



## OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### 2025 Regular Session, Week 8 Summary Report

*April 25, 2025*

## Florida Legislature





## OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its seventh week of session, April 21 – April 25, 2025.

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### House Bill 5101- Senate Bill 2510

### Budget Conference Update

This month, the Florida House and Senate each passed their respective budget proposals; however, the two chambers remain more than \$4 billion apart. The House's proposed budget totals \$112.95 billion, while the Senate's proposal stands at \$117.36 billion. Due to this significant gap, Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula) and House Speaker Daniel Perez (R-Miami) informed legislators on Thursday, April 24, an agreement has not yet been reached on key preliminary steps required to begin formal budget negotiations. These steps include the determination of "allocations," which set the overall funding levels for major budget areas such as education.

To meet the scheduled end of session on May 2, the budget would need to be finalized by Tuesday, to comply with the constitutionally required 72-hour "cooling off" period before final adoption. Given the current impasse, legislative leaders have advised members to return home for the weekend, as the budget conference will not begin at this time. It is not yet clear whether the session will be extended or whether lawmakers will be called back later to complete the budget process.

### 25/26 House & Senate vs 24/25 3rd Calc

Please note that the state budget must be adopted before the July 1 start of the 2025–2026 fiscal year. Additionally, the Governor retains line-item veto authority over the final spending plan.

	2024-25 3rd Calc	2025-26 House Proposal	House Variance	2025-26 Senate Proposal	Senate Variance
Unweighted FTE (Excluding FES)	241,916.76	233,101.83	(8,814.93)	233,101.83	(8,814.93)
Base Student Allocation	\$ 5,330.98	\$ 5,381.49	\$ 50.51	\$ 5,397.75	\$ 66.77
\$ per UFTE	\$ 8,929.40	\$ 8,952.44	\$ 23.04	\$ 9,052.90	\$ 123.50
<b>Funding as Compared to 3rd Calc</b>		<b>(in millions)</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>(in millions)</b>	<b>Senate</b>
FEPP Decrease		\$	(58.4)	\$	(46.3)
DOE Reduction Program 300			(15.2)		(15.4)
<b>Adjusted Funding Reduction</b>		\$	(73.6)	\$	(61.7)



On April 24, a federal judge issued a ruling that temporarily blocks certain directives from the U.S. Department of Education under the Trump administration, which sought to withhold federal funding from public schools implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.



Earlier this year, the Department instructed schools and colleges to eliminate practices that distinguish individuals based on race and, more recently, required states to obtain signed certifications from school districts affirming compliance with federal civil rights laws, including the discontinuation of what the Department referred to as “illegal DEI practices.” Schools were warned that noncompliance could result in legal action by the U.S. Department of Justice and a potential loss of federal grants and contracts.

In response, U.S. District Judge Landya McCafferty ruled that these actions likely violate the First Amendment, labeling the directives as “textbook viewpoint discrimination.” While the ruling does not apply nationwide, it does provide temporary protection for public schools working with the plaintiffs involved in the case.

We will continue to monitor developments closely and assess any implications for our district’s policies and practices.

**House Bill 279/Senate Bill 726****False Reporting Status**

This week, the Senate passed the House-approved legislation regarding false reporting. This legislation would directly relate to individuals who knowingly make false or malicious emergency communications—such as fake threats of violence or school shootings—that result in significant consequences, including injury, panic, or disruption.



In this context, this could apply to anyone (students, adults, or outside individuals) who falsely reports a threat (e.g., a bomb threat or active shooter call) to emergency services. If that false report leads to great bodily harm, permanent injury, or death—such as injuries during evacuations or police responses—those responsible could face enhanced criminal penalties, mandatory restitution, and prosecution costs under this law.

Special recognition goes to the Broward County students and State Representative Michael Gottlieb for their leadership and civic engagement on this bill.



## Chamber Session Activities

Senate Session Met 4/23/2025 at 10:00 AM; 4/24/2025 at 10:00 AM

House Session Met 4/23/2025 at 10:00 AM; 4/24/2025 at 1:00 PM

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
<b><u>SB 738 - Child Care and Early Learning Providers</u></b>	<i>Passed Senate Session</i>	<a href="#"><u>HB 47 - Child Care and Early Learning Providers</u></a> <i>Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading</i>

The proposed legislation introduces broad reforms to childcare and early learning services, enhancing standards for operations, personnel, and training. Key changes include revised licensing requirements with a three-tier violation system, stricter and faster background screenings, expanded free training for staff, and an optional abbreviated inspection process for compliant facilities. The bill exempts certain preschools from municipal assessments and grants limited regulatory exemptions for facilities affiliated with religious institutions or the Department of Defense. It also updates literacy training standards for prekindergarten instructors and requires annual county affirmation of local licensing agencies.

