



Broward County Public Schools

2025 State Legislative Priorities

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) will advocate for legislation consistent with School Board policy and believes the legislature should increase funding and adopt policies that educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.

School Board Innovation:

- Preserve School Board constitutional and home rule authority.

Deregulation:

- All public schools should have the same statutory flexibility.
- Allow districts to establish school start times based on the input from parents and families with students attending district schools.

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP):

- Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least \$1,000 per student to ensure teachers and school-based staff receive salary increases, ensure a full-time nurse at each school, and provide funding for Multilingual Classroom Programs.
- Maintain the Required Local Effort rate to allow for growth to pay for FEFP enhancements such as the Base Student Allocation, Safe Schools Allocation, Mental Health Assistance Allocation, and supplemental services for additional students.
- Maintain the Education Enrollment Stabilization Program to ensure school districts are not prorated in the 2024/25 school year.

Funding (Non-FEFP):

- Increase funding to pay for high-quality, full-day Voluntary Prekindergarten for eligible students.
- Expand funding for exceptional student education (ESE) programs and to continue and expand along with funding the cameras in self-contained classrooms pilot program.
- Continue \$800,000 in funding for the BCPS Adults with Disability program.
- Continue funding the Education Foundation Matching Fund program for BCPS students.
- Support funding for paid parental leave for employees.

School Safety:

- Increase the Safe Schools Allocation to further ensure students, teachers, and staff are safe at school every day and continue to provide the necessary training for the Guardian program.
- Ensure charter schools authorized by the school district have a detailed school safety plan in place prior to the start of the school year. Charter schools should be required by law to provide a full-year school safety plan at least 30 days prior to the start of school.
- Modify requirements to educator certificates to require preparedness for mass casualty incidents.
- Bring awareness and add financial consequence to the penalties of written or electronic threats against schools to cause mass casualty events for parents that knowingly allow their child to make threats. Create a mechanism to reimburse government entities for use of resources to respond.

Teacher (Instructional Personnel) Retention and Recruitment:

- Provide preschool teachers with the opportunity for the same incentive programs currently afforded to K-12 teachers such as retention bonuses and retirement options.

Accountability:

- All schools that receive taxpayer dollars should have the same accountability measures.
- Ensure results from the FAST progress monitoring system are meaningful and can be exported to other student information systems within one week of the testing window closing.
- Support a statewide uniform attendance policy for students.

College, Career and Technical Education:

- Maintain funding for industry credentials. Target funding for college, career, and technical education programs for all students including ESE students, including funding for job coaching.
- Support the Governor's initiative to make Florida the #1 state for Workforce Education by 2030.