

2023 FEA

END-OF-SESSION

REPORT

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with my union!**

GCC/IBT 03

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Important Links

- **FEA** <https://FEAweb.org/session>
- **Florida House of Representatives** <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
- **Florida Senate** <https://www.flsenate.gov/>
- **Online Sunshine** <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome>
- **Florida Channel Video Archive** <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/>
- **FDOE** <https://www.fldoe.org/>

How to find how your Representative or Senator voted on a bill

1. Go to <https://flsenate.gov/>
2. At the top of the page enter the bill number in the **Go To Bill** field (Note: this will find House OR Senate bills)
3. On the bill page, click on the **“Votes”** tab
4. In the Vote History - Floor table click on the last vote in either the House or Senate.

President's Message

Let's be real, this was the worst legislative session we have ever seen for Florida's public schools, colleges and universities, and for the people who learn and work in them. With massive giveaways to vouchers and charter schools, limiting the rights of educators, and a complete failure to address the most pressing issue facing Florida's students – the massive teacher and staff shortage – lawmakers have left Florida's students and families behind.

This session was one filled with retaliation against those who not only educate the future of our state, but who also speak out for making sure that every student gets the education they deserve and need regardless of background, race or ZIP code. We became a target just because we care about every child. We became a target because we believe in a complete and honest education. We became a target because we know that for every student to learn they must see themselves in, and connect to, their learning.

Being this target meant that we lost our freedom to decide how to pay our union dues and how to run our unions. It has endangered our unions' very existence. Being a target meant that we did not get the significant changes to how we are paid as was promised by lawmakers and the governor at the start of session. Being a target meant our students lost more rights to the education they want and need. And being a target meant that billions of taxpayer money will now flow out of our public schools to privately owned voucher and charter schools.

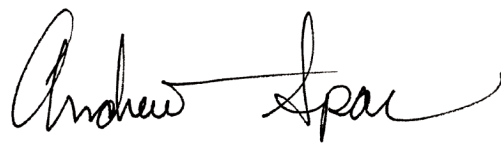
After a session like this, we could lose all hope – we could just give up. And while many of our colleagues have done so by walking away from the profession in record numbers, I still have hope. I see you and the work you do every day. I see how, even in the face of retaliation and censorship, you keep pushing forward for our students. I saw the hundreds of FEA members who came to Tallahassee every week of session to speak with lawmakers and tell their story and the stories of our students.

Today, we face great challenges, but together, standing shoulder to shoulder in our union, we will overcome what might be the greatest threat to education we have seen in

our lifetime. As a music teacher, I often think of songs that relate to our lives. Right now, I think of the great civil-rights songs, such as "We Shall Overcome." I'm reminded of lyrics that make it clear "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around," because "We shall not, we shall not be moved."

This report details that much of the legislation passed this session was an attack on our public schools, our students' rights to an honest education and our freedoms as educators. Despite these attacks, in this report you also will see that the persistence of education advocates like you has paid off in some measurable ways, such as a significant improvement to our retirement.

The challenges we face today are great, but tomorrow – tomorrow brings a new day of hope and determination. Join me as we convert away from the now banned payroll deduction to the new eDues system, gear up to fight for better pay and speak out for high quality education for every child in our public schools. By standing together, we will loudly say, "I'm sticking with my union" because, as educators, it's the only way to ensure the promise of our profession.



Andrew Spar
President, Florida Education Association

State Education Budget

This section provides an overview of significant budget changes in Florida’s education system, reflecting growth in key areas and the redistribution of funds. The Base Student Allocation (BSA) and Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) experienced notable increases, due in part to the integration of voucher funding. Various funding allocations saw substantial growth, and some were rolled into the BSA. Local funding for education increased overall, with shifts in both required and discretionary contributions.

A key change is that the students enrolled in private school voucher programs outside of the Tax Credit Scholarship will now be funded through the FEFP, so the state funds for each school district will be reduced by the amount required to fund the private school or Education Savings Account voucher amount for each student in the district enrolled one of the Family Empowerment voucher programs. This makes school district budgeting more difficult for the next several years as voucher expansion continues.

BUDGET BILLS AND FEFP CONFERENCE REPORTS

- SB 2500: General Appropriations Act (GAA)
<https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb2500>
- SB 2502: General Appropriations Act Implementing Bill
<https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb2502>
- HB 5101: Education Budget Conforming Bill
<https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb5105>
- 2023-2024 FEFP Statewide Conference Report
<https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-fefp>

FEFP SUMMARY CHART 2023-2024

The last 3 rows in the Statewide Funding Summary (Table 1, below) represent statewide averages. To find the total funds summary and individual district comparisons, go to the 2023-24 Florida Finance Program (FEFP) Statewide Conference Report (linked above). For a summary of the 2023-24 FEFP see Appendix A (page 27).

TABLE 1: STATEWIDE FUNDING SUMMARY FROM 2023-24 FEFP

Category	2022-23 Third Calculation	2023-24 Conference Calculation	Difference	Percent Change
Unweighted FTE	2,977,710	3,095,082	117,372	3.94%
School Taxable Value	\$2,933,437,989,99	\$3,286,296,358,377	\$352,858,368,378	12.03%
Base Student Allocation (BSA)	\$4,587	\$5,139	\$552	12.04%
Base FEFP Funding	\$15,034,590,411	\$17,753,850,142	\$2,719,259,731	18.09%
Total FEFP Funding	\$19,544,051,475	\$21,186,118,818	\$1,642,067,343	8.40%
Class Size Reduction Allocation	\$2,896,071,526	\$2,784,578,812	(\$111,492,714)	(3.85%)
State Funds per FTE	\$4,563	\$4,690	\$127	2.79%
Local Funds per FTE	\$3,681	\$3,959	\$277	7.53%
Total FEFP Funds Per Student	\$8,243	\$8,648	\$405	4.91%

PREK-12 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The state Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase is \$552.33 however, there are strings attached to some of these dollars:

- Five categoricals have been consolidated into the BSA, providing local districts increased spending flexibility. Underlying policy requirements remain for Teacher Salary Increase Allocation, Funding Compression, and Sparsity. The Reading Allocation, Instructional Materials, and Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance now offer more flexibility.
- Most of the student FTE increase comes from private school voucher expansion under HB 1, with approximately 92,000 additional students eligible for private school vouchers. The statutory changes make every public school student eligible for the private school voucher program. The unknown is how many parents will try to use the voucher, and how many seats will be available in private schools.
- The District Cost Differential has been renamed the Comparable Wage Factor. No district will receive less than 100% of the fund ratio, while 14 districts with higher living costs will receive slightly more than state base funding.
- A Small District Factor has been added to the BSA calculation, benefiting 29 small school districts in fiscally constrained counties. Additional funding factors are included in the BSA calculation, as detailed on page 18 of the FEFP.
- Voucher data for Family Empowerment (FES) estimates can be found on pages 7, 8, 9, and 25 of the FEFP. The budget allocates over \$2 billion for private school vouchers this year, with the cost estimated to reach \$3 billion next year. A \$350 million reserve has been set aside to address potential underestimations in district enrollment or private school voucher numbers.
- Reading plans remain mandatory, with \$170 million allocated for reading support initiatives, including extra time, staff, reading coaches, materials, stipends, and incentives for teachers obtaining reading certification and endorsement. Districts must report on their comprehensive reading instruction funding usage.
- The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program guarantees a minimum of \$300 per eligible teacher, now included in the BSA. This allocation aims to help teachers cover classroom supply expenses.
- Instructional Materials Allocation has been integrated into the BSA, providing districts with increased spending flexibility. Districts must submit a budget for purchasing instructional materials, including library materials, with up to 50% of the allocation permitted for library and reference book purchases, other instructional materials, and repair and replacement of textbooks and library materials.
- The Mental Health Allocation has increased by \$20 million and is not shared with voucher schools. Districts are expected to expand plans and staffing using this allocation, while adhering to reporting, technology, and training requirements attached to these funds.
- The Educational Enrichment Allocation (EEA) retains the purposes of last year's Supplemental Academic Instruction categorical for extra staff, tutoring and materials plus an additional allocation for turnaround schools.
- The Educational Enrichment Allocation (EEA) now includes the Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation, calculated at \$500 per student based on the fall count, and encompasses additional support for turnaround schools, such as extra staff, tutoring, and materials.
- Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Guaranteed Allocation has increased by over 10% due to more students added to ESE through migration to the FES-Universal Access (UA) program from other programs and the removal of the cap on district ESE full-time equivalent counts. Safe School Allocation increased by more than 19%. These funds are used to pay for school security personnel and infrastructure. The only additional requirement this year is that each district must certify by October 15 that all public schools have completed the Safe Schools Assessment Tool, and that they implement a state-provided behavioral threat assessment process and begin to develop a behavioral threat assessment portal to share information across districts and with other governmental agencies.
- The Safe School Allocation has increased by more than 19%, funding school security personnel and infrastructure. Districts must certify by October 15 that all public schools have completed the Safe Schools Assessment Tool, implemented a state-provided behavioral threat assessment process and developed a behavioral threat assessment portal for cross-district and governmental agency information sharing.

- The Classroom Size Reduction Allocation has decreased by approximately \$17 per student, affecting funding for maintaining smaller class sizes.
- The BSA increased for PreK programs from \$2,803 to \$2,941, an increase of \$138 or 4.9 percent.

Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase (formerly called TSIA)

Funds have been added to the Base Student Allocation with the requirement that a certain percentage of funds be spent on classroom teacher and instructional personnel salaries. The budget language provides more flexibility in how funds are allocated for teacher salary increases. This can assist school districts and charter schools in meeting minimum salary requirements or providing salary raises for instructional personnel, depending on their needs. This year the requirement that a certain percentage of the funds be spent raising the minimum base salary has been removed, giving more flexibility to begin to address salary schedule compression.

