

FLORIDA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2022 END OF SESSION REPORT



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Message From FEA President Andrew Spar

The last two years have been filled with challenges – COVID driven learning disruption, increases in student discipline issues, a massive exodus of teachers and staff and an extreme increase in stress, anxiety, and workload for those of us who continue the mission of our public schools. As we entered the 2022 legislative session, we were laser focused on addressing these issues.

The 2022 Legislative Session officially came to an end a few days late on Monday, March 14, 2022 (Pi Day). This session felt like one of the longest sessions ever, not because it ran a few days longer, but because it was full of contentious issues that ultimately distracted lawmakers from addressing the issues facing Floridians, particularly those in our public schools.

As you will see in this report, your engagement and determination made a difference. The relationships you developed over the past few years have provided us with more opportunities to move our agenda and stop bad ideas. This year, for the first time in a long time, FEA achieved two priorities: establishing a \$15 per hour minimum pay for all education staff professionals and getting some flexibility for determining teacher pay. We also had two FEA bills heard and pass committees unanimously - defining Pre-k teachers as instructional personnel and addressing the education staff professional shortage. This was a good start, even though they did not reach final passage this year.

Yet, while we did have some success in moving our agenda, this session certainly had its share of disappointments. While we kept some legislation from passing through the process, on the last days of session, legislative leaders broke their own rules and placed bad policy in the budget bills to pass them without debate or a chance for amendments. This included legislation that targeted our PreK-12 schools as well as our higher education institutions. We are also very concerned at the tone of legislation passed this session, which attempts to blame and undermine teachers and staff while trying to put parents and schools on opposite sides. We know that for our schools to succeed, we must all work together to ensure that every child gets the education they deserve and need, regardless of race, background, ZIP code or ability.

Despite the challenges we continue to face, your engagement and the leadership of local presidents across the state made a huge impact this session. There is a better future on the horizon as we continue to build relationships with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, truly making public education a non-partisan issue.

2022-2023 FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM (FEFP)

HB 5001: The Appropriations bill and **HB 5003:** The Implementing bill work together to authorize the spending of public money on an annual basis to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government, etc. The appropriations measures passed by the Legislature comprise the state budget. The major portions of the education budget are contained within the first [51 pages](#) of the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Click the links below to access the budget bills and FEFP conference reports.

- [Click here to view HB: 5001 General Appropriations Act \(GAA\)](#)
- [Click here to view HB: 5003 General Appropriations Act Implementing Bill](#)
- [Click here to view SB: 2524 Education Budget Conforming Bill](#)
- [Click here to view the 2022-23 FEFP Statewide Conference Report](#)
- [Click here to view the 2021-22 FEFP Statewide Conference Report for Comparison](#)

FEFP Funding Summary

These charts represent statewide averages. Click the link above for the 2022-23 Florida Finance Program (FEFP) Statewide Conference Report to view the total funds summary and individual district comparisons.

Category	2021-22 Third Calculation	2022-23 Conference Calculation	Difference	Percent Change
Unweighted FTE	\$2,912,887.37	\$2,983,464.64	70,577.27 (Additional Students)	2.42%
School Taxable Value	\$2,443,188,085,001	\$2,629,264,001,685	\$186,075,916,684	7.62%
Base Student Allocation (BSA)*	\$ 4,372.91	\$ 4,587.40	\$214.49	4.90%
Base FEFP Funding	\$ 14,035,196,104	\$ 15,038,797,002	\$1,003,600,898	7.15%
Total FEFP Funds	\$ 18,006,895,938	\$ 19,509,798,375	\$ 1,502,902,437	8.34%
From State	\$ 12,625,679,528	\$ 13,553,672,086	\$ 927,992,558	7.35%
From Local	\$ 9,973,373,414	\$ 10,740,219,713	\$ 766,846,299	7.69%
Total FEFP Funds Per Student	\$ 7,758.30	\$ 8,142.85	\$ 384.55	4.96%

2022-2023 BSA Increase = \$1,003,600,898

*Costs To Be Deducted From BSA

- Voucher Increase = \$29,918,100 (**estimate based on increase in cap, figure likely much higher*)
- Additional Student Costs = \$323,644,959
- Florida Retirement System Costs = \$156,000,000
- \$15 an hour minimum wage for all school employees = Unknown

**2022-23 FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM
CONFERENCE CALCULATION STATEWIDE SUMMARY
COMPARISON TO 2021-22 THIRD CALCULATION**

	2021-22 FEFP Third Calculation	2022-23 FEFP Conference Calculation	Difference	Percentage Difference
MAJOR FEFP FORMULA COMPONENTS				
Unweighted FTE	2,912,887.37	2,983,464.64	70,577.27	2.42%
Weighted FTE	3,208,129.06	3,277,687.35	69,558.29	2.17%
School Taxable Value	2,443,188,085,001	2,629,264,001,685	186,075,916,684	7.62%
Required Local Effort Millage	3.606	3.606	0.000	0.00%
Discretionary Millage	0.748	0.748	0.000	0.00%
Total Millage	4.354	4.354	0.000	0.00%
Base Student Allocation	4,372.91	4,587.40	214.49	4.90%
FEFP DETAIL				
WFTE x BSA x DCD (Base FEFP Funding)	14,035,196,104	15,038,797,002	1,003,600,898	7.15%
0.748 Mills Discretionary Compression	286,222,675	311,462,994	25,240,319	8.82%
Digital Classroom Allocation	8,000,000	0	(8,000,000)	-100.00%
DJJ Supplemental Allocation	4,814,376	3,461,325	(1,353,051)	-28.10%
ESE Guaranteed Allocation	1,064,584,063	1,094,851,200	30,267,137	2.84%
Federally Connected Student Supplement	14,081,975	14,390,179	308,204	2.19%
Funding Compression and Hold Harmless Allocation	47,949,110	68,163,995	20,214,885	42.16%
Instructional Materials Allocation	241,135,805	246,978,361	5,842,556	2.42%
Mental Health Assistance Allocation	120,000,000	140,000,000	20,000,000	16.67%
Reading Allocation	130,000,000	170,000,000	40,000,000	30.77%
Safe Schools Allocation	180,000,000	210,000,000	30,000,000	16.67%
Sparsity Supplement	53,468,748	62,469,312	9,000,564	16.83%
State-Funded Discretionary Contribution	34,236,438	36,373,591	2,137,153	6.24%
Student Transportation	458,641,984	515,009,084	56,367,100	12.29%
Supplemental Academic Instruction	714,704,630	719,314,907	4,610,277	0.65%
Teacher Salary Increase Allocation	550,000,000	800,000,000	250,000,000	45.45%
Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance	54,143,375	54,143,375	0	0.00%
Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation	9,716,655	24,383,050	14,666,395	150.94%
TOTAL FEFP	18,006,895,938	19,509,798,375	1,502,902,437	8.35%
Less: Required Local Effort	8,218,968,915	8,852,197,815	633,228,900	7.70%
GROSS STATE FEFP	9,787,927,023	10,657,600,560	869,673,537	8.89%
Allocated Student Reserve	186,190,845	0	(186,190,845)	-100.00%
Proration to Appropriation	(186,190,845)	0	186,190,845	-100.00%
NET STATE FEFP	9,787,927,023	10,657,600,560	869,673,537	8.89%
STATE CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS				
Class Size Reduction Allocation	2,837,752,505	2,896,071,526	58,319,021	2.06%
TOTAL STATE CATEGORICAL FUNDING	2,837,752,505	2,896,071,526	58,319,021	2.06%
TOTAL STATE FUNDING	12,625,679,528	13,553,672,086	927,992,558	7.35%
LOCAL FUNDING				
Total Required Local Effort	8,218,968,915	8,852,197,815	633,228,900	7.70%
Total Discretionary Taxes from 0.748 Mills	1,754,404,499	1,888,021,898	133,617,399	7.62%
TOTAL LOCAL FUNDING	9,973,373,414	10,740,219,713	766,846,299	7.69%
TOTAL FUNDING	22,599,052,942	24,293,891,799	1,694,838,857	7.50%
State Funds per UFTE	4,334.42	4,542.93	208.51	4.81%
Local Funds per UFTE	3,423.88	3,599.92	176.04	5.14%
Total Funds per UFTE	7,758.30	8,142.85	384.55	4.96%
State Funds as a Percent of Total	55.87%	55.79%	-0.08%	-0.14%
Local Funds as a Percent of Total	44.13%	44.21%	0.08%	0.18%
Student Reserve Allocation	464,287,903	0	(464,287,903)	-100.00%
Student Reserve Allocation Balance	278,097,058	0	(278,097,058)	-100.00%
TOTAL STATE FUNDING WITH STUDENT RESERVE INCLUDED	12,903,776,586	13,553,672,086	649,895,500	5.04%
TOTAL FUNDING WITH STUDENT RESERVE INCLUDED	22,877,150,000	24,293,891,799	1,416,741,799	6.19%

State Budget Highlights

The 2022-23 state budget totals **\$112.1 billion**, an increase of \$15.5 billion over the 2021-22 budget. It includes an additional \$1 billion for the Inflation Fund, a budget reserve to counter increased inflationary costs, and the \$15 per hour minimum wage increase funded in the FEFP (provided in overall BSA increase) for VPK supplemental payments, and state employees (including OPS).

Minimum Wage Increase to \$15 per hour for school employees is included in the Base Student Allocation (BSA). Each school district must pay each employee at least \$15.00 per hour by October 1, 2022. By October 1, each superintendent must submit an attestation to the FLDOE subject to the penalty of perjury under s. 837.012, F. S., which includes a statement that every school district employee's hourly rate is at least \$15.00 per hour. Beginning January 1, 2023, an employee of a school district who is not receiving a wage of at least \$15.00 per hour may bring a civil court action against the district and, upon prevailing, shall recover the full amount of any back wages unlawfully withheld, plus the same amount in liquidated damages and shall be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs. (*Appropriations 5, 6, 86, and 87, pg.22*)

Putting Families First Amendment/School Recognition Funding: A punitive proposal by Rep. Randy Fine (R-Brevard, Dist. 53) which impacts twelve school districts (Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Indian River, Leon, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and St. Lucie) that chose to protect students and teachers by defying the governor's no mask mandate for public schools. Rep. Fine's original proposal called for penalizing the twelve districts by deducting a total of \$200 million from their coffers. The governor ultimately agreed with the idea. During budget negotiations, a decision between the House and Senate was reached to drop the \$200 million penalty and instead allocate \$200 million from the GAA to recreate and fund the School Recognition Program to recognize the faculty and staff at the 55 other school districts that abided by the governor's rule.

The twelve districts will still face a penalty that the legislature has placed on the district's teachers and staff. Many school employees who would have qualified for the school recognition funding are prohibited by the legislature from receiving the bonus.

HB 5003 contains the amendment that passed: "**Putting Parents First Adjustment:** All public schools, including charter schools, that received a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 (school grading statute) and were not found in violation of emergency rules promulgated by the Department of Health related to face covering mandates during the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school year are eligible to participate in the program."

