



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held Week 4 of Regular Legislative Session.

The House and Senate are proposing near-identical increases in per-student funding for kindergarten through 12th-grade students under the Florida Education Finance Program. Both proposals remain at a 2.5 percent hike from \$8,719 to about \$8,937. The full Senate and full House are expected to pass the proposals next week.

Passed in Senate Session:

SB 46 - Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program

Providing that tutoring provided through the tutoring program established as part of the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program may be provided after the school day; authorizing school districts that participate in the tutoring program to provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students who serve as tutors under the program, etc.

Passed in House Session:

HB 1403 - School Choice

Revises contributions & provisions for Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; revises provisions for Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, Hope Scholarship Program, virtual instruction program providers, private school requirements, & students in personalized education programs.

HB 1361 – Education

Revises provisions relating to New Worlds Scholarship Accounts, New Worlds Reading Initiative, & coordinated screening & progress monitoring system; provides grants to school districts to implement artificial intelligence for specified purposes; establishes specified tutoring program; & provides requirements for such program.

HB 523 - Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program

Establishes Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program within DOE; provides purpose of program, eligibility criteria, & Commissioner of Education, DOE, & school district duties & responsibilities.

HB 7017 - Annual Adjustment to Homestead Exemption Value

Proposes amendment to State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies & for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible.

HB 7019 - Exemption of Homesteads

Requires value of homestead exemption be adjusted annually; requiring Legislature appropriate funds for specified purpose; require funds be distributed in specified manner; requires specified counties provide certain documentation.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Florida Senate, House face budget differences [CBS](#)

Florida schools can still paddle students. Lawmakers look at limits [Tampa Bay Times](#)

State Rep Hunschofsky Commemorates 6th MSD Anniversary and Promotes Black History Month Initiative [Coconut Creek Talk](#)

Florida House panel backs bill allowing chaplains in public schools [The Daytona Beach News-Journal](#)

Bills promote chaplains and "patriotic organization" access to public schools [The Wild Hunt](#)

Lawmakers renew push for parental consent, limits on corporal punishment in schools [Florida Politics](#)

Florida Bill Banning Corporal Punishment for Disabled Students Passes House Committee [The Floridian](#)

House panel clears bill requiring cameras in Florida classrooms of special needs children [Florida's Voice](#)

Florida House passes bill expanding school choice access, improving funding [Florida's Voice](#)

Florida could expand its school choice program under new measure [The Center Square](#)

DeSantis approves \$25M for Florida Jewish day school security [Florida Politics](#)

Florida Department of Education hosting Black History Month art, essay contests [NBC Orlando](#)

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

Senate Committee on Education Pre-K - 12

Met on 1/30/24 at 1 PM

Senate Confirmation Hearing: A public hearing was held, recommending confirmation of the appointment of Kelly Garcia (Tampa) to the State Board of Education.

Voted Favorable:

[SB 396 - Holocaust Remembrance Day](#) General Bill by Berman CoSponsors: Perry CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K – 12

(Similar to HB 387 - Holocaust Remembrance Day)

Requiring the Governor to annually proclaim a specified day 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.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/1/2024 Senate - CS by Education Pre-K - 12 read 1st time

[SB 962 - Student Health](#) General Bill by Hooper

(Similar to HB 883 - Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools)

Revising a provision to authorize asthmatic students to carry a short-acting bronchodilator, rather than a metered dose inhaler; authorizing licensed pharmacists to dispense short-acting bronchodilators and components in the name of a public school; requiring certain public schools to adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician for the administration of a short-acting bronchodilator and components by school personnel; authorizing certain students to carry a short-acting bronchodilator at school under certain conditions, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/1/2024 Senate - On Committee agenda-- Health Policy, 02/06/24, 11:30 am, 412 Knott Building

[SB 996 – Education](#) General Bill by Burgess CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K – 12 (Similar to HB 1285 – Education; Compared to SB 634 - Residency Status for Tuition Purposes; HB 1151 - Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program; SB 1444 – Education; SB 7004 - Deregulation of Public Schools/Assessment and Accountability, Instruction, and Education Choice; HB 7025 – Education; HB 7039 – Education)

Providing that an annual application for exemption on property used to house a charter school is not required; providing responsibilities for approved virtual instruction program providers, virtual charter schools, and school districts relating to statewide assessments and progress monitoring for certain students; establishing the Purple Star School District Program; requiring school districts and charter schools to provide certain students with an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and consult with a military recruiter; revising requirements for the assignment of students to disciplinary programs and alternative school settings or other programs, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/1/2024 Senate - CS by Education Pre-K -12 read 1st time

Voted Favorable as Committee Bill:

[SB 7048 – Education](#) PCB Bill by Education Pre-K – 12

Expanding the credit contributions for eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations; revising eligibility requirements for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; revising eligibility requirements for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; revising requirements for the Hope Scholarship Program; requiring the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities to develop specified purchasing guidelines by a specified date and annually revise such guidelines, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 1/30/2024 Senate - Submitted as Committee Bill and Reported Favorably by Education Pre-K -12

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

Upcoming Meeting: 2/6/24 at 1:00 PM [Meeting Notice](#)

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

House Education & Employment Committee

Met on 1/30/24 at 12:30 PM

Voted Favorable:

[HB 501 - Renaming of Tallahassee Community College](#) General Bill by Shoaf CoSponsors: Franklin II, Tant (Identical to SB 522 - Tallahassee Community College)
Changes name of "Tallahassee Community College" to "Tallahassee State College".

