



Established 1915
BROWARD
County Public Schools

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

2025 Regular Session, Week 7 Summary Report

April 18, 2025

Florida Legislature





OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its seventh week of session, April 14 – April 18, 2025.

- Summary of legislative actions taken during the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives sessions for the week - page 4
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House Bill 279 - False Reporting

Broward Students Inspire Legislation

During Capitol Days, a group of Broward County students met with State Representative Michael Gottlieb to share their idea of penalizing false 911 calls related to social media threats that lead to school lockdowns or evacuations. Representative Gottlieb praised the concept, credited the students for inspiring the initiative, and has since taken steps to turn it into legislation.

Their initiative and advocacy serve as a powerful example of student impact on public policy. Special recognition goes to the following students for their leadership and civic engagement:

- Aaron Stoller, Cooper City High School, Grade 11
- Armani Norris, South Plantation High School, Grade 11
- Camila Casado, Nova High School, Grade 11
- Jasiah Byrd, William T. McFatter Technical High School, Grade 11
- Landyn Spellberg, Western High School, Grade 11
- Tanner Bigenho, Cypress Bay High School, Grade 12
- Thania Dervilus, College Academy at Broward College, Grade 12



Board Update (FY 2024-25)

AP/IB/AICE Course Funding Changes

Per Senator Danny Burgess, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K – 12 Education, proposed changes have been made to how Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and AICE courses will be funded in the 2024-25 school year.

Each course will continue to be funded at approximately \$852. Previously, districts received an additional \$852 per student who earned a qualifying exam score—effectively double funding. Under the Senate’s proposal, that bonus would be adjusted to \$426 per qualifying student. This amount is intended to cover testing costs and teacher bonuses, with any remaining funds included in overall district allocations.

Importantly, districts would gain flexibility: while they may continue to reinvest these funds in advanced programs, they could also use the dollars for other local needs such as teacher salary increases or student services. It’s important to note that while this proposal has been put forward by the Senate, the House has not yet agreed to it. We remain in a waiting period, and no funding changes are finalized at this time.

Board Update Senate Bill 7034

Committee Advances Targeted Tax Relief

The Florida Senate Committee on Finance and Tax, chaired by Senator Bryan Avila, has passed Senate Proposed Bill (SPB) 7034, a targeted tax relief measure aimed at supporting Florida families and seniors.

The bill permanently eliminates sales tax on clothing and shoes priced at \$75 or less and reduces vehicle tag fees for one year. It also establishes the 2025 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday, scheduled for August 1–10, 2025. During this period, backpacks priced at \$100 or less, school supplies at \$50 or less, learning aids and puzzles at \$30 or less, and personal computers or related accessories (including non-recreational software) priced at \$1,500 or less will all be tax-exempt. This legislation is designed to reduce everyday expenses, particularly for families with growing children and seniors who frequently replace essential items, while also expanding access to educational tools.

For your Knowledge

Budget Conference Process in Tallahassee

The Senate (SB 2500) and House (HB 5001) proposed budgets currently have a \$4.4 billion difference. **The Senate bill has been passed as amended by the House, and now the bill will proceed to conference for further negotiations and alignment.** The budget conference process in Tallahassee is how the Florida Legislature finalizes the state budget when the House and Senate have differences in their proposed versions. After both chambers pass their own budgets, legislative leaders appoint members—called conferees—to work in joint committees to negotiate and settle those differences.

These conference committees are divided by budget areas like education, health care, and transportation. If the smaller subcommittees can’t agree on certain items, those issues are escalated—or “bumped up”—to the full budget chairs or even to the Senate President and House Speaker for final decisions.

Once all differences are resolved, a final version of the budget, called the conference report, is completed. There is a required 72-hour waiting period before the Legislature can vote to approve the budget. After final approval, the budget goes to the Governor, who can veto specific line items before signing it into law.



**FLORIDA HOUSE of
REPRESENTATIVES**



The Florida Senate

Chamber Session Activities

Senate Session Met 4/15/2025 at 4:30 PM; 4/16/2025 at 2:00 PM

House Session Met 4/16/2025 at 10:30 AM

Please find below a summary of legislative actions taken during the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives sessions for the week.

