



## OVERVIEW

The Legislature held Week 8 of Regular Legislative Session.

Members of the Satanic Temple said the group's members will likely seek to become chaplains if a measure allowing chaplains to work in public schools passes. The bill would allow local school districts to set up chaplaincy programs, but would leave it up to local officials what types of chaplains they allow to participate – though First Amendment experts say they likely wouldn't be able to exclude chaplains based on their particular religion.

Legislators reached a deal on the Florida Education Finance Program, boosting funding for PreK-12 public schools by \$202 million, primarily for teacher pay increases. Despite the agreement, differences remain in other education budget areas, including funding for the New Worlds Scholarship and the Florida Civics Seal of Excellence.

In the latest Senate offer the chamber increased the level of teacher pay funding to match the House position. The House had previously accepted the Senate push for \$40 million more in safe schools funding and \$20 million more for mental health funding. Overall, PreK-12 schools will get \$28.4 billion for the fiscal year that starts July 1, a \$1.8 billion increase on the current year. That comes to \$8,959 per student, a \$240 increase on the current year. All three Broward County Public Schools appropriation passed in Budget Conference.

- 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 and House Sessions

**HB 1429 - District and School Advisory Councils** General Bill by Bell, Valdes CoSponsors: Lopez (J), Rizo CS Sponsors: Education Quality Subcommittee  
HOUSE: Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays); SENATE: In Messages; Received; Referred to Rules

Renames district and school advisory councils to "district community advisory boards" and "community advisory boards," and revises their structures and functions.

- Renames district advisory councils and school advisory councils as "district community advisory boards" and "community advisory boards," respectively.
- Revises membership requirements, mandating that at least 60 percent of board members must not be employed by the school district.
- Requires community advisory boards to publicize open positions, information about board elections, appointments, and membership.
- Establishes 2-year terms for board members and prohibits consecutive terms for the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- Mandates district school boards to provide training for community advisory board members, who must complete such training at least once.
- Revises requirements for community advisory board bylaws, including procedures for approving, reviewing, and updating bylaws.
- Conforms related statutory provisions to these changes.

**HB 7025 – Education** General Bill by Education Quality Subcommittee, Trabulsy CoSponsors: Lopez (J), Massullo, MD, Rizo, Valdes CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee  
HOUSE: Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/29/24  
The bill modifies requirements and policies across various aspects of K-12 education in Florida.

- Removes the requirement for the State Board of Education to establish certain tuition fees.
- Eliminates specific plans, metrics, and evaluations related to the Florida College System and charter technical career centers.
- Changes the necessity of performance contracts for students in academically challenging programs to be at the discretion of the principal.
- Repeals sections related to single-gender programs and the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program.
- Adjusts virtual instruction program provisions, allowing school districts more flexibility in providing necessary equipment for virtual learning.
- Updates the Department of Education's review cycle for school readiness program plans to every three years.
- Revises student eligibility for taking the high school equivalency exam and removes certain data collection and reporting requirements.
- Authorizes school districts to satisfy certain program requirements by contracting with providers.

- Modifies instructional materials definitions, adoption timelines, and assessment procedures.
- Repeals specific degree program authorizations and amends requirements for comprehensive plans for student progression, including early literacy and math skills deficiency interventions.
- Updates references to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and allows for additional time for certain schools to implement community school models.

**SB 7004 - Deregulation of Public Schools/Assessment and Accountability, Instruction, and Education Choice**

General Bill by Education Pre-K - 12, Fiscal Policy CoSponsors: Osgood CS Sponsors: Fiscal Policy HOUSE: Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/29/24

A bill amends Florida's regulations concerning public school operations, focusing on deregulation in various areas including school capacity updates, student assessment requirements, and education choice.

- Revises the frequency for school district or charter school capacity updates to at least twice annually, removing a prior requirement for district school boards in capacity determination.
- Eliminates the necessity for a performance contract in Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning options, allowing use at the principal's discretion.
- Repeals sections related to single-gender programs and the requirement for an annual comparative evaluation of charter and public technical centers.
- Removes the written notification requirement for parents about virtual instruction, changing directives for the admission of students to summer prekindergarten programs and authorizing rather than mandating school districts to administer the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
- Deletes various requirements for early learning coalitions to verify public school compliance, school district funding for specific programs, and attendance policies for prekindergarten programs.
- Revises high school assessment requirements, removing certain mandates for students transferring into public high schools, and adjusting requirements for earning a high school diploma.
- Deletes the mandate for the Department of Education to collect certain data regarding middle school career academies, repeals statutes related to the fine arts report, and the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program.
- Authorizes school districts to hold an Art in the Capitol Competition, modifies provisions related to instructional materials, assessments, and student progression plans, incorporating conditions for summer reading camps and parental notification requirements.
- Introduces additional options for schools completing a turnaround plan cycle but not meeting specified requirements, adjusting provisions for the No Child Left Behind Act to align with the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- Requires certain changes made by the state board to the school grades model or grading scale to take effect in the following school year or later.

