



OVERVIEW

The Legislature held Week 5 of Regular Legislative Session.

The House and Senate passed different versions of the 2024-25 state budget. The Senate version allocates almost \$1 billion for educational improvements across the state in public K-12 schools, as well as colleges and universities. The House also passed a bill for increased compensation for the governor and other state executives (beginning in fiscal year 2027-2028), while including a 3% cut from the state's total spending in the year before.

Since the first week of session, the Senate passed a combination of bills designed to reduce regulations on public schools. A key issue has been potential changes related to state-mandated exams. House proposals are pending.

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. All three Broward County Public Schools appropriation requests are fully funded within the Senate budget proposal:

- Student Athlete Mentoring Pilot Expansion \$250,000
- SmartPass Pilot Project \$300,000
- Adults with Disabilities (recurring) \$800,000

Budget Proposals

	2023-2024	<u>House (2/1/24)</u>	<u>Senate (2/7/24)</u>	<u>Governor</u>
BSA	\$5,139.73	\$5,316.31		\$5,246
Broward FTE	\$8,638.20	\$8,892.56	\$8,854.18	--
State FTE	\$8,718.58	\$8,936.95	\$8,936.98	\$8,842

Senate Session

Recognition of the Florida Association for the Education of Young Children by Sen. Calatayud

Special order as determined by the Committee on Rules and Calendar:

SB 2500 - Appropriations General Bill by Appropriations

Read Third Time; Substituted for HB 5001; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 5001

Providing moneys for the annual period beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, and supplemental appropriations for the period ending June 30, 2024, to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$115,939,248,697

SB 7024 - Employer Contributions to Fund Retiree Benefits General Bill by Governmental Oversight and Accountability

Read Third Time; Substituted for HB 0151; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0151

Revising required employer retirement contribution rates for each membership class and subclass of the Florida Retirement System; providing a declaration of important state interest, etc.

SB 7038 - Education General Bill by Education Pre-K - 12 CoSponsors: Yarborough CS Sponsors: Appropriations

Read Second Time; Substituted for HB 1361; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 1361

Authorizing a school district to receive grant funds for specified purposes; requiring grant recipients to select an artificial intelligence platform that meets certain requirements; revising eligibility requirements for a New Worlds Scholarship account; deleting responsibilities for the Department of Education relating to the New Worlds Reading Initiative; creating the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida; requiring that the progress monitoring system provide prekindergarten instructors with certain results within a specified timeframe; creating the New Worlds Tutoring Program; providing the purpose of the program, etc.

HB 1361 – Education General Bill by Temple CoSponsors: Daniels, Massullo, MD CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee

Withdrawn from Appropriations; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd Reading; Substituted for SB 7038; Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (660000); Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 40 Yeas / 0 Nays); Immediately certified

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.

SB 328 - Affordable Housing

Read Second Time; Amendments Adopted (155140, 204708); Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 40 Yeas / 0 Nays); Immediately certified

Prohibiting counties and municipalities, respectively, from restricting the floor area ratio of certain proposed developments under certain circumstances; authorizing counties and municipalities, respectively, to restrict the height of proposed developments under certain circumstances; requiring counties and municipalities, respectively, to maintain a certain policy on their websites; revising conditions for when multifamily projects are considered property used for a charitable purpose and are eligible to receive an ad valorem property tax exemption, etc.

House Session

Special Orders:

[HB 151 - Florida Retirement System](#)

Received; Referred to Appropriations; Withdrawn from Appropriations; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading; Substituted for SB 7024; Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (693208); Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 38 Yeas / 0 Nays); The Senate having refused to pass the bill as passed by the House, acceded to the request for a conference; Immediately certified
Revising provisions related to FRS, including elected officials in DROP, reemployment after retirement, Florida Retirement System Preservation of Benefits Plan membership, cost-of-living adjustments, employee contributions, and allocations to investment plan accounts.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Florida laws on parent permission have some schools jittery, confused [Tampa Bay Times](#)
Proposed Florida bill would restrict teachers' latitude in attempt to quash 'identity politics' [Orlando Weekly](#)
Teacher training programs would have to stop instruction on systemic racism under this bill [Florida Phoenix](#)
DeSantis backs flag bill, but it stalls in Florida Senate [Tampa Bay Times](#)
Florida considers allowing volunteer chaplains in public schools [WPTV 5](#)
The Florida House will consider a bill to allow 'patriotic organizations' to visit schools [WMNF](#)
Parents ask DCPS board members to support public education bills proposed by local lawmakers [NBC](#)
Flexibility for public schools is the next step for school choice [FOX News](#)
Florida bill on 'grooming' could affect sex ed in schools [FSU News](#)
Florida bill would teach history of communism in public schools. Here's why [Orlando.com](#)
Florida bill letting youth 'patriotic organizations' speak to students clears committee [Florida's Voice](#)

