



## OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its first Interim Committee Week this week, September 16-19, 2019. The Appropriations Committee and Education Committees received presentations on the following topics: mass shootings, school safety, and the financial outlook. In terms of the Long-Range Economic Outlook, the state chief economist predicts revenue will be nearly \$1 billion less than expected in the next two years.

Additionally, the Department of Education presented the 2020 Legislative Budget Request. The Department is recommending an \$86 increase per-student in total FEFP. Majority of the increase would be allocated to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and the Mental Health Allocation.

The Department also released their proposed reductions in educational funding, if cuts are needed. Proposed reductions would cut nearly \$1 billion from the FEFP. The BSA and other FEFP categories that fund transportation, school safety, mental health, wrap-around services, literacy, and workforce education would be held harmless (not reduced). A complete overview is included below.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Florida lawmakers approved arming teachers. So who tracks them? [Tampa Bay Times](#)  
Florida lawmakers seek financial answers for hurricanes. [News-Journal](#)

## TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Senate Committee Hearings

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

### Senate Education Committee

Update on K-12 School Safety and Security Issues  
[Video via WFSU-TV The FLORIDA Channel](#)  
[Committee Packet](#)

### House Committee Hearings

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

## House Appropriation Committee

-Presentation of the Long-Range Financial Outlook by Amy Baker, Coordinator, Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR).

-Long-Range Economic Outlook - state chief economist is predicting that revenue will be \$867 million less than expected in the next two years, due to the recent hurricanes (2016-2018), the softening in the construction market, and the global markets uncertainty.

Video via WFSU-TV The FLORIDA Channel

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[Committee Packet](#)

[Press Availability with Chair Cummings](#)

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

## Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Presentations by agencies on FY 2020-2021

Legislative Budget Requests (LBR) and Schedule VIII B-2 (Reductions)

- Priority Listing of Budget Issues for Possible Reductions:
- Department of Education
- Office of Early Learning

Overview of LBR:

**Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP):**

- \$50/student increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA)

- Eliminating Declining Enrollment categorical;

Phasing-out State-Funded Discretionary categorical; and rolling these funds into the BSA

- \$86/student increase in the total FEFP

- \$25 million increase in the Mental Health Assistance Allocation – to decrease the ratio of students to mental health counselors

**Investing in Great Teachers:**

- \$284.5 million for Best and Brightest Teachers and Principals

- \$12.8 million increase (\$37 million total) in Teacher Professional Development

- \$10 million for Teacher Talent Pipeline – **new**

- \$10 million for Computer Science (CS) Certification/Bonuses

- \$5.5 million for Youth Mental Health Training

**Serving Students Unique Needs:**

- Special Needs: \$42 million increase for 4,000 Students on the Waitlist for Gardiner Scholarships

- Literacy: \$2.4 million increase to Reading Scholarship Accounts

- High Quality Public Charter Schools: \$40 million maintained for Schools of Hope

**Office of Early Learning:**

- \$12.8 million increase for Voluntary Prekindergarten, highest BSA since 2011-2012, for a total of \$415 million

- \$760.8 million for School Readiness Services - ensures children of low-income working families receive high-quality care

**Critical Technology Needs:**

- School Safety: \$8 million to fund Interoperability – real-time emergency services communications – in every school – **new**

- Student Data: \$5.5 million to modernize the DOE Mainframe and enhance DOE's support for districts, all public schools, teachers, parents and students – **new**

**Schedule VIII B Reductions**

**Proposed Schedule VIII-B exercise reductions** (do NOT impact - in other words, they hold harmless):

- Base Student Allocation and FEFP categories that fund transportation school safety, mental health, wrap-around services, literacy and workforce education
- Core funding for workforce education (Career & Adult);
- School Readiness & VPK

Main Cost Cutting Considerations ( in the event cuts are needed):

- Minimizing impacts to programs that provide direct services to students
- 20-30% workforce reductions across divisions
- Would necessitate consolidation strategy towards the core of the FL DOE, across divisions, with a focus on core direct services to students
- 20%-30% reductions to most recurring projects and postsecondary scholarship programs with a focus on leaving programs in good shape to rebound when an economic downturn ends
- FEFP Categoricals - \$945 million

[Committee Packet](#)

[Video of Committee Meeting](#)

**Education Committee**

Overview of Early Learning and Update on Implementation of Recent Legislation. The following topics were discussed:

- Florida's Early Learning Population
- State-Level Duties & Responsibilities:
  - Florida Department of Education (FDOE);
  - FDOE's Office of Early Learning (OEL); and
  - Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Local-Level Duties & Responsibilities
- School Readiness {SR} Program Overview
- Voluntary Prekindergarten {VPK} Education Program Overview
- Enhanced Field System Modernization {EFS Mod} Setbacks and Progress
- Implementation of HB 1091 {2018}
- VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates
- Readiness of Incoming Kindergarten Students Statewide- 2018

[Video via WFSU-TV The FLORIDA Channel](#)

[Committee Packet](#)

**PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee**

Presentations by the Florida High School Athletics Association and Florida School Boards Association on health concerns for student athletes.

[Committee Packet](#)

[Video of Committee Meeting](#)

**Higher Education & Carrera Readiness Subcommittee**

Presentations by agencies on FY 2020-2021 Legislative Budget Requests and Schedule VIII B-2 - Priority Listing of Budget Issues for Possible Reduction:

- State University System
- Board of Governors
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Blind Services
- Private Colleges and Universities
- Student Financial Aid
- Workforce Education
- Florida Colleges

Vocational Rehabilitation is being maintained at the current level \$5.1. This funding includes \$800,000 for BCPS Adults with Disabilities Program.

[Meeting Packet](#)

[Video of Committee Meeting](#)