



OVERVIEW

The Legislature commenced their annual 60-day Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. The Governor presented his State of the State Address ([can be viewed here](#)). During his address, the Governor announced the following education priorities for the 2022 Session: Eliminating the FSA and transitioning to a student progress monitoring system, the need to provide teachers and principals with another \$1K bonus.

Additionally, the Florida House and Senate leaders stated that they will consider a pay increase proposal during this Session to address staff shortages in critical school employee groups such as bus drivers and cafeteria workers.

Bills of interest that moved through a variety of committees this week:

SB 1048 (Student Assessments): The bill would transition from the FSA to a student progress monitoring system. Elements of the accountability system such as school grades, student retention and promotions, and teacher evaluations would remain in place. However, the bill would establish a baseline in the first year for future improvement ratings (more information on the bill below and committee packet).

SB 802 (School Safety): This bill modifies both state-level oversight of school safety requirements and school district-level emergency response procedures. The bill increases school safety oversight and accountability in the event of non-compliance of school safety requirements by a school district (more information on the bill below and committee packet).

HB 777 (Local Tax Referenda Requirement): The bill would only allow local governments, including school districts to place referenda during a general election. The bill passed its first committee in the House and is scheduled to be heard next week in the Senate.

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

Senate Education Committee

SB 802 – School Safety by Perry; Requiring the FortifyFL reporting tool to notify reporting parties that submitting false information may subject them to criminal penalties; requiring the Commissioner of Education to oversee and enforce compliance with requirements relating to school safety and security; requiring certain law enforcement officers to be physically present and directly involved in active assailant emergency drills; authorizing school safety officers to make arrests on property owned or leased by a charter school under a charter contract, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2022. **Passed, now Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

SB 1048 – Student Assessments by Diaz; Revising the grade levels for which the coordinated screening and monitoring program measures student progress in the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Education Program; revising requirements for the statewide, standardized comprehensive assessments program, beginning with a specified school year; requiring that progress monitoring include both a web-based and mobile device-compatible option; requiring 2022-2023 school and school district grades to serve as an informal baseline for schools and school districts; providing that school improvement ratings will not be calculated for a certain school year, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

Passed, now Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

[Committee Packet](#)

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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

- Presentations on Governor's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Recommendations:
- Department of Education

**Governor's Recommended Budget
Fiscal Year 2022-23**

K-12 Public Education

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)	Amount
K-12 Public Schools – Total Funding	\$23.9 billion
K-12 Public Schools – Per-Student Funding <i>Increase</i>	\$7,811 to \$8,000
FEFP – Teacher Salary Allocation <i>Increase</i>	\$50 million to \$600 million
FEFP – Mental Health Allocation <i>Increase</i>	\$20 million to \$140 million
FEFP – Safe Schools Allocation <i>Increase</i>	\$30 million to \$210 million
FEFP – Instructional Materials Allocation <i>Increase</i>	\$22 million to \$263 million
FEFP – Student Transportation Allocation <i>Increase</i>	\$41 million to \$500 million

Governor’s Recommended Budget Fiscal Year 2022-23

Additional K-12 Initiatives

Major Issues Funded	Amount
Educator Retention Payments Provides an additional \$1,000 retention payment to approximately 179,000 eligible PreK-12 teachers and principals: <i>~176,000 full-time public PreK-12 teachers</i> <i>~3,600 public PreK-12 principals</i>	\$238 million
Security Funding for Jewish Day Schools	\$4 million
Promoting Computer Science	\$10 million
School Safety Initiatives Outside of the FEFP	\$68 million

[Committee Packet](#)
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Please find below a summary of the House Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week

House Education & Employment Committee

- Update on the implementation of Student Literacy (HB 7011 2021), Portraits in Patriotism (HB 5 2021), and related Literacy and Civic Initiatives funded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act)
- Presentation on the approved American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP) Initiatives related to Literacy, Civic Education and Student Learning Loss

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Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

HB 235 – Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Plasencia: Prohibits school personnel from using mechanical restraint on students with disabilities. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

HB 859 – Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program by Williams: Authorizes tutoring within Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program to be provided after school day & for provision of stipend to instructional personnel & high

school students serving as tutors for after school tutoring. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in PreK-12 Appropriation Subcommittee**

HB 899 – Mental Health of Students by Hunschosky: Revises data DCF is required to analyze when creating its annual report on initiation of involuntary examinations; requires charter schools to be in compliance with involuntary reporting laws; requires DOE to share certain data with DCF; revises requirements for plans relating to mental health assistance allocations. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Children, Family, and Seniors Subcommittee**

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Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

HB 395 – Victims of Communism Day by Borrero: Requires Governor to proclaim November 7 of each year as "Victims of Communism Day"; requires day to be observed in public schools & by public exercise; requires certain high school students to receive specified instruction. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. **Passed, now in Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

HB 447 – Required Instruction in the History of African Americans by Trabulsy: Provides instructional staff of public schools are encouraged to include history of local African American cemeteries in study of history of African Americans. Effective Date: July 1, 2022. **Passed, now in Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee.**

[Committee Packet](#)

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House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee

Presentations on Governor's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Recommendations:
- Department of Education

Same Presentation as in the Senate.

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)