

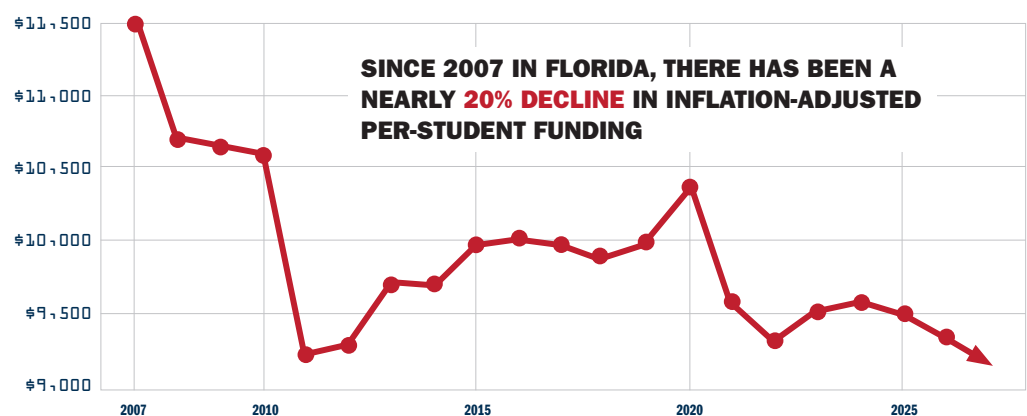


2027 SESSION FOCUS

FLORIDA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
WWW.FEAWEB.ORG/SESSION

For nearly 30 years, education policy in Florida has **DISINVESTED** in public education, **DISADVANTAGED** students in public schools, and **DISRESPECTED** those who work in Florida's PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities. The impacts of these policies are seen in **school closures** around the state, in **Florida's massive teacher shortage**, and in Florida being **ranked #50 in the nation** in average teacher pay.

DISINVESTING: Funding has decreased by more than \$2,000 per student since 2007 when adjusted for inflation. This disinvestment is why Florida ranks #50 in average teacher pay, why classrooms are overcrowded, and why Florida suffers from a massive teacher shortage.



21%

OF ALL ESE COURSES IN THE STATE ARE TAUGHT BY A TEACHER WHO ISN'T APPROPRIATELY CERTIFIED.

DISADVANTAGING: 21% of all ESE courses in the state are taught by a teacher who isn't appropriately certified. Students lose out when the state disinvests and disrespects educators. After all, educators' working conditions are students' learning conditions. Florida's disadvantaging of students falls especially hard on the neediest students.

DISRESPECTING: 200,000 educators left out of pay raises this year. Politicians claim to have spent record amounts on educator pay, but what they have really done is shown their disrespect by picking winners and losers. For the 2026-27 school year, more than 200,000 educators were excluded from the state-allocated funding for raises including classroom teachers, media specialists, school counselors, and all education staff professionals.

200,000

EDUCATORS LEFT OUT OF PAY RAISES THIS YEAR

THREE CRITICAL PRIORITIES

- 1 ENSURE** competitive salaries, healthcare and retirement benefits.
- 2 RETAIN AND RECRUIT** high-quality educators who are allowed to do their job free from political interference.
- 3 PROTECT** academic freedom and provide safe, secure and welcoming campuses from Pre-kindergarten through university.

WE BELIEVE

We believe all public education systems should be free of political influence, fully funded and support academic mission, workforce and intellectual integrity for citizens of Florida.

Florida's neighborhood public school students deserve: to attend public schools, colleges and universities that are fully staffed with highly qualified and certified teachers; schools with small class sizes that allow for one-on-one attention; schools that are safe and healthy; schools with full-time registered nurses, counselors, and mental health professionals; schools that focus on real learning and authentic assessment; schools where students' unique needs are met and every student excels, no matter their race, income, ZIP code or ability.



We are calling on lawmakers to:

- » **Expand** the financial investments in our schools and allocate sufficient funds to fairly compensate all school employees. By investing just \$1,000 more per student each year into the Florida Education Finance Program, we can ensure our students have access to a world class public education and get one step closer to moving Florida's teacher salary ranking into the top 10 instead of the current #50 ranking.
- » **Fund** a full-day PreK program for all students.
- » **Fully** fund Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) so every school is free of mold, every water fountain is free of lead, and every school has working air-conditioning and proper ventilation.
- » **Restore** previous Cost of Living Adjustments for current and future retirees.
- » **Revise** statutes related to Required Local Effort to maintain current taxation rates.
- » **Address** the housing and property insurance crisis in Florida that is keeping families, teachers and students priced out of living where they work or attend school.
- » **Ensure** fiscal responsibility including transparency of funding based on student enrollment, with parallel reporting deadlines and timely payments to all school programs.
- » **Eliminate** preferential policies that erode access to high-quality public-school options by advantaging private school interests.
- » **Safeguard** families from unaccountable private and charter schools that profit off our children.
- » **Ensure** that students and educators are kept safe and learning progress continues.
- » **Help** address our educator shortage by allowing qualified, experienced teachers to earn multi-year contracts.
- » **Protect** academic freedom for all students and teachers in PreK-12, state colleges and universities.
- » **Waive** fees for certification renewals, add-on certifications, certification tests for teachers and those in teacher preparation programs and fees for graduate assistants.
- » **Promote** and fund pathways to teacher licensure for current education staff professionals at no cost to the educator.
- » **Prioritize** developmentally appropriate, teacher-led assessments and learning over mandated standardized tests. No computer-based standardized assessments until middle school.
- » **Respect** the rights of people to make decisions locally.
- » **Respect** the constitutionally protected right to collective bargaining.
- » **Restore** the university presidential search process to an open and transparent process.
- » **Maintain** academic integrity in all curriculum areas including K-12 and higher education.
- » **Support** inclusivity and prevent harassment of underrepresented individuals in our publicly funded education system.

HOW TO
TAKE ACTION
TODAY!



Legislative Session Updates: FEAweb.org/Session



FEA Action Alert Texts: Text "edactivist" to 22394