

Session Review, Preview and Election Coverage



2016 Session by the numbers

- 1,814: Number of bills filed
- 279: Number of bills passed (15%)
- \$458,215,191: Increase in total state funds
- \$20,000,000: Increase in Digital Classrooms Allocation (total \$80,000,000)
- \$49,000,000: Allocation for Best and Brightest Teacher Program

Initiatives that did not pass

- Reading Instruction bill (HB 7021 and SB 1068)
- Changes to local referendum requirements (HB 791 and SB 1100)
- Statewide system for approval of charter schools (HJR 759)
- School district governance (HJR 539 and SJR 734)
- Mandatory recess (HB 833 and SB 1002)
- Codifying language for the Best and Brightest and Lowest 300 Schools programs

HB 7029

Educational Choice

HB 7029 – Less Significant Components

- Membership Associations
- School Board Member Duties
- Voluntary PreK
- SREF Flexibility
- Auditory Oral Education Programs
- CAPE Programs (acceleration options)
- Double Sessions Clarification
- Federally Connected Student Supplement
- Pledge of Allegiance Notification
- Suicide Awareness Program
- Special Facilities Funding
- Biliteracy Program
- University System Issues

HB 7029

Major bill components

Educational Choice

- Authorizes parents to enroll their students in any district operated or charter operated public school in the state with available capacity
- The school must accept the student, and the district will claim FEFP funding in that district, at the funding levels provided in the district in which the student is enrolled
- The district or charter schools are required to determine the capacity of the schools in the district, and publish the school capacities on the Internet
- The bill requires the district to adopt and post open enrollment rules. The bill provides placement preferences for students transferring based on military orders, foster care placement, a court order, or due to the death or serious illness of a parent
- The school district must create a school financial report that must indicate the average amount of money expended per student in the school, which must be included in the student handbook or a similar publication

Charter School Capital Outlay

- The bill requires that a charter school has been in operation for 2 rather than 3 years to be eligible for charter school capital outlay
- Mandates that a charter school must be located in Florida to receive capital outlay funds
- Requires that in order to be eligible for funds, a charter must have an annual audit that does not reveal any financial emergency conditions
- The bill deletes the existing methodology for distribution of charter school capital outlay and provides a distribution formula that allocates weighted funding based on whether the charter serves 75% or greater students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch and/or 25% or greater students who have disabilities as defined by SBE rule and consistent with IDEA
- The bill requires the DOE to calculate the eligible charter school funding allocations
- The DOE must recalculate the allocations periodically based on receipt of revised information, on a schedule established by the Commissioner

School District Construction Requirements

- Requires districts to maintain accurate documentation related to costs of all new construction reported to DOE
- Mandates the Auditor General to review documentation and verify compliance with cost per student station limits
- The bill requires two studies:
 - To determine currently appropriate amount of the cost per student station by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research
 - Second by OPPAGA to determine what, if any elements of the State Board Rule known as SREF, related to construction requirements, should be maintained or eliminated
 - Both are due no later than 1/31/2017
- Effective 7/1/2017, school boards are prohibited from using funds from any source for new construction that exceeds cost per student station limits
- Provide for penalties if limits are exceeded, unless overage is de minimis or due to extraordinary circumstances outside control of district
- Subjects a school district to sanctions for exceeding cost per student station as determined by the Auditor General. The sanctions do not apply if the cost per student station overage is de minimum or due to extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the district. The sanctions include ineligibility for funds from the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund for the next 3 years in which the district would have received allocations

Charter Schools

- The bill contains changes to the law with respect to accountability and exemptions for charter schools
- *Examples of accountability provisions:*
 - Mandates that admission or dismissal from a charter school may not be based on academic performance
 - Requires that a charter school, upon approval of contract, provide their sponsor with monthly financial statement summary sheet. A sponsor must review each monthly or quarterly financial statement to identify a charter school's financial emergency
- *Clarifications/Exemptions:*
 - Authorizes charter schools to receive funds from the research-based reading allocation
 - Deletes the statutory prohibition of a high performing charter school from increasing enrollment if it receives a "C" or below

Algebra I EOC

- Repeals language relating to performance funding for passage of Algebra 1 EOC

Teacher Transfer Request

- Requires each school board to establish a transfer process for a parent to request his/her child be transferred to another classroom teacher
 - Clarifies that this does not give the parent the right to choose a specific classroom teacher.
- Requires that a school must approve or deny the transfer within 2 weeks after receiving a request
 - If request is denied, the school must notify the parent and specify the reasons for denial
 - An explanation of the transfer process must be made available in the student handbook or similar publication
- Each district must report out-of-field teachers on district's website within 30 days before the beginning of each semester, and allow a parent to request that his/her child be transferred to an in-field teacher
- An explanation of the transfer process must be in student handbook
- The parent does not have the right to choose specific teacher

Extracurricular Activities– FHSAA

- A school district or charter school not delay or otherwise prevent a student participating in controlled open enrollment, or a choice program, from being immediately eligible to participate in extracurricular activities
 - Requires that school boards and charter school boards and private schools establish a code of conduct that outlines eligibility standards for student-athletes within the district.
- A student may not participate in an activity if the student has participated in the same activity in a different school unless transferred due to military orders, foster care placement or court order. Additionally, a student not suspended or expelled is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics
- A student's eligibility to participate in an activity may not be affected by recruiting allegations until a final determination has been reached
- Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, harsher recruiting penalties for school district employees or contractors will go into effect with those found to be guilty of a recruiting violation
- Allows for private schools have the option of maintaining full membership in the Association or joining on a per-sport basis. FHSAA may allow public school the option to apply for consideration to join another athletic association

