

Florida Education Association

Frontline Report

2026 Legislative Session

January 30, 2026

Week three of the legislative session came and went with a flurry of bills and activity in the capitol. The anti-union bills reared their ugly head, some bad bills are being amended to be less bad, and some good legislation was heard this week.

FLDOE Bill Returns – and it's Tentacles are Reaching the Senate

Last week we told you about [HB 1071](#), a wide-ranging “education” bill covering many topics. The bill sponsor, Rep. Dana Trabulsy, introduced several amendments that gave us concern, with one to allow law enforcement, including ICE, to have complete access to school campuses. Rep. Dana Trabulsy stated last week that ICE access was not the intent of the amendment. This week when HB 1071 was heard in the PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee she filed an amendment to strike that portion of the bill.

All other provisions of concern, including restricting collective bargaining, mandating specific videos that must be shown in sex education classes, and eliminating funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion, remain. Rep. Trabulsy stated that more amendments were coming at the next stop, so we'll see if she removes any other concerns we have. It now heads to its final committee of reference before being ready for the House floor. The Senate companion, [SB 1090](#) by Senator Grall remains unheard in the Senate.

However, the Senate will be hearing a Proposed Committee Bill – [PCB 7036](#) in the Senate PreK-12 Committee which includes some of the components of HB 1071. Under current law, mandatory subjects of collective bargaining – including placement of employees at schools, employee wages and salary supplements, expectations of instructional personnel, and employee working conditions, are exempt from schools with a “D” or “F” grade. This bill will expand the district's ability to bypass collective bargaining for “persistently low performing schools” — defined as any school in the bottom 10% for grade 3 ELA or grade 4 math — even if that school is rated “A” or “B”. The very

broad definition of “persistently low performing” means every district in Florida has at least one school under this definition. This is one more attempt to undermine collective bargaining under the guise of “student performance.”

Keep an eye out for a way to take action on these bills!

Anti-Freedom, Anti-Worker Legislation Back Again

It wouldn't be a normal session without lawmakers filing legislation to erode your rights to advocate for your students, your colleagues and your profession. [HB 995](#) by Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka was heard in the Government Oversight Subcommittee on Thursday afternoon. Several of our members took to the podium to testify in opposition.

“This is a pro-employee bill” according to the sponsor. Well, we have news for the sponsor – there's nothing pro-employee about what this bill does. Namely:

- Limit the rights of employees to have union representation for grievances or Unfair Labor Practices, or engage in union activities
- Moves the goalposts for keeping your union
- Limit the time for unions and school districts to bargain salaries. If not completed by July 30 of each year, unions are required to declare impasse and go through a special magistrate
- And most importantly, makes it easier for your union to be decertified.

This bill passed with bi-partisan opposition, with Rep. Susan Valdez joining all the democrats in opposition. Thanks to Rep. Darryl Campbell for his passionate and very accurate debate in opposition to the bill.



The Senate version of the bill, [SB 1296](#) by Senator Martin, and the accompanying public records exemption, [SB 1298](#) will be on the Senate Government Oversight and Accountability Committee

on Monday, February 2. We encourage you to take action and contact committee members to oppose this legislation.

TAKE ACTION TODAY: WE NEED REAL SOLUTIONS!

Eroding Institutions of Higher Education

In the House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee, Rep. Kincart Jonsson filed [HB 1279](#) proposing sweeping changes to higher education. Specifically, the bill:

- Shifts more control over universities from faculty, boards, and institutions to the Legislature and State Leadership, especially around curriculum, accreditation, enrollment, and funding.
- Requires preeminent universities, including University of Florida and Florida State, would need to keep at least 95% Florida-resident enrollment among first-time-in-college students or risk losing significant funding. International students from any single country would be capped at 5% of nonresident enrollment. This could reduce tuition revenue, graduate student pipelines, and research capacity; likely leading to faculty hiring freezes or increased workloads.
- Ties funding to four-year degrees. Emphasis on four-year graduation rates could pressure institutions to prioritize speed-to-degree over rigor, research pathways, or support for nontraditional students like students who are parents or working students.
- Accelerates a structural shift toward political control of higher education, with real risks to academic freedom, equity in access, research competitiveness, and institutional stability. For faculty, the likely downstream effects include tighter budgets, heavier teaching loads, reduced graduate support, and diminished role in academic decision-making.

Despite the overwhelming opposition from the audience, the bill passed on a party-line vote. Thank you to Reps. Ashley Gantt, Leonard Spencer and Allison Tant for asking the tough questions and debating against the legislation. [SB 1052](#), companion legislation by Senator Grall has yet to be heard in a single committee of reference.

Senate PreK-12 Committee

We're so used to telling you about all the horrible, awful, no good, very bad bills, but we'd like to take a moment and share some proactive education bills on agenda when we can. This week the Senate Education PreK-12 Committee heard some proactive bills including:

- [SB 564](#) by Senator Clay Yarborough, to allow students to volunteer to assist poll workers at a polling location to earn community service hours to meet community service requirements for

high school graduation or postsecondary financial aid such as Bright Futures.

- **SB 1340** by Senator Gayle Harrel, to require the school district to place a child on a support plan to provide further support and interventions when a student is discovered through coordinated screening and progress monitoring to exhibit characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia.
- **SB 1718** by Senator Alexis Calatayud, to increase flexibility and efficiency in educator preparation, certification, and professional learning for new and returning educators to the profession.

These bills all passed unanimously.

Thanks!

We appreciate the FEA members who came up this week to talk with lawmakers and make their voices heard in committee meetings! A big shout out to the **Brevard Federation of Teachers, Broward Teacher's Union, Citrus County Education Association, Escambia Education Association, Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association, Nassau Teachers Association, Orange County Classroom Teachers Association, Osceola County Education Association, Palm Beach County Classroom Teachers Association, Polk Education Association, and the United Faculty of Florida** for sending members up to Tallahassee this week.



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