



Established 1915  
**BROWARD**  
County Public Schools

## OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### 2025 Regular Session, Week 2 Summary Report

*MARCH 14, 2025*

## Florida Legislature





Legislative Affairs Department  
Broward County Public Schools

Florida Legislature  
**2025 Regular Session, Week 2 Report**  
March 10 – March 14, 2025

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### OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its second week of session, March 10-14, 2025.

#### Educational bill topics on the move related to BCPS:

- |                                 |                     |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| • Audit                         | • Athletics         | • Code of Student Conduct |
| • CTACE                         | • Curriculum        | • Diversity & Observance  |
| • Exceptional Student Education | • Safety & Security | • Student Transportation  |

### TRENDING- IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- [5 ways schools have shifted in 5 years since COVID-19](#) (Sun-Sentinel)
- [What to know as layoffs hit the Dept. of Education, changes coming to S. FL schools?](#) / Miami Life (CBS Miami)
- [Total ban on in-school cellphone uses coasts through first House committee](#) (Florida Politics)
- [Schools use AI to monitor kids, hoping to prevent violence. Our investigation found security risks](#) (Sun-Sentinel)
- [State House committee looks to clarify fine points of school-safety law](#) (Florida Phoenix)



FLORIDA HOUSE of  
REPRESENTATIVES

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

### House Education & Employment Committee

Met on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 10:00 am

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- **HB 549 - Gulf of America** by Representative Porras  
Requires state agencies to update geographic materials to reflect new federal designation of "Gulf of Mexico" as "Gulf of America"; requires district school boards & charter school governing boards to, beginning on specified date, adopt & acquire specified materials & collects that reflect new federal designation of "Gulf of Mexico" as "Gulf of America." (Effective Date: July 1, 2025) **Status:** Passed; now on Committee agenda - Education & Employment Committee

- [SB 1058 - Gulf of America](#) by Senator Joe Gruters (*Comparable Bill*)  
*Status: Passed Governmental Oversight and Accountability; now in Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education*

- [HB 85 - Hazardous Walking Conditions](#) by Representative Kendall

Revises criteria that determine hazardous walking condition for public school students. In committee, members focused on whether districts would receive transportation funds for newly eligible students, with the sponsor confirming data remained indeterminate. (Effective Date: July 1, 2025) *Status: Passed*

- [SB 650 - Hazardous Walking Conditions](#) by Leek (*Comparable Bill*)  
*Status: Passed Senate Transportation; now in Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education*

### **House Education Administration Subcommittee**

*Met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 8:00 am*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- [HB 949 Wireless Communications Devices on School Grounds](#) by Representative Busatta

Prohibits students from using wireless communications devices during school day, rather than during instructional time; requires district school boards to designate locations within school buildings for students to use wireless communications devices during school day. In committee, members highlighting that schools with similar policies have seen fewer distractions, less bullying, and better academic outcomes. The sponsor assured that districts will have flexibility in implementation on accommodating students with medical needs. (Effective Date: July 1, 2025) *Status: Passed; now in Education & Employment Committee*

- [HB 1403 - Safety of Students](#) by Representative Yeager, Hunschofsky

Authorizes childcare facilities to participate in Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program; revises provisions relating to school safety requirements for school grounds & substitute teachers. (Effective Date: July 1, 2025) *Status: Passed; now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee*

- [SB 1470 - School Safety](#) by Senator Burgess (*Comparable Bill*)  
*The bill requires sheriffs to establish a school guardian program if a school board contracts for security guards, mandates the Office of Safe Schools to maintain a list of exceptions to safety requirements, updates safety requirements for school districts and charter schools, and requires sheriff approval for individuals serving as school security guards. (Effective Date: 7/1/2025) Status: Passed Senate Education Pre-K – 12; now in Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education*



- [HB 723 - Type 1 Diabetes Early Detection Program](#) by Representative Allison Tant

Requires DOH in collaboration with school districts throughout state to develop informational materials for early detection of Type 1 diabetes for parents & guardians of students; provides requirements for such informational materials. (Effective Date: July 1, 2025) *Status: Passed; now in Health & Human Services Committee*

