



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its sixth week of Session, February 17-21. The Senate and House passed the FRS (Florida Retirement System) Rate Increase Bill. The estimated increase in contribution to school districts statewide is \$232 million (\$23 million for BCPS).

Several other bills moved through the legislative process this week. Firstly, HB 7079 passed its final committee. The Bill will require districts to select the ACT or SAT as an assessment and would phase out the statewide, standardized Geometry end-of-course assessment and grade 9 ELA. The Bill also makes changes to school turnaround options and plans. Under the bill, schools that receive one D or F are placed in turnaround vs the current law which allowed two Ds or one F.

Secondly, HB 7040 passed its final committee, implementing some additional recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission. House Safety Bill 7065 is currently on the Floor, and House Bill 81 (Medicaid School-based services) passed in the House. The companion Bill (SB 190) has one more committee before reaching the Floor. This Bill would allow districts to draw-down on federal dollars to provide health services to students.

Additionally, HB 157 passed in the House, establishing term limits for school board members. Senate Bill 1340 (Legal Notices) was temporarily postponed again. The Bill would allow government agencies to post meeting notices online instead of in the newspaper.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

House Oks ballot to limit school board terms: [Florida Politics](#)

Florida Lawmakers Look to Ratchet Up School Safety: [CBS Miami](#)

Parental right proposal cause clashes: [The News Services of Florida](#)

TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Prek-12 Education:

[SB 1498](#) – Education by Baxley; Authorizing the Department of Education to hold patents, copyrights, trademarks, and service marks; providing that a student whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within this state is considered a resident of that school district for enrollment purposes and must be given preferential treatment; requiring postsecondary students to complete a civic literacy course and pass a specified assessment to demonstrate competency in civic literacy; revising the requirements for turnaround options for specified schools, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$8,000,000, **Passed by 5-0, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

[SB 1634](#) – Parental Rights by Stargel; Designating the “Parents’ Bill of Rights”; providing that the state, its political subdivisions, other governmental entities, or other institutions may not infringe on parental rights without demonstrating specified information; providing that a parent of a minor child has specified rights relating to his or her minor child; requiring each district school board in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, to develop and adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system; prohibiting certain health care practitioners from taking specified actions without a parent’s written permission, etc. **Passed by 3-2, now in Rules.**

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

[SB 1628](#) – Holocaust Education by Book; Including the study of a specified policy against anti-Semitism in specified instruction; providing school district, charter school, and Department of Education requirements relating to such instruction; authorizing the department to work with certain Holocaust educational organizations for specified purposes relating to the required instruction, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[SB 1100](#) – Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program; Establishing the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of skill in fine arts coursework; providing criteria to earn the Seal of Fine Arts; requiring the Commissioner of Education and school districts to perform specified duties to administer the program; prohibiting a school district or the Department of Education from charging a fee for the seal, etc. **Passed by 7-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[SB 1246](#) – Dual Enrollment by Stargel; Clarifying that secondary students eligible for dual enrollment programs include students who are enrolled in home education programs; prohibiting district school boards and Florida College System institutions from denying students who have met eligibility requirements from participating in dual enrollment except under specified circumstances; providing that certain independent colleges and universities are eligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment and early admission programs;

establishing the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program, etc. **Passed by 6-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[SB 1750](#) – High School Graduation Requirements by Montford; Revising the credit requirements to earn a standard high school diploma to include career and technical education rather than practical arts; specifying that eligible courses are identified in the Course Code Directory, etc. **Passed by 8-0, now in the Appropriation.**

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)

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

Education Committee

[HB 737](#) – Moments of Silence in Public Schools by Daniels: Requires moment at beginning of each school day & provides requirements for such moment of silence. **Passed by 17-0, now in the House floor.**

[HB 1013](#) – [Early Learning and Early Grade Success](#) by Alopis: Deletes Office of Early Learning; creates Division of Early Learning within DOE; revises provisions relating to early learning coalitions; VPK & school readiness programs; & DOE responsibilities & duties relating to early learning. **Passed by 15-0, now in the House floor.**

[HB 1207](#) – [Measurement of Student Performance](#) by Bell: Requires Commissioner of Education to annually provide specified results to school districts by certain date. **Passed by 16-0, now in the House floor.**

[HB 7079](#) – [Education](#) by Aloupis: Revises provisions relating to DOE powers & duties, Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement, statewide assessment program, turnaround options & plans, school grading system, & turnaround school supplemental services allocation; & provides appropriation. **Passed by 13-3, now in the House floor.**

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)