two House committee references. It was never considered by members of the Florida House. Closing the DB would have left the currently well-funded FRS at risk of financial insolvency and saddled the state with a larger financial burden.

2. **[SB 86: Student Financial Aid](#)**, by Sen. D. Baxley (R-Lady Lake, Dist. 12)

This would have required the Board of Governors to create an online dashboard of data regarding majors and how they relate to post-graduation salaries, student loan debt, percentage of graduates who continue their education, and more. It would have moved the Bright Futures scholarship awards to the General Appropriations Act, which makes award amounts less certain and subject to budgetary restrictions.

3. **[HB 99/SB 538: Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors on Public K-20 Campuses](#)**, by Rep. M. Gottlieb (D-Sunrise, Dist. 98) | Sen. T. Polsky, D-Boca Raton, Dist. 29)

If this bill passed K-20 public schools would have been required to purchase and maintain a supply of Epi-pens in a secure location in each cafeteria on campus

4. **[HB 359/SB 886: COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability](#)**, by Rep. R. Bartleman (D-Weston, Dist. 104) | Sen. P. Thurston (D-Fort Lauderdale, Dist. 33)

This was the COVID relief education bill that would have protected students, staff, and their schools from the negative consequences of the state accountability system resulting from the COVID crisis. If passed it would have allowed schools in Turnaround to retain their school grades or improvement plans without moving forward in the process, retained the high performing designations for school district and charter schools, and forbid the use of school grades in determining student retention and graduation and calculating student performance for teacher evaluations. This bill was filed prior to the DOE's Executive Order providing the same provisions, except protecting teacher evaluations.

5. **[SB 554/HB 1303: Human Trafficking Education in Schools](#)**, by Sen. P. Thurston (D-Fort Lauderdale, Dist. 33)) | Rep. P. Williams (D-Fort Lauderdale, Dist. 92)

Under this measure, students would have learned about the signs and dangers of human trafficking. Districts would have been required to include education in human trafficking in the health education curriculum.

6. **[SB 610/ HB 6081: Collective Bargaining for Instructional Personnel](#)**, by Sen. L. Stewart (D-Orland, Dist. 13) | Rep. G. Thompson (D-Orlando, Dist. 43)

If passed this measure would have repealed the provision in the collective bargaining law that required at least 50% of total density for membership for the employee organization to be eligible for bargaining representation. It was never considered in committee in either chamber. This very good FEA proposal was never considered in committee.

7. **[SB 658: Violations of the Florida Election Code](#)**, by Sen. A. Taddeo, (D-Miami, Dist. 40)

This would have required any manipulated image, audio, or video of a political candidate to carry a clear and conspicuous disclaimer. The Division of Elections and Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division must adopt rules to implement and administer the standards for the disclaimer.

8. **[HB 835/SB 1014: Employee Organizations](#)**, by Rep. C. Byrd (R-Jacksonville Beach, Dist. 11) | Sen. D. Baxley (R-Lady Lake, Dist. 12)

Originally this bill began by requiring K-12, Education Staff Professional (ESP), and higher education unions to petition the Public Employees Relations Commission for recertification and prohibiting an employee organization from having its dues and uniform assessments deducted and collected by a district school board. The sponsor exempted ESP unions from these provisions in the first committee stop. HB 835 and SB 1014 then merged with HB 947 and SB 78 to eliminate dues and uniform

assessments deducted from employee paychecks and collected by all public employee unions, except police, firefighter, and corrections officers. It also requires a 50% threshold for all public sector unions except those aforementioned, and requires specific information be reported to the Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC) in order to maintain the role as the bargaining agent for the union.

9. [HB 947/SB 78: Dues and Uniform Assessments](#), by Rep. S. Plakon (R-Longwood, Dist. 29) | Sen. R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Meyers, Dist. 27)

This measure would have required a public employee who desires to join an employee organization to sign a membership authorization form requiring a specific statement indicating the employee is working in a right to work state...etc., written in bold, 14-point font type, every three years or upon a new contract ratification whichever came first. An employee organization would be required to terminate an employee's membership upon receipt of the employee's request for revocation, providing that certain deductions commence upon the employer's receipt and confirmation of the employee's signed deduction authorization form. Later, this bill was amended to carve out police, firefighter, and corrections officer unions, before being merged with HB 835 and SB 1014.

10. [HB 865/SB 1016: School Administrator and Instructional Personnel Salaries](#), by Rep. R. Plasencia (R-Titusville, Dist. 50) | SB 1610, Sen. S. Jones (D-Miami Gardens, Dist. 35)

The legislative proposal would have given school districts more flexibility in determining salary and raises for all instructional staff by amending the law regarding the Teacher Salary Instructional Allocation (TSIA) that requires dividing salary dollars with 80% designated to increasing starting salary, and 20% left for the remaining teachers. Both HB 865 and SB 1016, received three committee references, but this very good FEA proposal was never considered in committee.