**SB 7002 - Deregulation of Public Schools/School District Finance and Budgets, Facilities, and Administration and Oversight**

General Bill by Education Pre-K - 12 CoSponsors: Hutson, Osgood CS Sponsors: Fiscal Policy

HOUSE: Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 115 Yeas / 0 Nays); SENATE: In returning messages

Establishes deregulation measures for public school district finance, budgeting, facilities, and oversight, amending various sections of the Florida Statutes to increase flexibility and reduce regulatory burdens on district school boards.

- Exempts district school boards from certain rule requirements under specified circumstances.
- Modifies interlocal agreement requirements for district school boards, including addressing the effects of comprehensive plan amendments on school capacity.
- Allows district school boards to advertise budget intentions on a publicly accessible website if not in a newspaper.
- Requires district school boards to provide access to facilities for emergency management rather than staffing such facilities.
- Adjusts signage requirements on school buses and authorizes civil penalties to fund school bus driver recruitment and retention.
- Revises the State Board of Education's rule adoption duty and mandates the Department of Education to inform superintendents annually about petitioning for declaratory statements on applicability of statutory or rule provisions.
- Authorizes public notices for district school board meetings to be posted online.
- Removes financial procedure requirements ensuring adequate educational facilities and revises powers of district school superintendents for policy approval.
- Changes parent notification requirements for student placement in programs and suspensions, and removes the requirement for a financial report in student handbooks.
- Deletes the mandate for unused school board facilities to be provided for charter schools' use.
- Removes various mandates and requirements, including those for district school boards to provide accountability plans under certain conditions and the need for guidance services.
- Adjusts requirements for school districts in publishing budgets online and revises types of facilities on which school boards may incur financial obligations.
- Modifies conditions under which the State Board of Education may alter the minimum term for schools to be open.
- Deletes prohibitions on the use of funds by school districts for certain transportation equipment and supplies.
- Introduces a new category of funding that school districts are authorized to withhold and revises categories for funding withholdings and availability.
- Revises the types of facilities and expenditures for which district school boards may use millage levies.
- Exempts the lease-purchase of certain facilities from specific requirements.
- Removes various mandates regarding educational facilities planning, monitoring, and reporting.
- Specifies that district school boards are exempt from certain contract limitations.

- Clarifies that remodeling projects for district school boards must be based on specific determinations.

**SB 328 - Affordable Housing** General Bill by Calatayud CoSponsors: Osgood, Stewart CS Sponsors: Fiscal Policy, Community Affairs

HOUSE: Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 112 Yeas / 1 Nay); SENATE: Ordered enrolled; Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

Streamlines affordable housing development by amending various Florida statutes to provide more flexibility regarding zoning, density, and parking requirements for affordable housing projects.

- Authorizes multifamily and mixed-use residential developments in areas zoned for commercial, industrial, or mixed-use if at least 40 percent of units are affordable.
- Prohibits counties and municipalities from requiring zoning changes or land use amendments for such developments and from restricting the density, floor area ratio, or height of these developments below certain thresholds.
- Allows for administrative approval of developments meeting affordability and zoning criteria, except when located near military installations.
- Requires counties and municipalities to maintain a policy for administrative approvals on their websites and to consider reducing or eliminating parking requirements for developments near major transportation hubs or within transit-oriented developments.
- Mandates mixed-use residential developments within designated transit-oriented areas to comply with specific requirements, except for use, height, density, floor area ratio, and parking.
- Provides applicants with an opportunity to submit revised applications or notices to account for changes made by the act.
- Updates the definition of "newly constructed" for affordable housing property exemptions and revises criteria for multifamily projects to receive ad valorem property tax exemptions.
- Specifies conditions under which developments can be treated as conforming or nonconforming uses.
- Excludes certain airport-impacted areas from these provisions and revises the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's powers to preclude applicants from programs under certain conditions.
- Appropriates \$100 million to the State Housing Trust Fund for the Florida Hometown Hero Program.