Bill Number and Title <i>Click on title to view bill text</i>	Bill Status	Comparable Bill
<u>SB 726 - False Reporting</u>	<i>Temporarily Postponed Second Reading</i>	<u>HB 279 - False Reporting</u>

Reenacts a section of the School Safety Awareness Program to include amendments regarding penalties for submitting false reports through FortifyFL, highlighting criminal penalties and potential disclosure of the user's IP address to law enforcement for further investigation.

<u>HB 279 - False Reporting</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Rules</i>	<u>SB 726 - False Reporting</u>
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The bill increases penalties for false reporting and misuse of 911 services, especially when it results in serious injury or death. It lowers the threshold for felony charges from four to two prior convictions and ensures that withheld adjudication or nolo contendere counts toward that total. Courts must now order restitution for damages and costs related to emergency responses, and the Criminal Punishment Code is updated to include the new offenses.

<u>SB 772 - Diabetes Management in Schools</u>	<i>Refer to HB 0597</i>	<u>HB 597 - Diabetes Management in Schools</u>
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The bill expands diabetes care in public schools by allowing schools to obtain, store, and administer undesignated glucagon for emergencies. It authorizes prescriptions through county health departments, ensures parental notification and emergency response after use, and provides liability protection for those involved. The State Board of Education and Department of Health are tasked with developing implementation rules.

<u>HB 597 - Diabetes Management in Schools</u>	Passed in Both Chambers	<u>SB 772 - Diabetes Management in Schools</u>
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The bill authorizes public schools to obtain, store, and administer undesignated glucagon for diabetic students during hypoglycemic emergencies. It allows acquisition through various means, including prescriptions from county health departments, and requires trained staff to administer it according to medical plans. The bill also provides civil and criminal liability protection for those acting in good faith.

<u>SB 1374 - School District Reporting Requirements</u>	Passed Senate Session	<u>HB 1287 - School District Personnel and Volunteers</u> <i>Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading</i>
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The bill allows certain entities to conduct volunteer background screenings and requires school districts to adopt policies for the temporary removal of instructional personnel from the classroom within 24 hours of specific arrest notifications. It also expands law enforcement's obligation to notify school districts of such arrests within 48 hours and mandates that instructional and administrative personnel self-report qualifying arrests or judgments within the same timeframe, while ensuring confidentiality is maintained.

<u>SB 1546 - Background Screening of Athletic Coaches</u>	Passed Senate Session	<u>HB 431 - Background Screening of Athletic Coaches</u> <i>Temporarily Postponed Second Reading</i>
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The bill updates background screening requirements for athletic coaches by expanding the definition to include assistant coaches, managers, and referees who interact with minors. It extends the deadline for independent sanctioning authorities to complete Level 2 background screenings to July 1, 2026. The bill prohibits unscreened individuals from coaching unless exempted or directly supervised by a screened coach.

<u>SB 1730 - Affordable Housing</u>	Passed Senate Session	<u>HB 943 - Real Property and Land Use and Development</u> <i>Now in Commerce Committee</i>
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The bill requires local governments to permit multifamily and mixed-use residential developments in commercial, industrial, or mixed-use zones if a designated minimum percentage of the units are designated as affordable housing.

<u>HB 1309 - Reading Interventions and Instruction</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Fiscal Policy</i>	SB 442 - Reading Instruction <i>No Committee Activity</i>
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Revises requirements relating to Just Read, Florida! Office, Florida Center for Reading Research, school district reading instruction plans, & school district professional learning system to include specified training & instruction related to reading interventions & instruction; & creates reading coach allocation.

<u>HB 1367 - School Attendance</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Rules</i>	SB 442 - Reading Instruction <i>No Committee Activity</i>
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The bill prohibits out-of-school suspensions based solely on attendance records and mandates that in-school suspensions and certain extracurricular activities count toward attendance. It requires the State Board of Education to create a statewide attendance policy, define types of absences, and provide guidelines for reporting. The bill also strengthens school district responsibilities for addressing absenteeism, requiring prompt reporting of unexcused absences and engagement with families for remediation. It specifies that absences from religious observances or family-bereavement be excused. The bill refines definitions related to school attendance and truancy.