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:40 PM

[HB 553 - Career-themed Courses](#) General Bill by Dunkley
(Identical to SB 1688 - Career-themed Courses; Compared to HB 917 - Career and Technical Education)
Revises requirements for specified school district strategic plan to include certain information; requires DOE to include specified data in annual review of K-12 & postsecondary career & technical education offerings; & requires school districts to inform students & parents of specified information during middle school course selection.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:12 PM

[HB 931 - School Chaplains](#) General Bill by Daniels, McClain CoSponsors: Bankson, Dunkley, Fine, Melo
(Identical to SB 1044 - School Chaplains)
Authorizes school districts & charter schools to adopt policy to allow volunteer school chaplains; requires district school boards & charter school governing boards to assign specified duties to such volunteer school chaplains; requires volunteer school chaplains to meet certain background screening requirements; requires each district school board & charter school to vote by specified date on adoption of school chaplain policy.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:01 PM

[HB 1137 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities](#) General Bill by Redondo CoSponsors: Berfield, Lopez (V), Tant
(Identical to SB 832 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities)
Requires collection & sharing of data between multiple agencies for interagency cooperative agreement; provides requirements for accountability measures; requires Office of Reimagining Education & Career Help to issue annual statewide report each year.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:06 PM

[HB 1429 - District and School Advisory Councils](#) General Bill by Bell, Valdes CS Sponsors: Education Quality Subcommittee
(Similar to SB 1652 - District and School Advisory Councils)
Renaming district advisory councils and school advisory councils as "district community advisory boards" and "community advisory boards," respectively; requiring community advisory boards to publicize specified information, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:08 PM

[HB 7039 - Education](#) General Bill by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee, Rizo CoSponsors: Daniels, Massullo, MD CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee
(Compared to SB 994 - Student Transportation Safety; SB 996 - Education, SB 7000 - Deregulation of Public Schools/Instructional; Administrative, and Support Personnel; SB 7002 - Deregulation of Public Schools/School District Finance and Budgets, Facilities, and Administration and Oversight)
Revises requirements relating to district school board duties & responsibilities, requirements for student management of specified health conditions, prekindergarten instructors postsecondary educator preparation in field experiences, Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation, critical teacher shortages, collective bargaining, Teacher Apprenticeship Program, Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program, FCS institution employment equity accountability program, rent or lease of K-12 plants & facilities.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:51 PM

Voted Favorable With Amendment(s):

[HB 7025 – Education](#) General Bill by Education Quality Subcommittee, Trabulsy CoSponsors: Massullo, MD CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee

(Similar to SB 1444 – Education; Compared to SB 996 – Education; HB 1285 – Education; SB 1352 - Juvenile Justice; HB 1403 - School Choice; HB 1425 - Juvenile Justice; SB 7004 - Deregulation of Public Schools/Assessment and Accountability, Instruction, and Education Choice)

Revises provisions relating to SBE, FCS, Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning options, single-gender programs, charter technical career centers & public technical centers, virtual education options, school readiness program providers, VPK, & ELCs, Competency-Based Education Pilot Program, Art in Capitol Competition, DJJ education programs, automotive service technology education programs, Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College, coordinated screening & progress monitoring system, & instructional materials adoption cycles.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:51 PM

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

Upcoming Meeting: 2/7/24 at 10:30 AM

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Met on 2/1/24 at 11:30 AM

Voted Favorable:

[HB 315 - Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program](#) General Bill by Williams CoSponsors: Casello

(Identical to SB 46 - Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program)

Authorizes tutoring to be provided after school day; & authorizes school districts that participate in specified tutoring program to provide stipend to instructional personnel & high school students serving as tutors for after-school tutoring.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in Education & Employment Committee on Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:27 PM

[HB 865 - Youth Athletic Activities](#) General Bill by Yeager CS Sponsors: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee

(Identical to SB 830 - Youth Athletic Activities; Compared to HB 1479 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Education for Athletic Coaches; SB 1776 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Education for Athletic Coaches)

Revises requirements for athletic coaches to include certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, & use of automatic external defibrillators.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in Education & Employment Committee on Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:27 PM

