

[View this email in your browser](#)

Florida Education Association

# *Frontline Report*

*2026 Legislative Session*

*March 13, 2026*

---

When legislators adjourned today at 3:16 p.m., they did so without fulfilling their sole Constitutional duty, passing a balanced budget. It remains unclear when the budget will be finalized. Last year, it took an additional 45 days after the conclusion of the 60-day session. The best information we have right now is that legislators will return sometime after Easter to work on the budget. We'll keep you updated on the budget as developments occur.

In the coming week's we'll have a full recap of the legislative session in our annual End of Session Report. Below we'll provide brief updates on the bills that we've talked written about in prior editions of Frontline this session. As a reminder, you can view the [Frontline archive here](#).

---

## **Thanks!**

We typically end each week's Frontline with by thanking all of those who came up to Tallahassee to lobby, meet with lawmakers and testify in committee. This week, we want to thank all of you for all the tremendous efforts you made this session in the fight to strengthen public education.

We hope you'll enjoy our video recap of your advocacy during the 2026 legislative session. Click the image below to watch the video.



---

## Bills that have passed both chambers and are poised for Gov. DeSantis' signature

- SB 1296 ([full text](#)) is the anti-worker, anti-freedom bill we've written about quite a bit in the past few weeks. It passed the Senate on a vote of [20-14](#) and the House on a vote on [73-37](#). We hope you'll [watch this video](#) where Dylan Reinsel, a teacher in Osceola County breaks down the impact of SB 1296 and explains why it is so important for every educator in Florida to join their union!
- HB 561 ([full text](#)) helps to address Florida's teacher shortage by making it easier for individuals whose professional teaching certification has lapsed to obtain a temporary certificate and return to the classroom. It passed both chambers unanimously.
- HB 757 ([full text](#)) puts college and university students, faculty and staff in danger by allowing more guns on campus. The bill expands the "guardian program" that is already in place in PreK-12 to higher education. SB 757 passed the Senate on a vote of [26-10](#) and the House on a vote of [88-20](#).
- SB 538 ([full text](#)) was presented by its supporters as a way to keep football coaches from leaving the state for higher pay in Georgia or Alabama. The bill, of course, ignores the underlying reason that coaches' pay is low is because Florida is #50 in the nation for average teacher pay. The way the bill attempts to fix the issue is by allowing coaches (and the sponsor of any extracurricular activity) to request to be removed from the bargaining unit and placed in quasi-administrative position that allows them to negotiate their salary directly with the superintendent. The bill passed the Senate [unanimously](#) and passed the House on a vote of [104-6](#).
- HB 991 ([full text](#)) is an attack on voting rights. This bill will make it harder for Floridians to register to vote and could potentially kick hundreds of thousands of eligible voters off of the voter rolls if they do not have a REAL-ID compliant driver's license. The bill passed the Senate on a vote of [21-12](#) and the House on a vote of [77-28](#).
- HB 1279 ([full text](#)) started out as an all-out assault on Florida's colleges and universities. The bill would have continued attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion and would have set

strict limits on enrollment from out-of-state students and foreign students. In the closing days of session, those provisions were removed. However, new language appeared in the bill that threatens to greatly restrict collective bargaining at the PreK-12 level. Specifically, the bill broadens the definition of “educational emergency” and allows school districts to use the pretext of an educational emergency to provide salary incentives and reassign staff outside of the collective bargaining process. The bill passed the Senate on a vote of [36-1](#) and the House on a vote of [81-16](#).