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

Senate Appropriations Committee on Education

Met on 2/8/24 at 2 PM

Voted Favorable:

[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: 2/8/2024 Senate - CS/CS by Appropriations Committee on Education; YEAS 6 NAYS 2

[SB 1026 - Early Learning](#) General Bill by Grall CoSponsors: Osgood CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K – 12 (Similar to HB 1353 - Early Learning; Compared to SB 2502 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act; SB 2516 – Education; HB 5101 – Education)

Provides for certain students to receive stipend for transportation to certain public schools; revises provisions relating to capital outlay funding, developmental lab schools, charter schools, FEFP, VPK program, Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, & Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/8/2024 Senate - CS/CS by Appropriations Committee on Education; YEAS 7 NAYS 0

[SB 1344 - Computer Science Education](#) General Bill by Calatayud CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K – 12 (Similar to HB 483 - 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 Action: 2/8/2024 Senate - Now in Fiscal Policy

[SB 460 - Career and Technical Education](#) General Bill by Simon CoSponsors: Perry CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K - 12

(Similar to HB 917 - Career and Technical Education)

Providing an exemption for minors to work in specified conditions; providing an alternative to career fairs through other career and industry networking opportunities; revising a list of individuals who are required to review and comment on certain revisions to the state academic standards; revising the requirements for certain credits and certifications to meet specified graduation requirements, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/8/2024 Senate - CS/CS by Appropriations Committee on Education; YEAS 7 NAYS 0

[SB 1372 - Educator Preparation Programs](#) General Bill by Ingoglia CoSponsors: Perry, Yarborough (Identical to HB 1291 - Educator Preparation Programs)

Prohibiting the courses and curriculum of teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, and school leader preparation programs from distorting certain events and including certain curriculum and instruction; requiring teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, and school leader preparation programs to afford candidates certain opportunities, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/8/2024 Senate - CS by Appropriations Committee on Education; YEAS 4 NAYS 1

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

Upcoming Meeting: 2/13/24 at 8:30 AM [Meeting Notice](#)

Senate Committee on Education Pre-K -12

Met on 2/6/24 at 8:30 AM

Voted Favorable:

[SB 530 - Florida High School Athletic Association Student Eligibility Requirements](#) General Bill by DiCeglie (Similar to HB 545 - Florida High School Athletic Association Student Eligibility Requirements)

Requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws prohibiting a student who is sentenced as an adult for specified offenses from participating in certain competitions, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/6/2024 Senate - Now in Judiciary

[SB 786 - Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program](#) General Bill by Powell CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K – 12

(Similar to HB 857 - Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program)

Creating the Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program, subject to legislative appropriation; requiring the Commissioner of Education to select a certain number of middle or high schools to participate in the pilot program; requiring the commissioner to select a conflict resolution curriculum for use in the program; requiring the nonprofit organization to provide a report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Department of Education, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/7/2024 Senate - Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2) - (Committee Substitute)

[SB 1044 - School Chaplains](#) General Bill by Grall CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K – 12

(Similar to HB 931 - School Chaplains)

Authorizing school districts and charter schools to adopt a policy to allow volunteer school chaplains; requiring district school boards and charter school governing boards to assign specified duties to such volunteer school chaplains; requiring school districts that adopt volunteer school chaplain policies to publish certain information on their websites; providing background screening requirements for volunteer school chaplains, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/7/2024 Senate - Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2) - (Committee Substitute)

[SB 1396 - Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools](#) General Bill by Gruters CoSponsors: Yarborough

(Identical to HB 1109 - Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools)

Subject to and consistent with funds appropriated from the General Appropriations Act, requiring the Department of Education to establish a program to provide funds to full-time Jewish day schools and preschools for specified security purposes, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/6/2024 Senate - Now in Appropriations Committee on Education

[SB 1652 - District and School Advisory Councils](#) General Bill by Burgess

(Similar to HB 1429 - 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 Action: 2/6/2024 Senate - Now in Appropriations Committee on Education

[SB 1264 - History of Communism Task Force](#) General Bill by Collins CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K – 12

(Similar to HB 1349 - Required Instruction in History of Communism)

Requiring instruction in public schools on the history of communism; creating the History of Communism Task Force within the Department of Education; requiring the task force to work with the Division of Historical Resources within the Department of State to make recommendations by a specified date to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education for curriculum standards and instruction on communist history, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/7/2024 Senate - Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2) - (Committee Substitute)

[SB 7056 - Public Records/School Guardians](#) General Bill by Education Pre-K – 12

(Similar to HB 1509 - Public Records)

Providing that certain information relating to school guardians which is held by the Department of Law Enforcement, a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school pursuant to a specified provision is exempt from public records requirements; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Action: 2/7/2024 Senate - Referred to Rules

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

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

House Education & Employment Committee

Met on 2/7/24 at 10 AM

Voted Favorable:

[HB 315 - Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program](#) General Bill by Williams
CoSponsors: Casello, Dunkley, Lopez (V), Valdes
(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: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 2:22 PM

[HB 511 - Graduate Program Admissions](#) General Bill by Holcomb CoSponsors: Valdes CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee, Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee
(Similar to SB 494 - Graduate Program Admissions)
Requires institution of higher education to waive certain examination requirements for servicemember who applies for admission to graduate program that requires such examination.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:28 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: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 2:28 PM

[HB 1291 - Educator Preparation Programs](#) General Bill by Jacques, Snyder CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee
(Similar to SB 1372 - Educator Preparation Programs)
Prohibits courses & curriculum of teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, & school leader preparation programs from distorting certain events & including certain curriculum & instruction; & requires teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, & school leader preparation programs to afford candidates certain opportunities.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 8, 2024 5:26 PM

[HB 1317 - Patriotic Organizations](#) General Bill by Duggan CS Sponsors: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

(Compared to SB 1016 - Patriotic Organizations)

Authorizes school districts to allow representatives of patriotic organizations certain opportunities to speak to students, distribute certain materials, & provide certain displays relating to patriotic organizations; requires certain school districts to provide date & time for such patriotic organizations to speak with students, distribute materials, & provide certain displays; authorizes patriotic organizations to be provided certain access to school buildings & properties.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 2:30 PM

[HB 1285 – Education](#) General Bill by Canady CS Sponsors: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee (Similar to SB 996 – Education; Compared to SB 634 - Residency Status for Tuition Purposes; HB 7025 – Education)

Revises provisions relating to charter schools, dual enrollment, residency for tuition purposes, employment of students, virtual instruction programs, dropout prevention & academic interventions & programs, requirements for instructional materials publishers & manufacturers, turnaround schools; establishes Purple Star School District Program; requires administration of ASVAB; establishes specialized transfer degrees; repeals Florida College System institution employment equity accountability program.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Favorable with CS by Education & Employment Committee on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:59 PM

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

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Met on 2/6/24 at 11:30 AM

Voted Favorable:

[HB 895 - The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#) General Bill by Arrington CoSponsors: Daley, 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 Education & Employment Committee on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 12:28 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 inservice training requirements to require certified educators to receive training relating to mass casualty incidents.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in Education & Employment Committee on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 12:28 PM

[HB 1169 - Coordinated Systems of Care for Children](#) General Bill by Hunschofsky, Redondo CoSponsors: Lopez (J), Lopez (V), Robinson (F), Woodson CS Sponsors: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

(Compared to SB 1340 - Coordinated Systems of Care for Children)

Requires certain school districts to adhere to specified mental health & treatment support system for certain children & meet specified performance outcomes; requires each school district to report annually to DOE on certain outcomes & funding.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

Last Event: Now in Education & Employment Committee on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 12:28 PM

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

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

Senate

Committee on Criminal Justice

[SB 1356 - School Safety](#)

Senate Committee on Health Policy

[SB 962 - Student Health](#)

Committee on Community Affairs

[SB 400 - Reemployment of Retirees in the Florida Retirement System](#)

Committee on Rules

[SB 832 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities](#)

[SB 1688 - Career-themed Courses](#)

Committee on Finance and Tax

[SB 820 - Child Care and Early Learning Providers](#)

House

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

[HB 767 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes](#)

[HB 917 - Career and Technical Education](#)

[HB 7051 - Education](#)

State Affairs Committee

[HB 1239 - Affordable Housing](#)

Appropriations Committee

[HB 217 - College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern](#)

[HB 537 - Student Achievement](#)

[HB 1109 - Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools](#)

[HB 1473 - School Safety](#)