



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its fifth Week of Session, March 29-April 1, 2021.

The Senate and House Appropriations committees passed their budgets for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The Senate is maintaining the current per-student funding at \$7,786 (state-wide average), while the House is increasing the per-student funding by *\$181 for a total of \$7,967 (state-wide average), including a \$52 increase in the Base Student Allocation. The budgets are headed to the Floor for a full vote. Once the respective chambers pass their budgets, they will commence negotiating their differences during the budget conference.

(*This amount includes \$349 million for the Student Reserve Allocation which can be used for returning students. If the students do not return, the per-student funding will be \$7,850 state-wide average - an increase of \$63) for the 2021-2022 school year.

FEFP

FEFP	Senate	House
BCPS K-12 Total Funds	\$2,037,497,957 (-\$43 million)	\$2,086,990,935 (+\$6.4 million)
Total Funds per FTE (state-wide average)	\$7,786 (level funds)	\$7,967 (+\$181)/\$7,850 (+\$63) w/out Student Reserve Allocation
Base Student Allocation	Level funding	\$52 dollars
Safe Schools Allocation	\$180 million (level funding)	\$180 million (level funding)
Mental Health	\$100 million (level funding)	\$120 million (+\$20 million)
Teacher Salary Increase	\$500 million (level funding)	\$500 million (level funding)
Class Size Allocation	\$2.97 billion (-\$166 million)	\$2.8 billion (-\$334 million)
Funding Compression	\$65 million (-\$2.9 million)	No funding
Guardian Funding	\$6.5 million	\$500K
Adults with Disabilities	\$800K	\$800K
Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders	\$400K	No funding
PECO	\$100 million-Charters/ \$0 for Public Schools	\$183 million- Charters/ \$0 for Public Schools
Alyssa's Law	\$6.4 million	\$6.4 million

Of note, the following education bills were presented to committee this week:

SPB 7070 – Impact of Covid-19 on Educational Institutions was filed and passed in the Senate Education Committee. The bill is similar to SB 886 and would create waivers from accountability requirements related to the use of school grades, school improvement ratings, and student performance results from this year's statewide standardized assessments. The bill would also prevent using standardized assessments performance to determine whether to retain third grade students; however, parents would be permitted to request that their child be retained in third grade. The bill was also amended in committee to allow parents to submit written requests to retain K-5 students for academic reasons.

HB 1025 - Student Retention passed its first committee. The bill authorizes parents to request that their K-5 public school student be retained in the grade level to which the student was assigned at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year for the 2021-2022 school year for academic reasons.

HB 1461 - School Board Member Compensation The Joint Resolution passed its second committee. Currently there is no Joint Senate Resolution. The Joint Resolution, which must pass both the senate and house, would place a ballot measure (requires a 60% plus one vote to approve the changes in the Florida Constitution) for the voters to consider the prohibition on compensation for School Board members.

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

Senate Education Committee

SB 2010 – Foreign Influence by Diaz: Requiring any state agency or political subdivision to disclose certain gifts or grants received from any foreign source to the Department of Financial Services within a specified timeframe; requiring any entity that applies for a certain grant or proposes a certain contract to disclose to a state agency or political subdivision any current or prior interest of, contract with, or grant or gift received from a foreign country of concern under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Management Services to screen certain vendors periodically; requiring the Department of Financial Services to establish and maintain an Internet website to publish the disclosures, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 7070 – Impact of Covid-19 on Educational Institutions by Education: Requiring the Board of Nursing to extend an approved program's probationary status under certain circumstances; prohibiting an educational institution that has taken certain reasonably necessary actions to diminish the impact or spread of COVID-19 from being civilly liable for such actions; providing that general publications of educational institutions are not evidence of an implied contract to provide specified services during the COVID-19 public health emergency; authorizing school grades calculated during a certain school year to be used

for eligibility for the Florida School Recognition Program, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, Filed.**

SB 794 – Independent Living Services by Bean: Removing a provision requiring the Florida Independent Living Council to assist the Division of Blind Services of the Department of Education; requiring the council to coordinate with centers for independent living; prohibiting the council from engaging in certain activities; requiring the council to comply with state and federal laws and regulations relating to lobbying; increasing the percentage of certain revenues used to administer the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and Employment Assistance Program, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 956 – Background Screenings of Athletic Coaches by Baxley: Providing that an athletic coach and an independent sanctioning authority are deemed to satisfy certain background screening requirements if the coach and the independent sanctioning authority are in compliance with national industry background check standards required by specified organizations, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.**

