

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FUNDING

- Invest public tax dollars in Florida's K-12 public schools, the one public good open to all children regardless of race, religion, personal identity and special needs.
- Meet or exceed the national funding average for both students and teachers.
- Provide additional funding and support services for struggling schools beyond the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), especially for mandated services.
- Reformulate the District Cost Differential to reflect all relevant cost of living factors.

ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Halt the practice of using tests to negatively impact students, teachers, districts and schools.
- Alternative pathways for promotion and earning a high school diploma for all students.
- Testing to be used only for student information and not for any other purpose or reason.
- Parents right to gain timely access to actual student tests, score sheets and associated work product.
- Allow for paper and pencil testing along with computerized testing.
- Full transparency and accountability for all K-12 school choice providers authorized under Florida law with respect to
 - Sources and use of capital and operational funds
 - Admissions criteria and selection process
 - Qualifications of administration and staff
 - Curriculum
 - Student performance

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE) AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

- Provide testing materials in student's native language.
- Use ESE and ELL student testing for diagnostic purposes only.
- State investment in multiple methods of evaluation and parent/teacher/district collaborative support necessary to ensure the success of ESE and ELL students.
- Alternative, appropriate methods of assessing and accurately measuring learning progress of special student populations such as ESE and ELL.

STUDENT SAFETY

- Continue to provide funding for safety infrastructure needs, including school campus hardening, alert systems, and cameras on school buses and on bus stop arms.
- The most effective day-to-day school climate is gun-free, which includes keeping guns out of the classroom by not arming teachers.
- Regulate the sale of edible and other controlled substances to minors.

STUDENT PRIVACY

- Give all parents the choice to refuse student participation in vendor or state K-20 data warehousing/mining/collection schemes, including computer-based personal or competency-based education.

STUDENT SUPPORT

- Ensure the adoption of evidence-based approaches, implementation of best practices, and educational policies to best meet the needs of students with Dyslexia and other specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs).
- Support legislation that specifically protects LGBTQ+ students. Oppose funding and promotion of conversion therapy.
- Provide services and support for children in the foster system and those aging out of the foster system

MENTAL HEALTH

- Provide access to mental health services by qualified professionals in schools and provide full funding to support these services.

VOUCHERS/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

- Oppose all publicly funded programs that lack equitable accountability measures.
- Cap the annual increase of the Family Empowerment Scholarship.
- Oppose any further expansion of other voucher/scholarship programs.

2023 ONGOING CONCERNS

EARLY EDUCATION

- Support the reauthorization and expansion of Early Head Start / Head Start Programs.
- Align early education standards with state academic content standards.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Reduce environmental impacts and costs in the school setting.
- Treat schools as living energy laboratories to create healthier learning environments, better learning outcomes, and demonstrate career pathways for high-paying jobs in the new green economy.
- Advance the MSCPS 100% clean energy by 2030 task force, to include electric school buses, solar installation, energy efficiency measures, reduced plastics and food waste, increasing the number of Florida DEP Green Apple Schools, and climate change education.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- Encourage the use of Civil Citation as an alternative to youth arrest.
- Prevent the incarnation of youth in adult facilities.
- Support programs that prevent recidivism.
- Ensure that every child in dependency court has a Guardian ad Litem.

TECHNOLOGY

- Ensure that non-human instruction does not replace classroom teachers.
- Require every Florida student be taught computer and technology skills, including keyboard, by an effective classroom teacher, fully funded by the state and codified in law.
- Slow pace of expanding online learning unless and until there is clear and convincing research-based evidence from multiple resources that there is a benefit.