<u>HB 949 - Wireless Communications Devices on School Grounds</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Rules</i>	N/A
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The bill prohibits student use of wireless communication devices throughout the entire school day, removing the allowance for teachers to designate areas for device use during instructional time. It requires district school boards to create rules specifying where students may use devices under administrator supervision. Exceptions are allowed for students with an IEP, 504 plan, or a doctor's note.

<u>HB 681 - Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Fiscal Policy</i>	<u>SB 1458 - Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding</u> <i>On Committee agenda - Fiscal Policy, 04/22/25, 11:00 am</i>
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The bill updates Florida statutes for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, including new standards, funding structures, and reporting requirements. It mandates an annual apprenticeship report, a standard contract template for local agencies, and a fund transparency tool by July 2026. The bill also revises guidelines for the District Workforce Education Funding Steering Committee and requires a workforce education funding report to legislative committees two months before the session.

<u>HB 569 - Construction and Facilities</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Rules</i>	<u>SB 1188 - Local Governing Authorities</u> <i>Now in Senate Rules</i>
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The bill sets guidelines for charter schools on construction and local ordinances, including defining them as public facilities for concurrency requirements. Developers can receive impact fee credits for improvements near charter

schools. It also prohibits local governments from limiting enrollment through stacking ordinances and exempts charter schools from certain building regulations, ensuring they are treated equally to other public schools.

<u>HB 1111 - Certificates of Completion</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Rules</i>	<i>SB 1698 - Certificates of Completion</i> <i>No Committee Activity</i>
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Provides that only students with disabilities may earn certificate of completion; revises learning opportunities available to certain students.

<u>HB 301 - Suits Against the Government</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Rules</i>	<i>SB 1570 - Suits Against the Government</i> <i>No Committee Activity</i>
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The bill increases liability limits for tort claims against the state and its subdivisions, allowing settlements above the statutory limit without legislative approval. It revises claim presentation deadlines, statute of limitations, and clarifies insurance policy conditions. It also shortens the time for final claim dispositions, deeming claims denied if not resolved within the specified period.

<u>HB 679 - Term Limits for Members of County Commissions and District School Boards</u>	Passed House Session <i>Referred to Senate Rules</i>	<i>SB 802 - Term Limits for Members of Boards of County Commissioners and District School Board</i> <i>Now in Senate Community Affairs</i>
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The bill imposes an eight-year consecutive term limit for county commissioners and district school board members. For county commissioners, this applies to terms starting after November 3, 2026, with the option for term-limited commissioners from single-member districts to run countywide for chairperson or mayor, if allowed by the charter. For district school board members, the limit applies to terms beginning on or after November 8, 2022.



FLORIDA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

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

House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee

Met on 4/14/2025 at 2:30 PM

[Committee Packet](#)

- **HB 859 – School Readiness Program** by Representatives Chase Tramont and Dana Trabulsy
Revises requirements for specified statewide data information program within school readiness program; revises requirements for program’s uniform waiting list; revises requirements for determining school readiness program allocation.
Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/24/25
 - **SB 1382 – Access to School Readiness Programs for Economically Disadvantaged Households** by Senator Alexis Calatayud (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: On Committee agenda – Fiscal Policy, 04/22/25, 11:00 am
- **HB 1483 – Education** by Representative Susan L. Valdés
Revises provisions relating to early warning system, student reading & mathematics deficiencies, student & school report cards, New Worlds Reading Initiative, & school grades.
Status: Passed; Now in Education & Employment Committee

- **HB 1607 – Cardiac Emergencies** by Representatives Taylor Yarkosky and Alex Rizo
Requires, rather than authorizing, school districts to provide training in basic first aid to certain students; provides requirements for such training; requires each public school to develop plans for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) for specified purposes; & provides requirements for school, staff, & defibrillator use & storage.
Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25
 - **SB 430 – Cardiac Emergencies** by Senator Corey Simon (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

House Education & Employment Committee

Met on 4/17/2025, at 8:00 AM

[Committee Packet](#)