K-12 Education Funding: \$24.3 billion

- Total funding increases by \$1.69 billion or 7.5%
- Per student funding increases by \$384.55, a 4.96% or an increase from \$7,758.3 to \$8,142.85 total
- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increases by \$214.49 or 4.90% or \$1,003,600,898
- \$1.5 billion increase to the FEFP, an 8.35% increase
- FEFP Base Funds (flexible \$) increase of \$1 billion or 7.15%
- Projected Student enrollment increases by 70,577.27 or 2.42% increase for a total of 2,983,464.64 unweighted FTE
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$633.2 million; RLE maintained at prior year level of 3.606 mills
- Teacher Salary Increase Allocation increased by \$250 million for a total of \$800 million for districts to achieve the \$47,500 starting salary for classroom teachers
- Safe Schools Allocation - \$30 million increase for a total of \$210 million for School Safety Officers and school safety initiatives

- Mental Health Assistance Allocation - \$20 million increase for a total of \$140 million to help school districts and charter schools address youth mental health issues
- Reading Instruction Allocation - \$40 million increase for a total of \$170 million to provide comprehensive reading instruction
- Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation - \$24.4 million – funds for services designed to improve the overall academic and community welfare of students and their families at designated lower performing schools
- Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind - \$732,058 or 1.1% increase from \$57,400,000 to \$58,047,769 plus \$84,289 to cover the cost for TSIA and \$15 minimum wage for hourly workers

Early Learning Funding Total: \$1.7 billion [\$610.9 million GR; \$1.1 Billion TF]

- Partnerships for School Readiness – \$53.2 million
- School Readiness Program - \$1.1 billion
- Early Learning Standards & Accountability - \$4.9 million
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$553.4 million
 - o Decrease of 2,645 students (\$6.4 million)
 - o Voluntary Prekindergarten Program Additional Base Student Allocation (BSA) Payments - \$151.3 million; these additional payments are provided to ensure all VPK instructors are paid a minimum wage of at least \$15 per hour

Education Capital Outlay Total: \$1.9 billion [\$470.8 million State Funds, \$1.46 billion State Fiscal Recovery Funds]

- Charter School Repairs and Maintenance - \$195.8 million
- Public School Maintenance - \$11.4 million
- College and University Maintenance - \$843.7 million
- Developmental Research School Repairs and Maintenance - \$8.1 million
- Small School District Special Facilities - \$64.4 million
- District Tech Center Projects - \$13.9 million
- Florida College System Projects - \$216.2 million
- State University System Projects - \$563.9 million
- School for the Deaf and Blind Maintenance and Renovation Projects - \$8.5 million
- Public Broadcasting - Health and Safety Issues - \$5 million
- Authorization for State University System (SUS) Capital Improvement Student Fee Projects - \$44.7 million

FEFP Categorical Adjustments:

- **Base Student Allocation (BSA)** is the amount of money the state allocates for each FTE. For the 2022-23 academic year; funds shall be allocated using the BSA is \$4,587.40 for the FEFP. ([Appropriations 5 and 86, page 22](#))
- **BSA multiplied by Weighted FTE and by the District Cost Differential (DCD)** generates \$15,038,797,002 in Base FEFP Funding, an increase of \$1,003,600,898 or 7.15%.
- **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. \$2,896,071,526 is allocated to implement the requirements. The class size reduction allocation factor for grades prekindergarten to grade 3 shall be \$964.60, grades 4 to 8 shall be \$920.98, and grades 9 to 12 shall be \$923.21. The class size reduction allocation shall be recalculated based on enrollment through the October 2022 FTE survey except as provided in s. 1003.03(4), F. S. \$ 127,915,436 shall be transferred using nonoperating budget authority to the Lottery Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for the payment of debt service on all bond authorized pursuant to s. 1013.737, F. S., for class size reduction, including any other continuing payments necessary or incidental to the repayment of the bonds. ([Appropriations 1, pg. 1 & Appropriations 6, and 87, pg. 25](#))
- **Discretionary Local Effort** ([Also referred to as Required Local Effort](#)) is the amount of funding that districts may levy through property tax. The maximum non-voted discretionary millage which may be levied pursuant to the provisions of section 1011.71(1), Florida Statutes, by district school boards in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 shall be 0.748 mills. This millage shall be used to calculate the discretionary millage compression supplement as provided in section 1011.62(5), Florida Statutes. To be eligible for the supplement, a district must levy the maximum. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 23](#))
- **District Cost Differential (DCD)** for each district shall be calculated pursuant to the provisions of section 1011.62, Florida Statutes.
- **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Education Programs** shall be allocated pursuant to section 1011.62, Florida Statutes. The allocation factor shall be \$922.54. The program shall receive funds as provided in section 1003.52(13), Florida Statutes. Up to \$341 per student may be used for high school equivalency examination fees for juvenile justice students who pass the high school equivalency exam in full, or in part, while in a juvenile justice education program and may be used for students in juvenile justice education programs to support equipment, specially designed curricula, and industry credentialing testing fees, for students enrolled in career and technical education (CTE) courses that lead to industry recognized certifications. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 23](#))
- **Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Guaranteed Allocation** as authorized by law to provide educational programs and services for exceptional students. \$1,094,851,200 is provided to districts. 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. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 24](#))
- **Federally Connected Student Supplement** increased by \$308,204 for total funding of \$14,390,179 ([Appropriations 5 and 86, pg. 25](#))

- **Funding Compression & Hold Harmless Allocation** \$68,163,995 to be allocated based on the formula provided in s. 1011.62, F. S. For the funding compression, 25 percent of the difference between the district's prior year funds per FTE and the state average shall be used to determine the allocation. A district's allocation shall not be greater than \$100 per FTE. For the hold harmless, the index factor shall be 1.0. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 25](#))
- **Instructional Materials** are funded at \$246,978,361, including \$13,041,792 for library media materials, \$3,564,756 for the purchase of science lab materials and supplies, \$11,056,278 for dual enrollment instructional materials, and \$3,334,158 for the purchase of digital instructional materials for students with disabilities. The growth allocation per FTE shall be \$325.05 for the 2022-2023 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. Funds 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, F. S. 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, 2023, that details the district expenditures for these funds to demonstrate compliance with the amount made available for such purchases. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 24](#))
- **Mental Health Assistance** receives a \$20 million increase, from \$120 Million to \$140 million ([Appropriations 5 and 86, pg. 25](#))
- **Reading Allocation** \$50 million increase, from \$130 million to \$170 million
\$170,000,000 is provided for a K-12 comprehensive, district-wide system of research-based reading instruction pursuant to section 1011.62, Florida Statutes. The amount of \$115,000 shall be allocated to each district and the remaining balance shall be allocated pursuant to section 1011.62, F. S. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 24](#))
- **Required Local Effort (RLE)** ([Also reoffered to as Discretionary Local Effort](#)) For the 2022-2023 school year, the RLE shall be 3.606 to generate the Total Required Local Effort: \$8,852,197,815. The total amount shall include adjustments made for the calculation required in s.1011.62(4)(a) through (c), Florida Statutes. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 23](#)) The maximum non-voted discretionary millage which may be levied by district school boards shall be 0.748 mills. This millage shall be used to calculate the discretionary millage compression supplement as provided in s. 1011.62(5), F. S. To be eligible for the supplement, a district must levy the maximum.
- **Safe Schools** \$30 million increase, raising the total to \$210 million for Safe Schools activities and shall be allocated as follows: \$250,000 shall be distributed to each district, and the remaining balance shall be allocated pursuant to s. 1011.62, F. S. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 24](#))
- **Sparsity Supplement** as defined in section 1011.62, Florida Statutes, for school districts of 30,000 and fewer FTE in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. For the 2022-23 school year \$62,469,312 is provided. ([Appropriations 5 and 86, page 23](#))
- **Student Transportation** \$56.3 million increase, from \$458 million to \$515 million provided to districts for transportation, as provided in s. 1011.68, F. S. ([Appropriations 5 & 86, page 24](#))
- **Supplemental Academic Instruction** \$719,314,907 is allocated. ([Appropriations 5 and 86, page 24](#))

- **Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program** \$54,143,375 is provided to offset classroom supplies, pursuant to section 1012.71, F. S. The allocation shall not be recalculated during the school year. ([Appropriations 5 and 86, page 24](#))
- **Teacher Salary Increase Allocation** \$800,000,000 was allocated for the TSIA at an **increase of \$250,000,000, including a 50-50 distribution split** in the new funding, a change in policy FEA advocated for to allow more flexibility to address salary compression. ([Appropriations 5 and 86, page 23](#))
- **Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation** \$14.6 million increase raising the allocation from \$9.7 million to \$24.3 million at a per FTE funding amount for eligible schools of \$500. Because school grades were either suspended or optional for the last two school years, no schools have been added to Turnaround during that time, and several schools have exited the Turnaround process. As a result, this categorical has decreased over the last two years. School grades return in the 2021-22 school year. This funding will play an important role for students and schools that need extra assistance. ([Appropriations 5 and 86, pg. 24](#))
- **Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program** \$453,417,542 is provided. The VPK base student allocation (BSA) per full-time equivalent student for the school year program shall be \$2,803, and the BSA for the summer program shall be \$2,393. The allocation includes four percent in addition to the BSA to fund administrative and other program costs of the early learning coalitions related to the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. ([Appropriations 82, page 21](#))

K-12 Program, Non-FEFP Allocations

- **Assistance To Low Performing Schools** \$4,000,000 may be used to contract for the operation of the Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement and to achieve the partnership's mission as provided in s. 1007.35, F. S. The funds shall be expended for professional development for Advanced Placement classroom teachers. ([Appropriation 89, pg. 26](#))
- **Community School Grant** receives \$7,574,408 to support the planning and implementation of community school programs. \$393,837 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the planning and implementation of the community partnership schools program in Jefferson County School District. ([Appropriation 103, pg. 29](#))
- **Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program** \$6,500,000 is allocated to train school guardians. ([Appropriation 88, pg. 25](#))
- **Educator Professional Liability Insurance** receives \$1,021,560 ([Appropriation 95, pg. 27](#))
- **Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool** \$845,000 in recurring funds and \$50,000 in nonrecurring funds is provided to the to the FL DOE for use of the tool at all public school sites. ([Appropriation 101, pg. 28](#))
- **Florida School For the Deaf and the Blind** receives \$58,047,769 to contract for health, medical, pharmaceutical and dental screening services for students. The school shall develop a collaborative service agreement for medical services and shall maximize the recovery of all legally available funds from Medicaid and private insurance coverage. The school shall report to the Legislature by June 30, 2023, information describing the agreement, services provided, budget and expenditures, including the amounts and sources of all funding used for the collaborative medical program and any other student health services during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. \$84,289 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund are provided in lieu of funding authorized by s. 1011.62, F. S., and provided in Appropriation 86 to participate in the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation. ([Appropriation 106, pg. 33](#))
- **New Worlds Reading Scholarship Program** allocation is \$29,000,000 and provides in the amount of \$500 per student for each scholarship award as provided in s. 1002.411, F. S. ([Appropriation 102A, pg. 29](#))

- **Nursing Education** allocation of \$10,000,000 is provided for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund to reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at school district postsecondary technical career centers that offer a licensed practical nurse program. ([Appropriation 120A, pg. 37](#))
- **School District Education Foundation Matching Grants Program** \$6,000,000 is provided as challenge grants to public school district education foundations for programs that serve low-performing students, technical career education, literacy initiatives, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Education initiatives, increased teacher quality and/or increased graduation rates as provided in section 1011.765, Florida Statutes. The amount of each grant shall be equal to the private contribution made to a qualifying public school district education foundation. In-kind contributions shall not be considered for matching purposes. Administrative costs for the program shall not exceed five percent. ([Appropriation 94, pg. 27](#))
- **Schools of Hope** allocation is \$40,000,000 is provided for Schools of Hope charter schools as provided in s. 1002.333, F.S. ([Appropriation 102B, pg. 29](#))
- **School Readiness** is appropriated \$ 1,079,034,998 for the Gold Seal Quality Program for improving the quality of infant and toddler childcare to the extent allowable in the state’s approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan. \$789,927,228 is provided for the School Readiness Program and early learning coalitions. ([Appropriations 79, pg. 18](#))
- **School Recognition** \$ 200,000,000 ([Appropriation 88A, pg. 25](#))
- **Teacher Professional Development** receives an allocation of \$17,419,426 for teacher, education staff professional and principal of the year as well as for computer science certification , mental health awareness and assistance training as provided in section 1012.584,F. S. and for Florida Association of District School Superintendents conferences and training. ([Appropriation 100, pg.28](#))
- **Workforce Education** receives an allocation of \$6,500,000 for district workforce education performance-based incentives for students who earned industry certifications during the 2021-2022 academic year. Funding shall be based on students who earned industry certifications with a school district postsecondary funding designation on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. ([Appropriation 115, pg. 35](#)) An appropriation of \$15,000,000 is provided for District Workforce Education to implement the provisions relating to the Open Door Grant Program in s. 1009.895, F. S. ([Appropriation 115, pg. 35](#)) \$390,356,891 is provided for school district workforce education programs as defined in s. 1004.02(25), F. S. For programs leading to a career certificate or an applied technology diploma, and for adult general education programs, tuition and fees shall be assessed in accordance with section 1009.22, Florida Statutes. ([Appropriation 118, pg. 35 from GAA](#) & [Appropriation 7 from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund](#))

Higher Education Funding Highlights

In Higher Education, the total budget is **\$7.8 billion**.

- There are no tuition increases for Florida's college and university students.
- The focus of the higher education budget this year was on creating programs for nurses and law enforcement officers. The House focused on the governor's priority of attracting more law enforcement officers. \$5 million was set aside for the Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship and an additional \$1 million for the out-of-state law enforcement equivalency reimbursement. The House additionally established two nursing programs: the Programs, Employers, and Learners through the Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) program and the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) program. The programs were created to help address the critical shortages in the nursing field by rewarding performance in nursing programs and finding healthcare providers to partner with nursing schools. Sadly, there was little focus on teacher education programs in the higher education budget despite the significant teacher shortages throughout the state.
- Also in the Higher Education budget is a line item for the Student Open Access Resource (SOAR). The House pushed the SOAR program to increase the adoption, adaptation, and creation of open educational resources to help reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials. There was \$10.8 million allocated to SOAR; \$7.6 million is set aside for grants provided by the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network to help create Open Access Resources. The remaining \$1.5 million allows the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network to establish the SOAR repository, a searchable database of open-access materials.
- Add Nursing Education allocation \$40,000,000 is provided for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund to reward performance and excellence among nursing education programs at Florida College System institutions.
- Nursing Education \$19,000,000 is allocated for the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners. Funds shall be provided to eligible school district postsecondary technical career centers under section 1001.44, Florida Statutes, charter technical career centers under section 1002.34, Florida Statutes, Florida College System institutions, or independent non-profit colleges or universities and shall be administered by the Department of Education pursuant to, and contingent upon, SB 2524 or substantially similar legislation becoming law.

