



OVERVIEW

The Legislature commenced their annual Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 2nd. Governor DeSantis delivered his State of the State Address ([can be viewed here](#)). During his remarks, he rejected any reductions in K-12 Education.

In Committees, SB 48 (Educational Scholarship Programs) by Sen. Diaz passed its final committee. The bill combines and restructures many of the current Florida scholarships and voucher programs. SB 48 will consolidate the Family Empowerment, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, and the Hope Scholarship Program. The McKay and Gardiner Scholarship programs will also be combined. All will be funded through the Florida Education Finance Program. This bill will expand eligibility for vouchers, increase the number of vouchers, and will financially impact school districts across the state.

SB 886 (COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability) by Sen. Thurston passed its first committee. The bill would suspend the penalties and sanctions associated with the Accountability System for the 2020-2021 school year; however, students will still be required to take statewide assessments.

HB 149 (Students with Disabilities in Public Schools) by Rep. Dubose also passed its first committee. The bill would establish a pilot program in Broward that would require video cameras in certain classrooms at the request of a parent.

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

Senate Education Committee

SB 170 – Podiatric Medicine by Hooper: Authorizing the Board of Podiatric Medicine to require a specified number of continuing education hours related to the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances; providing for governance of podiatric physicians who are supervising medical assistants, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 188 – Solar Energy Systems Located on the Property of an Educational Facility by Berman: Prohibiting costs associated with such systems from being included in the calculation of total cost per student station for the purpose of a limit imposed on such costs for certain new construction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 366 – Apprenticeship and Pre-apprenticeship Training by Huston: Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment; Revising the general duties of the Department of Education with regard to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs; revising the membership of the State Apprenticeship Advisory Council; providing that apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program sponsors are responsible for the selection and training of certain personnel, as approved by the department; encouraging specified entities to cooperate in developing and establishing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs that include career instruction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 486 – Juvenile Justice Education Programs by Bradley: Increasing the percentage of certain funds that must be spent on specified costs; requiring that contracts between district school boards and juvenile justice education programs be in writing; requiring the Department of Education to provide mediation services for certain disputes; prohibiting school boards from delaying certain payments pending receipt of local funds, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 532 – Workforce Education by Burgess: Revising the workforce education programs that school district career centers are authorized to conduct, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Temporarily postponed.**

SB 886 – Covid-19 Impact on School Accountability by Thurston: Prohibiting a school from being required to select and implement a turnaround option in the 2021-2022 school year based on the school's 2020-2021 school grade or improvement rating; prohibiting a school or an approved provider from being subject to sanctions or penalties as a result of its 2020-2021 school grade or improvement rating; prohibiting student performance results from the 2020-2021 statewide, standardized assessments from being used for determining grade 3 retention or high school graduation or for calculating student performance measurement and evaluating personnel, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 918 – Education by Bradley: Requiring school districts to allocate a certain amount of specified funds to certain programs that prepare prospective students to enroll in Advanced International Certificate of Education courses; requiring such funds to be spent on specified costs; requiring school districts to distribute specified bonuses to certain classroom teachers providing International General Certificate of Secondary Education instruction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 934 – Education by Wright: Requiring additional specified strategies to be included in rules establishing uniform core curricula for each state-approved teacher preparation program; expanding the instruction that an educator preparation institute may provide to include instruction and professional development for part-time and full-time non-degreed teachers of career programs; revising the minimum qualifications for part-time and full-time non-degreed teachers of career programs; providing that the William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders must consist of a network of specified entities, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1436 – Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network by Gruters: Revising provisions relating to the awareness of certain post-secondary education programs and initiatives; deleting provisions relating to the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative; providing that the Board of Governors and the Department of Education will oversee a host entity chosen to deliver certain services; transferring responsibility for certain statewide online student advising services to the host entity; requiring the chancellors of the State University System and the Florida College System to provide a certain report, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

[Committee Packet](#)
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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

- Did not meet

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

House Education & Employment Committee

- Did not meet

Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

HB 149 – Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by DuBose and Plasencia: Prohibits use of seclusion on students; revises provisions relating to use of restraint on certain students; provides DOE, school district, school, & personnel requirements; provides for placement of video camera in specified classrooms; provides requirements for such placement; requires continuing education & in-service training for teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

HB 419 – Early Learning and Early Grade Success by Grall: 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 and Gold Seal Quality Care Program. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee.**

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Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

HB 5 – Civic Education Curriculum by Zika: Revises social studies high school graduation credit requirement; requires DOE to develop or approve integrated civic education curriculum that meets certain requirements; requires department to curate oral history resources to be used with such curriculum; requires department to approve civic education curricula submitted by school districts & charter schools. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.**

HB 529 – Moments of Silence in Public Schools by Fine: Requires principals to require teachers to set aside time for moment of silence; prohibits teachers from making suggestions to nature of any reflection during moment of silence; deletes provision authorizing district school boards to provide brief period of silent prayer or meditation; requires certain teachers encourage parents or guardians to discuss moment of silence & make suggestions as to the best use of this time. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

HB 1505 – Workforce Programs and Services by Melo: Requires DOE & DCF, in consultation with DEO, to implement automated consumer-first workforce system; requires DEO to develop training for specified partners; requires certain DOE standards & policies to include specified requirement for training providers; provides criteria for work-based learning opportunity; requires that certain resources be used in career & education planning courses & character development curriculum; provides requirements for certain student career service centers & courses for digital credential. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Postsecondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

HB 1507 – Workforce Related Programs and Services by Yarborough: Creates Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help; creates & revises provisions relating to workforce services including the Labor Market Estimating Conference, workforce opportunity portal, state board composition, Credentials Review Committee, state plan requirements, waivers, local workforce development boards, Master Credentials List, CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, industry certifications, SEAS program, workforce development metrics, Florida Talent Development Council, Open Door Grant Program, pre-apprenticeship & apprenticeship program grants, & Money-back Guarantee Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Postsecondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

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House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee

- Overview and Discussion on the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Categoricals
- Overview on K-12 Virtual Instruction

HB 3 - Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students by Trabulsky: Establishes New Worlds Reading Initiative under DOE; provides duties & responsibilities of administrator; provides requirements & procedures for participating entities; establishes student eligibility requirements & options relating to book selection; requires books be delivered at no cost to families; authorizes DOE to contract with third-party entity. Effective Date July 1, 2021.

Passed, now in Education & Employment.

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