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

Upcoming Meeting: 2/6/24 at 9 AM

House Education Quality Subcommittee

Met on 1/31/24 at 2 PM

Voted Favorable:

[HB 439 - Corporal Punishment](#) General Bill by Beltran, Waldron CoSponsors: Garcia (A), Gottlieb, Stark (Identical to SB 1318 - Corporal Punishment)

Requires charter schools to comply with corporal punishment laws; removes provisions authorizing teachers to administer corporal punishment; provides duties & responsibilities for principals relating to corporal punishment; requires specified notification be provided to parents; provides requirements for student to be disciplined using corporal punishment; prohibits use of corporal punishment on specified students; provides reporting requirements.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in Education & Employment Committee on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 4:55 PM

[HB 895 - The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#) General Bill by Arrington CoSponsors: Harris, Harris, Lopez (J)

(Identical to SB 1484 - Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program)

Requires public high schools to establish Bright Futures Scholarship mentorship program for students; provides requirements for such program.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 4:55 PM

[HB 903 - Educator Certifications and Training](#) General Bill by Daley

(Identical to SB 992 - Educator Certifications and Training)

Revises provisions relating to teacher & educator preparation programs, educator certification requirements, & educator in service training requirements to require certified educators to receive training relating to mass casualty incidents.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 4:56 PM

[HB 441 - Automated External Defibrillators on School Grounds](#) General Bill by Rizo, Yarkosky

CoSponsors: Garcia (A), Temple CS Sponsors: Education Quality Subcommittee

(Compared to SB 432 - Cardiac and Medical Emergencies on School Grounds)

Requires public schools to have at least one automated external defibrillator on school grounds by specified date; provides immunity from liability; provides requirements for defibrillators; provides reporting requirements; authorizes DOE to reimburse school districts & charter schools for portion of specified purchases.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:51 PM

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

House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

Met on 2/1/24 at 9 AM

Voted Favorable:

[HB 667 - International Baccalaureate Teacher Bonuses](#) General Bill by McFarland

(Similar to SB 240 - International Baccalaureate Teacher Bonuses)

Revising the requirements for the calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership and certain bonuses based on International Baccalaureate examination scores of students to include students who earn equivalent scores as determined by the Department of Education, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:17 PM

[HB 1349 - Required Instruction in History of Communism](#) General Bill by Brannan III, Buchanan
(Similar to SB 1264 - History of Communism Task Force)

Beginning in specified school year, requires students to receive instruction on history of Communism; provides requirements for such instruction & school districts, & DOE; & creates Communism Education Task Force.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:21 PM

[HB 1353 - Early Learning](#) General Bill by Snyder, Trabulsy
(Similar to SB 1026 - Early Learning; Compared to SB 2502 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act; SB 2516 – Education; HB 5003 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act)

Revises provisions relating to early learning coalitions & specified early learning programs.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:05 PM

[HB 483 – Education](#) General Bill by Gonzalez Pittman
(Compared to HB 917 - Career and Technical Education; SB 1344 - Computer Science Education)

Creating the AI in Education Task Force within the Department of Education; requiring the Commissioner of Education to serve as the chair of the task force; requiring the department to adopt and publish by a specified date a strategic plan for computer science education, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Favorable with CS by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee on Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:39 PM

[HB 857 - Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program](#) General Bill by Bracy Davis
CoSponsors: Alvarez, Basabe, Chambliss, Eskamani, Lopez (J)

(Similar to SB 786 - Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program)

Creates Youth Conflict Resolution & Peer Mediation Pilot Program for school year, subject to legislative appropriation; & provides purpose & requirements for implementation of pilot program.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Favorable with CS by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee on Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:39 PM

[HB 1655 - Exceptional Students and Video Cameras in Public Schools](#) General Bill by Chambliss, Tramont
CS Sponsors: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

(Compared to SB 1472 - Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms)

Revising provisions relating to exceptional student education; removes references to Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:51 PM

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

Please find below a list of other relative legislation considered this past week.

House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee:

HB 1169 - Coordinated Systems of Care for Children

Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability:

SB 400 - Reemployment of Retirees in the Florida Retirement System

SB 472 - Suits Against the Government

Senate Commerce and Tourism:

SB 832 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

SB 1688 - Career-themed Courses

House Judiciary Committee

HB 1109 - Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools

HB 1473 - School Safety

House Criminal Justice Subcommittee

HB 545 - Florida High School Athletic Association Student Eligibility Requirements

House Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee

HB 947 - Sexual Misconduct Information in Public K-20 Education

House Appropriations Committee

APC1 - General Appropriations Act

HB 151 - Florida Retirement System

HB 569 - Suits Against the Government

Senate Appropriations

SB 2500 - Appropriations

SB 7024 - Employer Contributions to Fund Retiree Benefits

SB 7038 - Education

Senate Fiscal Policy

SB 328 - Affordable Housing

SB 694 - Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program