



OVERVIEW

This week in Tallahassee Governor Scott released his final budget. An overview of the budget can be found below. Senate leaders support the Governor's plan to increase taxes through maintaining the local required effort, while House leadership is opposed to this plan. The proposal includes a \$200 increase in per-student funding statewide (\$188 for Broward).

In Washington, Senate Republicans released their version of the tax reform bill. Although initially the bill removed the \$250 teacher classroom supply deduction (like the House's bill), the latest version expands the deduction to \$500. The credit was created and added to the tax plan by Senator Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine in 2002. In 2016, she secured a provision to make it permanent. This bill also includes a repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

The legislature has still not extended funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), more information can be found below.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- Broward Joins School Districts in HB 7069 Lawsuit [WMFE](#)
- Does Florida's constitutional mandate of one-subject legislation apply to HB 7069? [Tampa Bay Times](#)
- Bush backs controversial education law [Daily Commercial](#)
- Collier Schools joins HB7069 lawsuit as intervening member [Naples Herald](#)
- Miami-Dade School Board Elects New Chair, Who Opposes Suing Over Charter School Law [WLRN](#)
- Florida education news: Teaching, school construction, hurricane days [Tampa Bay Times](#)
- Property taxes likely to spur school funding fight [News 4 Jax](#)
- Lee County School Board revisits, tables term limits talk again [News Press](#)
- 'There Is No Oversight': Private-School Vouchers Can Leave Parents on Their Own [Education Week](#)
- Senate version of tax bill would double teacher deduction to \$500 [Education Dive](#)
- Ed Dept. picks including LA's Jim Blew are confronted in confirmation hearings with same battles that faced DeVos: vouchers, ESSA, Title IX [LA School Report](#)

EVENT CALENDAR

Please contact us for additional details on any event/meeting below.

Event	Date	Location
BCPS Schools and Administrative Offices Closed	Nov. 22 nd –24 th	Broward County, FL
Constitution Review Commission	Nov 27 th –Dec 1 st	Tallahassee, FL
Pre-Committee Week 5	December 4 th –8 th	Tallahassee, FL
Next Gen Engage	December 7 th	Monarch High School
Joint School Board and Legislative Delegation Meeting	December 12 th	Broward County Governmental Center
First Day of Regular Session	January 9 th	Tallahassee, FL
Rally to Tally	February 6-8 th	Tallahassee, FL
Broward Days	February 7-8 th	Tallahassee, FL

TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW
SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS
Below is a summary of the Senate Subcommittee hearings this past week.
<u>Education</u>
The committee discuss SB 540 relating to community colleges.
<u>Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>
The subcommittee met this week to hear testimony on local funding requests.
HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARINGS
Below is a summary of the House Committee and Subcommittee hearings this past week.
<u>Education Committee</u>
The committee did not meet this week.
<u>PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>
The committee did not meet this week.
<u>Innovation Subcommittee</u>
The committee met this week to discuss industry certifications.
<u>Quality Subcommittee</u>
The committee met this week to discuss Florida's future agriculture leaders.

GOVERNOR SCOTT'S PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW

Governor Scott's recommended budget was released on November 14, 2017 and included \$180 million in tax cuts including reducing the fee when obtaining or renewing a driver's license, reducing traffic citation fines for individuals attending driving school and implementing a 10-day back-to-school sales tax holiday and three one-week disaster preparedness sales tax holidays in May, June and July.

The proposed budget includes \$21.4 billion to be allocated for K-12 education. The Governor's budget also includes an average **increase of \$200 in per student funding** and funding for new programs related to computer coding and English Language Learning (ELL).

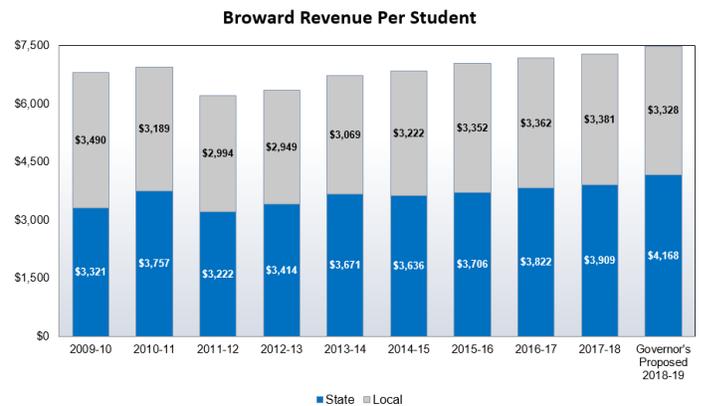
The Governor does not change the current Local Required Effort (LRE) rate. In past sessions, the House has demanded a decrease in the LRE rate. A portion of the Governor's recommended increase relies on the current LRE rate.

STUDENT FUNDING

The Governor's budget includes **\$7,477.85 for per student funding** in the Florida Education Finance Program for Broward County. This is a proposed increase of \$188.31 (2.58%) from last year's budget.