Florida College System (FCS)

The FCS budget is \$1.3 billion; it includes \$40.3 million in PECO funds for different projects throughout the FCS system.

- \$20 million was allocated for the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund. This fund supports college efforts to improve the success of students enrolled in an Associate of Arts program to complete college credits and transfer to a baccalaureate program. ([Appropriations 124, pg. 39](#))
- \$10 million for the Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund, which supports college strategies and initiatives to align career education programs with statewide and regional workforce demands and opportunities. ([Appropriations 124, pg. 39](#))
- \$40 million is allocated for the PIPELINE program, \$19 million for the LINE ([Appropriations 126A, pg. 42](#))
- Of note in the Higher Education budget is the language requiring that FCS presidents develop an equity-based per student funding model. This model must account for differences in institutional fixed operating costs and variable operating costs based on educational program offerings. The new model should be provided to the appropriate appropriations chairs and governor by September 30, 2022. ([Appropriations 125 proviso, pg. 41](#))

Category	2021-22	2022-23	Percent Change
FCS Program Fund	\$ 1,099,440,778	\$ 1,155,621,759	5%
FCS Performance Based Incentives	\$ 14,000,000.00	\$ 14,000,000.00	0%
FCS 2+2 Student Success Incentive Funds	\$ 15,000,000.00	\$ 20,000,000.00	33%
FCS Open Door Grant Program	--	\$ 20,000,000.00	100%
FCS PIPELINE Nursing Program	--	\$ 40,000,000.00	100%
FCS LINE Nursing Program	--	\$19,000,000	100%
FCS PECO GR	\$ 10,628,108.00	\$ 25,825,479.00	143%
FCS PECO Fund	\$ 15,421,126.00	\$ 14,559,990.00	-6%

State University System (SUS)

The SUS budget is \$5.0 billion, including \$190.2 million in PECO funds for different projects throughout the SUS System.

- \$560 million for SUS Performance-Based Initiatives
- \$25 million is allocated for Incentives for Programs of Strategic Emphasis, which provides funds for waivers in the programs of strategic emphasis in science, technology, engineering, or math.
- \$40 million is allocated for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through the Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) program and \$6 million for Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) program. These programs were a focus of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee; it is hoped that these two programs will incentivize and draw more nurses into the field as there is a critical shortage of nurses.

Category	2021-22	2022-23	Percent Change
SUS Ed and Gen Activities	\$ 4,144,846,466.00	\$ 4,213,425,380.00	2%
SUS Performance Based Incentives	\$ 560,000,000.00	\$ 560,000,000.00	0%
SUS PIPELINE Nursing Program	---	\$ 40,000,000.00	100%
SUS LINE Nursing Program	---	\$ 6,000,000.00	100%
SUS Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network	\$ 11,836,500.00	\$ 17,236,500.00	46%
SUS PECO GR	\$ 18,479,572.00	\$ 7,140,378.00	0%
SUS PECO Fund	\$ 19,353,901.00	\$ 162,500,000.00	740%

Florida Retirement System (FRS)

HB 5007 conforms the law to the House proposed 2022-23 General Appropriations Act (GAA) as retirement contributions are included in the GAA.

- Modifies DROP to allow a member of the Special Risk Class who is a law enforcement officer to participate for up to 36 calendar months beyond the 60-month period if they enter DROP on or before June 30, 2028.
- Increases the employer contribution to investment plan accounts by 3% for each membership class in the investment plan.
- Revises the employer contribution rates for the FRS based on the actuarial valuation and actuarial studies.

The revised contribution percentage, by class, is as follows:

Membership Class	Percentage of Gross Compensation
Regular Class	9.30%
Special Risk Class	17.00%
Special Risk Administrative Support Class	10.95%
Elected Officers' Class <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Justices and Judges• County Elected Officers• Others	16.23% 14.34% 12.38%
Senior Management Service Class	10.67%

The legislative revision of the FRS employer contribution rates, as determined by the July 1, 2021, annual actuarial valuation, sets the employer-paid rates required to adequately fund the program. The employer contribution rate adjustments include the increase required to fund the modifications to DROP and the increased allocation to the investment plan member accounts.

The employer contribution rate for the investment plan increased by 3% more than the defined benefit plan. This policy shift will make the return for educators who choose the investment plan or accept the default a little bit more valuable than in prior years, but the yield on this plan still lags behind the defined benefits program for educators who stay to reach full retirement.

The total combined employer contributions estimated to be paid into the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 will increase by approximately \$437.7 million above the contributions paid in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The estimated increase in contributions by employer contribution group for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 are as follows:

2021 Actuarial Valuation

Employer Contribution Group	Estimated Increase in Contributions
State Agencies	\$32.3 Million
School Boards	\$47.0 Million
State Universities	\$6.9 Million
Colleges	\$3.9 Million
Counties	\$74.6 Million
Other	\$11.3 Million
Total	\$176.0 Million

Blended 2022-2023 Statutory Rates Reflecting 3.00% of Pay Increase in FRS Investment Plan

Employer Contribution Group	Estimated Increase in Contributions
State Agencies	\$31.2 Million
School Boards	\$108.9 Million
State Universities	\$24.3 Million
Colleges	\$8.7 Million
Counties	\$61.0 Million
Other	\$14.5 Million
Total	\$248.6 Million

Extend Maximum DROP Participation by 36 Months for Law Enforcement Officers

Employer Contribution Group	Estimated Increase in Contributions
State Agencies	\$2.4 Million
School Boards	\$0.34 Million
State Universities	\$0.09 Million
Colleges	\$0.02 Million
Counties	\$9.4 Million
Other	\$0.8 Million
Total	\$13.1 Million

The total combined employer contributions estimated to be paid into the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2022-2023:

Employer Contribution Group	Estimated Increase in Contributions
State Agencies	\$65.9 Million
School Boards	\$156 Million
State Universities	\$31.3 Million
Colleges	\$12.6 Million
Counties	\$145 Million
Other	\$26.6 Million
Total	\$437.7 Million

These are revised employer contribution rates for the 2022-23 school year based on the 2021 Actuarial Valuation

Membership Class	"Blended" Normal Costs		Unfunded Actuarial Liability		Combined Contribution Rates	
	7/1/2021	7/1/2022	7/1/2021	7/1/2022	7/1/2021	7/1/2022
Regular Class	4.91%	5.96%	4.19%	4.23%	9.10%	10.19%
DROP	7.23%	7.79%	9.45%	9.15%	16.68%	16.94%

Florida Retirement System Costs = \$156,000,000

2022 Session Bills that Passed

Pursuant to Article III, section 8, of the Florida Constitution, "Every bill passed by the legislature shall be presented to the governor for approval and shall become a law if the governor approves and signs it or fails to veto it within seven consecutive days after presentation. If during that period or on the seventh day the legislature adjourns sine die or takes a recess of more than thirty days, the governor shall have fifteen consecutive days from the date of presentation to act on the bill."

1. [HB 1: Homestead Property Tax Exemptions for Classroom Teachers, Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Child Welfare Professionals, and Servicemembers](#), by Rep. J. Tomkow (R- Auburndale, Dist. 39) | **HB 1563**, by Rep. J. Tomkow
Check your legislator's floor vote: [S: 37-1](#) [H: 115-0](#)

CS/CS/HB 1563 is linked to CS/CS/HJR 1. The joint resolution is a proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution to authorize the Legislature to provide a new homestead tax exemption, specifically for individuals employed as of January 1 each year as fulltime K-12 classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, members of the Florida National Guard, or a person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner. The maximum exemption amount is \$50,000 and applies to the assessed valuation of a homestead between \$100,000 and \$150,000. The exemption covers all non-school levies. The new exemption will reduce local property tax revenue for all levies other than school district levies by \$85.9 million beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

The proposed constitutional amendment will be submitted to Florida voters for approval during the 2022 November election. To pass the amendment must be approved by 60 percent of Florida voters and would take effect on January 1, 2023. If the amendment passes, the tax exemption will first be applied to the 2023 tax roll.

2. [HB 7: Individual Freedom](#), by Rep. B. Avila (R-Hialeah, Dist. 111) | **SB 0148**, by Sen. M. Diaz (R-Hialeah Garden, Dist. 36) **Check your legislator's floor vote: [H:74-21](#) [S:24-15](#)**
Known as "Stop WOKE" or "Erase History," HB 7 seeks to censor classroom instruction and discussions on topics related to race and racism. The bill creates a new provision in the law that specifies that certain behavior constitutes unlawful discrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin. Further, it prohibits subjecting individuals to certain concepts and statements in workplace trainings and K-20 curriculum that could be deemed discriminatory.

The bill also creates a cause of action allowing a parent or anyone who feels violated by such behavior to sue the school district or employer. Educators and parents have expressed concerns the bill could have a chilling effect on teaching and learning that might silence educators from answering difficult questions and engaging students in deeper discussions about the ramifications behind certain historical facts, figures, and events.

Finally, the measure defines unlawful discrimination as subjecting an individual, as a condition of membership, to training, instruction or any other required activity that espouses the bill's enumerated beliefs on race, color, national origin and sex. If signed into law by the governor, it takes effect July 1, 2022.

3. [HB 173: Care of Students with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders](#), by Rep. N. Duran (D- Miami, Dist. 112) | **SB 340**, by Sen. I. Garcia (R-Miami, Dist. 37) **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H: 106-0](#) [S: 39-0](#)**
This bill establishes the creation of an individualized seizure action plan (ISAP) for a student with epilepsy or seizure disorders to receive health care at school that ensures proper care for a child experiencing a seizure.

The bill requires training for district school employees whose duties include regular student contact to include how to recognize the symptoms of and provide care for a student with an ISAP. To assist schools in meeting this requirement, the FLDOE shall identify and publish on its website one or more online training courses that support the welfare of individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders and make the resource available to schools free of charge. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

4. [HB 225: Charter School Charters](#), by Rep. Fred Hawkins (R- St. Cloud, Dist. 42) | **SB 892**, by Sen. D. Burgess (R- Zephyrhills, Dist. 20) **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [S: 24-13](#) [H: 105-10](#)**
This measure authorizes the modification of a charter school agreement at any time during the academic year, instead of upon the initial startup or at renewal. It requires a charter applicant’s request for the consolidation of multiple charter contracts to be approved or denied within 60 days after a request has been made. If denied, the sponsor must notify the charter school’s governing board within 10 days and provide specific and detailed reasons for the denial. The bill clarifies that a charter automatically renews with the same terms and conditions if notification does not occur at least 90 days before the end of the school year. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

5. [HB 235: Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools](#), by Rep. R. Plasencia (R-Titusville, Dist. 50) | **SB 390**, by Sen. L. Book (D-Plantation, Dist. 32) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H: 115-0](#) [S: 38-0](#)**
The legislation prohibits school personnel from using mechanical restraints on students with disabilities, except for school resource officers, school safety officers, school guardians, and school security guards. These individuals may use a mechanical restraint to restrain students in grades 6 through 12. Devices prescribed or recommended by physical or behavioral health professionals may still be used for their indicated purposes. Authorized school personnel are still permitted to use appropriate physical restraint as permitted by existing law. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

6. [SB 236: Children with Developmental Delays](#), by Sen. S. Jones (D-Miami Gardens, Dist. 36.) | **HB 15**, by Rep. F. Hawkins (R-Saint Cloud, Dist. 42) and A. Tant (D-Tallahassee, Dist. 9) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [S:38-0](#) [H:117-0](#)**
This bill expands student eligibility for ESE services under the classification developmentally delayed until age 9 instead of as addressed in the current state law which ends ESE services for students on their sixth birthday. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

7. [HB 395: Proclamation of Victims of Communism Day](#), by Rep. D. Borrero (R-Miami, Dist. 105) | **SB 268**, by Sen. M. Diaz (R-Hialeah Garden, Dist. 36) **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H: 115-0](#) [S: 38-0](#)**
This creates a new day of observance by requiring the governor to annually proclaim November 7th as “Victims of Communism Day” and mandates the day be observed in public schools. It also requires high school students to receive specified instruction on Victims of Communism Day, and for the State Board of Education to adopt revised social studies standards that encompass this material. Takes effect upon becoming law.

