

Florida Education Association

Frontline Report

2026 Legislative Session

December 5, 2025

It was a cold, dreary week in Tallahassee. And, while it was a quiet week for education committees (seven out of the ten did not meet this week), it was still a busy week for related issues that will have a direct impact on school communities.

Major Events on the Horizon

Whereas we normally start Frontline with a recap of the week, today we're starting with a preview of what's to come next week.

On **Tuesday, December 9**, [SB 320](#) will have its first of two committee stops. This bill contains several FEA priorities including a return of multi-year contracts to encourage retention and help address the teacher shortage. The bill also removes many of the burdensome regulations that have caused salary compression. Last year, a very similar bill passed the Senate unanimously but was never heard in the House. We know it is the hard work of public education advocates like you that this bill passed the Senate last year and is moving again this year. Be on the lookout for opportunities to make your voice heard to help get the bill across the finish line in the House this year as well.

In [the last edition of Frontline](#), we wrote about the [Auditor General's scathing report on vouchers](#) and the resulting legislation, [SB 318](#). On **Wednesday, December 10**, the bill will have its one and only committee meeting in the Senate, meaning it will be ready for passage on the Senate floor when the session officially starts on January 13. So far, the House has not released any similar legislation on voucher funding accountability. In the coming weeks, we'll be providing you with opportunities to pressure the House to do the right thing and put serious and common-sense protections on voucher funding.

On **Friday, December 12**, the Florida Department of Health will be holding a workshop discussion on immunization requirements for students. While not a part of the interim committee week or the

legislative process, we wanted to bring this to your attention because we know that many parents and educators care deeply about any proposed changes to vaccine requirements. As of the writing of this email, the Department of Health hasn't released any specifics on proposed changes. We'll be monitoring this process and will provide you with an opportunity to voice your thoughts to the Department of Health as soon as there is an actual proposal to provide comment on.

Finally, **no later than December 14**, Gov. DeSantis must release his proposed budget for the 2026-26 fiscal year. Be sure you are following FEA across our social media platforms because we'll be posting our thoughts on the proposed budget as soon as it is released and we've had a chance to look at it.

A Tale of Two Chambers: Property Taxes and Redistricting

The Florida House is barreling ahead with plans to put constitutional amendments to reduce property taxes on the 2026 ballot and a plan to engage in mid-decade congressional redistricting. So far, the Senate has shown little appetite for either of these issues.

Four measures related to property taxes passed the House State Affairs Committee; each of them passed on a party-line vote. One of these four bills, HB 209, has its final committee stop next week in the Ways and Means Committee. Assuming it passes in committee, it will be ready for a full vote on the House Floor as soon as the legislative session officially starts on January 13.

As the Florida Trident points out, the wealthiest 1% of Floridians pay roughly 2.7% of their income in taxes whereas the least wealthy 20% of Floridians pay close to 15% of their income in taxes. Each of these measures passed by the House would make Florida's tax system even more regressive—meaning Florida's tax burden would be shifted even further to those with the least wealth. During the interim committee week period, the Senate has not held any discussions on property taxes.

Whether it is Title I funding for school with a large population of students in who in poverty, funding for food and nutrition services, or funding for after-school care, federal funding plays a large role in ensuring the needs of students are met. So, who controls the purse strings in the U.S. Congress directly impacts students, educators and school communities. It is through that lens that we are carefully watching attempts in Florida to redraw congressional boundaries.

When the House Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting met earlier this week, the committee room was overflowing with members of the public who wanted to voice their opposition to any mid-decade redistricting and further gerrymandering of Florida's Congressional districts. They were not given the opportunity to speak during the meeting. The chair adjourned the meeting with half an hour left in the scheduled time and do so without allowing any public comment.

This is another issue the Senate hasn't shown an appetite for. Senate President Ben Albritton sent a memo to senators earlier this week essentially declaring the Senate wouldn't consider

redistricting this session.

Gov. DeSantis has declared that the [legislature “must” engage in redistricting](#) and there have been murmurs in Tallahassee about a special session this Spring for that purpose.

On both the issues of property taxes and redistricting, a lot is still up in the air. We will keep you informed on all the latest developments as they happen.

School Safety and Board of Trustees Appointments

In the education committees that did meet this week, one of the important developments was the [appointments of members to college and university Boards of Trustees](#).

Elsewhere, the House Student Academic Success Committee heard a presentation on school safety. In the past, conversations like these in the legislature have largely been confined to PreK-12, but this week’s conversation also [took a look at school safety in Florida’s colleges and universities](#).

Committee weeks often provide insight into what legislation might be filed, and we’ll be closely monitoring to see what, if any, changes are being proposed to safety measures in PreK-12 and the higher education arenas.

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