**HB 883 - Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools** General Bill by Koster CoSponsors: Basabe, Harris, Lopez (J), Mooney, Jr., Woodson CS Sponsors: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee, Health & Human Services Committee

HOUSE: Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 115 Yeas / 0 Nays); SENATE: In Messages; Received; Referred to Rules

Expands the rights of asthmatic students in Florida's public and private schools to carry and use short-acting bronchodilators and components, and allows schools to acquire and stock these medications.

- Defines terms such as "administer," "asthma," "authorized health care practitioner," "components," "respiratory distress," and "short-acting bronchodilator."
- Permits asthmatic students to carry a short-acting bronchodilator and components on their person with approval from a parent and physician.

- Allows authorized health care practitioners to prescribe short-acting bronchodilators and components in the name of public and private schools.
- Enables public and private schools to acquire and stock a supply of short-acting bronchodilators and components, maintaining them in a secure location.
- Requires schools to adopt a protocol for the administration of these medications by trained personnel.
- Stipulates that school personnel may administer short-acting bronchodilators and components to students experiencing respiratory distress, under certain conditions.
- Provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for school nurses or personnel who administer these medications in compliance with the act.
- Specifies that health care practitioners and pharmacists prescribing or dispensing these medications are also protected from liability.

**HB 917 - Career and Technical Education** General Bill by Snyder CoSponsors: Bankson, Basabe, Fabricio, Gonzalez Pittman, Lopez (J), Mooney, Jr., Plasencia, Roach, Salzman, Smith, Stark, Tramont CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee, Choice & Innovation Subcommittee  
HOUSE: Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 84 Yeas / 30 Nays); SENATE: In Messages; Received; Referred to Fiscal Policy

Addresses the evolving needs of Florida's economy by enhancing cooperation among state businesses and education communities, especially in career and technical education and workforce training.

- Mandates the publication and dissemination of career and technical education information, including detailed lists and comparisons of programs, funding, and outcomes relative to in-demand careers by March 1, 2025.
- Requires annual reporting by December 1 on statewide efforts to meet health care workforce needs, with specifics on nursing education programs and employment outcomes.
- Amends the definition of a "journeyworker" to include completion of a state-approved apprenticeship program or industry experience with the necessary state-approved test passed.
- Provides exemptions for minors under specific conditions to work in certain environments, enhancing opportunities for 16 and 17-year-olds in residential building construction under safe supervision.
- Authorizes counties and municipalities to recognize certain individuals as journeymen in specified trades if they meet certain criteria, including the abolition of a registration fee for reciprocity.
- Offers an alternative to traditional career fairs by allowing district school boards to determine other networking opportunities for students.
- Encourages the involvement of a diverse group in reviewing revisions to academic standards, including representatives from the Department of Commerce.
- Adjusts conditions under which students can use credits to satisfy high school graduation requirements and sets forth requirements for the distribution of funding for apprenticeship programs.
- Repeals the Florida Talent Development Council, signaling a shift in strategy and oversight for workforce development and technical education.

**HB 217 - College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern** General Bill by Mooney, Jr. CoSponsors: Lopez (J) CS Sponsors: Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee, Appropriations Committee

HOUSE: Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays); SENATE: In Messages; Received; Referred to Appropriations

Expands authorized uses of capital improvement fee revenues and revises provisions related to dormitory construction and financing at Florida College System institutions in critical state concern areas.

- Allows capital improvement fee revenues to be used for purposes authorized in relation to dormitory construction and operation.
- Increases the number of additional dormitory beds a campus can provide for employees, educators, health care workers, and first responders from 25 to 50.
- Exempts dormitories from building permit allocation systems in critical concern areas, allowing construction up to 60 feet in height under certain conditions.
- Prohibits the use of state operating funds, state performance funds, and certain tuition and fee revenues for the construction, debt service payments, maintenance, or operation of such dormitories.
- Specifies that grants, donations, and revenues from the capital improvement fee may be used towards dormitory projects.
- Requires the Division of Bond Finance to analyze financing before the issuance of bonds by nonpublic entities in public-private partnership projects for dormitory construction, ensuring colleges consider any issues identified in the analysis.