- **HB 859 - School Readiness Program** by Representatives Chase Tramont and Dana Trabulsy
Revises requirements for specified statewide data information program within school readiness program; revises requirements for program's uniform waiting list; revises requirements for determining school readiness program allocation.
Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/24/25
 - **SB 1382 - Access to School Readiness Programs for Economically Disadvantaged Households** by Senator Alexis Calatayud (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: On Committee agenda - Fiscal Policy, 04/22/25, 11:00 am
- **HB 877 - School Readiness Program** by Representatives Robin Bartleman and Dana Trabulsy
Revises criteria for child to receive priority for participation in school readiness program; provides requirements for school readiness program provider to be eligible for specified funding.
Status: Passed
 - **SB 1102 - School Readiness Program** by Senator Alexis Calatayud (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: Favorable with CS by Fiscal Policy on 4/17/2025
- **HB 969 - Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes** by Representative Hillary Cassel
Requires OPPAGA to submit initial specified evaluation to Governor & Legislature by specified date; requires office to submit final specified evaluation to Governor & Legislature by specified date; provides evaluation requirements.
Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25
 - **SB 1310 - Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes** by Senator Jennifer Bradley (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
- **HB 1009 - Religious and Patriotic Expression in the Public School System** by Representative Kimberly Daniels
Requires specified information to be provided to certain persons relating to religious expression & liberties in public schools; revises requirements for display of state motto, "In God We Trust," in certain schools & buildings.
Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25
 - **SB 1504 - Religious Expression and Classroom Requirements in K-12 Schools** (No Committee Activity)
- **HB 1105 – Education** by Representative Jennifer Kincart Jonsson
Revises provisions relating to certain internships & courses, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards, career dual enrollment agreements, Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program, dual enrollment articulation agreements, & board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc
Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/24/25
 - **SB 270 - Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program** by Senator Danny Burgess (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading, Retained on Calendar



- **HB 1115 – Education by Representative Susan L. Valdés**

Requires that certain surtax revenues which are shared with school districts must also be shared with charter schools on a proportionate basis in accordance with certain provisions; provides school district reporting requirements relating to specified revenues shared with charter schools; revises provisions relating to charter schools & schools of hope.

Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25

- **SB 1702 – Education by Senator Danny Burgess (*Comparable Bill*)**

Status: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

- **HB 1255 – Education by Representative Dana Trubuly**



The bill updates various education policies, including teacher shortage designations, educator certification, K-12 instruction standards, and background checks for private schools. It repeals the Florida School for Competitive Academics, expands emergency opioid use in schools, revises corporal punishment rules, and enhances support for military families and early learning programs.

Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25

- **HB 1403 - Safety of Students by Representatives Bradford Yeager and Christine Hunschofsky**

Revises provisions relating to Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, school safety requirements, & safe-school officer requirements.

Status: Passed

- **SB 1470 - School Safety by Senator Danny Burgess (*Comparable Bill*)**

Status: Passed on 4/9/2025

- **HB 1539 - Materials Harmful to Minors by Representative Douglas Bankson**

Defines "harmful to minors"; revises list of materials used in classroom which are subject to objection process by parents or residents.

Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/24/25

- **SB 1692 - Material that is Harmful to Minors by Senator Stan McClain (*Comparable Bill*)**

Status: Temporarily Postponed by Education Pre-K – 12

- **HB 1607 - Cardiac Emergencies by Representatives Taylor Yarkosky and Alex Rizo**

Requires, rather than authorizing, school districts to provide training in basic first aid to certain students; provides requirements for such training; requires each public school to develop plans for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) for specified purposes; & provides requirements for school, staff, & defibrillator use & storage.

Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25

- **SB 430 - Cardiac Emergencies by Senator Corey Simon (*Comparable Bill*)**

Status: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

- **HB 1267 – Education by Representative Demi Busatta**

The bill revises policies for public postsecondary governance, leadership succession, instructional materials, and graduation requirements. It addresses K-12 facilities, capital outlay, early warning systems, student academic deficiencies, and school accountability. It also supports initiatives like Schools of Hope, the New Worlds Reading Initiative, and creates the Rural Incentive for Professional Educators (RIPE) Program to attract and retain teachers in rural areas.