- [SB 958 - Type 1 Diabetes Early Detection](#) by Senator Mack Bernard (*Comparable Bill*)  
*(Effective Date: 7/1/2025) Status: On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/18/25, 3:30 pm*

### **House Student Academic Success Subcommittee**

*Met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- [HB 1111 - Certificates of Completion](#) by Representative Susan L. Valdés



Provides that only students with disabilities may earn certificate of completion; revises learning opportunities available to certain students. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*)

**Status:** Passed; now in PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee

- **HB 921 - Required Instruction in Cursive Writing** by Representative Tobin Rogers 'Toby' Overdorf  
Requires students in specified grades to receive instruction in cursive writing; provides requirements for such instruction; & requires students to demonstrate proficiency in cursive writing by end of specified grade. Members citing improved motor skills, historical significance, and practical application in daily life. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Education & Employment Committee
- **HB 251 - Holocaust Remembrance Day** by Representatives Tendrich and Harris  
Authorizes "Holocaust Remembrance Day" to be observed in this state's public schools & be observed by public exercise as Governor may designate; authorizes specified instruction. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) **Status:** Passed, now in Government Operations Subcommittee
  - **SB 356 - Holocaust Remembrance Day** by Berman (*Identical Bill*)  
**Status:** Passed Senate Rules; now in Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

### **House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee**

*Met on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 10:15 a.m.*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- **HB 1145 - Workforce Education** by Representative Shoaf  
Revises number of programs school districts must offer money-back guarantees for through money-back guarantee program. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Higher Education Budget Subcommittee
- **HB 127 - Exceptional Student Education** by Representative Kendall  
Requires DOE to develop & implement, by specified date, workforce credential program for students with autism spectrum disorder; provides purpose, program, & DOE requirements. Members maintained that the amendment preserves IEP team decision-making while expanding workforce pathways. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Human Services Subcommittee
  - **SB 102 - Exceptional Student Education** by Senator Gaetz (*Comparable Bill*)  
**Status:** Passed Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education now in Fiscal Policy
- **HB 571 - Career Planning Opportunities for Students** by Representative Kendall



The bill sets requirements for work-based learning, career fairs, planning courses, and apprenticeship programs. It mandates annual reviews of students' academic, and career plans, allows students to earn postsecondary credits through apprenticeships, and ensures credits are transferable across state universities, FCS institutions, and career centers. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Education Administration Subcommittee

### **House Criminal Justice Subcommittee**

*Met on Tuesday, March 12, 2025; at 1:00 p.m.*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- **HB 431 - Background Screening of Athletic Coaches** by Representative Trabulsy  
Revises date upon which certain background screenings of athletic coaches must be conducted. Members commended the bill's emphasis on protecting youth through extended background screenings. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Health & Human Services Committee

- [SB 1546 - Background Screening of Athletic Coaches](#) by Senator Erin Grall (*Comparable Bill*)  
*Status: On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/18/25, 3:30 pm*

### **House Human Services Subcommittee**

*Met on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 10:30 am*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- [HB 355 - Emergency Opioid Antagonists in Public K-12 Schools and Postsecondary Educational Institutions](#) by Representatives Alvarez, J. and Basabe  
Authorizes public schools to purchase, use, & maintain supply of emergency opioid antagonists that meet specified criteria, rather than only naloxone; & revises definition of term "emergency opioid antagonist." Debating members universally supported the measure, emphasizing its value in enhancing emergency preparedness and student safety. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) *Status: Passed; now in Health & Human Services Committee*

### **House Government Operations Subcommittee**

*Met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 1:00 pm*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- [HB 259 - Special Observances](#) by Representative Gerwig  
Designates August 21 of each year as "Fentanyl Awareness & Education Day"; encourages specified entities & public schools to sponsor events to promote awareness of dangers of fentanyl & potential overdoses, including education on specified topics. August 21 was chosen to align with a national day of awareness and highlighted the widespread impact of fentanyl abuse on families. (*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*) *Status: Passed; now in Health & Human Services Committee*

### **House Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee**

*Met on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 10:30 am*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