#### Senate Sessions

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

**HB 7039 – Education** General Bill by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee, Rizo CoSponsors: Daniels, Lopez (J), Massullo, MD CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee

HOUSE: Read Second Time; Substituted for SB 7002; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 7002

Streamlines district school board advertising requirements for budget adoption, expanding options for digital notification and clarifying procedures during state emergencies.

- Mandates district school boards to advertise intent to adopt a budget on a publicly accessible website if not using a general circulation newspaper.
- Defines "publicly accessible website" and requires notification of postponed budget hearings to be posted on the school district's website.
- Clarifies requirements for district school boards during declared emergencies, including the provision of facilities and personnel.
- Revises signage requirements on school buses to include "CAMERA ENFORCED" and allocates civil penalties towards school bus safety technologies or driver recruitment and retention.
- Permits more flexible public notice methods for district school board meetings, including continuous website publication.

- Expands district school superintendents' authority to establish policy review and approval processes.
- Updates parents' notification procedures concerning student program placements and suspensions, and removes the requirement for an economic security report provision to students.
- Requires prekindergarten instructors to complete specified training within a set timeframe.
- Lets district school boards adopt parental notification policies and stipulates policy requirements.
- Revises educator preparation program requirements and grants the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation authority to develop a professional learning system.
- Simplifies financial reporting for school districts and exempts them from certain electronic funds transfer requirements.
- Clarifies requirements for publishing district school board tentative budgets online, removing the necessity for newspaper or courthouse posting under certain conditions.
- Sets new procedures for school districts requesting Department of Education assistance for transportation equipment purchases.
- Modifies the expenditure allowance from certain revenue for districts and grants authority, rather than requiring, school boards to base policies on department guidelines.
- Requires the State Board of Education to develop strategies to address critical teacher shortages and allows districts to use advanced degrees in salary schedules for specific personnel.
- Authorizes certain assessments for educator certification and outlines requirements for placing and reactivating an educator certificate in inactive status.
- Updates the Teacher Apprenticeship Program and adjunct teaching certificate provisions, and mandates Commissioner of Education recommendations on the development and retention of exceptional student education personnel.

**HB 1239 - Affordable Housing** General Bill by Lopez (V) CoSponsors: Basabe, Garcia (A), Gossett-Seidman, Lopez (J), Porras CS Sponsors: Appropriations Committee, State Affairs Committee HOUSE: Read Second Time; Substituted for SB 0328; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0328

Enacts provisions to promote affordable housing development in Florida, altering municipal and county regulations and offering tax exemptions for qualifying multifamily projects.

- Authorizes counties and municipalities to allow multifamily and mixed-use residential developments in commercially zoned areas if certain affordability conditions are met.
- Prohibits counties and municipalities from restricting the density, floor area ratio, or height of certain developments under specified circumstances.
- Requires counties and municipalities to administratively approve qualifying developments without public hearings.
- Mandates a reduction of parking requirements for developments near major transit stops or within designated transit-oriented areas.



- Provides for the administrative approval of bonuses for density, height, or floor area ratio for certain developments.
- Updates conditions under which multifamily projects are considered charitable for tax exemption purposes.
- Excludes specified proposed developments from certain airport zoning provisions.
- Introduces a new requirement for an applicant to notify counties or municipalities of intent to proceed under specified provisions.
- Allocates funds for affordable housing projects, including urban infill and the Florida Hometown Hero Program, without requiring low-income housing tax credits or bond financing.

**SB 240 - International Baccalaureate Teacher Bonuses** General Bill by Burton CoSponsors: Perry  
 SENATE: Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 37 Yeas / 0 Nays); HOUSE: In Messages  
 Amends the criteria for calculating bonuses for teachers of International Baccalaureate (IB) programs to include students who earn equivalent scores as determined by the Department of Education.

- Allows a calculation of additional full-time equivalent student membership for students in IB courses who achieve a score of 4 or higher, or an equivalent score as defined by the Department of Education.
- Allocates funds from the IB bonus funding primarily to the IB program, covering costs such as exam fees, teacher salaries, and instructional materials, with a portion allocated to help academically disadvantaged students prepare for rigorous courses.
- Grants a bonus of \$50 to teachers for each student scoring 4 or above, or an equivalent on the IB exam, with an additional \$500 bonus for teachers in low-grade schools if at least one student meets the score criteria.
- Specifies that bonuses are in addition to any regular wages or other bonuses the teacher is eligible to receive.