Reemployment of Retired Teachers

- Clarifies that a retired teacher may interrupt retirement and be reemployed in any public school as instructional personnel under a 1-year probationary contract
- If the employee successfully completes the probationary contract, the school board may reemploy the retiree under an annual contract
- The retiree is not eligible for a professional service contract

Other Education Legislation

HB 7019

Education Access and Affordability

- Large higher education-related bill
- Textbook Affordability Provisions:
 - Enhances the current textbook affordability law to provide students with sufficient time and information to seek out the lowest available prices by authorizing state university and Florida College System institution boards of trustees to adopt policies that allow innovative pricing techniques and payment options for digital textbooks and instructional materials

HB 189

Teacher Certification

- Aims to make a professional certificate more attainable for individuals with expertise in STEM fields

HB 585

Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students

- Provides the State Board of Education express rulemaking authority regarding instruction for homebound and hospitalized students
- Clarifies that districts must provide instruction to eligible students in accordance with state board rule

HB 719

Education Personnel

- Revises several provisions of the law related to education personnel and the Education Practices Commission
- Eliminates the July 1, 2016 expiration date for the educator liability insurance program, which provides free liability coverage for all full-time public school instructional personnel
- Prohibits postsecondary educational institutions and school districts from requiring a student participating in a clinical field experience to purchase liability insurance as a condition of participation

HB 1305

Student Health

- Current Florida law contains the “Emergency Allergy Treatment Act.”
- School health services will need to review this bill and take steps to ensure principals and other building level officials are ready to implement the provisions of the bill

HB 1147

Character Development Instruction

- School districts currently provide various character-development programs for Kindergarten – 12th grade students. The bill requires character-development programs in high schools to include additional instruction on the following topics:
 - Development of leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills
 - Creation of a resume
 - Development and practice of the skills needed for employment interviews;
 - Management of stress and expectations
 - Development of skills that enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

Budget

- Increase in total funds statewide is \$458,215,191
- Digital Classrooms Allocation is \$80,000,000, an increase of \$20,000,000
- Best and Brightest Program Allocation is \$49,000,000.
 - There are no changes in the proviso language, qualifications, application process, or distribution process
- Lowest 300 Schools Program: It extends the program for an extra hour of instruction for the lowest 300 elementary schools for FY 2016-2017
 - stipulates that for FY 2016-2017 the designation of the lowest 300 performing elementary schools shall be based on the 2015-2016 reading assessment
 - makes technical, not substantive changes to the wording related to strategies to be used to deliver the extra hour of instruction

Federal issues

ESSA Update

2016 Election

2016 Primary Election

- 14 Senators elected
 - 35% of the Senate

- 38 House members elected
 - Approximately 31% of the House

2016 Primary Election Results

Senate

George Gainer

Aaron Bean (Incumbent)

Rob Bradley (Incumbent)

Audrey Gibson (Incumbent)

David Simmons (Incumbent)

Wilton Simpson (Incumbent)

Tom Lee (Incumbent)

Bill Galvano (Incumbent)

Denise Grimsley (Incumbent)

Kevin Rader

Lauren Book

Perry Thurston

Oscar Braynon

Jeff Brandes (Incumbent)

2016 Primary Election Results

- Jayer Williamson
- Halsey Beshears (Incumbent)
- Cindi Stevenson (Incumbent)
- Clovis Watson (Incumbent)
- Charlie Stone (Incumbent)
- Larry Metz (Incumbent)
- Don Hahnfeldt
- Ralph Massullo
- Richard Corcoran (Incumbent)
- Danny Burgess (Incumbent)
- Eric Eisnaugle (Incumbent)
- Kamia Brown
- Cary Pigman (Incumbent)
- Jake Raburn (Incumbent)
- Sean Shaw
- Janet Cruz (Incumbent)
- James Grant (Incumbent)
- Jim Boyd (Incumbent)
- Michael Grant
- Dane Eagle (Incumbent)
- Heather Fitzenhagen (Incumbent)
- Joseph Abruzzo (current State Senator)
- Larry Lee (Incumbent)
- Bill Hager (Incumbent)
- Patricia Williams-Hawkins
- Bobby DuBose (Incumbent)
- Barrington Anthony Russell
- Kristin Jacobs (Incumbent)
- Jared Moskowitz (Incumbent)
- Katie Edwards (Incumbent)
- Evan Jenne (Incumbent)
- Joseph Gellar (Incumbent)
- Shevrin Jones (Incumbent)
- Sharon Pritchett (Incumbent)
- Barbara Watson (Incumbent)
- Roy Hardemon
- Cynthia Stafford (Incumbent)
- Kionne McGhee (Incumbent)

2017 Session

- March 2017 – May 2017
- New Senate and House Committee Chairmen
- New Leadership
 - Sen. Negron
 - Rep. Corcoran

House Education Committee Structure

- Education Committee
 - Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee
 - PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee
 - PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee
 - PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

What to expect in 2017

- School choice – dollars following the student
- Debate regarding school construction money
- Fight for money in the budget
- Focus on university system
- Changes to local referendum requirements
- Statewide system for approval of charter schools
- Mandatory recess
- Codifying language for the Best and Brightest and Lowest 300 Schools programs
- Careers and Competition Committee

Questions?

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