- **Funding Allocation:** For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, \$250,329,290 is specifically appropriated for salary increases for full-time classroom teachers, certified prekindergarten teachers in the FEFP, and other instructional personnel. This makes a total of nearly \$1 billion included in the BSA this year for maintaining and improving instructional personnel salaries.
- **Use of Funds:** Each school district and charter school must use 1.41% of its base FEFP funding for either a) increasing the minimum base salary on the performance salary schedule to at least \$47,500 (or the maximum achievable amount based on the funds available), or b) providing salary increases to other full-time instructional personnel. The distribution is to be negotiated to meet the individual needs and constraints of each district or charter school. Districts and charter schools are required to maintain the salaries negotiated since the TSIA became law. The salary maintenance must be funded using 4.52% of the district's base FEFP.
- **Minimum Base Salary:** The legislation defines "minimum base salary" as the lowest annual base salary for a full-time classroom teacher as reported on the salary schedule. No full-time classroom teacher should receive a salary less than this minimum base salary. If a district or charter school decides to use its allocated

funds to increase the minimum base salary, no eligible teacher should receive less than the newly adjusted amount.

- **Exclusions:** The legislation specifically excludes substitute teachers from these provisions. The focus remains on full-time classroom teachers and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the FEFP.

Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO)

Funds for new buildings and maintenance are allocated according to the General Appropriations Act. For the past several years, the state has directly funded charter school capital outlay. In 2017, language was changed that required school districts to share capital outlay funds with charter schools if the state did not fund these schools at a particular proportion. This year legislation passed that will require local school districts to share funds raised from local referenda with charter schools based only on their enrollment. Traditional public schools are required to use PECO funding based on a five year plan that prioritized local projects by need and subject to DOE approval. This is the first year of a five year phase in where local districts become responsible for funding charter school capital improvement needs. (HB 1259, HB 443)

The 2023-24 PECO budget for K12 schools includes:

- \$213,453,885 in nonrecurring funds for charter schools, distributed to existing charter schools that qualify based on section 1013.62, Florida Statutes.
- \$10,038,597 in nonrecurring funds for developmental research (laboratory) schools, based on full-time equivalent student membership.
- \$88,590,239 in nonrecurring funds for the Special Facility Construction Account, allocated as follows:
 - Gadsden PreK-8 (Year 1 of 2 funding): \$35,483,086
 - Glades Moore Haven Elementary (Year 1 of 2 funding): \$17,824,681
 - Putnam Crescent City Jr Sr High (Year 1 of 2 funding): \$35,282,472
- \$4,552,330 in nonrecurring funds for preventative maintenance projects at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

HIGHER ED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

State University System (SUS)

The SUS budget (Table 2, below) is \$4.38 billion; it includes \$682.1 million in PECO funds for different projects throughout the SUS system.

- This year's budget has a substantial increase in Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding. The entire SUS system will receive four times more funding for capital outlay projects than last year.
- \$645,000,000 million has been allocated for SUS Performance Based Funding.

Florida College System (FCS)

The FCS budget (Table 3, below) is \$1.73 billion; it includes \$272.4 million in PECO funds for different projects throughout the FCS system.

This year's budget has a substantial increase in Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding. The entire FCS system is receiving nearly seven times more funding for capital outlay projects than last year.

TABLE 2: STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BUDGET

Category	2022-23		2023-24		Percent Change
SUS Ed and General Activities	\$	4,213,425,380	\$	3,644,202,427	(14%)
SUS Performance Based Initiatives	\$	560,000,000	\$	645,000,000	15%
SUS Pipeline Nursing Program	\$	40,000,000	\$	40,000,000	0%
SUS LINE Nursing Program	\$	6,000,000	\$	6,000,000	0%
SUS Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network *	\$	17,236,500	\$	13,521,847	(22%)
SUS PECO GR	\$	7,140,378	\$	115,867,318	1,523%
SUS PECO Fund	\$	162,500,000	\$	566,327,741	249%

TABLE 3: FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM BUDGET

Category	2022-23		2023-24		Percent Change
FCS Program Fund	\$	1,155,621,759	\$	1,332,348,852	15%
FCS Performance Based Initiatives	\$	14,000,000	\$	20,000,000	43%
FCS Student Success Initiative	\$	20,000,000	\$	30,000,000	50%
FCS Open Door Grant Program	\$	20,000,000	\$	35,000,000	75%
FCS Pipeline Nursing Program	\$	40,000,000	\$	40,000,000	0%
FCS LINE Nursing Program	\$	19,000,000	\$	19,000,000	0%
FCS Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network *	\$	14,476,322	\$	11,078,169	(23%)
FCS PECO GR	\$	25,825,479	\$	33,858,253	31%
FCS PECO Fund	\$	14,559,990	\$	238,591,659	1,539%

* **Update:** Gov. DeSantis vetoed \$5.4 million from both the 2022 SUS and College Postsecondary Academic Library Network budget lines for the Student Open Access Resource (SOAR) Initiative lowering the line items to:

- ◆ SUS: \$11,836,500 which is a 12% increase allocated for 2023
- ◆ FCS: \$9,076,322 which is an 18% increase allocated for 2023

At the time this document was originally published, the governor has not yet signed the 2023 Budget.

Bills That Passed

CURRICULUM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Once again reading instruction was the major focus of several bills that passed during this session. The Just Read, Florida! office in the Florida Department of Education is required to develop an online repository of digital resources in the science of reading and reading instruction. Teachers are required to use phonics as the primary strategy for teaching word reading. The strategy identified in the new law as “three-cueing” and resources that employ that strategy may not be used to teach word reading, but other strategies may be used to increase comprehension, improve background knowledge, and add context. Districts are required to provide reading intervention programs during the school day which must include explicit, direct instruction and daily targeted small group reading interventions in phonological awareness and phonics to all students K-3 with a substantial deficiency in reading or the characteristics of dyslexia. (HB 7039)

Early Warning Systems in Literacy

Legislation passed that expands the current early warning systems in literacy to include students in grades K-4 with a “substantial mathematics deficiency” and requires districts to provide parental notification and all the supports and instruction required for students with reading difficulties. PreK students are also required to have a plan of services and interventions when a child exhibits signs of a deficiency in both reading and math including at least monthly reports to parents. (HB 7039)

Required Instruction

In the area of required instruction, districts will be required to certify that they are meeting the requirements to teach the state standards relating to African American History and to contract with outside entities to develop training and resources. Districts are also required to develop a plan to teach these standards and post the plan on the district website. The history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders was added to the list of required instruction for classroom teachers to cover in curriculum where appropriate. The specific content is outlined in statutes.

Hero’s Day is also established on or near Sept. 11. The State Board of Education must revise state standards, and secondary students in US Government and Civics classes must receive instruction on topics related to the history of 9-11 and global terrorism. (HB 551, HB 1537)

Internet Safety and Privacy

Internet safety and privacy was addressed in several bills, requiring instruction on internet safety and for secondary students, instruction on the negative effects of social media and the importance of personal security online. Other bills limit the use of personally identifiable information for businesses providing online curriculum and resources and give teachers the explicit ability to designate storage of student wireless communication devices and restrict student use of devices and specific social networks during instructional time. The bill bans the use of TikTok or any successor platform for communication or promotion of any school sponsored organizations and forbids student use of the platform through school district resources. (SB 662, HB 1035, HB 379)

Special Education

Two bills specifically focused on special education students. Schools must now provide information about rights and responsibilities to students with disabilities and their parents before the student turns 18, ensuring continued parental involvement in educational decisions. Additionally, parents of prekindergarten students with disabilities will have the option to decide whether their child should be retained at age four. The bill also revises the “good cause exemptions” for mandatory retention in grade 3. (HB 19, SB 290)

High School Graduation

High school seniors who are supposed to graduate in the 2022-23 school year and have not yet passed the required exams will be given a bit of grace. The FSA concordance scores for the SAT, ACT and other tests will be held to the pre-pandemic levels for one more year. This is in recognition of the unique challenges these students faced at the beginning of the pandemic. Additionally, a

student who is at least 16 is permitted to take the GED without any course requirements unless they fail the GED practice test. Students will be allowed to substitute career themed courses for the graduation requirement in fine and performing. (HB 1537, HB 7039, HB 265)

Class Size

Class size regulations were revised this year to remove the penalty associated with districts that exceed the constitutional class size limits, and the parents in the military will be allowed to enroll their students' mid-year in any district school regardless of capacity and class size limits. (HB 633)

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

The Legislature chose to expand the prohibition on instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation from kindergarten to third grade up to eighth grade and is only allowable in grades 9 through 12 if deemed "age-appropriate" in accordance with state standards. The bill states that teachers, students, and staff are not required to refer to another student, teacher, or staff member by their preferred pronoun if it does not correspond to their sex, however, does not prohibit them from doing so. It requires the Department of Education to approve materials used for teaching human sexuality in health education standards. Districts will be required to follow a standardized process for addressing changes to instructional materials including classroom libraries. (HB 1069)

Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education continued to receive attention with legislation to expand student access to work experiences including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs and adding organizations including associations to the list of approved apprenticeship sponsors. School districts will also now be allowed to offer AAS and AS degrees upon approval of the State Board of Education. High schools will be required to host an annual career fair for students in 11th and 12th grade during the school day and to communicate with parents and students about the many educational opportunities for career preparation. (SB 240, SB 196, HB 1537)

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **HB 19: Individual Education Plans**, by Rep. A. Tant (D-Dist. 9, Tallahassee) | SB 636, by Sen. C. Simon (D-Dist. 3, Tallahassee)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 113-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb19>

- **SB 290: Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities**, by Sen. D. Jones (D-Dist. 34, Miami Gardens)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 113-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb290>