**SB 7032 – Education** General Bill by Education Postsecondary CS Sponsors: Appropriations  
 SENATE: Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 40 Yeas / 0 Nays); HOUSE: In Messages  
 Establishes the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program to provide alternative pathways for students who have withdrawn from high school before graduation.

- Requires institutions to waive 100% of registration, tuition, laboratory, and examination fees for GATE Program students.
- Limits eligibility to students aged 16 to 21 who have not earned a high school diploma or equivalency and are state residents.
- Obligates the Department of Education to disseminate information about the GATE Program, connect prospective students to institutions, and offer online career planning tools.
- Mandates the Department to report annually on the program's outcomes, including the number of students obtaining diplomas or certificates and the fees waived.
- Introduces the GATE Scholarship Program and GATE Startup Grant Program to support institutions financially and fund the implementation of the GATE Program.
- Subjects reimbursements from the GATE Scholarship Program to legislative appropriation and potential proration.

- Requires school counselors or personnel to inform eligible students about the GATE Program during exit interviews upon school withdrawal.
- Directs district school boards to notify candidates for high school equivalency diplomas about their education options, including the GATE Program.

**SB 558 - Homeless Service Professionals** General Bill by Rouson

SENATE: Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading

Amends the definition of "person with lived experience" to include those with current or past homelessness, including domestic violence survivors seeking homeless services.

- Defines "person with lived experience" as individuals with direct experience of homelessness per federal guidelines.
- Acknowledges the shortage in homeless service professionals and acknowledges the unique qualifications of persons with lived experience.
- Requires that to be certified, a person must have received homeless services, to be documented by a Continuum of Care lead agency during the background check.
- Mandates the Department of Children and Families to conduct background screenings for certification applicants.
- Specifies disqualifying offenses including various felonies, sexual offenses, abuse, neglect, fraud, and other criminal activities.
- Allows individuals disqualified due to their background screening to request an exemption from the department.

**SB 1264 - History of Communism** General Bill by Collins CoSponsors: Avila, Harrell, Rodriguez CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K - 12, Appropriations Committee on Education

SENATE: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/01/24

Mandates public schools to teach the history of communism, emphasizing age-appropriate content on its history in the U.S., atrocities under communist regimes, and comparative discussions on political ideologies. Establishes the Institute for Freedom in the Americas at Miami Dade College to promote democracy and partners with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom for various educational and democratic promotion activities.

- Requires instruction on the history of communism, including U.S. domestic movements, foreign atrocities, the threat to the U.S. and allies, economic and political precursors to communist revolutions, policies of Cuba, and the spread in Latin America.
- Authorizes the department to prepare standards for instruction, seeking input from victims of communism and educational organizations.
- Creates the Institute for Freedom in the Americas to preserve free society ideals, promote democracy, and partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom for workshops, academic programs, and leadership opportunities in democracy and governance.
- Renames the Adam Smith Center, revises its goals to include studying the impact of government and market economies on freedom and prosperity, and supports the partnership with the Institute for Freedom in the Americas.
- Directs the Department of State and the Department of Education to recommend creating a museum of the history of communism by December 1, 2024.

**SB 962 - Student Health** General Bill by Hooper CS Sponsors: Rules, Health Policy

SENATE: Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/01/24

Amends current statutes to authorize and regulate the use of short-acting bronchodilators by asthmatic students in both public and private schools, detailing provisions for prescription, dispensation, storage, and administration of these medications.

- Defines relevant terms including "administer," "asthma," "authorized health care practitioner," "components," "respiratory distress," and "short-acting bronchodilator."
- Authorizes asthmatic students to carry a short-acting bronchodilator and its components at school with parent and physician approval.
- Permits authorized health care practitioners to prescribe and licensed pharmacists to dispense short-acting bronchodilators in the name of a school.
- Allows schools to acquire and stock short-acting bronchodilators from wholesale distributors or manufacturers under certain conditions.
- Requires schools to adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician for the administration of bronchodilators by trained personnel.
- Details conditions under which schools may accept donations or transfers of short-acting bronchodilators.
- Mandates written notice of the adopted protocol to parents and requires parental permission for bronchodilator administration to students.
- Provides immunity from liability to trained school personnel and health care practitioners involved in prescribing, dispensing, or administering these medications under specified conditions.