11. [HB 997/SB 220: Public Records and Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search](#), by Rep. S. Garrison (R-Orange Park, Dist. 18) | Sen. J. Brandes (R-St. Petersburg, Dist. 24)

If passed, this bill would have hidden the name and personal information of prospective candidates involved in executive searches for the top position in the state's colleges and universities, ultimately removing the public's ability to have any input in the process of selecting a college or university president. The bill was amended to reveal the hidden candidate information to the public within the finals weeks prior to selecting the applicant for the position. Members from the United Faculty of Florida had an impressive showing in their fight to stop this bill. The proposal passed in the House but failed in the Senate. It missed the 2/3rd vote approval required by law for any change to the state's public records exemption laws.

12. [HB 1023/SB 1310: Cost-of-Living Adjustment of Retirement Benefits](#), by Rep. K. Skidmore (D-Boca Raton, Dist. 81) | Sen. T. Polsky (D-Boca Raton, Dist. 29)

This measure would have provided fair and adequate retirement for members of the FRS who began collecting benefits after July 1, 2011, by mandating the Cost-of-Living factor to be no less than 2 percent. Both HB 1023 and its Senate companion received three committee references, but this very good FEA proposal was never considered in committee.

13. [HB 1279/SB 128: Florida Talent Development Council](#), by Rep. L. Melo (R-Naples, Dist. 80) and Sen. J. Bradley (R-Orange Park, Dist. 5) | Sen. Diaz, (R-Hialeah, Dist. 36)

It would have required the Florida Talent Development council to submit a report with an overview of existing career pathway programs, as well as recommendations that would indicate the feasibility of establishing and implementing a Career Pathways program in Florida. It would have defined the Career

Pathways for Florida's Future program as a program that incorporates secondary and postsecondary education with workforce education and work experience. The measure died in committee.

14. [SB 1782/HB 1479: Contracts for Instructional Personnel](#), by Sen. L. Ausley (D-Quincy, Dist. 3) and Rep. B. Diamond (D-St. Petersburg, Dist. 68)

If passed this law would have given school districts the ability to offer one or two year employment agreements to teacher who are and remain highly effective or effective for the duration of their contract. Both bills received three committee references, but this very good FEA proposal was never considered in committee.

15. [SB 1798 Higher Education](#), by Sen. M. Diaz (R-Hialeah, Dist. 36)

The provisions in this bill were added to SB 1261, with was passed by both chambers. It would have established a waiver of 100 percent of tuition and fees for one course in a program of strategic emphasis as determined by the Board of Governors for every course in such a program for which a student pays the full tuition and fees. To qualify for the waiver, a student must:

- Be a resident for tuition purposes.
- Initially enroll full-time at a state university for the fall academic term immediately following high school graduation.
- Earn at least 60 semester credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree within two years after initial enrollment.
- Enroll in a program of strategic emphasis as specified by the Board of Governors (BOG).

In addition, the bill specifies that a waiver granted is applicable only for upper-level courses and up to 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the baccalaureate degree program.

The bill requires the BOG to adopt regulations to administer the above and requires each state university to report to the BOG the number and value of all such waivers granted annually. The bill does not require a state appropriation. However, state universities will have reduced revenues from tuition and fees for each eligible student who enrolls in a program of strategic emphasis. Died on Calendar.

16. [SB 1956/6037: Postsecondary Out-of-state Fee Waivers](#), by Sen. R. Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers, Dist. 27) and Rep. R. Fine (R-Palm Bay, Dist. 53)

This would have repealed a provision requiring a state university, college, district operated career center, or charter technical career center to waive out-of-state fees for students, including undocumented students. It deletes a section requiring students to be treated as in-state, providing tuition and fees charged to such students to not exceed the same tuition and fees charged to a resident student. Also, it would have eliminated a mandate to prioritize the enrollment of veterans and grant out-of-state fee waivers over the enrollment of other students. The proposal died in committee.

17. [SB 2508: Employee Compensation](#), Appropriations | How did your legislator vote? ([H-118-0](#))([S-40-0](#))

This bill died in the conference committee. This expanded the eligibility and increased the limitations on compensation for state college and university faculty and staff, including presidents.

18. [SB 7052: Florida K-12 Education Tax Credit Program Trust Fund](#), by Senator M. Diaz (R-Hialeah, Dist. 36)

This would have created a new trust fund within the DOE to serve as a depository of funds relating to tax credit contributions made pursuant to funding voucher scholarships for choice school as per ss. 212.099 or 1002.395, F.S., as amended by SB 48 (2021).

19. [SB 7070: Impact of COVID-19 on Educational Institutions](#), by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 23)

This measure would have required relief for students, schools, school districts and teachers against FSA impacts from COVID learning loss for the 2020-2021 school year. Educational institutions that have taken reasonably necessary actions to diminish the impact or spread of COVID-19 would have been shielded from civil liability for such actions, providing that certain publications of educational institutions are not evidence of an express or implied contract to provide specified services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Portions of this bill were amended to HB 1261.