8. [HB 497: Lee County School District, Lee County](#), by Rep. J. Persons-Mulicka (R- Fort Myers, Dist. 78) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [S: 39-0](#) [H: 96-21](#)**
This bill creates a local referendum for the Lee County Superintendent of Schools to change the position from an appointed position to an elected position with a term of four years. The referendum would be voted on during the November 2022 election with the first election of the position taking place during the 2024 November election. Takes effect following the outcome of the November 8, 2022, referendum.

9. [SB 520: Public Records and Public Meetings](#), by Sen. J. Brandes (R-St. Petersburg, Dist. 24) | [HB 703: Public Records and Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search](#), by Rep. S Garrison (R-Orange Park, Dist. 18) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H: 86-26](#) [S: 28-11](#)**
This conceals the personal information of all candidates who apply for the position of president at postsecondary institution making it confidential and exempt from the Florida Sunshine Laws. The personal data of the final group of candidates will be released to the public when the selection committee determines the final group of candidates or 21 days before the interview of an applicant or a vote to offer the position, whichever comes first. Meetings to discuss the candidates and their personal information are also confidential. Additionally, when the final group of applicants is named, a list of all applicants' race, gender, and age will no longer be secret. Signed by the governor, March 16, 2022: [Laws of Florida: Chapter No. 2022-015](#)

10. [SB 524: Election Administration](#), by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Palm Coast, Dist. 7) | [HB 7061](#), by House Public Integrity and Elections Committee and Rep. D. Perez (R-Miami, Dist. 116) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H:76-41](#) [S:24-14](#)**
This bill makes changes to the state’s election administration laws by creating the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Department of State to investigate election law violations and irregularities.

Additionally, the bill requires the Supervisors of Elections (SOE) to maintain the voter rolls annually, as well as creating a framework confirming a registered voter’s address. Under this new law the SOEs would be required to mail an address confirmation request to a voter’s legal residence, voters would then have 30 days to return the confirmation to the SOE. If the address confirmation request is not returned to the SOE, the voter is marked inactive. An inactive voter can be restored to active status once their address is confirmed.

The measure also increases criminal penalties for violating 104.0616 F.S. which states it is a violation for “any person (to) distribute, order, request, collect, deliver, or otherwise physically possesses more than two vote by-mail ballots per election in addition to his or her own ballot or a ballot belonging to an immediate family member...” Anyone found guilty would face a third-degree felony, which could lead to up to five years in prison. Finally, this prohibits ranked-choice voting. It takes effect upon becoming law.

11. [SB 638: Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program](#), by Sen. K. Perry (R- Gainesville, Dist. 8) | [HB 277](#), by Rep. C. Clemons (R- Jonesville, Dist. 21) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [S: 37-0](#) [H: 112- 0](#)**
This extends the expiration date for the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program to June 30, 2023. The purpose of the program is to assist selected school districts in implementing comprehensive music education programs for students in kindergarten through grade 2. Takes effect upon becoming law.

12. [CS/SB 706: School Concurrency](#), by Sen. K. Perry (R-Gainesville, Dist. 8) |

HB 851, by Rep. S. McClain (R-Ocala, Dist. 23) | **Check your legislator's floor vote:** [S: 38-0](#) [H: 113-0](#)

To meet the demands placed upon public school capacity by new residential development, this bill provides that school concurrency be documented through proportionate-share agreements and legally binding agreements rather than completely executing the agreement. The bill requires the district school board to notify the local government that capacity is available within 30 days after receipt of the developer's legally binding commitment. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

13. [SB 722: Education for Student Inmates](#), by Sen. K. Perry (R-Gainesville, Dist. 8) |

HB 1515, by Rep. C. Clemmons (R-Jonesville, Dist. 21) | **Check your legislator's floor vote:** [H: 113-0](#) [S: 38-0](#)

The bill authorizes a county or municipal detention facility or the Department of Corrections (DOC) to contract with a Florida College System institution to provide education services to inmates. The educational services may include any educational, career, or vocational training that is authorized by a county or municipal detention facility or the DOC.

The bill also allows the use of state funds for postsecondary workforce education programs to be expended on state inmates with 24 months or less remaining on their sentences. It removes federal inmates from the authorization for the expenditure of state funds on postsecondary education workforce programs and adds that the expenditure of state funds on postsecondary workforce programs for state inmates, authorized notwithstanding s. 1011.81(4), F.S., which prohibits state funds provided for the Florida College System Program Fund from being expended for the education of state or federal inmates. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

14. [SB 758: Education](#), by Sen. M. Diaz (R- Hialeah Gardens, Dist. 36) |

HB 865, by Rep. A. Rizo (R- Hialeah, Dist. 110) | **Check your legislator's floor vote:** [H: 86-28](#) [S: 27-11](#)

This bill creates the Charter School Review Commission (CSRC), a seven member board appointed by the State Board of Education, to operate within the FL Department of Education. The CSRC will review and approve charter schools to be sponsored and supervised by district school boards where the charter schools are located, removing the school district from the authorization and approval process. Within 30 calendar days following approval by the Commission, the district board must provide an initial proposed charter contract to the school governing board, among other requirements.

The measure also establishes the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation at Miami Dade College (MDC) to improve charter school authorizing practices. The Institute would be required to develop a sponsor evaluation framework, provide training and technical assistance, including research and advice on best practices for charter school applications and renewals, policy analysis, and overall practices related to charter school operations.

In addition, the measure:

- Modifies the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation to require a school district that has not received its allocation due to failure to submit an approved district salary distribution plan, to provide each charter school within its district its proportionate share of the allocation if it has submitted a salary distribution plan.
- Prohibits a sponsor from charging or withholding any administrative fee against a charter school for funds specifically allocated by the Legislature for teacher compensation and from imposing any

additional reporting requirements unless the school is under a deteriorating financial condition or financial emergency.

- Provides that a charter school which receives a school grade lower than a “B” in the most recent graded school year and has met the terms of its program review with no grounds for nonrenewal being expressly found, must be granted no less than a 5-year charter renewal, notwithstanding the provisions of law which govern the actions of an academically struggling charter school.
- Requires a 15-year charter renewal be granted to a charter school which has received a school grade of “A” or “B” in the most recent graded school year, rather than in 3 of the past 4 years, provided the school is not in a state of financial emergency.
- Addresses legislative intent that charter school students be considered as important as all other students in this state and, comparable funding levels from existing and future sources should be maintained for charter school students.
- Authorizes members of the Legislature to visit any public school in their legislative district without prior notice to district.
- Additionally, SB 758 includes language that covers facility and land use, developmental impact fees, and district interlocal agreements, etc. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

15. **[HB 777: Local Tax Referenda Requirements](#)**, by Rep. W. Robinson (R- Bradenton, Dist. 71) | **SB 1194**, by Sen. J. Boyd (R- Bradenton, Dist. 21) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [S:39-0](#) [H:111-2](#)**
This requires all local government tax referenda to only be included on the general election ballot, not the primary ballot. The impacted taxes include school district millage, tourist development tax, areas of critical state concern tourist impact tax, children’s services independent special district tax, county temporary excess ad valorem millage, municipal temporary excess ad valorem millage, county transportation motor fuel tax, and local option fuel tax. Takes effect on October 1, 2022, to allow counties that have already scheduled their referenda for an earlier date to complete the vote.
16. **[SB 896: Educator Certification Pathways for Veterans](#)**, by Sen. D. Burgess (R- Zephyrhills, Dist. 20) | **HB 0573**, by Rep. J. Snyder (R-Palm City, Dist. 82) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [S:39-0](#) [H:111-0](#)**
This lowers the entry level standards for a temporary teaching certificate for military veterans with at least 48 months of active-duty service and at least 60 hours of college credit. The veterans will have to pass the subject area test and have a district willing to hire them. Once they receive their temporary certificate, they will have five years to complete all additional requirements for their professional license. The bill also adds military reservists to the individuals who can receive waivers for the fees for the state’s teacher exams and certification fees. Takes effect July 1, 2022.
17. **[HB 899: Mental Health of Students](#)**, by Rep. C. Hunschofsky (D-Coconut Creek, Dist. 96) | **SB 1240**, by Sen. G. Harrell (R-Stuart, Dist. 25) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H:114-0](#) [S:38-0](#)**
This measure changes a school district’s annual mental health assistance allocation plan to include policies and procedures that ensure mental health services and resources for students and their families. It requires school districts to provide the same mental health information to individuals living in the same household as the student receiving the services. Additionally, school districts must appoint a mental health coordinator that will serve as the primary point of contact for the district’s mental health policies, procedures, responsibilities, reports, training, and resources for students and school staff relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

18. [SB 1048: Student Assessments](#), by Senator M. Diaz (R- Hialeah Gardens, Dist. 36) |
HB 1193: K-12 Assessments and Accountability by Rep. R. Plasencia (R- Titusville, Dist. 50) |
Check your legislator’s floor vote: [S: 38-0](#) [H: 83-31](#)

The state’s current assessment system will be replaced in 2022-23 by a standardized system of coordinated screening and progress monitoring from Pre-K through second grade in math and English Language Arts (ELA). The current Florida Standards Assessments will be replaced in grades 3-8 math and grades 3-10 ELA with progress monitoring and a comprehensive final assessment. The tests will occur near the beginning of the year, near mid-year and end with a comprehensive exam similar to the current FSA.

The scores will still be used for school grades, teacher evaluations and student retention and graduation. The tests are required to be computer-adaptive by the 2023-24 school year and results will be returned by May 31, beginning in 2024. Detailed results are to be returned to teachers within one week and parents within two weeks.

The bill also requires a taskforce be set up to study the testing results with an eye towards reducing student assessments by using results from the first two assessments. “Hold harmless” provisions for the 2022-23 school year include the first year of implementation for school turnaround, virtual school, high-performing charter schools and school districts, along with good cause exemptions for 3rd grade retention, and high school graduation. The bill sets the baseline for school grades using the 2021-22 results for the first year of the new assessments to the 2023-24 school grades.

Also included in the bill are a series of measures informing parents of their students’ progress on state assessments and accessing literacy resources.

The measure was signed into law by the governor on March 15, 2022, authorizing the FLDOE to initiate new assessment systems and close out old assessment systems. [Laws of Florida: Chapter No. 2022-016](#)

The following table provides a brief overview of the history of Florida’s assessment policies:

Accountability	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-24
Assessment	Florida Standards Assessment	Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST): Fixed form Progress monitoring and year-end cumulative tests	FAST: Computer adaptive progress monitoring	FAST: Computer adaptive progress monitoring
School Grades	Yes Full calculations: student achievement and learning gains	Informational Uses 2021-22 proportions as baseline, Does not account for learning gains	Yes Full calculation, Automatic escalator possible	Yes Full calculation
School Turnaround	Yes	No new schools Existing schools may exit	Yes Automatic escalator may affect number entering and exiting	Yes Automatic escalator always possible
School Improvement	Yes	No calculation	State Board sets new scale with learning gains	New scale

19. **[SB 1054: Financial Literacy Instruction in Public Schools](#)**, by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Palm Coast) | **HB 1115**: High School Graduation Requirements in Personal Finance, by Rep. D. Busatta Cabrera (Coral Gables, Dist. 114) | **Check your legislator's vote: [S:38-0](#) [H:117-0](#)**
The policy institutes a new graduation requirement for students beginning with the entering 9th graders in 2023-24. All students will be required to pass a one-half credit course in personal financial literacy. Takes effect July 1, 2022.
20. **[HB 1467: K-12 Education](#)**, by Rep. S. Garrison (R-Orange Park, Dist. 18) | **SB 1300**, by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 23) | **Check your legislator's vote: [H: 79-41](#) [S: 25-15](#)**
Florida school district board members will operate under a 12-year term limit. The bill requires that district meetings set to evaluate or select instructional materials be open to the public and include parents, and other community stakeholders. This measure expands the requirement for training of certified media specialists and others responsible for selecting instructional and library materials. It requires districts adopt and share procedures for materials selection and maintain a digital catalogue of all educational and instructional materials for each school. The bill also requires districts report on challenged books and the Department of Education publish a list of all books removed from circulation. This measure expands the requirement of training for reviewers and selectors of school district library materials to "other personnel," and requires for the digital cataloguing of all educational and instructional materials on school websites as well as removal of books that meet certain conditions. It outlines the reporting responsibilities of school districts concerning educational and instructional materials to the public and requires public reviews of materials used for required instruction. Takes effect July 1, 2022.
21. **[HB 1421: School Safety](#)**, by Rep. F. Hawkins (R-Saint Cloud, Dist. 42) and Rep. C. Hunschofsky (D-Coconut Creek, Dist. 96) | **SB 802**, by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 23) | **Check your legislator's floor vote: [H: 115-0](#) [S: 39-0](#)**
This legislation amends provisions related to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission and FortifyFL. It updates the guidelines for the Florida Department of Education and the Office of Safe Schools enforcement of school safety and security, revises emergency drills, sets family reunification plans during an emergency, and addresses threat assessment teams and safe-school officers. Takes effect July 1, 2022.
22. **[HB 1557: Parental Rights in Education](#)**, Rep. J. Harding (R-Ocala, Dist. 22) | AKA: "Don't Say Gay bill", This high-profile bill was promoted under the guise of parental rights and freedom and is a good example of legislation that promotes Florida's culture wars. At least 37 failed amendments were filed in both chambers by Democrats and Republicans to improve or soften the bill's language. If signed into law by the governor, this measure may have a serious impact on the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ students, their parents, and educators.