---

## **Bills that have died—for this session. Look for many of them to return in 2027.**

- HB 1119 ([full text](#)) is the book banning bill that would have prevented school districts from considering the artistic, literary, political, or scientific merit of books and instructional materials that have been challenged as inappropriate for minors. For the second consecutive year, this bill passed the House but was not heard in the Senate.
- HB 725 ([full text](#)) would have authorized the Board of Governors and the State Board of education to adopt rules for universities and colleges that limit speech and conduct they deem as too political. The bill passed the House but was not heard in the Senate.
- HB 31 ([full text](#)) following on the heels of legislation that passed last year to require newly purchased instructional materials to use the term “Gulf of America” instead of the internationally recognized term “Gulf of Mexico,” this bill would have banned the term “West Bank” in any official state government material, including in instructional materials. Instead, all publications would be required to use the term “Judea and Samaria.”
- HB 203 ([full text](#)) would have decimated the ability of local communities to have the resources they need for parks, public safety, roadways and more through the elimination of property taxes. The bill passed the House but never was considered in the Senate. Stay tuned as there could be a special session on property taxes soon.
- SB 176 ([full text](#)) was a priority bill for the United Faculty of Florida. This bill would have required colleges and universities to develop safety policies and procedures. Importantly, this bill would not have allowed guns on campus like the higher education “safety” bill HB 757. SB 176 passed in the Senate but was never taken up by the House.
- SB 320 ([full text](#)) would have gone a long way towards addressing Florida’s teacher shortage. The bill reestablished multi-year contracts which would bring stability back to Florida’s teaching workforce; the bill also created a 10-year teaching certificate and would have allowed more teachers to be paid for their advanced degrees. For the third consecutive year, this bill passed the Senate unanimously and was never taken up by the House.
- SB 318 ([full text](#)) was a response to the scathing [Auditor General report](#) on issues with voucher funding. While this bill did not go nearly far enough to rein in the fraud, waste and abuse in Florida’s voucher program, it would have been an important step in the right direction. The bill passed the Senate unanimously but was never taken up in the House.

- SB 1216 ([full text](#)) was one of FEA’s priority pieces of legislation. This bill would have removed many of the current salary restrictions that prevent educators from being paid fairly. In order for Florida educators to have meaningful salary increases, there needs to be both a substantial investment in new funding and significant policy changes to remove barriers in law that prevent school districts and unions from negotiating fair pay. SB 1216 would have provided the legislative fixes needed. The bill passed the Senate unanimously but was never taken up in the House.
- HB 1071 ([full text](#)) contained some good provisions related to math instruction. It also was full of unrelated culture war provisions such as eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion and forcing students to sit through anti-abortion propaganda in health class. Additionally, the bill would have undermined collective bargaining by significantly expanding the definition of “educational emergency” and allowing school districts to use the pretense of an emergency to avoid having to negotiate salaries. The bill passed the House, but fortunately was not taken up in the Senate. *In the closing days of session, HB 1279— a bill that originally dealt with higher education—was amended to include the “educational emergency” provisions from HB 1071. You can read the changes on lines [134-157 here](#). So, even though HB 1071 did not pass, the terrible provision that undermines collective bargaining is now likely to become law through HB 1279.*
- SB 7036 ([full text](#)) had the same provisions related to math instruction as HB 1071 but left out the damaging culture war pieces. However, this bill went even further in restricting collective bargaining and would have allowed school districts unilateral authority over the allocation of teacher salary increase funding. SB 7036 passed the Senate, but fortunately was not take up in the House.

These bills listed above is not intended to be an exhaustive list of education-related legislation this session. In the coming weeks, we’ll complete our comprehensive annual End of Session report; be on the lookout for that to arrive in your inbox. What has been made abundantly clear between the bills heading to the governor and many of the bills that did not pass is the disconnect between what Floridians need and what too many lawmakers are focused on. During a time when workers and families in the state are asking for some relief, when educators and parents are asking for meaningful protections for their neighborhood public schools, the legislature has made it clear where their priorities are.

---

## How You Can Take Action Today

Visit the FEA website to learn more about session and sign up for FEA Action Alert texts.



2026 Legislative Session Updates  
[FEAweb.org/Session](https://FEAweb.org/Session)



FEA Action Alert Texts  
 Text **edactivist** to **22394**

**Questions? Call PPA at 850-224-2078.**

If this email was forwarded to you, [click here to subscribe to the FEA Frontline](#) so you can receive these update regularly.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe Preferences](#)