- **HB 265: High School Equivalency Diplomas**, by Rep. S. Plascencia (R- Winter Park, Dist. 37) | SB 1004, Sen. V. Torres (D-Kissimmee, Dist. 25)

Votes: (S: 36 -0) (H: 113-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb265>

- **HB 287: Required Instruction in the History of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**, by Rep. S. Plascencia (R-Winter Park, Dist. 37) | SB 294, by Sen. A. Rodriguez (R-Doral, Dist. 40)

This bill was incorporated into HB 1537

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb287>

- **HB 289: 911 Heroes' Day**, by Rep. A. Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs Dist. 57) | SB 348, by Sen. E. Hooper (R- Palm Harbor, Dist. 21)

This bill was incorporated into HB 1537

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb289>

- **HB 551: Required African American Instruction**, by Rep. C. Benjamin (D- Miami Gardens, Dist. 107) | SB 804, by Sen. Simon (D- Tallahassee, Dist. 3)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 116-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb551>

- **HB 633: K-12 Education**, by Rep. M. Salzman (R-Cantonment, Dist. 1) and Rep. F. Hawkins (R-Orlando, Dist. 35) | SB 1236, by Sen. T. Wright (R-Orange Park, Dist. 8)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 110-3)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb633>

- **HB 1537: Education**, by Rep. A. Rizo (R-Hialeah, Dist. 112) and Rep. K. Daniels (D-Jacksonville, Dist. 14) | SB 1430, by Sen. B. Avila (R-Hialeah Gardens, Dist. 39)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 112-3)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1537>

- **HB 7039: Student Outcomes**, by Rep. D. Trabulsy (R-Fort Pierce, Dist. 84) | SB 1424, by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Miami, Dist. 38)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 111-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb7039>

- **HB 1069: Education**, by Rep. S. McClain (R-Dist. 27, Ocala) and Rep. A. Anderson (R-Dist. 57, Tarpon Springs) | SB 1320, by Sen. C. Yarbrough (R-Dist. 4, Jacksonville)

Votes: (S: 27-12) (H: 77-35)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1069>

- **HB 379: Technology in K-12 Public Schools**, by Rep. B. Yeager (R-New Port Richey, Dist. 56) | SB 52, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Zephyrhills, Dist. 23)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 114-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb379>

- **SB 240: Education**, by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Palm Coast, Dist. 7) | HB 7051, by Rep. L. Melo (R-Naples, Dist. 82)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 114-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb240>

VOUCHERS AND SCHOOL CHOICE

Universal vouchers and financial accommodations provisions that favor charter schools were added to the extensive menu of private and public school choice. The Legislature expanded the public school reading voucher for afterschool tutoring and resources for students with substantial deficiencies in math literacy.

Charter School Funding

For the past five years, charter schools have received funding for their building construction and maintenance through a direct appropriation by the Legislature through Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding. This year, the Legislature passed HB 1259, a phase in process to shift the funds raised from local discretionary millage assessments which have exclusively been used by traditional public schools. This gives charter schools access to additional funding based on the school enrollment without having to go through the needs assessment required of every district. The result is a substantial loss of capital outlay funds for districts. Additionally, charter school networks will be permitted to loan funds from one school to another across district boundaries. This includes unrestricted funds or capital assets.

Voucher Expansion

The controversial expansion of taxpayer-funded school vouchers has been the goal behind the state's mission to provide a broad array of educational programs for Florida's 2.9 million students. HB 1, signed into law by Gov. DeSantis, drastically expands school choice options in Florida by extending eligibility for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Family Empowerment Scholarship Program to any student who is a Florida resident and is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school, removing existing enrollment caps. This significant change could create a huge financial burden for the state's public schools by allowing all students eligible for PreK-12 public education to open Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) even if they are currently enrolled in a private school. Additionally, the bill increases the annual scholarship growth rates for the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities from 1% to 3%. The legislation also calls for a parent-directed educational choice option.

Other Policy Changes

Tucked into the voucher bill (HB 1), the State Board of Education is directed with making recommendations to reduce the Early Learning-20 Education Code, with stakeholder input.

The Legislature also considered policies to advance charter school operations, funding, and expansion. HB 443 focuses on improving the charter school environment by revising enrollment preferences, training, and reporting requirements, while also implementing a standard monitoring tool.

Other legislative efforts, such as a new statewide residential public school for high-performing students (SB 1386) and flexibility for students with military parents on statewide assessments (HB 1597), were also addressed.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **HB 1: Education**, by Rep. K. Tuck (R-Dist. 83, Sebring) | SB 202, by Sen. C. Simon (R-Dist. 3, Tallahassee)

Votes: (S: [26-12](#)) (H: [83-27](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1>

- **HB 443: Education**, by Rep. S. Valdes (D-Dist. 64, Tampa) | SB 986, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Dist. 23, Zephyrhills)

Votes: (S: [35-4](#)) (H: [109-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb443>

- **HB 1259: Education**, by Rep. J. Canady (R-Dist. 50, Lakeland) | SB 1328, by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Dist. 7, Palm Coast)

Votes: (S: [29-11](#)) (H: [82-31](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1259>

- **SB 1386: Florida School for Competitive Academics**, by Sen. K. Perry (R-Dist. 9, Gainesville) | HB 1393, by Rep. W. Snyder (R-Dist. 86, Palm City)

Portions of this bill were added into HB 5101

- **HB 1597: Florida Virtual School**, by Rep. P. Gossett-Seidman (R-Dist. 91, Boca Raton) | SB 926, by Sen. A. Rodriguez (R-Dist. 40, Doral)

Votes: (S: [39-0](#)) (H: [116-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1597>

EARLY LEARNING

Providing high-quality early childhood experiences can ensure that our youngest learners are on the path to success. State leaders have been focused on the challenges associated with improving the quality of early learning programs and training for childcare providers and educators, however the most significant early learning bill of the session did not pass due to public and private providers haggling over accountability measures.

SB 478 expands a pilot program to a statewide initiative for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. The bill provides school districts with the opportunity to apply for funding to expose children to music education at a young age, with the expectation that music training will stimulate and improve brain development and start youngsters down the path to learning new sounds and words that could help them excel in reading and math.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **SB 478: Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program**, by Sen. K. Perry (R-Dist. 9, Gainesville) | HB 703, by Rep. A. Garcia (R-Dist. 115, Miami)

Votes: (S: [39-0](#)) (H: [115-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb478>

ETHICS AND ELECTIONS

It has become commonplace for the Legislature to make extensive election overhauls following an election, and this year is no different. SB 7050 is an enormous election package that makes several changes to the election process.

Voter Registration

The elections bill (SB 7050) includes more stringent rules for Third-party Voter Registration Organizations (3VRO). Changes include making timelines shorter for returning registration applications, increasing fines for applications delivered outside of statutorily required timelines, and requiring 3VROs to provide receipts to those people who they register.

PAC Reporting and “Resign to Run”

The elections bill (SB 7050) changes the reporting requirements for Political Committees from monthly to quarterly reports. In a strictly political move, the Legislature additionally changed the “resign to run” rule, allowing anyone qualified to run for president or vice president of the United States to remain in their current role instead of resigning their position.

School Board Elections

This year several bills focused on overhauling the process of electing school board members. With the passage of HJR 31, Florida voters will be asked to consider a constitutional amendment requiring partisan school board races during the November 2024 election. If voters pass the measure by 60%, the first partisan election for district school board members will be in the 2026 general election.

HB 477 lowers term limits for school board members from 12 years to 8 years. HB 411 changes residency requirements for those wishing to run for school board; now, those wishing to run for school board will be required to live in the district in which they are running in when they take office.

Local Referenda Elections

HB 7063 makes changes to renewal sales tax referenda. Renewal sales tax referenda will only be able to be renewed during a general election and only during the four years before the expiration date. They can only appear on the ballot once every four years.

Hernando Superintendent

Members living in Hernando County will decide whether to have an elected Superintendent during the 2024 Primary Election. (HB 773)

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **HJR 31: Partisan School Board Elections**, by Rep. S. Roach (R-North Fort Meyers, Dist. 76) | SB 94: by Sen. J. Gruters (R-Sarasota, Dist. 22)

Votes: (S: 29-11) (H: 79-34)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hjr31>

- **HB 411 District School Board Elections**, Rep. K. Steele (R-Dist. 55, Hudson) | SB 444: by Sen. B. Ingoglia (R-Dist.11, Spring Hill)

Votes: (S: 29-7) (H: 87-25)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb411>

- **HB 731: Local Tax Referenda**, Rep. J. Temple (R-The Villages, Dist. 52) | SB 698, by Sen. B. Ingoglia (R-Spring Hill, Dist.11)

Portions of this bill were added into HB 7063

- **HB 773: Hernando County School District**, Hernando County, Rep. J. Holcomb (R-Dist. 53, SpringHill)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 96-18)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb773>

- **SB 7050, Elections**, by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Dist. 7, Palm Coast) | HB 7067: by Rep. S. McClure (R-Dist. 68, Plant City)

Votes: (S: 28-12) (H: 76-34)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb7050>

- **HB 477: Term Limits for District School Board Members**, by Rep. A. Rizo (R-Dist. 112, Hialeah) | SB 1110: by Sen. B. Ingoglia (R-Dist.11, Spring Hill)

Votes: (S: 30-7) (H: 79-29)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb477>

HEALTH AND SAFETY

This session the Legislature passed legislation addressing student and employee health and safety, social media use on school campuses, the legal purchase of guns, and made modifications to Level 2 background checks.

Social Media Safety

HB 379 is one of the bills that focused on social media safety. The bill ensures that students in grades 6 through 12 are provided with instruction on the adverse effects of social media on mental health, the distribution of misinformation, predatory behavior, human trafficking, and more. Additionally, the bill prohibits students' electronic devices from accessing certain websites, web applications, software, and social media platforms, specifically TikTok. However, the bill provides for filtering internet websites on student devices using district-owned computer servers for specified purposes. The bill authorizes teachers and other instructional personnel to designate areas for wireless communications during instructional time.