SB 1108 – Education by Judiciary and Diaz: Authorizing the Department of Education to hold patents, copyrights, trademarks, and service marks; requiring certain students to take a specified assessment relating to civic literacy; requiring certain postsecondary students to complete a civic literacy course and pass a specified assessment to demonstrate competency in civic literacy; requiring school districts to provide the SAT or ACT to grade 11 students beginning in a specified school year; revising the tests that are included under test administration and security rules, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations.**

SB 1456 – Public Records/Examination and Assessment Instruments by Rodrigues: Expanding an exemption from public records requirements for examination and assessment instruments used for statewide standardized assessments and student progression to include those instruments used for statewide kindergarten screening, youth enrolled in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, limited English proficient students, civic literacy assessments, measuring minority and underrepresented student achievement, and certification of educators and those administered by a Florida College System institution, a state university, or the Department of Education; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability.**

SB 1654 – Education by Gruters: Authorizing district school boards to conduct daily business in person or through the use of telecommunication networks; deleting a requirement that certain contact with parents and students be made by telephone; exempting academically high-performing school districts from complying with a specified provision relating to the operation of all schools for a term of 180 actual teaching days; authorizing academically

high-performing school districts to provide up to 2 days of virtual instruction, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1740 – Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program by Rouson: Establishing the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program within the Department of Education; providing the purpose of the program; specifying eligibility requirements for the awarding of a 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; requiring the state board to adopt rules, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1798 – Higher Education by Perry: Requiring a state university to waive the tuition and fees for certain courses in which certain resident students are enrolled; prohibiting the reporting of tuition and fees waived for state funding purposes; providing that a state university is ineligible for a specified performance-based incentive for failure to comply, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 358 – Water Safety by Berman: Citing this act as the "Edna Mae McGovern Act"; providing an exemption from certain water safety and swimming certifications for a child whose parent follows a specified procedure; requiring district school boards and the governing authorities of private schools to require certain children to present a specified certificate beginning in a certain school year; requiring the State Board of Education, subject to the concurrence of the Department of Health, to adopt certain rules by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.**

SB 1816 – Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys by Rouson: Creating the Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys within the Department of Education; providing for membership and meetings of the task force; requiring the department to provide staff, administrative support, and necessary data and other relevant information to assist the task force; requiring that the task force submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1864 – Education by Perry: Requiring the Department of Education to maintain a disqualification list that includes the identities of certain persons; requiring district school boards to investigate certain complaints and report certain results of such investigations to the department; prohibiting an individual who is on the disqualification list from being employed by a charter school or serving as a member of a charter school governing board; requiring certain private schools to adopt policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for certain employees; expanding the list of entities that law enforcement agencies must notify of certain charges, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 590 – Involuntary Examination of Minors by Harrell: Revising parent, guardian, or caregiver notification requirements that must be met before an involuntary examination of a minor;

revising parent and guardian notification requirements that must be met before conducting an involuntary examination of a minor who is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity; creating reporting requirements for schools relating to involuntary examinations of minors; requiring that certain plans include procedures to assist certain mental and behavioral health providers in attempts to verbally deescalate certain crisis situations before initiating an involuntary examination, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

Passed, now in Appropriations.

SB 1336 – Gold Seal Quality Care Program by Gibson: Revising the requirements of the Gold Seal Quality Care program; requiring the Department of Education to establish a verification process for accrediting entities and providing requirements therefor; providing that an accrediting entity is liable for repayment of certain rate differentials if the accrediting entity granted accreditation to specified entities under fraudulent terms or failed to conduct onsite verifications; providing an exemption from ad valorem taxation and rate differentials for certain child care facilities, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 824 – Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program by Powell: Deleting a provision prohibiting a student from being eligible for an initial award from any of the scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program if the student was found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student had been granted clemency, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

SB 1394 – Certificates of Completion by Rodriguez: Specifying that students awarded a certificate of completion are eligible to enroll in career center and charter technical career center programs, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Commerce and Tourism.**

