



## OVERVIEW

Lawmakers kicked off the 2025 legislative session on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 focusing on efficient government, taking on insurance industry profits, keeping taxes low and everyday cost of living issues.

Governor Ron DeSantis gave his State of the State address, highlighting key education priorities including efforts to recruit and retain top educators.

### Education bills moving:

The **Charter Conversion Bill** ([HB 123](#)) passed the first committee stop on Tuesday, March 4. The bill was "fast-tracked" and its reference to the PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee was removed. Its final stop is in Education and Employment. The Senate companion ([SB 140](#)) is yet to have a committee hearing.

The **Cameras in Classrooms** legislation ([HB 257](#)) and ([SB 1006](#)) has been introduced in both chambers. It has not yet been agendaed for committee.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Fresh public school deregulation effort clears first Senate committee on unanimous vote](#), Florida Politics  
[What to know about a proposed bill to expand services for Florida students with autism](#), NPR  
[School start times, student testing lead Florida Senate education agenda](#), Tampa Bay Times  
[Critics call for veto of massive Florida education bill](#), Florida Trend  
[Bill to ease charter school conversions, block public school districts from buying land clears first House hurdle](#), Florida Politics  
[DeSantis education budget targets teacher pay and maintains low tuition](#), Florida Phoenix

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

### Senate Education Pre-K - 12

Met on 3/3/25 at 4:30 p.m.

The following bills were voted favorably:

[SB 296 Middle School and High School Start Times](#) by Senator Bradley (R);

(CO-INTRODUCERS) Yarborough ; Davis

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.

**Bill Text:** [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

**[SB 356 Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)** by Senator Berman (D);

(CO-INTRODUCERS) Davis ; Polsky ; Arrington ; Smith ; Gaetz

Requiring the Governor to proclaim a specified day annually as "Holocaust Remembrance Day"; authorizing "Holocaust Remembrance Day" to be observed in this state's public schools and be observed by public exercise as the Governor may designate, etc.

**Bill Text:** [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

**[SB 166 Administrative Efficiency in Public Schools by Senator Simon \(R\)](#)**

Exempting district school boards from requirements for adopting certain rules; deleting a requirement for a district school board to employ an internal auditor in certain circumstances; requiring innovation schools of technology to comply with specified provisions relating to instructional multiyear contracts, in addition to annual contracts, for instructional personnel in addition to annual contracts; revising requirements relating to district school board attendance policies for Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Programs; revising requirements for assessments needed for a student to earn a high school diploma; providing requirements for advanced degrees which may be used to set salary schedules for instructional personnel and school administrators hired after a specified date; revising eligibility requirements for individuals to participate in the Teacher Apprenticeship Program, etc.

Members asked questions about third grade promotion standards, teacher evaluations, and funding flexibility, while debate centered on balancing deregulation with maintaining academic rigor. The sponsor provided clarifications regarding progress monitoring and oversight changes

**Bill Text:** [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

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

Upcoming Meeting: 3/11/25 at 4 p.m.

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

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

Met on 3/4/25 at 4 p.m.

The committee discussed add-on weights for certain FTE students, financial trends, and insights from a Department of Education study. They also heard a presentation by the Department of Education Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations, Suzanne Pridgen.

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

Upcoming Meeting: 3/11/25 at 10:15 a.m.

#### **House Education Administration Subcommittee**

Met on 3/4/25 at 1:30 p.m.

The following bills were voted favorably:

**[HB 123 Education by Representative Andrade \(R\)](#)**

Revises provisions relating to conversion schools; authorizes municipality to apply for job engine charter under certain conditions; prohibits school districts from charging specified fees for conversion school; requires specified property to remain at conversion school; requires school board to submit 5-year plan to DOE before occupying purchased or acquired real property; prohibits school board from purchasing or acquiring real property if enrollment in school district has declined in preceding 5-year period; requires school board to dispose of real property, deemed by SBE to be surplus; requires that surplus real property be given priority for conversion for specified purposes.

Members discussed whether limiting votes to parents excludes vital teacher and stakeholder input, raised concerns over property acquisition in declining-enrollment districts, and debated the long-term impact on public education resources.

**Bill Text:** [PDF](#)

#### **HB 597 Diabetes Management In Schools by Representative Smith (D)**

Authorizes public schools to annually request prescription for glucagon from certain entities; authorizes licensed pharmacist to dispense undesignated glucagon in accordance with specified provisions; authorizes public schools to enter into arrangements with manufacturer or supplier to obtain glucagon free of charge or at fair market or reduced price; authorizes public schools to obtain monetary donations or apply for grants to purchase glucagon; provides requirements for storage & administration of glucagon; requires parental notification after administration of glucagon; provides certain persons & entities with immunity from civil & criminal liability.

Members asked why such emergency measures had not been introduced sooner, and shared personal experiences with diabetic children.

**Bill Text:** [PDF](#)

#### **HB 85 Hazardous Walking Conditions by Representative Kendall (R)**

Revises criteria that determine hazardous walking condition for public school students.

Members raised questions regarding potential costs, bus route logistics, and clarifying definitions of "freeways" and "expressways."

**Bill Text:** [PDF](#)

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

Upcoming Meeting: 3/11/25 at 8 a.m.

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

Met on 3/6/25 at 9 a.m.

The committee discussed the state's progress monitoring approach, performance data across various subjects and grade levels, challenges in implementing interventions, teacher training and support, and strategies for addressing learning difficulties.

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

Upcoming Meeting: 3/11/25 at 1 p.m.