Background Screening

To increase security and protections for students, SB 676 modifies standards for Level 2 security background screenings for anyone who may have direct contact with students in a district public school, a charter school, or a private school that participates in the state voucher program. Security checks for non-school employees, along with arrest alerts and volunteer and employment criminal history, was added to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Care Provider Clearinghouse, which allows the portability of background screenings across school districts throughout the state. Athletic coaches will be required to obtain Level 2 background checks. Another measure prohibits individuals charged with committing a crime against students and schools from school grounds and allows electronic monitoring to track the individual's location.

Guns

Significant changes to gun policy in Florida were passed this session. HB 543 allows individuals to conceal carry a weapon without needing a concealed weapons license. The bill keeps Gun-free zones, including PreK-12 and college campuses, and maintains the gun purchase age of 21 for handguns and long guns (rifles). The bill retains complete background checks for the purchase of a firearm which

was expanded in 2018 after the MSD shooting, to require a three-day waiting period or until the background check is completed, whichever is later.

The bill includes school safety measures as recommended by the MSD Commission, including developing a behavioral threat management operational process to guide public and charter schools in identifying, assessing, managing, and monitoring potential and real threats.

The bill also requires an active assailant response policy within all law enforcement agencies by October 1, 2023. It establishes the safe school's canine program for law enforcement agencies to purchase, train, and care for a firearm detection dog at schools.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **HB 329: Electronic Monitoring of Persons Charged with or Convicted of Offenses Involving Schools or Students**, by Rep. R. Maggard (R-Dist. 54, Zephyrhills) | SB 496, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Dist. 23, Zephyrhills)

Votes: (S: [37-0](#)) (H: [112-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb329>

- **HB 379: Technology in K-12 Public Schools**, by Rep. B. Yeager (R-Dist. 56, New Port Richey) | SB 52 by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Dist. 23, Zephyrhills)

Votes: (S: [39-0](#)) (H: [114-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb379>

- **HB 543: Public Safety**, by Rep. C. Brannan (R-Dist. 10, Lake City) | SB 150 by Sen. J. Collins (R-Dist. 14, Tampa)

Votes: (S: [27-13](#)) (H: [76-32](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb543>

- **HB 657: Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits**, by Rep. T. Koster (R-Dist. 66, Tampa) | SB 588, By Sen. A. Rodriguez (R-Dist. 40, Doral)

Votes: (S: [35-3](#)) (H: [95-6](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb657>

- **SB 662: Student Online Personal Information Protection**, by Sen. J. Bradley (R-Dist. 6, Fleming Island) | HB 699, by Rep. T. Koster (R-Dist. 66, Tampa)

Votes: (S: [38-0](#)) (H: [118-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb662>

- **SB 676: Level 2 Background Screenings**, by Sen. E. Grall (R-Dist. 29, Ft. Pierce) | HB 249, by Rep. D. Trabulsy (R-Dist. 84, Ft. Pierce)

Votes: (S: [39-0](#)) (H: [115-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb676>

- **SB 766: Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions**, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Dist. 23, Zephyrhills) | HB 741, by Rep. K. Michael (R-Dist. 16, Jacksonville Beach)

Votes: (S: [35-5](#)) (H: [108-6](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb766>

- **HB 301: Emergency Response Mapping Data**, by Rep. D. Alvarez (R-Dist. 69, Riverview) | SB 212, By Sen. J. Collins (R-Dist. 14, Tampa)

Votes: (S: [39-0](#)) (H: [116-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb301>

- **HB 7025: Public Record/Safe School Officers**, by Rep. C. Brannan (R-Dist. 10, Lake City) and Judiciary | SB 152, by Sen. J. Collins (R-Dist. 14, Tampa)

Votes: (S: [29-11](#)) (H: [107-1](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb7025>

HIGHER EDUCATION

In the ceaseless dynamism of legislative landscapes, we have found higher education under intense scrutiny and, at times, under direct attack. This session was no exception with a particular focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) funding, tenure rights, and intellectual freedom.

There was no bill that exemplified this more than SB 266. Despite claims by supporters that the bill will bring “accountability” to Florida’s colleges and universities, it appears to undermine students’ rights to learn and faculties’ rights to teach, free from state interference. The bill threatens to prohibit subjects exploring historical oppression, defund programs misaligned with the governor’s views on DEI, and control faculty speech.

The bill also aims to exclude faculty input in hiring, impede faculty unions, cut funding for dissenting student groups, and transform non-partisan entities into partisan ones. Moreover, it could intimidate accrediting bodies, potentially leading to greater state control over curriculum and culture in Florida’s higher education.

Additionally, the Legislature passed SB 596, that expands the subpoena power of the Board of Governors related to mismanagement of building construction funding.

HB 931 would ban public higher education institutions from requiring or soliciting political loyalty tests for employment, admission, or promotion, including tests compelling commitment to ideologies promoting differential treatment based on race or ethnicity. In addition, the bill creates the Office of Public Policy Events (OPPE) at each of the state universities; OPPE is responsible for organizing, publicizing, and staging at least four events annually that promote diverse discussions on public policy issues.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **SB 266: Higher Education**, by Sen. E. Grall (R-Dist. 29, Fort Pierce) | HB 999: by Rep. A. Andrade (R-Dist. 2, Pensacola)

Votes: (S: [27-12](#)) (H: [81-34](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb266>

- **HB 931: Postsecondary Educational Institutions**, by Rep. S. Roach (R-Dist. 76, North Fort Myers) | SB 958, by Sen. K. Perry (R-Dist. 9, Gainesville)

Votes: (S: 33-5) (H: 82-34)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb931>

- **SB 596: Board of Governors of the State University System**, by Sen. J. Martin (R-Dist. 33, Fort Myers) | HB 515, by Rep. D. Silvers (D-Dist. 89-West Palm Beach)

Votes: (S: 30-9) (H: 112-1)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb596>

- **SB 240: Education**, by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Dist. 7, Palm Coast) | HB 7051: by Rep. L. Melo (R-Dist. 82, Naples)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 114-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb240>

- **HB 465: Workforce Education**, by Rep. T. Esposito (R-Dist. 77, Lehigh Acres) | SB 630, by Sen. E. Grall (R-Dist. 29, Fort Pierce)

Portions of this bill are included in SB 240

- **SB 846: Agreements of Educational Entities with Foreign Entities**, by Sen. B. Avila (R-Dist. 39, Hialeah Gardens) | HB 679, by Rep. J. Canady (R-Dist. 50, Lakeland)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 119-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb846>

- **SB 732: Collegiate Purple Star Campuses**, by Sen. T. Wright (R-Dist. 8, Port Orange) | HB 845, by Rep. L. Dunkley (D-Dist. 97, Lauderhill)

Votes: (S: 38-0) (H: 119-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb732>

- **SB 7026: Higher Education Finances**, by Sen. K. Perry (R-Dist. 9, Gainesville) and Appropriations Committee on Education

Votes: (S: 37-0) (H: 109-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb7026>

- **SB 1310: Substitution of Work Experience for Postsecondary Education Requirements**, by Sen. N. DiCeglie (R-Dist. 18, North St. Petersburg) | HB 1109: by Rep. W. Barnaby (R-Dist. 29, Deland) and Rep. J. Porras (R-Dist. 119, Miami)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 114-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb1310>

- **SB 1272: Educational Grants**, by Sen. C. Simon (R-Dist. 3, Tallahassee) | HB 1019, by Rep. S. McClain (R-Dist. 27, Ocala)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 114-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb1272>

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Student Career Planning

In a series of policy changes, Florida has made strides to expand and enhance educational opportunities for students. SB 196 requires that starting from the 6th grade, guidance counselors provide students and their parents with comprehensive information about Career and Technical Education (CTE) academies, International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, and apprenticeship programs. This initiative is further bolstered by funding through the Florida Bright Futures program.

Sports

In terms of interscholastic activities, HB 225, has made notable shifts in the oversight and management of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). The State Board of Education now holds direct authority over the FHSAA, and the board's size has been reduced to 13, with the governor having the power to appoint eight members. This law also simplifies the process for student athletes who transfer schools, allowing them to compete immediately in their respective sports.

Additionally, SB 190 provides a mechanism for charter school students and Florida Virtual School students to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities at a private school. Current law permits charter school students to participate in a public school's activities when the activity sought is not offered at the charter school and certain participation requirements are met. The language in this

bill that authorizes a charter school student or a Florida Virtual School student to participate in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of a private school tracks very similar language found in the statute that authorizes a home education student to participate in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of a private school.

School Start Times

SB 1112 provides requirements for middle school and high school start times. Specifically, the bill requires that, by July 1, 2026, district school boards must implement a school start time no earlier than 8:00 a.m. for middle schools and 8:30 a.m. for high schools.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **SB 190: Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities**, by Sen. E. Grall (R-Dist. 29, Fort Pierce) | HB 259, by Rep. R. Brackett (R-Dist. 34, Vero Beach)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 116-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb190>

- **SB 196: Guidance Services on Academic & Career Planning**, by Sen. S. Jones (D-Dist. 34, Miami Gardens) | HB 141, by Rep. K. Arrington (D-Dist. 46, Kissimmee)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 118-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb196>

- **HB 225: Interscholastic and Interscholastic Activities**, by Rep. F. Hawkins (R-Dist. 35, Orlando) | SB 308, by Sen. J. Collins (R-Dist. 14, Tampa)

Votes: (S: 28-12) (H: 93-22)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb225>

- **HB 389: Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools**, by Rep. K. Skidmore (D-Dist. 92, Boca Raton) | SB 334, by Sen. L. Book (D-Dist. 35, Plantation)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 110-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb389>

- **HB 733: Middle and High School Start Times**, by Rep. J. Temple (R-Dist. 52, The Villages) | SB 1112, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Dist. 23, Zephyrhills)

Votes: (S: 38-2) (H: 92-20)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb733>

- **HB 891: Year-round School Pilot Program**, by Rep. P. Williams (D-Dist. 98, Fort Lauderdale) | SB 1564, by Sen. L. Stewart (D-Dist. 17, Orlando)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 107-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb891>

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

In 2002 and 2003 FEA-United and FTP-NEA wrote and successfully lobbied for teacher authority rights in their classrooms related to curriculum and classroom discipline to ensure teachers had a voice in the decisions made in their classrooms. HB 1035 pulls these existing provisions into a new section of statutes called the “Teacher Bill of Rights.” This new legislation expands on the right of teachers to direct their classroom instruction and control their classroom. Additional provisions require the commissioner of education to review all classroom teacher training requirements and make recommendations to eliminate unnecessary and duplicative training requirements in state rule, law and district rule.

