



Broward County Public Schools

2023 State Legislative Priorities

The Legislature should boost funding and adopt policies that educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world. BCPS will advocate for legislation consistent with School Board policy.

School Board Authority:

- Preserve School Board constitutional and home rule authority and oppose legislation that would subvert, bypass, or undermine that authority.

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP):

- Cap further redirection of FEFP funds to voucher programs and ensure districts are provided information in a timely manner to fully understand the impact of vouchers to their budgets and to ensure the impact during budget development.
Fully fund the Constitutional Class-size requirement.
- Fully fund FTE credit for innovative learning environment.
- Increase per-pupil funding through the FEFP, allowing Florida school districts to be competitive nationwide.
- Maintain the Required Local Effort rate to allow for growth to pay for FEFP enhancements such as Base Student Allocation, Safe Schools Allocation, Mental Health Assistance Allocation, and supplemental services for additional students.
- Make the FEFP formula more equitable by eliminating compression within the FEFP and account for costs such as average teacher salaries, health insurance for employees, property, and transportation per FTE.
- Provide adequate funding for mental health.

Funding (Non-FEFP):

- Continue \$800,000 in funding for the BCPS Adults with Disability (AWD) program.
- Provide funding for Peer Mentoring programs, such as Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders, Latinos in Action, 5000 Thousand Role Models of Excellence.
- Allocate non-millage funding for charter schools to minimize the impact of sharing capital millage.
- Expand funding for full-day Pre-Kindergarten programs for all eligible students.
- Increase funding for student health services such as school nurses at each campus and provide funding for a 1:1 ratio of nurses for medically fragile students.
- Continue funding the Matching Fund program for BCPS students.
- Provide funding to enhance hurricane shelters.
- Support legislation to expand healthcare access for students and families.
- Amend Fla. Stat. Section 627.7405 to clarify that School Districts are not permitted to reimburse the insurer under that section.



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School Safety:

- Support the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission recommendation to allow districts to levy up to .5 mills for capital outlay or personnel for safety purposes.
- Fully fund the requirements for Safe-School Officers at all public schools.
- Fully fund and expand training for Guardians.
- To ensure compliance, charter schools should be required to provide an executed contract of a full-year plan for Safe School Officers at least 30 days prior to the start of school.
- Continue funding for school safety infrastructure enhancements to schools, including providing funding for a behavioral specialist at each school.

Teacher (Instructional Personnel) Retention and Recruitment:

- Fully fund the teacher salary enhancement allocation within the FEFP and provide additional funding for all school-based staff.
- Include all certified instructional personnel, including preschool teachers, in the education statute for the purpose of allowing them inclusion in incentive programs such as retention bonuses and retirement options currently afforded to K-12 teachers.
- Allow districts to provide teachers the autonomy to teach to the State Standards.

Accountability:

- All schools that receive taxpayer dollars should have the same accountability measures.
- Provide funding to support district implementation of the FAST assessment, ensure student data privacy is provided for all state-mandated computer assessments.

College, Career and Technical Education:

- Restore funding to cover the costs associated with the Dual Enrollment program.
- Continue funding for Post-Secondary Workforce Education programs per State DOE Funding Model.
- Maintain statewide funding for Industry Credentials earned through allocation of Performance based Incentive Funds.
- Continue to support the Governor's initiative to make Florida the number one state in the nation for Workforce Education by 2030.

Additional Legislative Initiatives:

- Support diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that focus on diverse learning environments, awareness, and training.
- Amend Fla. Stat. Section 627.7405 to clarify that School Districts are not permitted to reimburse the insurer under that section.