It prohibits discussions on sexual orientation and gender identity, specifically in K-3 classroom instruction and limits discussions above grade 3 to "age or developmentally appropriate" in accordance with state standards.

It also requires districts to provide parents access to their child's education and health records and prohibits all school employees from withholding any information from parents about their child. Parents must be notified of all changes in their child's mental and physical health and any other services the student receives at school. This could be as simple as a change in what a student chooses to order for school lunch.

Once a parent files a complaint, the district has 30 days to resolve the concern. If signed into law by the governor, this measure would allow a parent to bring legal action against the school district. A court may award damages but must award attorney fees and court costs to a parent who receives declaratory or injunctive relief. No reciprocal action is included for the district. This provision could have a significant financial impact on a district. Takes effect on July 1, 2022.

23. [SB 2524: Education](#), by Appropriations | Refer to [SB: 5001 \(GAA\)](#) and [HB: 5003](#) |

Check your legislator's floor vote: [S:31-2](#) [H:83-24](#)

SB 2524, the Conference Committee Conforming bill, is the result of House and Senate Appropriations chair negotiations and is part of the budget that was voted on during the last day of the extended session. It amends the Florida Statutes to provide the specific changes in the general appropriations bill. The budget, implementing bills, and the conforming bills cannot be amended once they are finalized.

The 181-page conforming bill includes a smorgasbord of issues that were part of the 24-page original bill, but it also included issues that were in other bills that did not complete the full process by passing on both the House and Senate floors. Additional issues that were never the subject of any bill in either chamber this session were also added to this bill. Included in the bill are elements of many unfinished bills including HB 1203, HB 1505, HB 1193, HB 2321, HB 5101, HB 5201 plus new language on school readiness, literacy, testing, health education and higher education performance pay. Some of the amended provisions include:

- The bill creates a clearinghouse for collecting background screening information that can be shared among all state entities rather than requiring each individual go through a separate screening process for each agency. It requires all taxpayer funded entities to use the clearinghouse to screen employees (this includes voucher-providing private schools.) Also, it clarifies that all arrests, including expunged records must be disclosed no matter the education-related employer. The bill adds penalties for individuals who fail to report sexual misconduct with students and authority figures and expands the list of individuals who are required to have background screening to some individuals who are not instructional personnel.
- It modifies the University System Performance Incentive process to include additional graduation data and a prohibition of performance funding if a school has a "substantiated violation" of the new sections of law that will be established when the governor signs HB 7 into law. This section addresses what the bill terms discrimination based on training or instruction relating to "race, color, national origin, or sex" that may cause an individual to feel "guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress." Violations will be determined by a court of law, standing committee of the Legislature or the Board of Governors.
- It also creates incentives for higher education institutions to recruit and train nurses to fill the shortages in the state.
- It expands the state college and university system efforts to expand open-access resources by creating the Student Open Access Repository (SOAR) and provides funding for expanding the curation and migration of these resources.
- The measure requires the state to develop a standard virtual school contract, maintain a summary of school capacity and waitlists for controlled open enrollment, and notify parents immediately when there is expanded capacity. The bill does not remove the school district's ability to operate a virtual franchise, an element that was the subject of a bill that did not pass. Other changes relating to virtual school includes changes in the funding calculations for virtual included DJJ programs.

- The bill expands one section of the “Family Empowerment” voucher program from 20,000 to 26,500 students and continues the annual expansion of the program by 1% of the ESE population in the state. It also expands the eligibility of the “Reading Scholarship Accounts” to grades K- 5 and allows teachers to provide tutoring services related to the program in their own classrooms outside of regular school hours. There are also changes to the Early Learning Coalitions funding process using market rates, the district cost differential. The bill provides special cost differentials for students with special needs, as well as participation and performance metrics on the child screening assessments.
- In the area of literacy, the bill established a micro-credential program in early literacy and literacy development that will substitute in some cases for the required reading certification and endorsement requirement for teachers of students with a substantial deficiency in reading. \$30 million is provided for developing the micro-credential program and for incentives for school readiness and VPK instructors as well as K-12 teachers to add the micro-credential, or a reading certification or endorsement. The program must be available by December 31, 2022, at no cost to instructional personnel, Pre-K instructors and childcare personnel.
- The bill also expands the New World Reading Initiative free book program to grade 5 and requires the vendor to provide professional development for teachers that correlates to the books provided through the initiative.
- HB 1203 was withdrawn from committee consideration, but a provision related to teacher evaluation, longevity pay, and teacher preparation program evaluation were part of a last-minute amendment to the bill. It requires pay based on longevity increases must be included in calculation that limit the proportion of salary increases described in the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation. This will limit the amount of salary increases experienced teachers can receive. A recent Public Employee Relations Commission final order declared teacher evaluation a mandatory subject of collective bargaining because the process and the results are inextricably tied to wages and to terms and conditions of employment. This bill attempts to remove teacher evaluation from being a mandatory subject of bargaining.
- Teacher preparation program evaluation is substantially changed and most of the decisions about how the evaluation system will change is placed with the State Board of Education and the Department of Education. It also requires potential teachers in teacher preparation receive a minimum amount of experience in a classroom field experience before their internship and before becoming a teacher of record. This will affect both traditional teacher preparation programs and the alternative program through Educator Preparation Institutes but does not affect the district in-house alternative certification programs.
- School grades are also part of this legislation. The changes in this bill include some issues that were never heard in the Senate including an automatic escalator to the school grades that could occur as early as 2023-24 if the 2021-22 school grades include at least 75% of the schools in any of four grade-band categories receive an A or B. Whenever this occurs, the points required to make each grade will automatically increase to the nearest whole number ending in a 0 or 5. The results will mean fewer schools rated A and B and more schools labeled D and F and an increased number of schools in turnaround.
- Districts that may be implementing turnaround are required to begin implementing improvement strategies after they receive an initial “D” and will be allowed to purchase specific services from turnaround operators and charter school networks in addition to the option to turn the school entirely over to a charter school or external operator. However, if the district board chooses to implement

turnaround, they must establish a two-year contract which can be terminated by the State Board of Education at any time.

- The legislature did include a suggestion that FEA proposed to collect complete data on the time students spend in testing. The legislation will require districts report the minimum, maximum and median number of minutes students spend in required district and state testing and progress monitoring.
- The bill removes the requirement that the 300 lowest performing schools offer an extra hour of reading.
- It increases the enrollment eligibility for the sparsity supplement to districts with a full time equivalent of less than 30,000 students.
- It permits districts to use the reading allocation funds for incentives to earn literacy credentials and expands eligibility for summer reading camp instruction (except retained 3rd graders) to teachers with the literacy micro-credential, including the removal of the Just Read requirements to approve instructional materials purchased using reading allocation funds. It removed the requirement for districts to have reading plans approved by the department, though the districts must submit the plans to the department.
- The bill established the Safer Smarter Schools program to implement the revised Health Education curriculum required instruction on personal safety to help students learn how to be safe from abuse and exploitation.
- School transportation is also included in the bill, allowing the use of funds for alternative transportation including ride-sharing services and car-pooling, and requires the DOE to study the issue to provide recommendations.

24. [SB 7044: Postsecondary Education](#) , by Senate Education and Sen. M. Diaz (R-Hialeah Gardens, Dist. 36) | [HB 7051](#), by Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee and Rep. A. Mariano (R-Hudson, Dist. 36) | **Check your legislator's floor vote: [H:77-40](#) [S:22-15](#)**

This bill makes several changes to Higher Education. HB 7051 allows the Board of Governors to establish a uniform post-tenure review (PTR). PTR must address and review a tenured professor's accomplishments, duties, and performance. Additionally, these reviews must provide tenured professors with improvement plans and consequences for underperformance when necessary.

The legislation creates additional transparency measures to those already in place for textbooks and instructional materials listed on the course registration page. Colleges and universities will now be required to post required and recommended instructional materials for general education courses at least 45 days before the start of the semester. Additionally, curriculum, syllabi, course goals and objectives, and grading rubrics for general education courses must be posted.

Additionally, it requires public colleges, universities, or nonpublic postsecondary education institutions that receive state funds to change accrediting agencies at the end of each accreditation cycle; programmatic accreditation is exempt from this requirement. The bill requires quarterly reports to the Board of Governors on finding a new accreditor. These reports would share the status of the institution's search for a new accreditor. Should a college or university be unable to find a new accreditor, they would be able to remain with their current accreditor. These provisions of the bill are set to sunset in 2032. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

25. [CS/HB 7055: Cybersecurity](#), by State Affairs Committee; State Administration and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H: 110-0](#) [S: 38-0](#)**
SB 1670, by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee

In response to increased cybersecurity attacks, this bill will require all local government employees, including staff who have access to the school district network to complete a basic cybersecurity training within 30 days after commencing employment and annually thereafter. Advanced network training will likewise be required for staff with access to “highly sensitive information.” The trainings will be developed by the Florida Digital Service.

The measure also defines a ‘Ransomware incident’ and prohibits a state agency or local government experiencing a ransomware incident from paying or otherwise complying with the demanded ransom. The bill is implemented in a phased approach with larger counties implementing by 2024 and smaller counties implementing by 2025. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

26. [CS/HB 7071: Taxation](#), by Appropriations Committee; Ways and Means Committee | **Check your legislator’s floor vote: [H: 104-0](#) [S: 33-0](#)**

This policy provides numerous tax reductions and other tax-related modifications designed to directly impact both Florida families and businesses. It also includes provisions related to education:

- Increases the millage from \$150 to \$175 per unweighted full-time equivalent student, that a school district may expend, to fund expenditures related to transportation and building costs.
- Retains the sales tax holiday for school supplies including clothing, wallets, and bags; school supplies; learning aids and jigsaw puzzles; personal computers and personal computer-related accessories.
- Creates the New Worlds Reading Initiative Tax Credit Program: Increases the allowable carryforward of unused contributions from one year to the next for the New Worlds Reading Initiative and increases the New Worlds Reading Initiative tax credit cap (currently \$30 Million). Beginning in 2023-2024, the bill increases the cap to \$60 million in each year thereafter. It was originally set to increase to \$50 million. Takes effect July 1, 2022.

Bills that Failed to Pass

Most of the following legislative proposals were not considered in their assigned committees or heard in only one committee.

- [HJR 35: Partisan Elections for School Board Members](#)**, by Rep. S. Roach (R-N. Fort Myers, Dist. 79) | **[SJR 244](#)**, by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 23)

If this joint resolution passed, it would have authorized a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to be added to the November ballot requiring school board elections to be partisan elections. Both measures were assigned to three (3) committees in their respective chambers. Only SB 244 was heard by one (1) committee.
- [HB 51: Required Instruction in the History of the Holocaust and the History of African Americans](#)**, by Rep. Thompson (D-Orlando, Dist. 44) | **[SB 1398](#)**, by Sen. Berman (D- Boynton Beach, Dist. 31)

Requiring the Department of Education to prepare and offer standards and curriculum related to the history of African Americans; requiring the department to annually verify that school districts, charter schools, and specified private schools implement certain instruction relating to the history of the Holocaust and the history of African Americans and providing requirements therefor; requiring district school superintendents, charter school principals, and private school directors or similar administrators to annually provide specified evidence to the department by a certain date; requiring certain statewide, standardized assessments to include curricula content from the history of the Holocaust and the history of African Americans, etc. This bill received three (3) committees and was indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration in its first House committee. The Senate version followed a similar course.
- [HB 57: Racial and Sexual Discrimination](#)**, by Rep. R. Fine (R- Palm Bay, Dist. 53) | **[SB 242](#)**, by Sen. J. Gruters (R- Sarasota, Dist. 234)

According to legislative leadership, this proposal was filed in response to concerns that students and state employees are being influenced by certain personal and political viewpoints espoused by employers, educators, and published materials. If passed the bill which is similar to HB 7, would have added the same language as in HB 7 to the Florida statutes: “divisive concepts”, “racial or sexual scapegoating” and “racial or sexual stereotyping.” The measure would have mandated certain principles of individual freedom to guide state agencies, employer trainings, and public school instruction and curriculum. The principles include:

 - No individual is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex.
 - No race is inherently superior to another race.
 - No individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability or sex.

