

2018 Legislative Issues

Budget/Fiscal

- Increase BSA by \$150 and increase Total Potential Funds by \$225 per student.
- Maintain current RLE millage rate - 4.316.
- Increase discretionary millage to 2.0 in order to meet regular public school needs.
- Continue to provide PECO funds to public schools.
- Extend from 4 years to up to 10 years the voter approved additional millage authorized in s. 1011.73, Florida Statutes.

Fix HB 7069

Capital Outlay

- Support the Senate language that prohibited personal enrichment of charter school owners, operators, board members, etc. and ensured that the taxpayers receive an asset for their investment.
- Introduce an element of need before authorizing capital outlay for charter schools in order to ensure an efficient system and be accountable to the taxpayer. Need should be reflected in the school board's 5-year capital outlay plan to ensure transparency for the taxpayer.
- Ensure that the taxpayer is protected by requiring the charter school be owned by a public entity or be transferred to a public entity if closed.
- At a minimum, require an ownership interest equal to the dollar value of the 1.5 mills charter schools receive. If the property were sold, funds equal to the taxpayers' investment would then revert to the public.
- Free up school districts to build schools under the same statutory rules and regulations as charter schools.

Charter Schools

- Reinstate language ensuring that districts and charter can actually negotiate a charter contract.
- Provide equity between charter schools and regular public schools as it relates to corrective action requirements and timelines.
- Require charter schools to comply with controlled open enrollment.
- Reinstate local governing authority relating to local zoning and land use requirements or restrictions. School districts are subject to these land use restrictions and comprehensive plans.

- Repeal the requirement that each charter school must complete a survey rating the timeliness and quality of services provided by districts.
- Repeal the authority of a high-performing charter school to establish more than one charter school within the state in any year if it operates in the area of a persistently low-performing school and serves students from that school.
- Repeal the authority to replicate schools in a high-performing charter school system in any school district in the state.
- Both of the prior two provisions, and the one requiring a prescribed contract that is not agreed to by both parties clearly do not conform to constitutional requirements.

Hope Schools

- Provide school districts with access to “Hope” funds on the same basis as charter schools so that regular public schools may also offer wrap around and other ancillary services, and extended school days and extended school hours.
- Authorize school districts to reject a hope operator.
- Repeal the language that creates a hope operator solely based on the fact that a charter operator received a commonly available federal startup grant.
- Repeal the language that reduces charter school administrative fees if a district does not enter into a performance-based agreement within 60 days.
- Require a hope operator to utilize the facility in which the persistently low performing school is located, if made available by the district.
- Require hope operators to employ certified teachers.
- Repeal the 25 district school of hope school cap.

Bonus and Reward Programs/Strategies

- Examine the existing bonus and award programs to determine whether the policies are consistent and meet state and district goals of rewarding high performing teachers and principals and also encouraging teachers and principals to move or remain in persistently low performing schools. These include:
 - School Recognition Program
 - Bonuses for acceleration programs/courses
 - Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program
 - Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program
 - Schools of Excellence

Title I – The utilization of federal grant dollars is a powerful tool in supporting student achievement for every educational delivery system. These funds empower school and district communities in mitigating for poverty with Title I, supporting teacher practices with Title II, and developing English language proficiency with Title III. HB 7069 restricted school district’s ability to utilize Title I funds efficiently across schools with high poverty and low achievement. These limitations should be repealed.