



## OVERVIEW

The Legislature commenced their annual Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The Governor also gave his State of the State Address (can be viewed [here](#)). He announced his two major education priorities for this Session- \$600 million for minimum teacher salaries (\$47,500) and new bonus program (replacing of the Best & Brightest), offering \$7,500 and \$10,000 bonuses for high performing teachers and principals.

The [Speaker's opening remarks](#) focused on higher education rather than of K-12 education and the [Senate President's opening remarks](#) did not include any policy priorities, but instead spoke on civility.

In committees, teacher pay was on both the Senate and House agendas. In the Senate, SB 1088 by Chair Diaz passed its first committee. The bill would establish a Teacher Salary Enhancement categorical within the FEFP (the dollar amount was not included). Additionally, the Senate Democrats introduced their teacher pay plan with the filling of SB 1854, which would increase the salaries of all public school employees by an annual average increase of 4.5% over 10 years.

In the House, Chair Latvala released his budget recommendations. He is recommending an increase of \$462.6 million in the BSA (teacher salary increase), \$25 million in the Mental Health Assistance Allocation, and \$32.4 million for a total of \$520 million; however, the \$520 million is being funded from cuts from other categoricals within the FEFF (recommended cuts are in the committee overview).

Additionally, SB 70 (Panic Alarms) by Senator Book passed its first committee. The House Bill, HB 23 will be heard in the House next week. HB 953 passed its first committee. The bill would authorize state universities and FCS institutions to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools upon approval by the DOE. Also, SB 536 would establish the High-Performing Charter School Council; providing the process for approving or denying a charter school application submitted to the council.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Committee will consider new Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission recommendations including arming school staff: [Florida Politics](#)

Senate panel advances Lauren Book bill requiring panic alarms in public schools: [Florida Politics](#)

Give all Florida school employees raises, Senate Democrats say: [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Thousands of Florida teachers rally at Capitol for more public school funding: [Tampa Bay Times](#)

## TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Please find below a summary of the Senate Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week.

### Prek-12 Education Committee:

[SB 62](#) – [K-12 Education](#) by Stargel; Requiring that a resolution to levy discretionary sales tax include a statement containing certain information; defining the term “early college program”; changing the calculation of full-time equivalent student membership for dual enrollment purposes; providing for calculation of full-time equivalent membership for students earning the Capstone Diploma; requiring school board mental health policies and procedures to include certain items, etc.

**Passed by 6-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

[SB 536](#) - [Charter Schools](#) by Diaz. Establishing the High-Performing Charter School Council; providing the process for approving or denying a charter school application submitted to the council; authorizing charter school sponsors and applicants to provide input to the state board regarding the council's recommendation; providing grounds on which the council may recommend denial of, or the state board may deny, an application submitted by a high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter school system. **Passed by 8-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

[SB 836](#) - [Funds for the Operation of Schools](#) by Simmons. Revising the annual allocation to school districts to include an additional calculation of full-time equivalent membership for students who earn a College Board Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma. **Passed by 8-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

[SB 1088](#) - [Teacher Salary Enhancement](#) by Diaz. Establishing a teacher salary enhancement allocation in the General Appropriations Act; requiring each school district to use the allocated funds to increase teacher salaries; authorizing school districts that meet the teacher salary requirements specified in the appropriations

act to use any additional funds provided in the allocation for any lawful operating expenditure. **Passed by 8-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

[SB 1164](#) - Gardiner Scholarship by Perry. Revising eligibility requirements for the Gardiner Scholarship Program; revising an authorized use of scholarship funds; providing that scholarship funds may be spent for tuition and fees associated with programs relating to art, music, or theater; revising terms under which a student's scholarship account is closed and program funds revert to the state. **Passed by 8-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

[SB 1218](#) - Anti-bullying and Anti-harassment in Schools by Diaz. Expanding the information that private schools participating in an educational scholarship program are required to publish and provide to parents; requiring such private schools to adopt bullying and harassment policies; requiring such schools to report bullying and harassment incidents to the Department of Education. **Passed by 7-1, now in the Children, Families, And Elders Affairs.**

[Link to Committee Packet](#)

[Link to Committee Video](#)

#### Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

The Committee did not meet

**Please find below a summary of the House Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week.**

#### Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

[HB 641](#) - Funds for the Operation of Schools by Plasencia. Revises annual allocation to school districts to include additional calculation of full-time equivalent membership for students who earn College Board Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma beginning in specified fiscal year. **Passed by 11 to 0, now in the Education Committee.**

[HB 7011](#) - K-12 Student Athletes by Massullo. Revises provisions relating to automated external defibrillators on school grounds, training related to CPR & defibrillators, FHSAA student athlete safety policies, & specified medical evaluations. **Passed 16 to 0, now in the Education Committee.**

The Committee Chair also reported the results of their Budget Reprioritization Exercise as requested by House Appropriations Chair Travis Cummings, making the following recommendations for K-12 Funding and the FEFP:

- **FEFP**
  - **\$520 million in total cuts** to the following categoricals
    - Declining Enrollment - \$8.1 million
    - Virtual Ed Contribution - \$2.2 million

- Digital Classrooms Allocation - \$20 million
- Best and Brightest Allocation - \$284.5 million
- Supplemental Academic Instruction Allocation - \$150 million
- Funding Compression Allocation - \$54.2
- **Funding to be reprioritized to:**
  - Base Student Allocation/FEFP - \$462.6 million (to be used for classroom teacher salary increases)
  - Mental Health Allocation – \$25 million
  - Turnaround School Supplemental Allocation (TSSSA) - \$32.4 million.
- **Non-FEFP**
  - \$21.3 million in recurring base appropriations projects will instead be funded with nonrecurring funds (Including the Academic Tournament funding which PCSB receives for administering the tournament). Recurring funds would be reprioritized to:
    - Gardiner Scholarship waitlist - \$13.2 million
    - Increase VPK base student allocation \$8.2 million
  - Cut Schools of Hope nonrecurring funding by \$23.1 million to fund base projects previously funded by recurring monies in the Non-FEFP and Early Learning Services budgets.
- **Early Learning Services**
  - \$1.8 million in recurring projects will be reprioritized to increase the VPK base student allocation and the projects will be funded with nonrecurring dollars. The total increase to the VPK BSA will then be \$10 million.

[Link to Committee Packet](#)

[Link to Committee Video](#)

#### Education Committee

The Education Committee met concurrently with the Commerce Committee and the Judiciary Committee for a workshop on compensating Florida collegiate athletes for their name, image, and likeness.

#### PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

[HB 523](#) - Mastery-based Education by DiCeglie. Provides for alternative award of credits & letter grades under certain circumstances; renames Competency-Based Education Pilot Program as Mastery-based Education Pilot Program; authorizes public school districts to submit applications for program; & revises statewide articulation agreement. **Passed by 16 to 0, now in the Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[HB 953](#) - Charter Schools by McClain. Authorizes state universities & Florida College System institutions to sponsor charter schools; revises reporting & accountability requirements; provides for funding; authorizes career & professional academy to

be offered by charter school. **Passed by 12 to 4, now in the Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[HB 957](#) – Designation of School Grades by Shoaf. Specifies that a high school student may be included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation if he or she earns 300 or more clock hours through career dual enrollment courses identified by the State Board of Education. **Passed by 16 to 0, now in the Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.**

[Link to Committee Packet](#)

[Link to Committee Video](#)

**Other Education Bills of interest that passed in non-education committee:**

[SB 70](#) - Panic Alarms in Public Schools by Book. Citing this act as "Alyssa's Law"; requiring each public school to be equipped with a panic alarm system.

[HB 81](#) - Medicaid School-based Services by Andrade. Revises provisions relating to reimbursement of school-based services by AHCA to certain school districts & private & charter schools; specifies that U.S. Department of Health & Human Services is authorized to waive certain school-based provider qualifications.

[SB 788](#) - Emergency Preparedness by Book. Requiring the Department of Law Enforcement, in consultation with law enforcement agencies throughout the state, to establish a uniform statewide rule on preparing for and responding to active assailant situations; requiring certain district school boards to develop and execute specified inter-local agreements with certain law enforcement agencies, local fire departments, and local emergency medical services organizations for specified purposes etc.