



Legislative Affairs Department
Broward County Public Schools

Legislative Weekly Report: Pre-Committee Week 1

OVERVIEW

This week in Tallahassee the legislature began pre-committee meetings. The legislature's initial plans to begin last month were thwarted due to Hurricane Irma.

The Republican leadership in the House held a press conference to announce that a bill will be filed to allow public school students who have reported bullying to participate in a voucher-like program to attend another public school or private school. Speaker Corcoran has noted that the "Hope Scholarship" will be similar to the tax credit scholarship program and funding for the program will not come from FEFP.

Both bodies held committee and subcommittee hearings regarding Jefferson County Public Schools contracting with Somerset Academy for a district-wide charter school system.

Annette Taddeo was sworn into the Florida Senate on Tuesday following a Special Election in SD 40, shrinking the Republican majority from 25 to 24.

On Tuesday, Rep. Jose Oliva was selected by Republicans to become the next House speaker, assuming that they hold the majority in the 2018 elections.

In Washington, Congress has yet to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Both bodies have passed bills in committee, with the Senate's being passed in bipartisan fashion and the House's including non-CHIP policy riders. In Florida, the KidCare program (funding through CHIP) should be able to continue insuring children until December using unused funds.

Sec. Betsy Devos has prioritized Federal grant funding for school choice and other programs including STEM.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Annette Taddeo joins the Florida Senate [Miami Herald](#)

From cigar czar to House speaker, Miami's Jose Oliva chosen for powerful post [Miami Herald](#)

Lawmakers pitch voucher-like program to help bullied, abused students change schools [Miami Herald](#)

Storm refugees, segregated schools, makeup days and more [Tampa Bay Times](#)

As legislative session looms, lawmakers get to work [Tallahassee Democrat](#)

South Florida schools see influx of Puerto Rican students after hurricane [Local 10](#)

State tells parents to 'pay up' or lose kids' insurance if Irma caused missed payment [Miami Herald](#)

DeVos Wants to Steer Grant Money to School Choice, STEM, and More [Education Week](#)

20,000 DACA teachers at risk — and your kids could feel the fallout, too [USA Today](#)

EVENT CALENDAR		
<i>Please contact us for additional details on any event/meeting below.</i>		
Event	Date	Location
District 6- Next Gen Engage	October 12 th	South Plantation High School
District 2- Next Gen Engage	October 16 th	West Broward High School
Broward Delegation Education Hearing	October 18 th	Sunrise Civic Center
Pre-Committee Week 2	November 6-9 th	Tallahassee, FL
Joint School Board and Legislative Delegation Meeting	December 12 th	Broward County Governmental Center
First Day of Regular Session	January 9 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>		
<p>The committee met this week to discuss two bills (description regarding K-12 bill below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 88 by Hukill - High School Graduation Requirements: Revising the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include financial literacy; revising the required credits for a standard high school diploma to include one-half credit of instruction in personal financial literacy and money management and seven and one-half, rather than eight, credits in electives, etc. <p>The committee was also updated on emergency coordination efforts of state and local entities.</p>		
<u>Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>		
The committee met this week to hear an education budget summary for this academic year.		
HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARINGS		
Below is a summary of the House Committee and Subcommittee hearings this past week.		
<u>Education Committee</u>		
The committee met this week to receive an update regarding the implementation of rules and policy related to school improvement. The committee was also updated on the Jefferson County School system.		
<u>PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>		
The committee met this week to receive an update regarding the budget for this academic year and the 2018-19 budget request. The subcommittee was also updated on the Jefferson County School system.		
<u>Innovation Subcommittee</u>		
The committee met this week to receive an update regarding the implementation of rules and policy related to school choice. The subcommittee was also updated on the Jefferson County School system.		
<u>Quality Subcommittee</u>		
The committee met this week to receive a Department of Education update on 2016-2017 school grades, school improvement process, and Schools of Hope grants. The subcommittee also received a status update on district school improvement activities.		