<b><u>SB 726 - False Reporting</u></b>	<i>Passed in both Chambers</i>	<a href="#"><u>HB 279 - False Reporting</u></a>
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The bill strengthens criminal penalties for the misuse of emergency communications services, particularly when such misuse results in great bodily harm, permanent disfigurement, disability, or death. It revises the criteria for continued misuse violations and clarifies that a conviction includes a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication. Courts would be required to order individuals convicted of these offenses to pay the costs of prosecution and investigation, as well as restitution for related damages or injuries. The offenses are also added to the Criminal Punishment Code's offense severity ranking chart.



<b><u>SB 650 - Hazardous Walking Conditions</u></b>	<i>Passed in both Chambers</i>	<a href="#"><u>HB 85 - Hazardous Walking Conditions</u></a>
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Revises the hazardous walking condition criteria for public school students. Adds walkways along limited access facilities to the definition of a hazardous walking condition. Maintains exceptions for roads with low traffic volumes or lower posted speed limits.

<b><u>SB 430 - Cardiac Emergencies</u></b>	<i>Passed in both Chambers</i>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1607 - Cardiac Emergencies</u></a>
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The proposed legislation mandates that school districts provide basic first aid instruction, including CPR and AED training, to students once in middle school and once in high school, incorporating hands-on practice. It also requires all public schools to implement a cardiac emergency response plan (PULSE) in coordination with local emergency services. By July 1, 2027, each public and charter school must have at least one clearly designated, operational AED on campus. The bill provides liability protection for staff and volunteers using AEDs under existing Good Samaritan laws and directs the State Board of Education to ensure AED training for school personnel within the first 10 days of each school year.

**SB 1702 - Education****Retained on Special Order  
Calendar***HB 1115 - Education*

The proposed legislation strengthens trespassing enforcement on school grounds and buses by defining “school bus” for legal purposes and allowing immediate arrest for unauthorized presence following a warning. It authorizes warrantless arrests based on probable cause and permits certain private schools in designated counties to build new facilities without rezoning, provided health and safety standards are met. The bill also introduces multiple updates affecting charter and private schools, including standardized sponsor monitoring, revenue transparency, and continued use of approved reimbursement rates for the Redlands Christian Migrant Association. Additional provisions allow marching bands to count toward physical education or performing arts credit, permit full-time virtual students to join interscholastic sports in their home district, and expand permissible uses of local tax revenue for liability insurance. It further directs the Commissioner of Education to pilot and report on school-day cell phone bans and requires the Department of Education to develop evidence-based mathematics endorsement competencies.

**SB 140 - Charter Schools****Passed Senate Session****HB 123 - Education***Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading*

The proposed legislation expands opportunities for establishing conversion charter schools by allowing municipalities to apply without requiring teacher approval and introduces a new category of “job engine charter schools” designed to attract businesses and support local economic growth. It requires colleges, state universities, and school districts to provide written explanations for denying conversion applications. Enrollment preferences may now be given to children of employees at job-producing businesses identified in the charter school’s annual report. Job engine charters must report annually on their contributions to economic development, educational programs, and services, and assume full financial responsibility. Districts are prohibited from charging rent for conversion charter school facilities, though municipalities must negotiate any related fees. Charter schools would also become eligible for Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grants, and rulemaking authority for job engine charter applications would fall under the State Board of Education.

**SB 1618 - Education***Retained on Special Order  
Calendar**Various*

The bill streamlines Florida’s education statutes by removing references to the defunct Florida School for Competitive Academics and updating equity, funding, and accountability provisions across the K-20 system. Key changes include expanding workforce development in maritime and agriculture, providing tuition waivers for Florida State Guard members, and enhancing access to advanced coursework and assessments. It also revises charter school and certification rules, prohibits spending with discriminatory organizations, and ensures academic standards documents are focused and streamlined.

**HB 1255 - Education*****Passed House Session  
Referred to Senate Rules****Various*

The bill modernizes Florida’s K-12 and teacher-related statutes by updating recruitment, instruction, and accountability policies. It allows apprenticeship graduates to fill career service positions, renames “critical teacher shortage areas” as “high-demand teacher needs areas,” and removes the Florida School for Competitive Academics from statute. Public school funds may no longer support organizations promoting discriminatory or politically defined activism, while charter and public schools must meet updated rules on corporal punishment, facility approvals, and background screenings. The bill also revises instructional standards, adds embryologic development content with opt-out provisions, expands math tutoring and teacher certification pathways, and permits new testing options like the CLT10. It further supports military families, updates school readiness policies, and broadens Teacher of the Year nomination eligibility.