FEFP Highlights:

- The Base Student Allocation (BSA) has a proposed increase of \$152.45 (3.63%). The proposed BSA is \$4,356.40.
- The Safe Schools allocation has a proposed increase of \$10,000,000.
- The Governor's proposed budget also includes a 39.59% increase in the Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program. The proposed increase would provide an additional \$100 per teacher for classroom supplies. This increases the funding for school supplies to \$350 annually.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The Governor's budget maintains the PECO funding from last year's budget, at this rate we will be required to share a portion of school board levied millage with charter schools.

- \$50 million for maintenance of public schools
- \$50 million for maintenance of charter schools

CODING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAMS

The Governor's budget includes \$15 million in funding for coding and computer science programs. This funding will:

- Provide funds to train public school teachers, including teachers at charter schools;
- Provide a one-time \$3,000 bonus to teachers who earn a state certification in Computer Science, or a one-time bonus of \$1,500 to teachers who earn an applicable industry certification; and
- Provide the Department of Education the authority to award high-need school districts with technology grants to purchase hardware and software for coding or computer science courses.

ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES	
The Governor's budget has included \$800,000 for the Adults with Disabilities- Broward County program. This is the same amount that was allocated last year.	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS SUMMER ACADEMICS PROGRAM	
The Governor's budget includes \$12 million in funding to establish the English Language Learners Summer Academics program for students in grades 4-8. The program's emphasis will be on reading improvements and making sure students displaced by Hurricane Maria have access to summer academies.	
EARLY LEARNING	
The Governor's budget has included a \$31 million increase in funding for early child education, totaling \$1.1 billion.	
VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN	
The Governor's budget has included an additional \$11.6 million in funding for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program (VPK), totaling \$408 million.	
SCHOOL READINESS	
<p>The Governor's budget has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T.E.A.C.H. – \$10 million for early childhood teacher scholarships; • Performance Funding – \$15.5 million to award child care providers and instructors for improving School Readiness program outcomes; • Help Me Grow – \$2.5 million to connect children and families with information, resources and developmental services to enhance health, behavior and learning in the development of young children; • Lastinger Center Teacher Training – \$3 million for a statewide professional learning system for Florida's early learning workforce; and • Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) – Nearly \$4 million to deliver high quality School Readiness curriculum directly to parents so they may strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children. 	
CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION	
COMMISSIONER PROPOSALS	
P 4 (R. Martinez)	Remove the prohibition against using public revenues in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or any sectarian institution.
P 10 (D. Gaetz)	Require the Legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public education.
P 32 (E. Donalds)	Provide that members of district school boards shall serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses in accordance with state law.
P 33 (E. Donalds)	Require that the superintendent of schools of a school district be appointed by the district school board.
P 43 (E. Donalds)	Establish a limitation on the period for which a person may be elected as a member of a district school board.
P 45 (E. Donalds)	Specify that no provision of the State Constitution may be construed to limit the Legislature from making provision for other educational services that are beneficial to the children and families of this state.

P 59 (M. Johnson)	Establish rights of public school students and to create an exception to the prohibition on the appropriation of public funds to certain private schools.
P 60 (M. Johnson)	Require the Legislature to annually appropriate certain funds to be used towards postsecondary education financial assistance and to establish conditions on a student's eligibility to receive such financial assistance.
P 71 (E. Donalds)	Specify that the Legislature is authorized to enact general laws providing alternative processes to authorize the establishment of charter schools in the state.
P 82 (B. Heuchan)	Provide a limitation as to the opening date for schools set by a school board.
P 89 (N. Washington)	Specify the purpose and intent of the state's public education system.
P 90 (P. Levesque)	Revise requirements relating to class size limitations in public schools and to require that any funds not expended towards the maintenance of average class sizes be applied towards increasing teacher pay to the national average.
P 93 (R. Martinez)	Authorize high-performing school districts to become charter districts.

WASHINGTON DC: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

- The Senate bill repeals all state and local tax deductions (SALT), even more severely impacting the ability of school districts, states and localities to maintain and raising revenue from their own jurisdiction's tax base. Moreover, there are at least two pending Senate committee amendments to provide federal tax subsidies for private school tuition in the form of private school scholarship tax credits, and even a "charitable" tax deduction for a portion of the tuition in private sectarian schools that is classified as "qualified religious instruction".
- The House bill contains a different tax subsidy for "529" education savings accounts by allowing up to \$10,000 in savings each year with tax-free gains to be set-aside to pay for private elementary and secondary school tuition. Attached are separate Fact Sheets on the House and the Senate tax bills.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

The House passed a bill along party lines to renew funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), among other public health programs. The Senate has its own version of legislation supported by both parties that does not include any offsets. The House's bill will have difficulty passing in the Senate. Arizona, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and four US territories were in danger of running out of CHIP funding, however the Trump administration made \$230 million in excess funds available to continue funding. Florida is set to run out of CHIP funding December. More than 27,000 children in Broward County are insured through CHIP subsidized programs including HealthyKids, MediKids, and Children's Medical Services Managed Care Plan.