Student Discipline

The bill strengthens requirements that teachers be notified of student discipline decisions and be advised in writing if the principal deviates from the teacher recommendations for student discipline. New in statute is a statement that teachers may establish classroom rules of conduct, establish and implement consequences for classroom rule infractions. Current provisions allowing teachers to have students removed for behavioral interventions are restated, and the right of teachers to receive assistance for addressing student misconduct including immediate assistance when needed, receive training to improve skills, press charges and use reasonable force to protect themselves or others from injury are expanded.

Rights Violation Investigation

The bill also includes language allowing teachers to request the commissioner of education appoint a special magistrate

if they believe they have been directed by their school board to violate a state law or State Board rule. It also allows the Office of the Inspector General to investigate if a student, teacher or parent believes their rights have been violated.

Professional Learning

Teachers and staff may see differences in professional training as the Legislature has re-branded “professional development” as “professional learning.” There are provisions requiring the Department of Education to review professional learning requirements at the state and federal level and make recommendations for reducing those requirements.

Teachers will be allowed to receive in-service credit for certain career and technical education after-school activities.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **HB 1035: Teacher Training and Conduct**, by Rep. K. Gonzales Pittman (R-Dist. 65, Tampa) and SB 244 by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

Votes: (S: 35-4) (H: 92-22)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1035>

- **HB 1537: Education**, by Rep. A. Rizo (R-Dist. 112, Hialeah) and Rep. K. Daniels (D-Dist. 14, Jacksonville) | SB 1430, by Sen. B. Avila (R-Dist. 39, Hialeah Gardens)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 112-3)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1537>

RETIREMENT

Legislative changes this session will greatly enhance the financial stability and retirement prospects of our dedicated educators and support staff. The modifications found in SB 7024 aim to boost the monthly health insurance benefits, redefine the normal retirement date, increase the employer contribution rates, and extend DROP, securing a more comfortable retirement for our hardworking education professionals.

Health Insurance Subsidy

SB 7024 increases the monthly health insurance subsidy benefit from \$5 to \$7.50 for each year of service and increases the employer contribution rate from 1.66% to 2%.

DROP

SB 7024 also eliminates the restrictive entry window for eligible FRS members to participate in DROP for all retirement classes and allows entry into DROP for eligible members at any age, as long as years of service or age and vesting requirements are met.

Further, this legislation extends the maximum amount of time for a qualified FRS member to participate in DROP from 60 calendar months to 96 calendar months for all classes. For Instructional Personnel, it extends the maximum amount of time to participate in DROP from 96 to 120 calendar months, effective June 30, 2023. The extension sunsets June 30, 2029.

SB 7024 increases the interest rate applied to a member’s accrued monthly benefit from 1.3% to 4%. It sets contribution rates based on the 2022 actuarial valuation and benefit/policy changes included in the bill and increases the allocations to the investment plan accounts by 2% for each membership class.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **SB 7024, Retirement**, Sen. E. Hooper (R-Dist. 21, Palm Harbor) and HB 239 by Rep. D. Busatta Cabrera (R-Dist. 114, Coral Gables)

Votes: (S: 38-0) (H: 112-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb7024>

TEACHER PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION

Teacher certification was a popular subject for proposed legislation. FEA has advocated for additional flexibility for current teachers to document their mastery of what teachers must know about their subject and how to teach so students learn best.

Some politicians think removing qualifications for teachers is a way to address the teacher shortage even though the evidence shows that unprepared teachers are more likely to leave the profession. Despite attempts to remove some of these requirements, FEA was able to convince legislators to add flexibility while still maintaining standards for both entry and for full professional licensure.

HB 1 changed the validity period for all temporary certificates to five years and allows teachers with an in-field master's degrees to exempt the subject area tests. Teachers with three years of effective evaluations will be exempt from the general knowledge exam. With successful completion of the professional development certification program and competency demonstration, teachers can exempt the professional knowledge test.

The provision for a teacher with a temporary certificate to apply for a one-time, emergency extension of two years remains in statute.

Interns in teacher preparation programs can apply for temporary certificates, allowing districts to hire the intern after they complete the program and before graduation. (HB 1537)

A two-year teacher apprenticeship program was introduced in HB 1035 for individuals with an associate degree and a 3.0 GPA, enabling them to work towards professional certification. Local certifications are now allowed for non-degreed teachers with three years of occupational experience, and adjunct teaching certificates were also extended to five years. Charter schools can now establish their own requirements for adjunct certificates. (HB 7051)

Students in a state-approved teacher preparation program will be allowed to apply for tuition waivers on a "buy one get one" basis for their upper-level courses. Teacher preparation programs will be required to add instruction on evidence-based reading and math instruction. (HB 1035, HB 1537)

There are new scholarships to assist teachers who do not yet hold advanced degrees to pursue the required coursework so they can teach dual enrollment classes in our schools. Also, teachers are allowed to take up to six credit hours per semester in higher education courses for free in certain high needs subject areas, and for teachers who supervise interns, they may receive waivers for six credit hours of college or university courses. (HB 1035)

Retired first responders are eligible for a one-time sign-on bonus if they qualify for a teaching certificate and commit to teach for at least two years. They may also earn an additional bonus if they teach in an area of critical shortage as defined in statute. (HB 1035)

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **HB 1: Education**, by Rep. K. Tuck (R-Dist. 83, Sebring) | SB 202, by Sen. C. Simon (R-Dist. 3, Tallahassee)

Votes: ([S: 26-12](#)) ([H: 83-27](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1>

- **SB 240: Education**, by Sen. T. Hutson (R-Dist. 7, Palm Coast) | HB 7051: by Rep. L. Melo (R-Dist. 82, Naples)

Votes: ([S: 40-0](#)) ([H: 114-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb240>

- **SB 266: Higher Education**, by Sen. E. Grall (R-Dist. 29, Fort Pierce) | HB 999: by Rep. A. Andrade (R-Dist. 2, Pensacola)

Votes: ([S: 27-12](#)) ([H: 81-34](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb266>

- **HB 443: Education**, by Rep. S. Valdes (D-Dist. 64, Tampa) | SB 986, by Sen. D. Burgess (R-Dist. 23, Zephyrhills)

Votes: ([S: 35-4](#)) ([H: 109-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb443>

- **HB 1035: Teacher Training and Conduct**, by Rep. K. Gonzales Pittman (R-Dist. 65, Tampa) | SB 244 by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

Votes: (S: 35-4) (H: 92-22)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1035>

- **HB 1125: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**, by Rep. D. Smith (R-Dist. 38, Winter Springs) and Rep. C. Hunschofsky (D-Dist. 95, Coconut Creek) | SB 1446, by Sen. T. Wright (R-Dist. 8, Port Orange)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 116-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1125>

- **HB 1537: Education**, by Rep. A. Rizo (R-Dist. 112, Hialeah) and Rep. K. Daniels (D-Dist. 14, Jacksonville) | SB 1430, by Sen. B. Avila (R-Dist. 39, Hialeah Gardens)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 112-3)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1537>

- **HB 7039: Student Outcomes**, by Rep. D. Trabulsy (R-Dist. 84, Fort Pierce) | SB 1424, by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

Votes: (S: 39-0) (H: 111-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb7039>

UNION ISSUES

SB 256 makes significant changes to how public sector unions operate, except those unions representing police, firefighter, corrections, and probationary officers. Beginning July 1, 2023, SB 256 requires members who wish to be a member of their union join using a prescribed membership authorization form that contains a statement in 14-inch font and includes the salary, allowances, and other direct or indirect disbursements, including reimbursements paid to each of the top five highest compensated officers and employees. The bill prohibits a member from choosing to pay their union dues through payroll deduction. Beginning October 1, 2023, when unions recertify with PERC they will now be required to meet a minimum 60% membership threshold and have an annual financial audit by an independent certified public accountant.

Teacher Assignment and Salary Incentives

The Legislature made changes to the “Educational Emergency” section of statutes through the budget implementing bill HB 5101. The new language allows the school district to offer differentiated salary incentives to attract teachers to schools receiving a D or F in the school grading system without going through collective bargaining. This legislation will also allow districts to assign teachers to low performing schools “as a management right” and not subject to collective bargaining requirements.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **SB 256: Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees**, by Sen. B. Ingoglia (R-Dist. 11, Spring Hill) and HB 1445 by Rep. D. Black (R-Dist. 15, Yulee)

Votes: (S: 23-17) (H: 72-44)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb256>

- **HB 5101, Education**, by J. Tomkow (R-Dist. 51, Auburndale)

Votes: (S: 40-0) (H: 111-0)

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb5101>

MISCELLANEOUS

There were a handful of bills passed this session to help Floridians with the rising cost of living. SB 102, Housing, will benefit educators and public sector workers through the “Hometown Heroes Act” which provides down payment and closing cost assistance to educators and public sector workers who want to purchase their first home.