**SB 564 - Young Adult Aftercare Services** General Bill by Garcia (I) CoSponsors: Book, Hooper, Rouson

CS Sponsors: Fiscal Policy, Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

SENATE: Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/01/24

Expands eligibility for aftercare services to additional young adults and allows for emergency distribution of federal funds by the Department of Children and Families.

- Makes aftercare services available to young adults aged 18 to 23 who are not in foster care and temporarily not receiving postsecondary education financial assistance.
- Extends services to young adults aged 18 to 22 in emergency situations, provided they are receiving financial assistance for education, require specified services, and have insufficient resources.
- Allows for the provision of services to young adults placed in out-of-home care after age 14, who did not reunify with parents or guardians.
- Empowers the Department of Children and Families to distribute federal funds to eligible young adults during state or national emergencies, regardless of typical eligibility criteria.

**SB 472 - Suits Against the Government** General Bill by Brodeur CoSponsors: Rouson CS Sponsors: Rules, Appropriations, Governmental Oversight and Accountability

SENATE: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading; Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/01/24

Increases statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state, its agencies, and subdivisions.

- Limits liability for individual claims to \$300,000 and total claims from the same incident to \$500,000.
- Authorizes state agencies and subdivisions to settle claims exceeding these amounts without further legislative action.
- Prohibits insurance policies from conditioning payment on the enactment of a claim bill and prevents lobbying against agreed settlements.
- Specifies that liability limits applicable on the date of the claim incident apply to the claim.
- Mandates the Department of Financial Services to adjust liability limits every 5 years based on the Consumer Price Index, not to exceed a 3% increase.
- Reduces the claim presentation period to 18 months and sets specific time frames for filing suit after claim denial or deemed denial.
- Revises the statute of limitations for filing civil actions related to negligence, contribution, medical malpractice, wrongful death, and other specified actions.
- Reenacts various sections of Florida Statutes to incorporate these amendments.

**SB 460 - Career and Technical Education** General Bill by Simon CoSponsors: Perry CS Sponsors: Fiscal Policy, Appropriations Committee on Education, Education Pre-K – 12  
 SENATE: Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/01/24

Expands and specifies the duties of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help, revises definitions, exempts minors from certain work restrictions, and modifies high school graduation requirements and career education provisions.

- Adjusts the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help's duties to include publishing a statewide asset map of career and technical education by March 1, 2025, and coordinating efforts to meet health care workforce needs.
- Revises the definition of "journeyworker" to include successful completion of a registered and state-approved apprenticeship program or industry-specific experience and tests where necessary.
- Provides an exemption for minors to work under specific conditions in residential building construction, with OSHA 10 certification and direct supervision.
- Mandates counties and municipalities to recognize certain individuals as journeymen in plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, electrical, and alarm system trades if they meet established criteria.
- Allows district school boards to consult with local entities to determine methods for providing career and industry networking opportunities for students.
- Specifies that the Department of Education shall convene a workgroup by December 1, 2024, for career and technical education pathways.
- Repeals the section relating to the Florida Talent Development Council.
- Authorizes exemption from entry-level examinations for certain students in career education programs.

## House Session

### Special Orders:

**HB 1291 - Educator Preparation Programs** General Bill by Snyder, Jacques CoSponsors: Rizo CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee

HOUSE: Read Second Time; Amendments Failed (070441, 927129, 862751, 487835)

Establishes guidelines for educator and leader preparation programs in Florida, focusing on historical accuracy, critical thinking, and competency in program content.

- Prohibits teacher preparation, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, and school leader preparation programs from distorting significant historical events or including curriculum that teaches identity politics, or is based on theories of systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege as inherent in U.S. institutions.
- Requires these programs to provide candidates opportunities for critical thinking, achieving mastery of academic content, learning instructional strategies, and demonstrating competence.
- Mandates that school leader preparation programs also focus on mastery of program content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.

**HB 537 - Student Achievement** General Bill by Valdes CoSponsors: Garcia (A) CS Sponsors: Education & Employment Committee, Education Quality Subcommittee

HOUSE: Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/29/24

Introduces a program to integrate music-based learning in STEM education for middle school students and revises regulations related to high school diplomas and certificates of completion.