This proposal would have prohibited K-20 public institutions from allowing any curriculum, mandatory employee training or student training from teaching, promoting, or encouraging any “divisive concepts” or race and sex stereotyping or scapegoating whether provided by an employee or hired contractor. Teachers would still be required to cover curriculum related to sexism, slavery, racial oppression, racial segregation, discrimination and the ramifications associated with each topic. Neither version of the bill received a committee hearing.

4. [**HB 77: Commissioner of Education**](#), by Rep. F. Driskell (D-Tampa, Dist. 63) | **SB 192**, by Sen. J. Cruz (D-Tampa, Dist. 18)
This measure would have restored the position of the Commissioner of Education from an appointed position, by the governor, to a statewide elected position. The bills were never considered in their assigned committees.
5. [**HB 179: Photographic Enforcement of School Bus Safety**](#), by Rep. T. Altman (R-Indian Harbor Beach, Dist. 52) and Rep. E. Slosberg-King (D-Delray Beach, Dist. 91) | **SB 702**, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Zephyrhills, Dist. 20)
The bill would allow school districts to install, operate, or contract with a private vendor to install and operate a side stop signal arm system. In conjunction with a law enforcement agency, a school district would issue a civil citation for those failing to stop when a school bus displays a stop signal. Additionally, the bill would have created a process by which someone could contest the violation issued to them. Funds collected from the civil citations could only be used to install or maintain the side stop signal arm system. Both measures received three committee assignments in each chamber. Only SB 702 moved through the process and stalled in its final committee which was Appropriations.
6. [**HB 189: Photographic Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits**](#), by Rep. N. Duran (D-Miami, Dist. 112) | **HB 797**, by Rep. T. Overdorf (R-Stuart, Dist. 83) | **SB 410**, by Sen. A. Rodriguez (R-Doral, Dist. 39)
The bill would authorize a local government to place or install an automated speed detection system on a street or highway to enforce speed limits in areas designated as school zones. The infractions would be authorized by a traffic enforcement office from a municipality or sheriff's office for \$100. Additionally, the bill would create a process by which a person can contest their violation. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but were never scheduled to be heard and ultimately failed to pass.
7. [**HB 281: Required Instruction in the History of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**](#), by Rep. Eskamani (D-Orlando, Dist. 47) | **SB 490**, by Sen. L. Stewart (D-Orlando, Dist. 13)
Requires history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to be included in specified instruction. The Senate version did pass its first committee by unanimous vote but stalled and was never taken up in its second committee. The House version did not receive a single committee hearing.
8. [**HB 361: Required Instruction in Social Media Literacy**](#), by Rep. C. Yarborough (R-Jacksonville, Dist. 12) | **SB 480: Required Instruction in Public Schools**, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Zephyrhills, Dist. 20)
This bill would have required school districts make social media literacy instructional material available online and notify parents of the material's online availability. Both proposals received committee assignments in each chamber but only the Senate version was heard and advanced to its second committee where it failed to advance further in the process.
9. [**HB 415: Native Language Assessments in Public Schools**](#), by Rep. R. Plasencia (R-Titusville, Dist. 50) | **SB 708**, by Sen. A. Rodriguez (R-Doral, Dist. 39)
The bill would allow for progress monitoring, end-of-course exams, and state assessments to be administered in the three most prevalent languages represented in the English Language Learner populations. The bill also provides that parents can choose what language assessments are delivered for their students in PreK-Grade 5, allows students in grades 6-8 to decide for themselves, and directs the Department of Education to develop a timeline and action plan for their students in grades 9-12. Additionally, the bill indicates that the department should find and approve an alternative college

readiness assessment in languages other than English and ensure that high school equivalency exams provided in other languages are given the same weight as those administered in English. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but failed to advance further in the process.

10. [HB 429: Private Schools](#), by Rep. J. Goff-Marcil (D- Maitland, Dist. 30) | [SB 532](#), by Sen. L. Stewart (D-Orlando, Dist. 13)

The bill would have provided much needed accountability and reporting in our private schools. Some of these provisions included reporting of graduation rates and results on standardized tests. Neither of these bills were provided a committee hearing.

11. [HB 447: Required Instruction in the History of African American](#), by Rep. Trabulsy (R-Fort Pierce, Dist. 84) | [SB 1516](#), by Sen. Jones (D-Miami Gardens, Dist. 35)

Required Instruction in the History of African Americans; Provides instructional staff of public schools are encouraged to include history of local African American cemeteries in study of history of African Americans. Both proposals advanced through the process. The House version made it to the House chamber floor where it was read a second time but stalled. The Senate version advanced to its second committee but stalled in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

12. [HB 587: Instructional Personnel and School Administrator Salaries](#), by Rep. R. Plasencia (R-Titusville, Dist. 50) | [SB 298](#), by Sen. Lauren Book (D-Plantation, Dist. 32)

This legislation would amend the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) to provide flexibility for school districts who have not yet reached the minimum base salary of \$47,500, streamline district salary schedules by making “performance salary schedule” optional, and eliminate newly added statute from 2021 making it harder for districts to provide raises. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but were never scheduled to be heard and failed to advance through the legislative process. They were never scheduled to be heard and ultimately failed to pass.

13. [SB 670: Emergency Drills in Public Schools](#), Sen. J. Cruz (D -Tampa, Dist. 18)

If passed the proposal would have revised the current policy, F.S. s 1006.07, F.S. for K-12 public school district fire and emergency drills to be conducted in a developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate manner. The measure specifies the number of fire and emergency drills to be conducted each school year by grade level and designates the types of drills and the areas to be addressed, including:

- Building evacuation and meeting locations
- Active threats, including active assailants, hostage situations, or bomb threats
- Fire prevention training, and
- Natural disasters

Procedures for the drills would be developed in consultation with school mental health professionals and guidance provided by the National Association of School Psychologists. The measure requires districts to notify parents in advance of the drill and provide an option for parents to excuse their child from participating in drills that require building evacuation. The measure also requires law enforcement to be present and directly involved in the execution of the drills. This proposal never received a House companion bill and was never considered and failed.

14. [**HB 672: School Safety Funding**](#), by Sen. J. Cruz (D -Tampa, Dist. 18)

This proposal would have required the 2022-23 school year district appropriations for school resource officers' program to be solely used for employing or contracting additional school resource officers and shall be distributed to all districts regardless of whether the school district chooses to participate in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. The measure would have required each district superintendent to return all remaining unused funds from the 2021-2022 fiscal year which were appropriated to the program. This is yet another proposal that never received a House companion bill and was never considered.

15. [**HB 676: Drinking Water in Public Schools**](#), by Sen. J. Cruz (D -Tampa, Dist. 18) |

SB 1245, by Rep. A. Nixon (D -Jacksonville, Dist. 14)

This bill would have created a new law to reduce or eliminate the harmful effects of lead poisoning in school drinking water. By June of 2023, districts would have been required to install and maintain lead water filters at each drinking source in all public schools built before 1986. Schools would have been required to post visible warning signs near non-drinking water sources indicating the water is not to be used for human consumption or food preparation and publish on district's website information about filters and locations for each drinking water source. Both proposals received committee assignments in each chamber but only the Senate version was heard and advanced to its second committee where it stalled and failed.

16. [**SB 680: Public School Transportation**](#), by Sen. J. Cruz (D -Tampa, Dist. 18)

The bill would have revised, s. 1006.21, F.S. the district requirement to extend the school bus walking zone limitation from 1.5 to 2 miles from the nearest school to provide transportation for PreK-12 students potentially endangered by hazardous walking conditions. The proposal received its committee assignments but never received a companion version from the other chamber. It was never scheduled to be heard and ultimately failed to pass.

17. [**SB 698: Standard High School Diploma Award Requirements**](#), by Sen. J. Cruz (D -Tampa, Dist. 18) |

HB 979, by Rep. D. Daley (D -Sunrise, Dist. 97)

This would have amended F.S. s 1002.3105, F.S. Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning – ACCEL options to allow a student to submit a free application for Federal Student Aid if the student meets certain applicable 9th grade graduation requirements, and beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, a student, entering 9th grade would have the option to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be awarded a standard high school diploma. The student is exempt from this subsection if the student's parent or the 18-year-old or older student submits a letter to the district declining to submit the free application. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but were never scheduled to be heard and ultimately failed to pass.

18. [**HB 769: State University Fee Waivers**](#), by Rep. J. Goff-Marcil (D-Maitland, Dist. 30) |

SB 666, by Sen. J. Cruz (D-Tampa, Dist. 18)

The bill would exempt graduate teaching assistants from paying fees associated with attending a state university. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but failed without consideration.

19. [HB 919: Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program](#), by Rep. T. McCurdy, (D-Orlando, Dist. 46) | **SB 1376**, by Sen. A Rodriguez, (R- Doral, Dist. 39)
This proposal would have revised s 1012.71, F.S. The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program to authorize program funds may be used to purchase classroom equipment to supplement the learning experience of students or supplies of personal protective equipment. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber and failed without consideration.
20. [HB 1017: K-12 Educational Support Employees](#), by Rep. A. Learned | **SB 1576**, by Sen. T. Polsky (D- Boca Raton, Dist. 29)
This was one of FEA’s main priorities for the 2022 Session. The measure would have provided funding for school districts to identify critical employment shortages of educational support employees. The bill was heard and passed unanimously out of its first committee of reference in the Senate Education Committee. This was historic as it was one of the first FEA supported bills that unanimously passed a legislative committee in nearly a decade. The House version received four committee references and was never placed on the calendar for its first committee hearing. SB 1576 stalled after not being considered in its second committee stop: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education. The proposal ultimately failed to pass, but the Senate and House moved to address staff shortages by raising the minimum salary for all hourly school district employees to \$15 an hour. Both proposals received committee assignments in each chamber but only the Senate version was heard and advanced to its second committee where it stalled. Ultimately, the Senate budget proposal included the \$15 increase.
21. [HB 1055: Video Cameras in Classrooms](#), by Rep. B. Rommel (R-Naples, Dist. 106)
This legislation would have permitted school districts to adopt a policy to place video cameras with audio recording in public school classrooms. The proposal received its committee assignments but never received a companion version from the other chamber.
22. [HB 1117: Education Recovery Scholarship Accounts](#), by Rep. C. Stevenson (R-Saint Augustine, Dist. 17) | **SB 0488**, by Sen. J. Brodeur (R-Lake Mary, Dist. 9)
The bill would have established Education Scholarship Accounts to mitigate learning loss by providing options for students who attend public schools that have been closed 10 consecutive days, or more, during the school year due to an emergency. This program is nearly identical to the reading scholarship account program however, recovery scholarship accounts would have included students struggling in math and have low reading scores. The bill passed one House committee 14-0. The Senate companion proposal failed to receive a committee hearing.
23. [HJR 1127: Limiting Subjects of Constitutional Amendments Proposed by Citizens Initiatives](#), by Rep. M. Beltran (R-Valrico, Dist. 57) | **SB 1412**, by Sen. J. Brodeur (R-Lake Mary, Dist. 9)
This Joint Resolution proposes an amendment to the state constitution, which would limit the subjects that could be placed on the ballot by a citizen's initiative. Citizens' initiatives would be limited to matters relating to procedural issues or the structure of government and constitution. The amendment would be placed on the ballot during the 2022 general election and requires that 60% of the voters approve it to pass. Both proposals received two committee assignments in each chamber but only the House version made it to the floor. The Senate version stalled in its second committee.