This year’s annual tax package, SB 7062, includes several new permanent sales tax exemptions as well as some new sales tax holidays. The following items are now permanently tax free:

- Baby and toddler products, includes cribs, strollers, cabinet locks, breast pumps, wipes, diapers, clothing 5T and smaller, shoes 13 T and smaller, and more. See Appendix B (page 28) for the full list.
- Diapers and incontinence products.
- Oral Hygiene products, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, oral irrigators, and mouthwash.
- Firearm safety devices, includes safes, lockboxes, cases, trigger locks, or cable locks.

Sales Tax Holidays

- **Back-to-School sales tax holidays**—this year Florida will have two Back-to-School sales tax holidays, taking place July 24-August 6 and January 1-January 14. Much like previous back to school tax holidays, tax free items include clothing, shoes, and bags under \$100, school supplies, learning aids, computers under \$1,500, and more. See Appendix C (page 29) for the full list.
- **Disaster Preparedness sales tax holiday**—this year Florida will have two Disaster Preparedness sales tax holidays. The holidays will be taking place from May 27 to June 9 and August 26-September 8. Tax free items include flashlights and other self-powered lights under \$40, self-powered radios under \$50, waterproof sheeting under \$100, batteries and battery packs under \$50, power banks under \$60, necessary supplies for evacuation of pets, common household products under \$30, and more. See Appendix D (page 30) for the full list.
- **Freedom Summer sales tax holiday**—for the second year we will have a “Freedom Summer” sales tax holiday. This year the holiday takes place from May 29 to September 4. This summer tax holiday makes admissions to concerts, sporting events, movies, museums, state

parks, and fairs tax free. Additionally, certain summer sports and recreation equipment is tax free. See Appendix E (page 31) for the full list.

- **Tool Time sales tax holiday**—a new sales tax holiday, from September 2-September 8, for skilled workers to purchase tools and necessary equipment. See Appendix F (page 32) for the full list of tax-free items.

RELATED BILLS:

To see how your Representative or Senator voted on a particular bill see instructions on page 2.

- **SB 102: Housing**, by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami) | HB 627, by Rep. D. Busatta Cabrera (R-Dist. 114, Coral Gables)

Votes: (S: [40-0](#)) (H: [103-6](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb102>

- **HB 7063: Taxation**, by Rep. S. McClain (R-Dist. 27, Ocala) | SB 7062, by Sen. B. Ingoglia (R-Dist. 11, Spring Hill)

Votes: (S: [38-0](#)) (H: [112-0](#))

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb7063>

Bills That Failed to Pass

1. **HJR 129: Requiring Broader Public Support for Constitutional Amendment or Revisions**, by Rep. Roth (R-Dist. 94, West Palm Beach) | SJR 1410, by Sen. Gruters (R-Dist. 22, Sarasota)

Would have asked Florida voters to consider a constitutional amendment requiring amendments to the constitution to have 66.67% of the vote to pass.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hjr129>

2. **HB 147: Financial Assistance for Postsecondary Students**, by Rep. K. Daniels (D-Dist. 14, Jacksonville)

Would have ordered postsecondary educational institutions to disburse financial assistance to students within 30 to 45 days from the start of the semester.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb147>

3. **HB 193: Instructional Hours for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program**, by Rep. A. Nixon (D-Dist. 13, Jacksonville) | SB 426 by Sen. T. Davis (D-Dist. 5, Jacksonville,)

Would have extended the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) school day instructional hours to full-time during the school year and the summer programs, delivered by public school and private prekindergarten providers.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb193>

4. **HB 195: Upgrades to Education Facilities as Emergency Shelters**, by Rep. J. Casello (D-Dist. 90, Boynton Beach) and Rep. L. Cross (D-Dist. 60, St. Petersburg) | SB 178, by Sen. L. Berman (D-Dist. 26, Boynton Beach)

Would have allowed for facility upgrades to schools that would improve their ability to be used as hurricane shelters not to be counted against school districts when budgeting for capital outlay, provided the upgrade cost less than \$2 million.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb195>

5. **HB 271: Minimum Base Salary for Full-Time Classroom Teachers**, by Rep. T. Edmonds (D-Dist. 88, West Palm Beach) | SB 342 by Sen. L. Berman (D-Dist. 26, Boynton Beach)

Would have raised the minimum base salary for full-time classroom teachers from \$47,500 to \$65,000. Both measures failed to be heard in a single committee of reference.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb271>

6. **HB 311: Postsecondary Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity**, by Rep. Y. Hinson (D-Dist. 21, Gainesville) | SB 324 by Sen. T. Polsky (D-Dist. 30, Boca Raton)

An FEA legislative priority, this bill would have repealed a State Board of Education and state Board of Governors requirement for state colleges and universities to conduct an annual assessment of student and faculty opinions on campus intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity, and the associated provisions of the law.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb311>

7. **HB 445: Certificates of Completion**, by Rep. S. Valdes (D-Dist. 64, Tampa) | SB 1168 by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 83, Miami)

Would have required districts to provide written notification to eligible students and parents on the certificate of completion option to provide a high school senior with academic deficiencies an extra year to graduate with a high school diploma.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb445>

8. **HB 455: Career themed Courses**, Rep. K. Dunkley (D-Dist. 97, Lauderhill) | SB 1468 by Sen. L. Book (D-Plantation, Dist. 35)

If passed, middle school students and parents would have learned about the career and professional academy or career-themed course options available within their district. Districts must adopt a strategic 3-year plan to promote career and technical education opportunities available to students, parents, the community, and all education stakeholders.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb455>

9. **HB 459: Education**, by Rep. M. Giallombardo (R-Dist. 79, Cape Coral) | SB 1654, by Sen. B. Ingoglia (R-Dist. 11, Spring Hill)

Would have required high schools to provide computer science courses to their students. Allowed for two years of computer science coursework to count towards the two-year foreign language requirement for students and required the Department of Education to publish information about programs, colleges, universities, wages, high demand jobs, and more in their Bright Futures advertisements.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb459>

10. **SB 466: Care of Students with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders**, by Sen. I. Garcia (R-Dist. 36, Miami)

Would have required each school employee or an individual who works with school-sponsored programs outside of the regular school day to be trained every two years in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb466>

11. **HB 467: Anti-drug Instruction in Public Schools**, by Rep. G. Griffiths (R-Dist. 6, Panama City) and Rep. S. Abbott (R-Dist. 5, DeFuniak Springs)

Would have required school districts to provide required instruction in anti-drug curriculum to students in grades 2 through 12.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb467>

12. **HB 479 Required Instruction in History of Holocaust and History of African Americans**, Rep. G. Franklin (D-Dist. 8, Tallahassee) | SB 1008, by Sen. G. Thompson (D-Dist. 15, Orlando)

This is one of two sets of bills proposed to advance the required instruction of African American History. Unlike HB 551/SB 804, this measure included Holocaust History and would have required private schools, that accept students who participate in the state voucher program under chapter 1002, to follow the same rules for required instruction that traditional public and charter schools must follow. Educator training was also included to assist in developing strategies for integrating the histories throughout the curriculum. The proposal would have involved parents and generated community partnership to create a richer learning experience with local connections for students.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb479>

13. **SB 524: Native Language Assessments in Public Schools**, by Sen. A. Rodriguez (R-Dist. 40, Doral)

Would have given English language learners (ELL) the opportunity to be tested in their native language by allowing districts to provide statewide, standardized assessments and EOC assessments in other languages to elementary and middle school students enrolled in dual language programs. Parents would also be able to decide the best language for their child's statewide assessment. HB 1089 contains similar language.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb524>

14. **SB 542: Emergency Opioid Antagonists**, by Sen. J. Boyd (R-Dist. 20, Bradenton) | HB 39: by Rep. T. Edmonds (D-Dist. 88, West Palm Beach)

Would have required Florida Colleges and Universities to have a supply of emergency opioid antagonists available in each residence hall in a clearly marked location.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb542>

15. **HB 577: Teacher Certification Fees**, by Rep. M. Woodson (D-Dist. 105, Pembroke Pines) | SB 684, by Sen. L. Book (D-Dist. 35, Plantation)

An FEA legislative priority, this legislation would have waived the fees for the general knowledge test, as well as certification fees and renewal fees for the 23-24 through 25-26 school years.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb577>

16. **HB 591: Social Media Protection for Minors**, by Rep. Rayner-Goolsby (D-Dist. 62, St. Petersburg) and Rep. Sirois (R-Dist. 31, Merritt Island) | SB 792, by Sen. Jones (D-Dist. 34, Miami Gardens)

Would have required social media platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok, to disclose certain practices that might be harmful to minors. It would have required the social media platforms to provide clear access to resources for how to contact law enforcement, suicide prevention services, and domestic violence prevention services. It would have also prohibited K-12 Schools from having an account on a social media platform that did not comply with the disclaimer laws or require students to participate on a social media platform to access information, materials, or resources.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb591>

17. **HB 735: Temporary Teacher Certifications**, by Rep. Y. Hinson (D-Dist. 21, Gainesville) | SB 878, by Sen. B. Powell (D-Dist. 24, West Palm Beach)

Would have retained more educators in our schools by allowing paraprofessionals to receive temporary teaching certificates with similar requirements as the teacher apprenticeship program which passed in HB 1035, and by extending the certificate duration from two to five years. The certificated paraprofessional would have been required to work with a teacher mentor.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb735>

18. **HB 817: Health Education Information**, by Rep. D. Black (R-Dist. 15, Yulee) | SB 650 by Sen. J. Collins (R-Dist. 14, Tampa)

Would have required school districts to update their websites with accurate reproductive health and disease education information at least 30 days before instruction and notify parents through physical or electronic means about the availability of such information.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb817>

19. **HB 857: Charter Schools**, Rep. K. Daniels (D-Dist. 14, Jacksonville) | SB 1680, by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