- Deletes provisions for awarding certificates of completion to certain students, aligning with new standards for graduation eligibility.
- Shares responsibilities and guidelines for students with disabilities, specifying transitions without explicitly mentioning the award of certificates of completion.
- Introduces the mSCALES Pilot Program to use music-based supplemental materials at least twice per week in middle school mathematics instruction, specifically in selected counties.
- Details participation criteria and funding for school districts in the pilot program, ensuring adherence to class size and instructional material usage criteria.
- Assigns the College of Education at the University of Florida the task of evaluating the pilot program's effectiveness, requiring annual reports and a final comprehensive report by October 1, 2026.
- Specifies the expiration of the pilot program section by June 30, 2026.

**HB 735 - Government Accountability** General Bill by Andrade CS Sponsors: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee, State Affairs Committee

HOUSE: Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/01/24

Implements standards of conduct for public officers and lobbyists; introduces restrictions on certain employment contracts.

- Defines "foreign country of concern" and prohibits accepting anything of value from such countries by specified individuals.

- Specifies financial disclosure requirements for mayors and elected local officials based on population thresholds.
- Requires registration for individuals lobbying counties, municipalities, or special districts and establishes procedures for registration cancellation and public disclosure.
- Prohibits counties, municipalities, and school boards from renewing or extending employment contracts of certain officials during specified timeframes without unanimous approval.
- Requires the submission of proposed charter amendments to the electors at the earliest election.
- Mandates compliance monitoring for lobbyist registration by local entities and outlines investigation procedures for non-compliance.
- Allows the enforcement of findings and recommendations by local chief executives or governing bodies after investigations.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Budget conference: Lawmakers agree to PreK-12 schools funding levels [Florida Politics](#)  
 Satanic Temple 'looks forward to participating' if Florida school chaplain bill passes [Tallahassee Democrat](#)  
 Black History Month and the Importance of Telling Our History [Jacksonville Free Press](#)  
 Florida school districts turn to taxes for added funding [Tampa Bay Times](#)  
 Florida Senate passes bill to provide tuition waivers for high school dropouts [Click Orlando](#)  
 Gov. DeSantis shares mission for Florida education [Wear News](#)

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

### Budget Conference - PreK-12 / Education

Met on 2/26/24 at 6:30 PM

Rep. Tomkow was named Chair, and Sen. Perry was named Vice Chair.  
 Chair Tomkow presented the Houses offers on the Budget Spreadsheet and Proviso.

[Committee Video 2/26/24](#)

Met on 2/27/24 at 6:30 PM

Vice Chair Perry presented the Senate's first offer on Budget Spreadsheet figures.  
 Chair Tomkow presented the House's first offer on Implementing Bill language.

[Committee Video 2/27/24](#)

Met on 2/28/24 at 11:45 AM

Vice Chair Perry presented the Senate's first offer on Proviso language and the Implementing Bill.  
 Chair Tomkow presented the House's second offer on Budget Spreadsheet figures.

[Committee Video 2/28/24](#) / [Proviso, Implementing Bill - Senate Offer 1](#) / [Budget Spreadsheet - House Offer 2](#)

Met on 2/28/24 at 6:30 PM

Vice Chair Perry presented the Senates second offer on Budget Spreadsheet figures.  
Chair Tomkow presented the Houses first offer on Back of the Bill language, and second offers on Implementing Bill and Proviso language.

[Committee Video 2/28/24](#) / [Back of the Bill - House Offer 1](#) / [Implementing Bill - House Offer 2](#) / [Proviso - House Offer 2](#) / [Budget Spreadsheet - Senate Offer 2](#)

Met on 2/29/24 at 11:00 AM

Vice Chair Perry presented the Senates second offer on Proviso language, second offer on the Implementing Bill, and first offer on the Back of the Bill. He accepted the Houses previous offer on the implementing bill.

Chair Tomkow presented the Houses third offer on Budget Spreadsheet figures.

The committee does NOT expect to meet again. The remainder of the PK12 budget will bump to Chairs Leek and Broxson.

[Committee Video 2/29/24](#) / [Budget Spreadsheet - House Offer 3](#) / [Proviso - Senate Offer 2; Implementing Bill - Senate Offer 2; Back of Bill - Senate Offer 1](#)

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

#### Senate

##### Rules

[SB 472 - Suits Against the Government](#)

[SB 1044 - School Chaplains](#)

[SB 1372 - Educator Preparation Programs](#)

##### Fiscal Policy

[SB 564 - Young Adult Aftercare Services](#)

[SB 590 - Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement and Success Pilot Program](#)

[SB 1264 - History of Communism](#)

[HB 1317 - Patriotic Organizations](#)