24. [HB 1197: Employee Organizations](#), by Rep. S. Plakon (R-Longwood, Dist. 29) and Rep. C. Byrd (R-Jacksonville Beach, Dist. 11) | **SB 1458**, by Sen. Dennis Baxley (R-Lady Lake, Dist. 12) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote** [H: 60-47 S: No vote taken](#)
AKA: “The Anti-Freedom bill” that protects police, firefighter or correctional officer unions, but would restrict payroll deduction for all other union dues. It would have required all public sector unions to maintain a 50% threshold to maintain the bargaining agent, required public sector employees to verify union membership, required union members to sign a membership form the has prescribed language, and require additional reporting to the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) by December 31st of each year. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber. The House version advanced through the process and voted to pass the bill making it available for the Senate to consider. It was assigned to the Senate Rules committee where it stalled and failed.
25. [HB 1199: Funding for the School Readiness Program](#), by Rep. E. Grall (R-Vero Beach, Dist. 54) | **SB 1700**, by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 23) | **Check your legislator’s floor vote:** [H: 115-0](#)
HB 1199 is among four bills filed to establish a new methodology for allocating the School Readiness (SR) program funds to the state’s Early Learning Coalitions (ELC), if the annual allocation is not determined in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) or the GAA implementing policy. The legislation would have created three new allocations, subject to legislative appropriations, for eligible SR providers to include: Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation, Differential Payment Program allocation, and Special Needs Differential allocation. The bill would have established a distribution methodology for the ELCs to allocate SR program funds to eligible SR providers. If passed, it would have required the principles of the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference to adopt the official cost of care projection and provide this information to the Legislature at least 90 days before the scheduled annual legislative session. This bill unanimously passed the House but was not heard in the Senate. **HB 1319: School Readiness Program**, by Rep. A. Nixon (D-Jacksonville, Dist. 14) and **SB 1918: School Readiness Program**, by Sen. A. Taddeo (D-Miami, Dist. 40) were also filed to require the state’s early learning coalitions to adopt new payment rate schedules and increased reimbursements for Early Learning providers. Portions of this bill were amended to another proposal. Refer to [2524](#).
26. [HB 1203 Education](#), by Rep. Fetterhoff (R-Deland, Dist. 26) | **SB 1386**, by Sen. Diaz (R-Hialeah Garden, Dist. 36) **Check your legislator’s floor vote:** [H-76-37](#) Revising provisions related to background screenings for certain persons who have access to children, visitation of schools by specified individuals, teacher preparation programs, and compensation and collective bargaining for certain educational personnel. The bill was referred to Senate Appropriations, where it failed to be considered. **Portions of this bill were amended to** [SB 2524](#).
27. [HB 1219: Instructional Personnel](#), Rep. R. Bartleman (D-Weston, Dist. 104) | **SB 1578**, Sen. S. Jones (D-Miami Gardens, Dist. 35)
Prekindergarten educators are instructional teachers, but these teachers are not included in the state’s definition or considered in statute as “instructional personnel.” This legislative proposal drafted by the FEA would redefine the terms “instructional personnel” and “classroom teacher” to include certified prekindergarten teachers, who are funded in the FEFP entitling them to the same salary amounts as other school personnel under the allocation. The bill lists qualifying educator certificates for prekindergarten instructors, to include Prekindergarten/Primary Education, Preschool Education, Early Childhood Education, or any exceptional student education area with the Prekindergarten Disabilities endorsement. HB 1219 received four (4) committee references and stalled after being heard in its second committee. Its

companion SB 1578 was assigned to three committee and was never scheduled to be considered.

28. [SB 1226: Virtual Learning](#), by Sen. J. Brandes (St. Petersburg, Dist. 24) |

HB 1533, by Rep. S. Garrison (R- Orange Park, Dist. 18)

The bill would have required Florida Virtual to establish a Justice Education Program for inmates younger than 22 to provide the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Additionally, the bill modified the online learning and blended learning funding models, and further provided FLVS the authority to offer online distance and blended learning courses. The bill also required that FLVS develop an assessment instrument and protocol for measuring student learning gains for those enrolled in the DJJ program. The bill died in its final stop in the Senate Appropriations Committee and passed one committee in the House, unanimously. Portions of this bill were amended to another proposal. Refer to [2524](#).

29. [SB 1294: Individual Education Plan Meetings](#), by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 23)

This proposal would have allowed parents to audio and/or video record any meeting with his or her child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) team, provided that the parent notifies the school district in writing of his or her intent to record the meeting at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Under the bill school districts would not be allowed to determine the circumstances by which a meeting may or may not be recorded or allow only certain types of recording. SB 1294 never received a House companion proposal. It was heard in one committee but never advanced further.

30. [HB 1317: Individual Education Plans](#), by Rep. A. Tant (D-Tallahassee, Dist. 9) |

SB 1674, by Sen. L. Ausley (D-Quincy, Dist. 3) **Check your legislator's floor vote: [H: 114-0](#)**

Had this bill passed, school districts would have been required to instruct students who are a year from the age of majority (18) and transitioning out of school and formal ESE services to be informed of their right to educational self-determination and their right to have their parent maintain legal power of attorney or legal guardianship to making decisions about their continuing educational rights. The House version advanced through the process. Members voted to approve the bill, making it available for the Senate. It was assigned to Senate Rules Committee where the proposal stalled.

31. [SB 1404: Certified School Counselors](#), by Sen. S. Jones (D-Miami Gardens, Dist. 35) |

HB 941, by Rep. D. Silvers (D-West Palm Beach, Dist. 87)

The bill would have narrowed the duties of a school counselor in a way that would have allowed them to focus on the work that corresponds to their training: student services. The House version received four committee assignments and was never considered in any of the House committees, but the Senate version advanced to Senate Rules where it was never placed on an agenda and failed to pass.

32. [HB 1457: Contracts for Instructional Personnel](#), by Rep. F. Driskell (D-Tampa, Dist. 63) |

SB 1592, by Sen. L. Berman (D-Boynton Beach, Dist. 31)

This legislation would have required school districts to renew a contract for the next school year for any instructional personnel who have received an evaluation rating of "effective" or "highly effective" at the conclusion of their current school year and who do not have any unresolved disciplinary action, unless the superintendent determines that the contract should not be renewed. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but were never scheduled for a committee hearing in either chamber.

33. [HB 1505: Background Screenings](#), by Rep. D. Trabulsky (R – Fort Pierce, Dist. 84) |

SB 1386: School Personnel, by Sen. M. Diaz (R- Hialeah Gardens, Dist. 36) |

SB 1830, Sen. J. Brodeur (R- Lake Mary, Dist. 9)

This measure would have required school districts, lab schools, The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, the Florida Virtual School, virtual instruction providers, charter schools, hope operators, early learning coalitions, and private schools participating in an educational scholarship program (education entities) to conduct background screenings through the clearinghouse beginning on January 1, 2023. The bill provides a schedule for rescreening. It also would have required the FDLE to retain fingerprints obtained from background screenings for the purpose of providing arrest notifications after the initial background screenings of qualified individuals. Referred to Senate Appropriations where it was postponed and withdrawn from consideration. Portions of this proposal were amended to another bill.

(Refer to [SB 2524](#)).

34. [SB 1690: Charter School Revolving Loan Program](#), by Sen. M. Diaz (R- Hialeah Gardens, Dist. 36) |

HB 1347, by Rep. J. Snyder (R-Palm City, Dist. 82)

This proposal would have created a loan program to assist charter school operators in funding school building financing and maintenance needs. The measure would have set aside an appropriation of \$10 million in nonrecurring general revenue funds to seed the charter school loan program. It also would have required the FLDOE to contract with a third-party administrator to administer the program. In 2021-2022, the legislature appropriated \$182,864,353 for the Charter School Capital Outlay Allocation. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber, but the bill only moved in the Senate to its second committee where it stalled.

35. [HB 6077: Postsecondary Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity](#), by Rep. Y. Hinson (D-Gainesville, Dist. 20) | **SB 810**, by Sen. T. Polsky (D-Boca Raton, Dist. 29)

The bill would have repealed most of the provisions in HB 233, Postsecondary Education, which passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. More specifically, the bill would repeal and stop the implementation of the viewpoint diversity survey, shielding laws, and the secret student recordings. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but were never considered.

36. [HB 6107: District School Board Employment Contracts](#), by Rep. S. Killebrew (R-Lakeland) |

SB 1602, by Sen. L. Ausley (D-Quincy, Dist. 3)

This measure would have repealed the prohibition of school districts to offer anything other than an annual contract for instructional personnel. Both measures received committee assignments in each chamber but ultimately failed to advance.

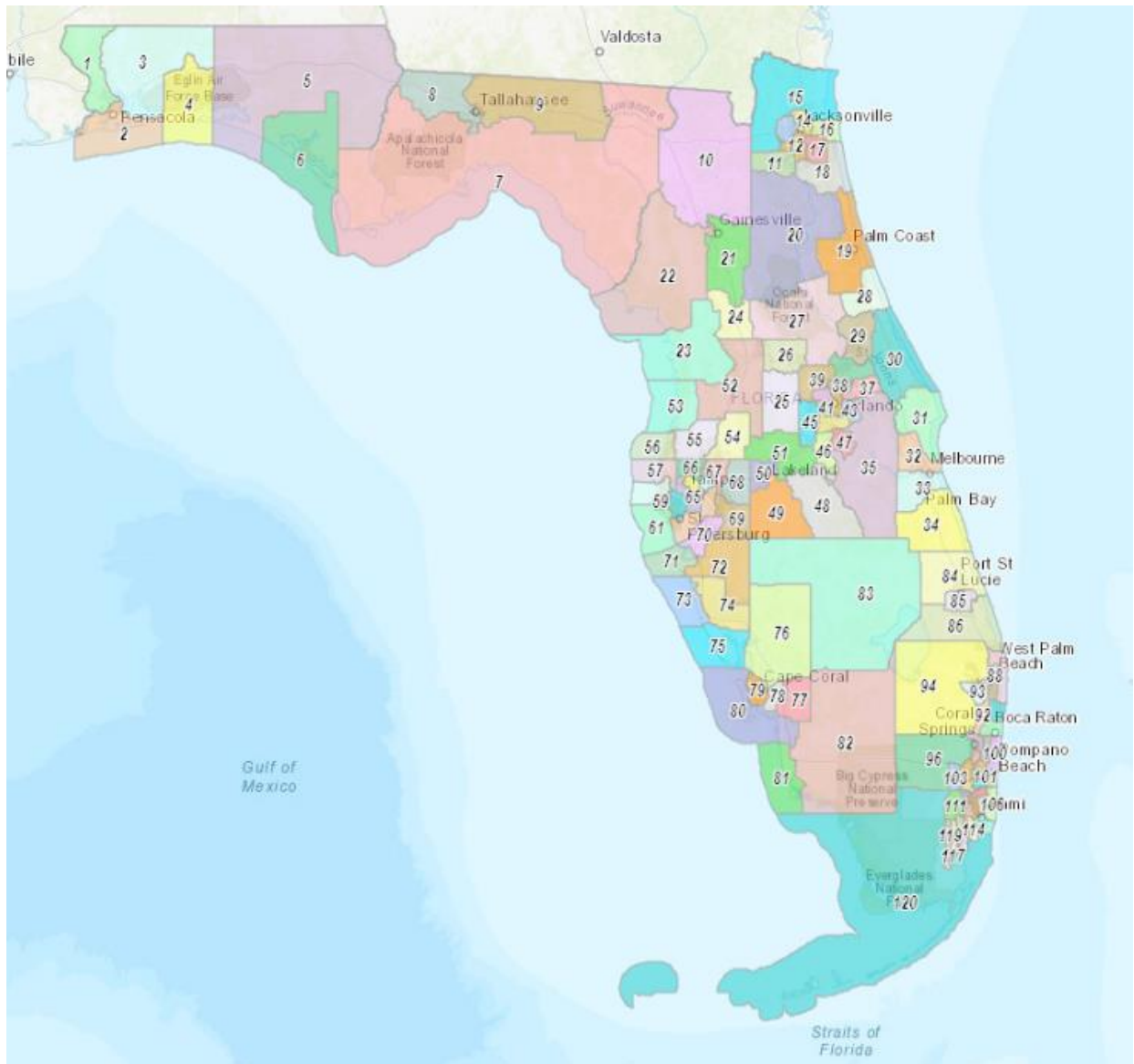
Florida 2022 Redistricting

FL House, FL Senate, & FL Congressional Maps

Every ten years after the census is complete, Legislators draw new maps for the Florida House and Senate as well as for Florida's Congressional districts. In each case, districts are redrawn to account for changes in the state's population. Barring any successful court challenges, these maps will be in effect for the 2022-2031 election cycles.

