



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its third Interim Committee Week, February 1 – 4, 2021. Several bills began to move through the legislative process this week, and staff presented the Governor’s Legislative Budget Request in the Senate. Of note, SB 48 (vouchers) by Sen. Diaz passed its first committee. The bill combines and restructures many of the current Florida scholarships and voucher programs. SB 48 will consolidate the Family Empowerment, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, and the Hope Scholarship program into one while funding it through the Florida Education Finance Program. The bill will also expand eligibility for vouchers, increase the number of vouchers, and financial impact school districts across the state.

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

Senate Education Committee

SB 48 - Educational Scholarship Programs by Diaz; Requiring the Auditor General to conduct certain audits at least every 3 years instead of annually; adding certain students to those whom district school boards must provide preferential treatment in the controlled open enrollment process; establishing the McKay-Gardiner Scholarship Program; prohibiting a student from participating in the program under certain circumstances; providing that program funding for specified children constitutes their full funding under part V of Ch. 1002; providing commissioner authority and obligations relating to suspending or revoking program participation, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021. **Passed, now in Appropriation Subcommittee on Education**

SB 146 - Civic Education by Brandes ; Requiring the Commissioner of Education to develop minimum criteria for a nonpartisan civic literacy practicum for high school students, beginning with a specified school year; authorizing students to apply the hours they devote to practicum activities to certain community service requirements; requiring school districts accept nonpartisan civic literacy practicum activities and hours in requirements for certain awards; requiring the State Board of Education to designate certain high schools as Freedom Schools, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/202. **Passed, now in Appropriations**

SB 282 - Moments of Silence in Public Schools by Baxley; Providing legislative findings; requiring that public school principals require certain teachers to set aside time for a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day; prohibiting teachers from making suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence; deleting a provision authorizing district school boards to provide a brief period of silent prayer or meditation; requiring certain teachers to encourage parents or guardians to discuss the moment of silence with their children and to make suggestions as to the best use of this time, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021. **Passed, now in Judiciary**

SB 200 - Student Retention; Authorizing a parent to request that his or her student be retained in a grade level for a specified school year; requiring school district superintendents to grant such requests if they are timely received; requiring school districts to administer a certain assessment to specified students; clarifying that specified students may qualify for midyear promotion; authorizing a parent to request such promotion or to request that his or her student continue to be retained, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriation Subcommittee on Education**

[Committee Packet](#)

[Link to Video](#)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Presentation on Governor's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Recommendation:

- Department of Education
- Office of Early Learning
- Board of Governors

Student Funding:

- **Per-student Funding: \$8,019** (\$232/3% increase per student) state-wide/**BCPS \$8,020** (\$275/3.5% increase per-student)
- **Base Student Allocation: \$4,451** (\$132/3% increase per student)
- **Safe Schools Allocation: \$180 million** (level funding)
- **Mental Health Allocation: \$10 million** increase state-wide (33.33%) for a total of **\$110 million**.
- **Teacher Salary Increase Allocation: \$10 million** increase state-wide for a total of **\$550 million**.
- **Title I School Recognition Program: \$43.5 million** (state-wide) to provide financial awards to Title I schools based on their student performance.
- **Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program: \$1 million** (recurring funding) for screening and training-related costs, as well as funding to cover a \$500 stipend for school guardians.
- **BCPS Adult with Disabilities: \$800,000** (level funding)

Capital Improvement

- **\$7.6 million** for maintenance of **public schools**
- **\$180 million** for maintenance of **charter schools**
- **\$42 million** in funding for **school safety grants**.
- **\$6.4 million** in recurring funding for school districts to continue to implement a mobile panic alert system that can connect multiple first responder agencies.

Committee Packet Committee Video
<p>Please find below a summary of the House Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week.</p>
<p>House Education & Employment Committee</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did not meet
<p>Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by the Office of Early Learning on financial and academic supports provided to families, students and early learning providers under the CARES Act. <p>HB 3 - <u>Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students</u> by Trabulsy: Establishes New Worlds Reading Initiative under DOE; provides duties & responsibilities of administrator; provides requirements & procedures for participating entities; establishes student eligibility requirements & options relating to book selection; requires books be delivered at no cost to families; authorizes DOE to contract with third-party entity. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.</p> <p>Passed, now in PreK-12 Appropriation Subcommittee</p> <p>Committee Packet Committee Video</p>
<p>Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations on prioritizing, incentivizing, and promoting the attainment of credentials and non-degree credentials, such as industry certifications, apprenticeship, and associates and Bachelor of Science degrees that lead to future employment or further education. <p>Committee Packet Committee Video</p>
<p>House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did not meet