**SB 1590 - Educator Preparation**

**Passed in House**  
Retained on Senate Special  
Order Calendar

**[HB 875 - Educator Preparation](#)**

The bill modernizes Florida's teacher preparation and certification system by creating new pathways, updating curriculum standards, and strengthening training requirements. It replaces outdated core curriculum rules with new standards (s. 1012.551), redefines "field experience" as "clinical experience," and ensures mentor teachers meet clinical educator criteria. It introduces the CERT Program as an alternative certification route and reduces internship hours for full-time teachers pursuing counseling credentials. The bill also allows nondegreed part-time arts teachers under new qualifications, updates professional development to emphasize reading and instructional strategies.

**SB 1310 - Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes**

**Passed in both Chambers**

**[HB 969 - Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes](#)**

The bill creates new requirements for the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to evaluate school-based mental health services. It establishes s. 394.4575, F.S., directing OPPAGA to assess district compliance, spending, outcomes, and system integration in coordination with key stakeholders. An initial report is due December 31, 2025, with a final report and recommendations due by December 1, 2026. School districts, the Department of Education, and other agencies are required to provide data and support the evaluation process.

**SB 1122 - Florida Virtual School**

**Passed Senate Session**

**[HB 885 - Florida Virtual School](#)  
Placed on House Calendar, 2nd  
reading**

The bill updates Florida Virtual School (FLVS) regulations to promote universal access and strengthen its governance and funding structure. It removes admission prioritization for certain student groups and requires that both parents and students be informed of available opportunities. The bill extends sovereign immunity protections to FLVS officers and employees and grants the president and CEO authority to call board meetings. It permits the use of supplemental funding beyond FEFP for educational delivery and allows revenue accrual through direct-support organizations. It also mandates that FLVS employees be classified as state employees with access to FRS benefits, streamlines audit/reporting requirements, and ensures access to international assessments.

**SB 1102 - School Readiness Program**

**Passed Senate Session**

**[HB 877 - School Readiness Program](#)  
Placed on House Calendar, 2nd  
reading**

The bill revises eligibility for the school readiness program to prioritize children requiring accommodations beyond those mandated by the ADA, as verified by professionals under s. 1002.87(1)(c)6. It allows providers to receive special needs differential funding if they meet updated training and assessment score requirements. Instructors and staff must complete additional training focused on identifying early social and communication delays and implementing inclusive education practices. To retain eligibility for this funding, providers must maintain these standards, including annual staff training.

**SB 1150 - School Social Workers**

**Passed House Session**  
Referred to Senate Rules

**[HB 809 - School Social Workers](#)**

Providing that persons employed as school social workers are exempt from certain teacher certification requirements; providing an exception.



**HB 259 - Special Observances***Passed in both Chambers**SB 214 - Special  
Observances/Fentanyl Awareness  
and Education Day*

Establishes an annual Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day to increase public awareness of fentanyl dangers and potential overdoses. Creates new statute to designate August 21 each year as Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day. Encourages public agencies, local governments, and schools to host awareness events; Promotes education on prevention, available drug prevention resources, and related health issues.

**SB 1514 - Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools***Passed Senate Session  
Referred to House**HB 1197 - Anaphylaxis in Public  
Schools*

Requires K-8 schools to provide staff training on recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis and ensure students' emergency action plans always remain accessible.

**SB 430 - Cardiac Emergencies***Passed in both Chambers**HB 1607 - Cardiac Emergencies*

The bill requires school districts to provide basic first aid and CPR instruction, including AED training, once in middle school and once in high school, with hands-on components. It mandates that all public schools, including charters, implement a cardiac emergency response plan (PULSE) in coordination with local emergency services and maintain at least one clearly marked AED on campus by July 1, 2027. It also ensures legal protection for school staff and volunteers who use AEDs and directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules for mandatory AED training for school personnel within the first 10 days of each school year.

**SB 1702 - Education***Passed in House Session  
Referred to Senate Rules**HB 1115 - Education*

The proposal mandates proportional sharing of local infrastructure surtax revenues with charter schools based on student enrollment, enhancing funding equity. It strengthens charter school oversight by requiring sponsors to use a standardized monitoring tool and districts to report financial distributions annually. The definition of "sponsoring entity" for schools of hope shifts from school districts to state universities or Florida College System institutions. Additionally, the bill eliminates certificates of completion in public high schools, encouraging continued education or alternative credential pathways.

