

Subject: 2024 Session Update
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Florida Education Association

Frontline Report

2024 Legislative Session

February 9, 2024

A Brief Recap of the Week

As we officially hit the midway point of session, FEA, our locals and our members will continue the fight and the conversations that will help move the needle on better and more fair pay, along with improved working conditions.

Read on to learn more about:

- The progress of bills,
- Budget talks,
- SB 1746- an anti-worker bill, and
- Thanks!

A Session Snapshot

The Florida House will wrap up committee meetings at the end of next week while the Senate will continue to hold committee meetings until February 27. The Florida Legislature will likely focus in on getting priorities across the finish line and coming together on a budget, which will be smaller than in recent years because federal COVID funding for states is no longer available. Below is a quick snapshot of a few bills of note, but for more detailed bill information, be sure to visit feaweb.org/session or join us for next week's [Power Hour](#) on Tuesday evening!

Cost of living increases HB 151/SB 242

As we've written before, HB 151 fulfills one of [FEA's legislative priorities](#) by restoring the annual 3% cost-of-living adjustment to the Florida Retirement System's pension plan. It has passed out of the House but has not been heard in the Senate. FEA will continue the fight to ensure every educator has the chance to retire with dignity.

Removing Child Labor Protections HB 49/ SB 1596

The House version has been sent to the Senate and is facing two remaining committee stops. We've said it before and we will say it again- the solution to Florida's labor shortage cannot be to strip away protections from our children. It's important to remember that these are the same legislators who just last year proposed later school start times beginning in 2026.

Conversion charters HB 109/SB 246

This bill has two remaining stops in the House and has not been heard or scheduled in the Senate. As a reminder, this bill would allow municipalities to convert public schools in their jurisdiction to charter schools without teacher input.

Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence HB 315/SB 46

The Senate passed this bill off the floor last week and sent it to Messages in the House, while the House bill passed its last committee this week on a unanimous vote. The bill will clarify the existing RAISE program by explicitly authorizing districts to compensate our public-school teachers as they support students who need assistance in reading and increasing the incentives for high school students to get involved in helping younger students.

Educator Preparatory Programs HB 1291/SB 1372

We continue to see attacks on academic freedom within our education system from the Florida legislature. The bills would prohibit certain discussions about systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege in relation to American institutions. Many speakers, including FEA members, spoke passionately in opposition to this bill in both House and Senate committees this week. The bills passed their final committee stops this week and will be available on the agenda of the respective floors beginning this week.

For a full list of bills FEA is tracking and more in-depth information, be sure to visit feaweb.org/session.

Budget Talks

This week, the House and Senate respectively took up their chamber's budget proposals. The Senate met Wednesday morning to discuss the various budget silos and to ask questions of the Appropriation's chairmen. Senator Doug Broxson (R-Pensacola) who is the full Appropriations