Status: Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25

- **SB 1708 – Education by Senator Alexis Calatayud (*Comparable Bill*)**

Status: Now in Senate Rules





The Florida Senate

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

Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education

Met on 4/15/2025

[Committee Packet](#)

- **SB 822 – Education** by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez

The bill updates Florida statutes on charter schools by allowing governing boards to adopt their own student conduct codes, expanding enrollment flexibility for eligible schools, and granting high-performing charter schools authority to assume or consolidate charters. It restricts landlord-related individuals from serving on governing boards (with some exceptions), outlines sponsor service obligations and fee limits, clarifies data reporting responsibilities, and reaffirms that charter schools must comply with public records, student welfare, and operational statutes.

Status: Passed; On Committee agenda - Rules, 04/21/25, 2:00 pm

- **HB 443 - Charter Schools** by Representatives John Snyder and Alex Rizo (*Comparable Bill*)

Status: Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/24/25

- **SB 1150 - School Social Workers** by Senator Alexis Calatayud

Exempts school social workers from certain educator certification requirements.

Status: Passed; On Committee agenda - Rules, 04/21/25, 2:00 pm

- **HB 809 - School Social Workers** by Representatives Christine Hunschofsky and Vicki L. Lopez (*Comparable Bill*)

Status: Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/24/25

- **SB 1514 - Anaphylaxis in Public Schools** by Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith

The bill requires K-8 schools to train staff to recognize and respond to anaphylaxis and ensure student emergency action plans are accessible at all times. It mandates training in the use of FDA-approved epinephrine devices and directs the State Board of Education, with the Department of Health, to adopt implementation rules by October 1, 2025.

Status: Passed; On Committee agenda - Rules, 04/21/25, 2:00 pm

- **HB 1197 - Anaphylaxis in Public Schools** by Representatives Jennifer Harris and Jessica Baker (*Comparable Bill*)

Status: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Senate Rules

Met on 4/16/2025, at 8:30 AM

[Committee Packet](#)

- **SB 140 - Charter Schools** by Senator Don Gaetz

The bill expands eligibility for conversion charter schools and establishes "job engine charter schools" to support economic development. It allows municipalities to apply for conversion charters without teacher approval and adds enrollment preference for children of employees from key local businesses. The bill also outlines annual reporting requirements for job engine charters, prohibits school boards from charging rent for conversion charter properties, and includes charter schools in workforce development grant programs.



Status: Passed; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

- **SB 650 - Hazardous Walking Conditions** by Senator Tom Leek
Revises the criteria for hazardous walking conditions by including walkways along limited access roads, while preserving exceptions for areas with low traffic or speed limits.
Status: Passed; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
 - **HB 85 - Hazardous Walking Conditions** by Representative Kim Kendall (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: Passed House Session on 3/26/2025

Senate Appropriations

Met on 4/17/2025, at 9:00 AM

[Committee Packet](#)

- **SB 1122 - Florida Virtual School** by Senator Colleen Burton
Amends Florida Virtual School regulations to ensure universal student access, strengthen governance, and clarify funding provisions. Key changes include removing enrollment prioritization, expanding communication requirements, granting sovereign immunity to staff, and allowing broader use of supplemental funding. The bill also updates leadership roles, simplifies audit procedures, and affirms eligibility for state employee benefits, while ensuring access to international assessments.
Status: Passed
 - **HB 885 - Florida Virtual School** by Representative David Smith (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
- **HB 5009 - Government Administration** by Representative Tyler I. Sirois
Section 2 of the bill amends s. 11.40, F.S., to modify the authority of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee. Instead of directing the Department of Revenue and Department of Financial Services to withhold funds from noncompliant local governments or district school boards, the committee would now advise these agencies to take such action. This change softens the committee's enforcement role, shifting from a mandatory to a recommended approach.
Status: Passed

Senate Fiscal Policy

Met on 4/17/2025, at 9:00 AM

[Committee Packet](#)

- **SB 1590 - Educator Preparation** by Senator Danny Burgess
Modernizes teacher certification and training in Florida by updating educator standards, creating a new readiness exam, and establishing a job-embedded certification pathway (CERT). Requires evidence-based instruction in teacher prep programs and enhances professional learning, including mentor training and use of state-approved materials.
Status: Passed; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
 - **HB 875 - Educator Preparation** by Representatives Alex Rizo and John Snyder (*Comparable Bill*)
Status: Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/23/25