**HB 1267 - Education***Passed in House Session  
Referred to Senate Rules**Various*

Revises provisions relating to public postsecondary boards, presidents, presidential succession plans, textbooks & instructional materials, & graduation requirements; Institute for Freedom in the Americas; & K-12 educational facilities, early warning system, district school board real property, capital outlay, student reading & mathematics deficiencies, schools of hope, New Worlds Reading Initiative, student report cards, & school grades; & establishes Rural Incentive for Professional Educators (RIPE) Program.

**HB 1009 - Religious and Patriotic Expression in the Public School System***Passed in House Session  
Referred to Senate Rules**SB 1504 - Religious Expression and  
Classroom Requirements in Schools*

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.

**HB 151 - Interscholastic Activities***Passed in both Sessions**SB 248 - Student Participation in  
Interscholastic and Intrasccholastic  
Extracurricular Sports*

The bill expands access to extracurricular activities by allowing home education and private school students to participate in FHSAA sports at public or member schools, removes previous enrollment limits, and requires academic eligibility and record access for verification.

**HB 1105 - Education***Passed in House Session  
Referred to Senate Rules**SB 1688 - Education*

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 agreements, & board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc.

**HB 443 - Charter Schools***Passed in House Session  
Referred to Senate Rules**SB 822 – Education  
Placed on Special Order Calendar,  
04/29/25*

Revises provisions relating to charter school codes of student conduct, enrollment, capacity, compliance with law, facilities, ad valorem taxes, student data; revises provisions relating to high-performing charter schools; revises provisions relating to sale, transfer, lease, or disposal of school district property.

**HB 859 - School Readiness Program***Passed in House Session  
Placed on Special Order  
Senate Calendar, 04/29/25**SB 1382 - Access to School  
Readiness Programs for  
Economically Disadvantaged  
Households*

Program: 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.

**HB 491 - Use of Artificial Intelligence by  
Governmental Agencies to Detect  
Concealed Firearms***Passed in House Session  
Referred to Senate Rules**SB 562 - Use of Artificial Intelligence  
to Detect Firearms*

Prohibits governmental agencies or specified contractors from using or contracting with any other entities to use artificial intelligence to detect concealed firearms in public places; provides exceptions; provides remedy.

**HB 257 - Exceptional Students and  
Video Cameras in Public Schools***Passed in House Session**SB 1006 - Video Cameras in Public  
School Classrooms*

Removes references to Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program; removes obsolete definition; requires certain district school boards to vote to establish policy to provide video cameras in self-contained classrooms upon request of parent; prohibits school or school district from concealing identity of employee in video recording; & provides that video recording made available after request must include accompanying audio.

**HB 1505 - Parental Rights***Passed in House Session**SB 1288 - Parental Rights  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading*

The bill expands parental rights by requiring consent for most nonemergency medical care and school health surveys for minors. It limits minors' access to treatment without parental approval and grants parents' control over medical records and biofeedback use, with few exceptions.

**HB 447 - Disability History and  
Awareness Instruction***Passed in House Session**SB 540 - Disability History and  
Awareness Instruction  
Special Order Calendar, 04/28/25*

Requires that disability history & awareness instruction include specified materials.





## FLORIDA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

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

### Commerce Committee

*Met on 4/22/2025, at 8:00 AM*

[Committee Packet](#)

- **[HB 943 - Real Property and Land Use and Development](#)** by Representative Vicki L. Lopez  
Requires district school boards to adopt the best practices for surplus land programs.  
**Status:** Passed; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
- **[HB 579 - Local Government Land Development](#)** by Representative Tobin Rogers 'Toby' Overdorf  
Prohibit school districts from imposing alternative fees for educational facilities unless they meet statutory criteria and clarify the burden of proof for challenging such fees.  
**Status:** Passed; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading



## The Florida Senate

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

### Senate Fiscal Policy

*Met on 4/22/2025; at 11:00 AM*

[Committee Packet](#)

- **[SB 754 - International Baccalaureate Bonus Funding](#)** by Senator Colleen Burton  
This bill updates IB bonus funding by awarding schools for students who score at least a 4 on exams and earn a "C" or higher in Theory of Knowledge, provides additional incentives for diploma recipients, and allocates funds to both IB programs and support for disadvantaged students, with extra bonuses for teachers at lower-rated schools.  
**Status:** Passed; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
  - *HB 581 - International Baccalaureate Bonus Funding (**Comparable Bill**)*  
**Status:** No Committee Activity
- **[SB 1528 - Educational Opportunities for Military Children](#)** by Senator Jay Collins  
This bill strengthens support for military families by requiring school districts to implement a state-provided training module that helps expedite the transfer of education records for military children and ensures school staff working with these families are properly trained.  
**Status:** Passed; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/28/25