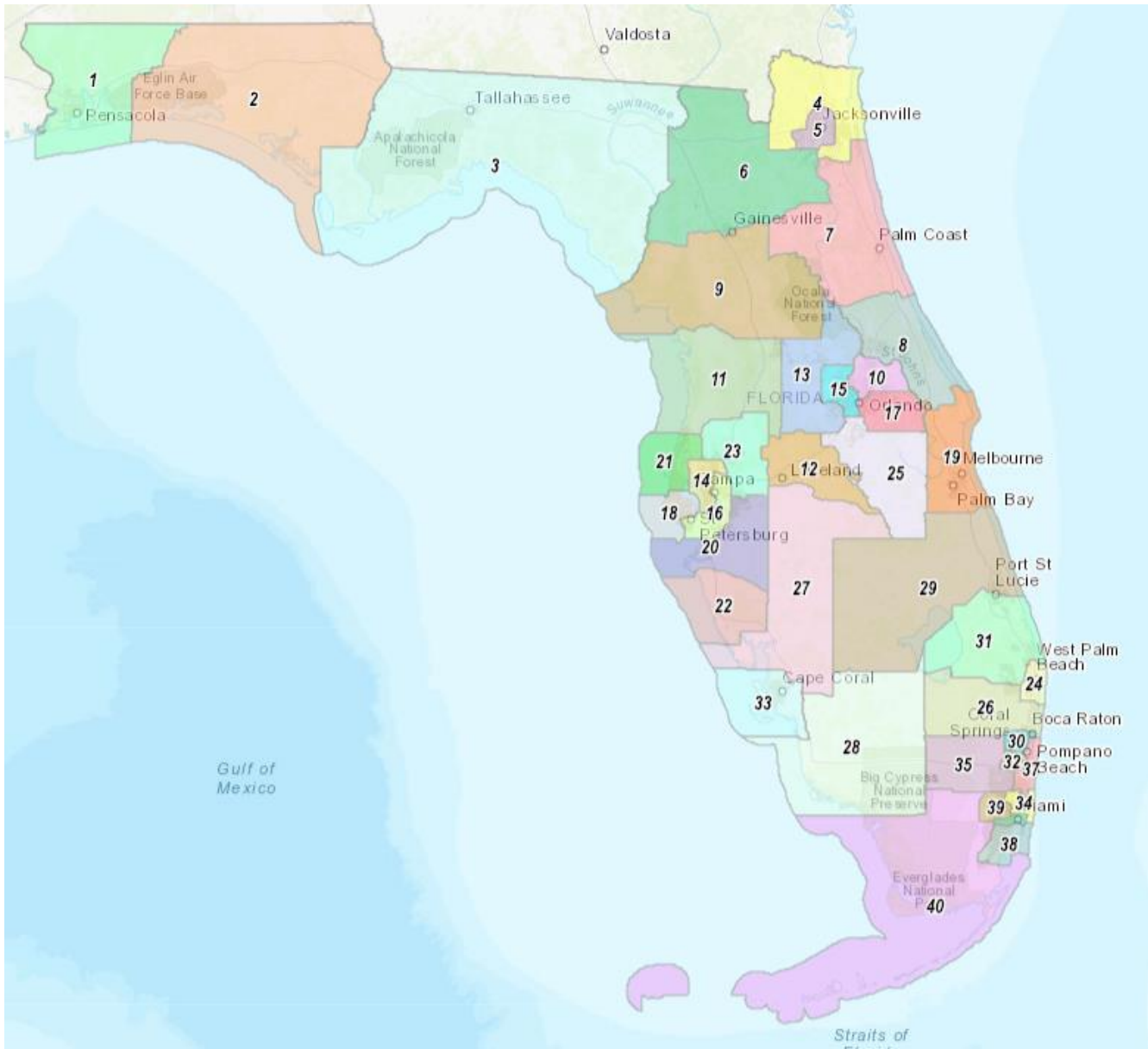
HOUSE MAP

[The Florida House redistricting map](#) has been certified by the State Supreme Court without objection. Of the 120 legislative districts in this map, 71 are primarily GOP controlled. Currently, the House has 78 seated Republican legislators. With the newly drawn map, Democrats may have an advantage in voter registration in seven additional seats.



SENATE MAP

[The Florida Senate redistricting map](#) has also been certified by the State Supreme Court and provides the Democratic party the opportunity to gain seats in the Republican-controlled chamber. The Senate map gives Republicans a likely 23-17 advantage over Democrats in the 40-member chamber, one more district for Democrats than they currently have.



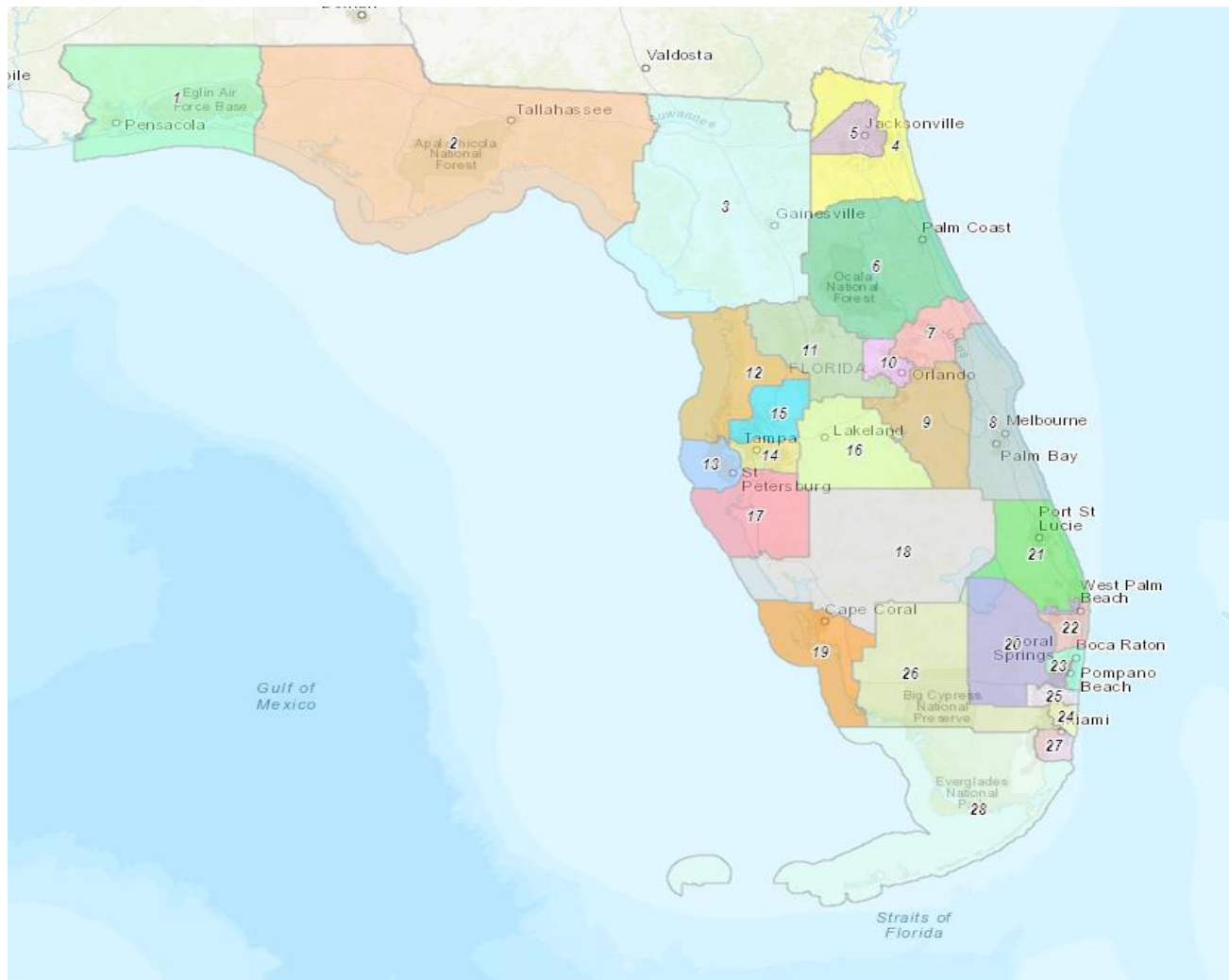
Florida Congressional Map

The Congressional maps have traveled a troubled road as compared to their Senate and House counterparts. A dispute developed between the governor and Legislature over the governor's insistence that minority access districts were unconstitutional. Minority access means that a minority population, in this case African Americans, make up a near majority of the voters in the district. Ultimately, legislators approved two Congressional maps.

The [legislature's preferred map](#) maintains a minority access seat but centers it entirely in Duval County. The House and Senate also approved a [backup map](#) that keeps the old CD 5 near its current configuration in case the court rejects their first map.

DeSantis interjected his own map which eliminated the North Florida minority district in question which ultimately created twenty (20) Republican-leaning districts and eight (8) Democrat districts. The House Plan A map leans 18-10 GOP to Democratic. Although he holds authority to veto any congressional map, no governor has intervened this early in the redistricting process before.

Currently, the Congressional maps are being brought before the Federal Court. The complaint asks the court to prevent the state from falling back on the existing congressional district lines. The current districts don't reflect the population growth that entitles Florida to an additional district, which would total 28.



2022-2023 Budget Questions and Answers

- **How much was the total state budget this year?**

The 2022-23 state budget totals \$112.1 billion an increase of \$15.5 billion over the 2021-22 budget.

- **How much was allocated for the K-20 Budget?**

\$24.3 billion, a total funds increase of \$1.69 billion or 7.5%.

- **How much was allocated for the Higher Education Budget?**

The total budget is \$7.8 billion. The State University System budget is \$5.0 billion

- **How much was the Early Learning budget?**

\$1.7 billion more specifically, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program was appropriated \$553.4 million, and the School Readiness Program was appropriated \$1.1 billion.

- **How much was the per student funding increased?**

Per student funding increases by \$384.55, a 4.96% or an increase from \$7,758.3 to \$8,142.8 total.

- **How much was the Base Student Allocation Increased by?**

Base Student Allocation (BSA) increases by \$214.49 or 4.90%

- **How much was the FEFP base increased by?**

FEFP Base Funds (flexible \$) increase of \$1 billion or 7.15%

- **How much was the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation?**

Teacher Salary Increase Allocation increased by \$250 million for a total of \$800 million for districts to achieve the \$47,500 starting salary for classroom teachers. The language permits for 50% of the \$250 million to be used for classroom teachers with salaries below \$47,500 and 50% for other teachers and instructional personnel.

Note: The legislature added a provision this session to the TSIA stating, "If a district school board has not received its allocation due to its failure to submit an approved district salary distribution plan, the school board must still provide each charter school that has submitted a salary distribution plan within its district its proportionate share of the allocation."

- **Was there any additional funding provided to district schools to address the unknown costs associated with any increases in voucher students?**

No, last year's student reserve was not included in this year's appropriation, and the FEFP run does not include any estimates that addresses these costs.

- **How much was the Required Local Effort?**

Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$633.2 million; RLE rate is maintained at the prior year level of 3.606 mills.

- **Did the \$15-dollar minimum wage increase pass?**

Yes, each school district must pay each employee, out of the BSA, at least \$15.00 per hour by October 1, 2022. Each superintendent must submit an attestation to the Department of Education subject to the penalty of perjury under section 837.012, Florida Statutes, which includes a statement that every school district employee's hourly rate is at least \$15.00 per hour. (HB 5001)

- Beginning on January 1, 2023, an employee of a school district who is not receiving a wage of at least \$15.00 per hour may bring a civil court action against the district and, upon prevailing, shall recover the full amount of any back wages unlawfully withheld plus the same amount as liquidated damages, and shall be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

- **Were there any changes to the Florida Retirement System?**

Yes, the Legislature increased the allocations to investment plan accounts by 3% for each membership class in the investment plan. This brings the total investment plan contribution to 9%. This policy shift will make the return for educators who choose this plan or accept the default a little bit more valuable than in prior years, but the yield on this plan still lags behind the defined benefits program for educators who stay to reach full retirement.

Additionally, as is customarily done, the legislature also revised the employer contribution rates for the FRS based on the actuarial valuation and actuarial studies.

The total cost to the system is \$437.7 million. School boards are expected to contribute \$156 million of the \$437.7 million because the number of school employees approaches half of all FRS participants.

- **Were there changes made to longevity pay?**

Yes, any compensation for longevity of service awarded to instructional personnel who are on any other salary schedule must be included in calculating the salary adjustments required by subparagraph b.⁽¹⁾ (F.S. 1012.22 (1)(c) 5.b.)

⁽¹⁾ b. Salary adjustments. —Salary adjustments for highly effective or effective performance shall be established as follows: (I) The annual salary adjustment under the performance salary schedule for an employee rated as highly effective must be at least 25 percent greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available to an employee of the same classification through any other salary schedule adopted by the district. (II) The annual salary adjustment under the performance salary schedule for an employee rated as effective must be equal to at least 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of the annual adjustment provided for a highly effective employee of the same classification. (III) A salary schedule shall not provide an annual salary adjustment for an employee who receives a rating other than highly effective or effective for the year.

- **Did the legislature follow through in punishing the 12 districts who did not follow the mask mandate?**

Yes, the legislature appropriated \$200 million for the “School Recognition Program.” The House wanted to punish the 12 districts that violated the no mask mandate by prohibiting eligible employees in those districts who would have qualified for school recognition funding from receiving the funds. The House prevailed and the language ended up making it into the implementing bill in the final budget conference.

The language is below:

All public schools, including charter schools, that received a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34 (school grading statute) and **were not found in violation of emergency rules promulgated by the Department of Health** related to face covering mandates during the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school year are eligible to participate in the program.

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Important Links

FEA Website: <http://www.feaweb.org>

Florida House of Representatives: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

Florida Senate: <https://www.flsenate.gov/>

Florida Redistricting: <https://www.floridaredistricting.gov>

Online Sunshine: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm>