



## OVERVIEW

The Legislature held Week 6 of Regular Legislative Session, hitting the halfway point.

Budget conferencing is not expected to begin for a couple of weeks as each chamber continues to work through their policy priorities.

This week there were no changes to the 2024-25 budgets passed last week in their respective chambers.

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.

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 remain 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	<a href="#">House (2/1/24)</a>	<a href="#">Senate (2/7/24)</a>	<a href="#">Governor</a>
<b>BSA</b>	\$5,139.73	\$5,316.31		\$5,246
<b>Broward FTE</b>	\$8,638.20	\$8,892.56	\$8,854.18	--
<b>State FTE</b>	\$8,718.58	\$8,936.95	\$8,936.98	\$8,842

## Senate Session

Senators held moment of silence and made remarks on the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas anniversary.

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

**[SB 694 - Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program](#)** General Bill by Perry CoSponsors: Burgess, Rouson, Stewart, Torres, Jr.

Read Second Time; Substituted for HB 0523; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0523

Establishing the program within the Department of Education; providing the purpose of the program; specifying eligibility requirements for the awarding of the Seal of Fine Arts; defining the term "work of art"; requiring the Commissioner of Education and school districts to perform specified duties to administer the program, etc.

**[HB 523 - Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program](#)** General Bill by Black, Canady CoSponsors: Amesty, Arrington, Baker, Bankson, Basabe, Daniels, Eskamani, Esposito, Franklin II, Garcia (A), Gossett-Seidman, Harris, Hart, Plakon, Plasencia, Smith, Valdes, Woodson

Withdrawn from Fiscal Policy; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd Reading; Substituted for SB 0694; Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 39 Yeas / 0 Nays); Immediately certified

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

**[SB 1688 - Career-themed Courses](#)** General Bill by Osgood CoSponsors: Book, Hutson, Simon, Yarborough  
Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 39 Yeas / 0 Nays); Immediately certified

Revising the requirements for a specified school district strategic plan to include certain information; requiring the Department of Education to include specified data in an annual review of K-12 and postsecondary career and technical education offerings, etc.

### Considered Bills on Second reading:

**[SB 832 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities](#)** General Bill by Calatayud

Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/21/24

Requiring the collection and sharing of data between multiple agencies for the interagency cooperative agreement under the Employment First Act; requiring the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to issue an annual statewide report by a specified date each year, etc.

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

Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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.

## House Session

House Speaker *pro tempore* Representative Charles Wesley "Chuck" Clemons lead a moment of silence for those lost in the Parkland High School tragedy.

### Special Orders:

**[HB 1285 - Education](#)** General Bill by Canady CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee, Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (730881); Amendment Failed (343893); Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 84 Yeas / 35 Nays)

Revises provisions relating to K-12 education, postsecondary education, & Education Practices Commission; establishes Purple Star School District Program; creates AA specialized transfer degrees; requires SBE to adopt rules for issuance of classical education teaching certificate.

**Bills on Second Reading:**

**[HB 217 - College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern](#)** General Bill by Mooney, Jr. CS Sponsors: Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee, Appropriations Committee  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Revises authorized uses of revenue from capital improvement fees to include certain college campus facilities & revises number of beds certain FCS institutions may provide to certain persons; revises which funds may be used for construction of dormitories; & requires Division of Bond Finance to conduct analysis of financing before issuance of specified bonds.

**[HB 315 - Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program](#)** General Bill by Williams  
CoSponsors: Casello, Dunkley, Lopez (V), Valdes  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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.

**[HB 501 - Renaming of Tallahassee Community College](#)** General Bill by Shoaf CoSponsors: Franklin II, Tant  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading  
Changes name of "Tallahassee Community College" to "Tallahassee State College".

**[HB 511 - Graduate Program Admissions](#)** General Bill by Holcomb CoSponsors: Valdes CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee, Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Requires institution of higher education to waive certain examination requirements for servicemember who applies for admission to graduate program that requires such examination.

**[HB 553 - Career-themed Courses](#)** General Bill by Dunkley  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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.

**[HB 767 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes](#)** General Bill by Edmonds CoSponsors: Lopez (V), Valdes CS Sponsors: Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Prohibits individual from losing his or her resident status for tuition purposes solely because of his or her incarceration.

**[HB 931 - School Chaplains](#)** General Bill by McClain, Daniels CoSponsors: Bankson, Dunkley, Fine, Melo  
Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/21/24

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.

**[HB 1137 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities](#)** General Bill by Redondo CoSponsors: Berfield, Lopez (V), Tant  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading  
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.

**[HB 1291 - Educator Preparation Programs](#)** General Bill by Snyder, Jacques CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading  
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.

**[HB 1429 - District and School Advisory Councils](#)** General Bill by Bell, Valdes CS Sponsors: Education Quality Subcommittee  
Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/21/24  
Renaming "district advisory councils" & "school advisory councils" as "district community advisory boards" & "community advisory boards"; & revises requirements for such boards.

**[HB 7025 – Education](#)** General Bill by Education Quality Subcommittee, Trabulsy CoSponsors: Massullo, MD, Valdes CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading  
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.

**[HB 7039 – Education](#)** General Bill by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee, Rizo CoSponsors: Daniels, Massullo, MD CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee  
Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading  
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.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Florida sees its first major purge of public sector unions following passage of Republicans' anti-union law [Orlando Weekly](#)  
The Big Stories: Social media bill advances over DeSantis' objections, and new limits to challenging books in schools [Spectrum News](#)  
DeSantis again calls book banning a 'hoax' but wants laws tweaked [Sun Sentinel](#)  
Free college proposal for dropouts raises questions of fairness [Tampa Bay Times](#)  
Two bills aim to get retired Florida teachers back into the workforce quickly [Spectrum News](#)  
Florida lawmakers advance bill to require communism lessons in all grades [Tampa Bay Times](#)

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

Senate Appropriations Committee on Education

Met on 2/13/24 at 8:30 AM

Voted Favorable:

[SB 62 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes](#) General Bill by Osgood CoSponsors: Book CS Sponsors: Education Postsecondary (Identical to HB 767 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes) Providing that a person may not lose his or her resident status for tuition purposes due to incarceration, etc.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Action: 2/13/2024 Senate - Now in Fiscal Policy**

[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: 2/13/2024 Senate - Now in Rules**

[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: 2/13/2024 Senate - Now in Fiscal Policy**

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

Upcoming Meeting: 2/20/24 at 8:30 AM [Meeting Notice](#)

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

House Education & Employment Committee

Met on 2/14/24 at 9 AM

Voted Favorable:

[HB 537 - Student Achievement](#) General Bill by Valdes CoSponsors: Garcia (A) CS Sponsors: Education Quality Subcommittee (Compared to SB 590 - Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement and Success Pilot Program) Removes provisions providing for award of certificate of completion to certain students; & creates Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement & Success Pilot Program within DOE for specified purpose.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:54 PM**

**[HB 767 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes](#)** General Bill by Edmonds CoSponsors: Lopez (V) CS Sponsors: Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee  
(Identical to SB 62 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes)  
Prohibits individual from losing his or her resident status for tuition purposes solely because of his or her incarceration.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Event: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:01 PM**

**[HB 1109 - Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools](#)** General Bill by Fine CoSponsors: Lopez (V), Maney  
(Identical to SB 1396 - Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools)  
Requiring DOE to establish program to provide funds to Jewish day schools & preschools for specified security purposes; provides authorized uses for such funds.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Event: Bill added to Special Order Calendar (2/21/2024) on Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:18 PM**

**[HB 1169 - Coordinated Systems of Care for Children](#)** General Bill by Hunschofsky, Redondo CoSponsors: Lopez (J), Lopez (V), Robinson (F), Williams, 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: Added to Second Reading Calendar on Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:54 PM**

**[HB 1473 - School Safety](#)** General Bill by Trabulsy CoSponsors: Daley, Massullo, MD CS Sponsors: Judiciary Committee  
(Similar to SB 1356 - School Safety)  
Revises provisions & establishes reporting requirements for school guardian programs & school guardians; revises school safety requirements for DOE, school districts, charter schools, & school safety specialists.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:54 PM**

**[HB 7051 - Education](#)** General Bill by Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee, Melo CS Sponsors: Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
(Similar to SB 7032 - Education)  
Revises provisions relating to specified education services; establishes Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program for specified purpose; creates GATE Scholarship Program; & creates GATE Startup Grant Program.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:54 PM**

**[HB 917 - Career and Technical Education](#)** General Bill by Snyder CoSponsors: Bankson, Basabe, Roach, Salzman, Stark CS Sponsors: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee  
(Similar to SB 460 - Career and Technical Education; Compared to HB 553 - Career-themed Courses)  
Provides exemption for minors to work in specified conditions; requires counties & municipalities to recognize certain persons as journeymen for specified occupations if such persons meet specified criteria; provides alternative to career fairs through other career & industry networking opportunities; revises provisions relating to revisions to state academic standards, requirements for certain credits &

certifications to meet specified graduation requirements; requires DOE to convene workgroup by specified date for specified purposes; provides additional exemption from completing entry-level examination for certain students; creates Career & Technical Education Task Force adjunct to DOE.

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Event: 1st Reading on Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:54 PM**

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

Upcoming Meeting: 2/21/24 at 8 AM

### House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Met on 2/13/24 at 11:30 AM

Voted Favorable:

**[HB 1349 - Required Instruction in History of Communism](#)** General Bill by Brannan III, Buchanan  
CoSponsors: Alvarez, Amesty, Garcia (A)

(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: Favorable with CS by PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 12:24 PM**

**[HB 1353 - Early Learning](#)** General Bill by Snyder, Trabulsy

(Compared to SB 1026 - Early Learning; SB 2502 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act; SB 2516 – Education; HB 5003 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act; HB 5101 – Education)

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

[STAFF ANALYSIS](#)

**Last Event: Favorable with CS by PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 12:24 PM**

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

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

Senate

**Finance and Tax**

**[SB 1686 - Ad Valorem Tax](#)**

**Rules**

**[SB 396 - Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)**

**[SB 962 - Student Health](#)**

**Appropriations**

**[SB 240 - International Baccalaureate Teacher Bonuses](#)**

House

**Health & Human Services Committee**

**[HB 883 - Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools](#)**

**Judiciary Committee**

**[HB 569 - Suits Against the Government](#)**

**Fiscal Policy**

[SB 996 - Education](#)

[SB 1356 - School Safety](#)

Joint:

**Revenue Estimating Impact Conference**

[SB 1686 - Ad Valorem Tax](#)