This would have enabled an independent charter school that's high-performing to be assigned to a charter school network operating within the same school district, and at the time of enrollment a charter school's admission and dismissal policies must be clarified, especially if academic performance is a factor. The bill would have restricted charter school operators from using relatives as landlords or leasing agents. Provisions in this bill are included in HB 1537, which did pass.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb857>

20. **HB 913: Charter School Loans**, by Rep. F. Hawkins (R-Dist. 35, Orlando) | SB 964 by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

The Charter School Revolving Loan Program was established to assist charter school operators by funding their school building needs through a revolving loan fund, which could have been funded through appropriated funds, philanthropic contributions, loan repayments, and earned interest. The Department of Education would have been authorized to contract with a qualified third-party administrator to manage the program. The department would have been required to post relevant project and loan information on its website.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb913>

21. **HB 985: Video Cameras in Certain Public School Classrooms**, by Rep. C. Tramont (R-Dist. 30, Port Orange)

Would have required school districts to place video cameras with audio recording in all self-contained public-school classrooms including charter school.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb985>

22. **HB 1089: Multilingual Versions of Statewide Standardized Assessments**, by Rep. J. Lopez (D-Dist. 43, Orlando)

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, DOE would have been required to develop multilingual versions of assessments, including Spanish and Haitian Creole versions, for the grade 10 ELA and the Algebra I EOC. All districts would have been required to administer the multilingual assessments in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole upon request of the parent, to students enrolled in the ELL program.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1089>

23. **HB 1021: Child Care and Early Learning Providers**, by Rep. F. McFarland | SB 990, by Sen. E. Grall (R-Fort Pierce, Dist. 29)

Early Learning providers would have modified requirements for Voluntary Prekindergarten teacher training and the information required to be provided to parents regarding common childhood illnesses and inspection requirements. The bill also would have made changes to both training and provider accountability provisions. Some version of this bill will return next session.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1021>

24. **HB 1115: Florida Education Finance Program**, by Rep. D. Bankson (R-Dist. 39, Apopka)

Would have allowed the Department of Education to establish qualifying scores for FTE funding for the International Baccalaureate tests with non-standard scores.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1115>

25. **SB 1116: Required Instruction**, by Sen. T. Polsky (D-Dist. 30, Boca Raton)

Would have required educators to instruct students in “information literacy” to facilitate critical thinking and research skills and the recognition that more information is needed.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb1116>

26. **SB 1120: Academic Credit**, by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist.38, Miami)

The State Board of Education (SBOE) would have been required to establish a process for the transfer and acceptance of academic credit for students from other schools including non-accredited and home schools.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb1120>

27. **SB 1348: Private Schools**, by Sen. L. Stewart (D- Dist. 17, Orlando)

To help parents make informed decisions when choosing a school for their child, this measure would have required private schools that accept taxpayer funded school vouchers to annually report to the FDOE the school’s graduation rate, statewide assessment results for voucher students (which would have been required for voucher students), and the school’s annual budget.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-sb1348>

28. **HB 1381: State University Student Fee Waivers**, by Rep. G. Franklin (D- Dist. 8, Tallahassee) | SB 960, by Sen. L. Berman (D- Dist. 26, Boynton Beach)

An FEA legislative priority, this legislation would have repealed requirements that allowed a state university to impose fees on graduate students with at least a .25 full-time equivalent appointment or greater working as a graduate assistant, graduate research assistant, graduate teaching assistant, graduate research associate, or graduate teaching associate.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1381>

29. **HB 1401: Articulation Agreements**, by Rep. K. Michael (R-Dist. 16, Jacksonville Beach) | SB 750: by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

The bill would have required the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) to develop a statewide Associate of Science to Bachelor of Science degree articulation agreement for high-demand fields. The bill additionally would have tasked the ACC with convening a workgroup to help strengthen educator preparation programs and provide seamless pathways to continued educational opportunities.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1401>

30. **HB 1429: Student Elopement**, by Rep. A. Eskamani (D-Dist. 42, Orlando) | SB 1568 by Sen. L. Book (D-Dist. 35, Plantation)

Would have required schools to create School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) teams. These teams would have been tasked with developing elopement plans and training pertinent staff members on the elopement plans to prevent students with disabilities from eloping from schools.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1429>

31. **HB 1469: Elections**, by Rep. D. Joseph (D-Dist. 108, North Miami) | SB 1206, by Sen. G. Thompson (D-Dist. 15, Orlando)

Would have made significant changes to Florida's elections laws, including requiring the Secretary of State to be elected rather than appointed, permit same day voter registration, eliminate the fines associated with third party voter registration groups, and establish the day of the general election as a paid holiday.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1469>

32. **HB 1453: Standard High School Diploma Award Requirements**, by Rep. P. Williams (D-Dist. 98, Ft. Lauderdale) | SB 826 by Sen. L. Stewart (D-Dist. 17, Orlando)

If this measure passed, students seeking to receive a standard high school diploma at graduation would have been forced to apply for federal student aid to receive their diploma. Parents and students could be exempt after submitting a letter to their district declining the application submission.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1453>

33. **HB 1555: Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program**, by Rep. S. Valdes (D-Dist. 64, Tampa) | SB 1172, by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

Established through the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, this bill would have created a pilot program at three state universities or colleges with the highest percentages of Pell Grant recipients to establish a hunger task force and provide options for students to use SNAP benefits at campus stores or places where SNAP is accepted, establish a food pantry for students, and develop a student meal credit donation program for free food vouchers.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1555>

34. **HB 1601: Computer Science Instruction in K-12 Public Schools**, by Rep. K. Gonzalez Pittman (R-Dist. 65, Tampa) | SB 780, by Sen. A. Calatayud (R-Dist. 38, Miami)

Would have allowed districts to offer computer science instruction and digital literacy to elementary students and required the courses in middle and high school. Also, it would have redefined elementary and middle school instructional personnel to include classroom teachers, certified school counselors, social workers, career specialists, school psychologists, librarians and media specialists, and provide a bonus for computer science instructors.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1601>

35. **HB 1629: Financial Accountability in Publicly Funded Education**, by Rep. F. Driskell (D-Dist. 67, Tampa)

Private schools that accept vouchers would have been required to provide parents a disclosure which explains the school expectations related to religious tenants, the student codes of conduct including dress code and hair styles, and rules on sexual orientation and gender identity. Other disclosures include informing the district of the number of vacant seats dedicated to voucher students and reporting to the Department of Education when a student is dismissed by the school other than by the parent's choosing.

Bill text: <https://FEAweb.org/2023eos-hb1629>

APPENDIX A: FEFP SUMMARY

2023-2024 FEFP - CONFERENCE REPORT, MAY 2, 2023 Public Schools Funding Summary, Comparison with 2022-2023 STATEWIDE SUMMARY

	2022-2023 Fourth Calculation -1-	2023-2024 Conference Report Calculation -2-	Difference -3-	Percentage Difference -4-
Major FEFP Formula Components				
Unweighted District FTE	2,977,710.18	3,095,082.45	117,372.27	3.94%
Weighted District FTE	3,276,847.70	3,413,445.79	136,598.09	4.17%
School Taxable Value (Tax Roll)	2,933,437,989,999	3,286,296,358,377	352,858,368,378	12.03%
Required Local Effort Millage	3.262	3.262	0.000	0.00%
Discretionary Millage	0.748	0.748	0.000	0.00%
Total Millage	4.010	4.010	0.000	0.00%
Base Student Allocation	4,587.40	5,139.73	552.33	12.04%
FEFP Detail				
WFTE x BSA x CWF x Small District Factor (Base FEFP)	15,034,590,411	17,753,850,142	2,719,259,731	18.09%
Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase (f.k.a. Teacher Salary Increase Allocation)	800,000,000	1,052,803,316 *	252,803,316	31.60%
DJJ Supplemental Allocation	3,617,572	3,373,272	(244,300)	-6.75%
Educational Enrichment Allocation (f.k.a. Supplemental Academic Instruction)	719,314,907	825,066,525	105,751,618	14.70%
ESE Guaranteed Allocation	1,094,851,200	1,211,296,702	116,445,502	10.64%
Instructional Materials Allocation	246,978,361		(246,978,361)	-100.00%
Mental Health Assistance Allocation	140,000,000	160,000,000	20,000,000	14.29%
Reading Instruction Allocation	170,000,000		(170,000,000)	-100.00%
Safe Schools Allocation	210,000,000	250,000,000	40,000,000	19.05%
Student Transportation Allocation	515,009,084	535,831,174	20,822,090	4.04%
Teachers Classroom Supplies Allocation	54,143,375		(54,143,375)	-100.00%
Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation	16,913,480		(16,913,480)	-100.00%
.748 Mill Discretionary Compression	356,338,419	389,413,555	33,075,136	9.28%
Federally-Connected Student Supplement	14,303,467	14,958,729	655,262	4.58%
Funding Compression & Hold Harmless	66,139,409		(66,139,409)	-100.00%
Sparsity Supplement	62,181,511		(62,181,511)	-100.00%
State-Funded Discretionary Contribution	39,670,279	42,328,719	2,658,440	6.70%
Total FEFP	19,544,051,475	21,186,118,818	1,642,067,343	8.40%
Less: Required Local Effort	8,854,248,311	9,891,348,974	1,037,100,663	11.71%
Net State FEFP Funds	10,689,803,164	11,294,769,844	604,966,680	5.66%
State Categorical Programs				
Class Size Reduction Allocation	2,896,071,526	2,784,578,812	(111,492,714)	-3.85%
State-Funded Discretionary Supplement		436,091,636	436,091,636	
Total State Categorical Funding	2,896,071,526	3,220,670,448	324,598,922	11.21%
Total State Funding	13,585,874,690	14,515,440,292	929,565,602	6.84%
Local Funding				
Required Local Effort	8,854,248,311	9,891,348,974	1,037,100,663	11.71%
.748 Mill Discretionary Local Effort	2,106,443,151	2,359,823,691	253,380,540	12.03%
Total Local Funding	10,960,691,462	12,251,172,665	1,290,481,203	11.77%
Totals				
Total Funding	24,546,566,152	26,766,612,957	2,220,046,805	9.04%
State Funds per FTE	4,562.52	4,689.84	127.32	2.79%
Local Funds per FTE	3,680.92	3,958.27	277.35	7.53%
Total Funds per FTE	8,243.44	8,648.11	404.67	4.91%
Percent State Funds	55.35%	54.23%		
Percent Local Funds	44.65%	45.77%		

* The Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation funding is included in the Base Funding Total for 2023-2024.

APPENDIX B: PERMANENTLY TAX FREE BABY AND TODDLER PRODUCTS

Baby and Toddler Products

The following items are now permanently tax free:

- Baby cribs, including baby playpens and baby play yards
- Baby strollers
- Baby safety gates
- Baby monitors
- Child safety cabinet locks and latches and electrical socket covers
- Bicycle child carrier seats and trailers designed for carrying young children, including any adaptors and accessories for these seats and trailers
- Baby exercisers, jumpers, bouncer seats, and swings
- Breast pumps, bottle sterilizers, baby bottles and nipples, pacifiers, and teething rings
- Baby wipes
- Changing tables and changing pads
- Children's diapers, including single-use diapers, reusable diapers, and reusable diaper inserts
- Baby and toddler clothing, apparel, and shoes, primarily intended for and marketed for children aged 5 or younger. Baby and toddler clothing size 5T and smaller and baby and toddler shoes size 13T and smaller are presumed to be primarily intended for and marketed for children aged 5 or younger.

APPENDIX C: BACK TO SCHOOL TAX HOLIDAYS

Back-to-Schools Sales Tax Holiday

This year Florida will have two Back-to-School sales tax holidays, taking place July 24-August 6 and January 1-January 14. The following items are tax free:

- Clothing, wallets, or bags, including handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags, but excluding briefcases, suitcases, and other garment bags, with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
 - Any article of wearing apparel intended to be worn on or about the human body, excluding watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, and handkerchiefs; and
 - All footwear, excluding skis, swim fins, roller blades, and skates.
- School supplies having a sales price of \$50 or less per item.
 - Includes pens, pencils, erasers, crayons, notebooks, notebook filler paper, legal pads, binders, lunch boxes, construction paper, markers, folders, poster board, composition books, poster paper, scissors, cellophane tape, glue or paste, rulers, computer disks, staplers and staples used to secure paper products, protractors, compasses, and calculators.
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles with a sales price of \$30 or less.
 - Includes flashcards or other learning cards, matching or other memory games, puzzle books and search-and-find books, interactive or electronic books and toys intended to teach reading or math skills, and stacking or nesting blocks or sets.
- Personal computers or personal computer-related accessories purchased for noncommercial home or personal use having a sales price of \$1,500 or less.
 - “Personal computers” includes electronic book readers, laptops, desktops, handhelds, tablets, or tower computers.
 - The does not include cellular telephones, video game consoles, digital media receivers, or devices that are not primarily designed to process data.
 - “Personal computer-related accessories” includes keyboards, mice, personal digital assistants, monitors, other peripheral devices, modems, routers, and nonrecreational software, regardless of whether the accessories are used in association with a personal computer base unit.
 - The does not include furniture or systems, devices, software, monitors with a television tuner, or peripherals that are designed or intended primarily for recreational use.

These exemptions do not apply to items purchased within a theme park, entertainment complex, lodging establishment, or an airport.

APPENDIX D: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

This year Florida will have two Disaster Preparedness sales tax holidays. The holidays will be taking place from May 27 to June 9 and August 26-September 8. The following items are tax-free:

- A portable self-powered light source with a sales price of \$40 or less.
- A portable self-powered radio, two-way radio, or weather-band radio with a sales price of \$50 or less
- A tarpaulin or other flexible waterproof sheeting with a sales price of \$100 or less.
- An item normally sold as, or generally advertised as, a ground anchor system or tie-down kit with a sales price of \$100 or less.
- A gas or diesel fuel tank with a sales price of \$50 or less.
- A package of AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6- volt, or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries, with a sales price of \$50 or less.
- A nonelectric food storage cooler with a sales price of \$60 or less.
- A portable generator used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage with a sales price of \$3,000 or less.
- Reusable ice with a sales price of \$20 or less.
- A portable power bank with a sales price of \$60 or less.
- A smoke detector or smoke alarm with a sales price of \$70 or less.
- A fire extinguisher with a sales price of \$70 or less.
- A carbon monoxide detector with a sales price of \$70 or less.
- The following supplies necessary for the evacuation of household pets purchased for noncommercial use:
 - Bags of dry dog food or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$100 or less per bag.
 - Cans or pouches of wet dog food or cat food with a sales price of \$10 or less per can or pouch or the equivalent if sold in a box or case.
 - Over-the-counter pet medications with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
 - Portable kennels or pet carriers with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
 - Manual can openers with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
 - Leashes, collars, and muzzles with a sales price of \$20 or less per item.
 - Collapsible or travel-sized food bowls or water bowls with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
 - Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$25 or less per item.
 - Cat litter pans with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
 - Pet waste disposal bags with a sales price of \$15 or less per package.
 - Pet pads with a sales price of \$20 or less per box or package.
 - Hamster or rabbit substrate with a sales price of \$15 or less per package.
 - Pet beds with a sales price of \$40 or less per item.
- Common household consumable items with a sales price of \$30 or less.
 - Common household consumable items mean:
 - Laundry detergent and supplies, including powder detergent; liquid detergent; or pod detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, stain removers, and bleach.
 - Toilet paper

APPENDIX E: FREEDOM SUMMER SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Freedom Summer Sales Tax Holiday

“Freedom Summer” sales tax holiday, this year the holiday takes place from May 29 to September 4. The following items are tax free:

- A live music event scheduled to be held on any date or dates from May 29, 2023, through December 31, 2023
- A live sporting event scheduled to be held on any date or dates from May 29, 2023, through December 31, 2023
- A movie to be shown in a movie theater on any date or dates from May 29, 2023, through December 31, 2023
- Entry to a museum, including any annual passes
- Entry to a state park, including any annual passes
- Entry to a ballet, play, or musical theatre performance scheduled to be held on any date or dates from May 29, 2023, through December 31, 2023
- Season tickets for ballets, plays, music events, or musical theatre performances
- Entry to a fair, festival, or cultural event scheduled to be held on any date or dates from May 29, 2023, through December 31, 2023
- Use of or access to private and membership clubs providing physical fitness facilities from May 29, 2023, through December 31, 2023
- The retail sale of boating and water activity supplies, camping supplies, fishing supplies, general outdoor supplies, residential pool supplies, children’s toys and children’s athletic equipment.
 - Boating and water activity supplies” means:
 - Life jackets and coolers with a sales price of \$75 or less;
 - Recreational pool tubes, pool floats, inflatable chairs, and pool toys with a sales price of \$35 or less
 - safety flares with a sales price of \$50 or less;
 - water skis, wakeboards, kneeboards, and recreational inflatable water tubes or floats capable of being towed with a sales price of \$150 or less;
 - paddleboards and surfboards with a sales price of \$300 or less;
 - canoes and kayaks with a sales price of \$500 or less;
 - paddles and oars with a sales price of \$75 or less;
 - snorkels, goggles, and swimming masks with a sales price of \$25 or less.
 - “Camping supplies” means:
 - tents with a sales price of \$200 or less;
 - sleeping bags, portable hammocks, camping stoves, and collapsible camping chairs with a sales price of \$50 or less;
 - camping lanterns and flashlights with a sales price of \$30 or less.
 - “Fishing supplies” means:
 - rods and reels with a sales price of \$75 or less if sold individually, or \$150 or less if sold as a set;
 - tackle boxes or bags with a sales price of \$30 or less;
 - bait or fishing tackle with a sales price of \$5 or less if sold individually, or \$10 or less if multiple items are sold together.
 - does not include supplies used for commercial fishing purposes.

APPENDIX F: TOOL TIME SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Tool Time Sales Tax Holiday

A new sales tax holiday, from September 2-September 8, for skilled workers to purchase tools and necessary equipment. The following items are tax free:

- Hand tools with a sales price of \$50 or less per item.
- Power tools with a sales price of \$300 or less per item.
- Power tool batteries with a sales price of \$150 or less per item.
- Work gloves with a sales price of \$25 or less per pair.
- Safety glasses with a sales price of \$50 or less per pair, or the equivalent if sold in sets of more than one pair.
- Protective coveralls with a sales price of \$50 or less per item.
- Work boots with a sales price of \$175 or less per pair.
- Tool belts with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
- Duffle bags or tote bags with a sales price of \$50 or less per item.
- Toolboxes with a sales price of \$75 or less per item.
- Toolboxes for vehicles with a sales price of \$300 or less per item.
- Industry textbooks and code books with a sales price of \$125 or less per item.
- Electrical voltage and testing equipment with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
- LED flashlights with a sales price of \$50 or less per item.
- Shop lights with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
- Handheld pipe cutters, drain opening tools, and plumbing inspection equipment with a sales price of \$150 or less per item.
- Shovels with a sales price of \$50 or less.
- Rakes with a sales price of \$50 or less.
- Hard hats and other head protection with a sales price of \$100 or less.
- Hearing protection items with a sales price of \$75 or less.
- Ladders with a sales price of \$250 or less.
- Fuel cans with a sales price of \$50 or less.
- High visibility safety vests with a sales price of \$30 or less.

These exemptions do not apply to items purchased within a theme park, entertainment complex, lodging establishment, or an airport.