

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ~~2015-2016~~ LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM  
DRAFT  
**ACCOUNTABILITY**

- TIMELINES

- Allow districts to use nationally normed tests as an alternative to FSA tests.
- Finalize full implementation of the ~~new testing~~ accountability system to no earlier than July ~~2017-2018~~, and modify the existing timeline to provide a workable three-year implementation schedule.
- Hold school grades in abeyance for the next two years.
- Adequate and proven technology must be in place before continued online testing occurs, and allow for paper and pencil tests when necessary.

- VALIDITY/RELIABILITY

- ~~➤ Florida tests should be field-tested in Florida.~~
- The number of state-mandated tests must continue needs to be reviewed and reduced, or replaced with national tests.
- The multi-year transition should ensure that curriculum and instructional materials, as well as all state assessments, are accurately aligned to the new Florida Standards.
- The implementation problems that occurred during last year's testing, as identified in the validity study, must be corrected before future tests are used for school grades or teacher evaluation.
- ~~➤ The creation and use of End-of-Course Exams for all courses must be refined to ensure validity and reliability.~~

- TEACHER EVALUATIONS

- ~~➤ Student test results as part of teacher performance pay should be held in abeyance for at least two years.~~
- ~~➤ Provide an alternative to the value-added model for the student growth portion of teacher evaluations.~~
- Allow student learning growth models that are used for teacher evaluation and performance pay to be locally determined to correct actual and perceived inequities in the system.

## FUNDING

- OPERATING

- Restore per student funding to at least the May 2007-08 appropriated level. For Pinellas, that would be a minimum increase of ~~\$452.38~~ \$294.10 per student or about a \$30 million increase.
- Provide Pinellas County Schools with \$5 million per year for five years for necessary technology upgrades to implement student-testing mandates and digital learning goals.
- Provide funding necessary to implement the mandates required of the low 300 elementary schools and provide local flexibility within the guidelines. Provide funding for a 6-week summer Reading/Mathematics and Science Program for students below grade level in grades K-5.
- Fund the full cost of school resource officers and other expenses related to school security.
- Guarantee legislative per student funding by using state reserve funds to avoid mid-year proration because of increased student enrollment growth.
- Restore funding for the Adults with Disabilities Program.
- Calculation of the penalty for failure to meet class size requirements should be at the school average and not at the classroom level.
- Clarify the definition of schools and districts of choice as related to class size requirements.

- CAPITAL OUTLAY

- Restore the authority for local school boards to levy up to 2.0 mills for capital outlay purposes.
- Distribute PECO or other state capital outlay funds on a per student basis for public schools, including charter schools.
- Identify new state revenue streams for public school construction, remodeling, maintenance and instructional technology.

- TAX CREDIT SCHOOLS

- Ensure state funds are spent only on voucher programs that are required to meet the same accountability measures as traditional public schools.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE

- ~~Authorize school boards to start school no earlier than the third week in August or 21 days before Labor Day.~~
- Allow districts to make the final decision on authorizing charter schools.
- Maximize local flexibility when enacting changes in law.