

Santa Rosa County School District

Legislative Platform – 2018

MEASURING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Provide students in all grades options for demonstrating mastery of standards by using additional student performance measures including, but not limited to:

- Examples of student performance and progress that could include student portfolios, local assessment results, student course work and projects, and similar documentation.
- Assessments with FDOE-approved concordant scores such as the ACT and SAT.

HIRING EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS

Provide school districts with options to ensure the availability of qualified and experienced school leaders, instructional staff, and support personnel by:

- Creating an attractive employment environment.

KEEPING STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE

Provide students, education professionals, and communities with safe, well-maintained learning environments and shelter facilities by:

- Reestablishing the authority for school districts to levy up to 2.0 mills for capital purposes, or providing state revenue to meet the needs for facilities, maintenance, growth, and safety.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

Provide school boards the authority to negotiate the best possible opportunities for students and families in their communities by:

- Allowing for addendums to the standard contract that have been agreed upon by the school board and the charter school applicant.

LEVERAGING THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Maximize the efficient use of federal Title I funds and avoid duplication of services by:

- Restoring district level control and coordination of the use and distribution of these funds to ensure that services are provided in communities with the greatest number of eligible and most vulnerable students to help them meet high academic standards.

SUFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDS TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$150 and increase Total Potential Funds by \$225 per student.

- Increase teacher salaries by \$2,500.
- Maintain the current Required Local Effort (RLE) millage rate of 4.316 mills.
- Increase the Local Discretionary Capital Improvement Millage to 2.0 mills to help meet public school capital needs.
- Continue to provide Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds to public schools.
- Extend from 4 years to up to 10 years the voter approved additional millage authorized in s. 101.73, Florida Statutes.
- Clarify that the DOE does not have the authority to restrict a school district's use of locally generated capital outlay dollars, often approved by the voters in that local district, for new construction projects.
- Address the inadequacy of the "cost per student station" as a model for reporting the costs of new construction in Florida's public schools.

CHOICE OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS – INTEGRITY, EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Charter School Capital Outlay

- Require a determination of need before authorizing capital outlay for charter schools.
- Ensure transparency for the taxpayer in the use of and protection of public assets.
- Prohibit personal enrichment of charter owners, operators, board members, etc.

Charter School Operations

- Authorize school districts to only approve charter school applications when the proposed instructional program and student growth needs are aligned with the needs of the district.
- Ensure that contracts between school districts and charter operators may clearly be negotiated.
- Repeal the authority of charter schools to replicate around the state.
- Reinstate Title I flexibility and administration so that districts can leverage the dollars to provide more service to at risk students and students in low performing schools.

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

- Reserve the most intensive intervention and support by the state to schools with grades of "F."
- Authorize a school that earns a grade of "D" for 3 consecutive years to convert to a district-managed turn around school.
- Prohibit DOE from requiring districts to transfer teachers based on a statewide VAM score.
- Protect public tax dollars by requiring charter schools are measured and held accountable as public schools.