- [HB 597 - Diabetes Management In Schools](#) by Representative Smith  
The bill allows public schools to request glucagon prescriptions, obtain it at reduced or no cost, and seek donations or grants for its purchase. It sets requirements for storage, administration, and parental notification, while granting immunity from liability to certain parties. (*Effective Date: 7/1/2025*) *Status: Passed Favorable with CS by Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee*
  - [SB 772 - Diabetes Management in Schools](#) by Senator Alexis Calatayud (*Comparable Bill*)  
*Status: On Committee agenda - Education Pre-K - 12, 03/17/25, 4:00 pm*

### **House House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee**

*Met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 10:15 am*

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

The committee heard an overview of Fiscal Year 2024-25 School Readiness Provider Reimbursement Rates and School Readiness Plus Program. Members also held a panel discussion on the Implementation of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 School Readiness Provider Reimbursement Rates and the School Readiness Plus Program, that included Erin Smeltzer, President and CEO of the Children's Forum, Molly Grant, Executive Director of the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, and Cari Miller, Chancellor Division of Early Learning, Department of Education





# The Florida Senate

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

## Senate Session

*Met on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.*

[Senate Daily Journal](#)   [Session Video](#)

- **SB 112 - Children with Developmental Disabilities** by Senator Gayle Harrell

The bill expands the Cinotti Health Care Grant Program to include autism screenings and treatment referrals, updates the Early Steps Program grant application, establishes the Early Steps Extended Option, and requires the University of Florida to fund specialized summer programs for children with autism. APPROPRIATION: \$755,904 (*Effective Date: Upon becoming law*) **Status:** Passed

## Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

*Met on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.*

[Committee Packet](#)   [Committee Video](#)

- **SB 166 - Administrative Efficiency in Public Schools** by Senator Simon

The bill exempts district school boards from certain rules, removes the internal auditor requirement, mandates multiyear contracts for innovation schools, updates attendance policies for VPK, revises high school diploma assessments, sets new salary schedule guidelines for new hires, and changes eligibility for the Teacher Apprenticeship Program. (*Effective Date: 7/1/2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Fiscal Policy

- **SB 296 - Middle School and High School Start Times** by Senator Bradley

Deleting a requirement that middle schools and high schools start by specified times beginning in a certain year, requiring district school boards to consider certain benefits relating to school start times when adopting middle school and high school start times, etc. (*Effective Date: 7/1/2025*) **Status:** Passed, now in Fiscal Policy



## Senate Education Pre-K – 12

*Met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.*

[Committee Packet](#)   [Committee Video](#)

- **SB 370 - Health Screenings for K-12 Students** by Senator Sharief

Authorizing specified screening to be performed on K-12 students after written parental notification of such services is provided and the student's parents are given specified opportunities, etc. (*Effective Date: 7/1/2025*) **Status:** Passed, now in Health Policy

- **SB 754 - International Baccalaureate Bonus Funding** by Senator Burton

Revising the requirements for the calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership and certain bonuses based on International Baccalaureate examination scores of students to include students who earn a minimum grade

in a specified course, etc. (*Effective Date: 7/1/2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

- **SB 1070 - Electrocardiograms for Student Athletes** by Senator Simon

Citing this act as the “Second Chance Act”; requiring certain students to receive an electrocardiogram to participate in athletics, beginning on a specified date; requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to adopt a schedule requiring that, by a specified date, certain students receive, before competing, at least one electrocardiogram as a part of their medical evaluation; requiring that parents who object to an electrocardiogram provide a specified release from liability, etc. (*Effective Date: 7/1/2025*) **Status:** Passed; On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/18/25, 3:30 pm

- **SB 1472 - Public Records/School Security Guards** by Senator Burgess

Providing that certain information relating to school security guards held by the Department of Law Enforcement, a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school is exempt from public records requirements; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. (*Effective Date: On the same date that SB 1470 or similar legislation takes effect*) **Status:** Passed; now in Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

- **SB 1618 - Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education** by Senator Calatayud

Removing the Florida School for Competitive Academics from audit requirements; removing the Florida School for Competitive Academics from specified classification and pay plans; removing the Florida School for Competitive Academics from the definition of a public employer; prohibiting the expenditure of funds by public schools, charter schools, school districts, charter school administrators, or direct-support organizations to purchase membership in, or goods or services from, any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion, etc. (*Effective Date: 7/1/2025*) **Status:** Passed; now in Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