SB 1496 – Early Learning Scholarship Program by Ausley: Citing this act as the "Brighter Future Act"; establishing the Early Learning Scholarship program; requiring the program to be administered by the Office of Early Learning; providing that a student who receives a scholarship remains eligible to participate until the student is admitted to kindergarten or attains the age of 6 years by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

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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

HB 311 – Pub. Rec./Assessment Instruments by Post-Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Subcommittee and Silvers: Expands examination and assessment instruments which are confidential and exempt from public record requirements; provides provisions governing access, maintenance, and destruction of certain instruments and related materials shall be

prescribed by rules of State Board of Education and regulations of Board of Governors; provides for future legislative review and repeal; provides legislative findings; provides statement of public necessity. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 383 – Involuntary Examinations of Minors by Education and Employment Committee and Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee and Plasencia: Revises certain notification requirements that must be met before removing minor from school, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity for involuntary examination. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 723 – Juvenile Justice Education Programs by Education & Employment Committee and Massullo: Increases percentage of certain funds that must be spent on specified costs; requires contracts between district school boards and juvenile justice education programs be in writing; requires DoE provide mediation services for certain disputes; prohibits school boards from delaying certain payments pending receipt of local funds. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 997 – Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search by Garrison: Provides exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information of applicant for president of state university or FCS institution; provides exemption from public meeting requirements for meeting held for specified purposes relating to postsecondary executive search; provides for future legislative review and repeal; provides statement of public necessity. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 1033 – Certificate of Completion by Borrero and Valdes: Specifies students who have been awarded certificates of completion are eligible to enroll in certain programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

HB 1553 – Victims of Communism Day by Government Operations Sub-committee and Borrero and Fischer: Requires Governor to proclaim November 7 of each year as "Victims of Communism Day"; requires day to be observed in public schools; requires certain high school students to receive specified instruction. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, added to Second Reading Calendar.**

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Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

HB 1025 – Student Retention by Skidmore: Authorizes parent to request that his or her student be retained in grade level for specified school year; requires such request to be submitted in specified manner; requires school district superintendents to grant such requests if they are timely received; authorizes school district superintendents to grant requests that are not timely received; requires retained student to remain in grade in which he or she was retained in until student qualifies for promotion at end of school year; requires school districts to report

certain data to DOE by specified date. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in PreK12-Appropriations Subcommittee.**

HB 1031 – Charter Schools by Rodriguez: Revises provisions relating to charter school applications, use of specified assets, opening of additional high-performing charter schools, and virtual charter schools. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in PreK12-Appropriations Subcommittee.**

HJR 1461 – Prohibition on Compensation for Members of a District School Board by Garrison: Proposing amendments to State Constitution to prohibit compensation for members of district school board. Effective Date: Not specified. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

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Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

HB 157 – K-12 Physical Health Requirements by Hawkins and Busatta Cabrera: Requires school districts to provide training in CPR to students at high school level; provides requirements for such training; and requires medical evaluation for participation in interscholastic athletic competition to include EKG. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in PreK-12 Appropriations.**

HB 849 – School Absence Due to Sickness or Injury by Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee and Valdes: Authorizes district school boards to determine licensed professionals that may attest to sickness or injury for certain exemption to attendance policy. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

HB 1009 – Organ Donation and Transplantation by Finance & Facilities Subcommittee and Latvala: Revises provisions relating to certain rules adopted by AHCA; provides certain requirements & prohibitions relating to organ donation and transplantation education and procedures; revises duties of Organ and Tissue Procurement and Transplantation Advisory Board; requires board to submit certain recommendations to agency by specified date; requires instruction relating to organ donation and registration for students in specified grade levels. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Temporarily Postponed.**

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House Pre-K Appropriations 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 and school readiness programs; and DOE responsibilities and duties relating to early learning and Gold Seal Quality Care Program. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

HB 551 – Solar Energy Systems Located on the Property of an Educational Facility by Hardy: Prohibits costs associated with such systems from being included in calculations of total cost

per student station for purposes of limits imposed on costs for certain new construction. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Temporarily Postponed.**

HB 559 – Computer Science Instruction in Elementary Schools by Hawkins: Requires, rather than authorizes, certain computer science skills be taught in elementary school; revises computer science skills to be taught in elementary school. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **Passed, now in Education & Employment.**

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