

# PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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### KEY POINTS



### KEEP STUDENTS FIRST

#### IMPACT OF COVID-19

- Maintain the legislative and fiscal support to provide virtual learning options including full-time virtual school and district offered hybrid learning as outlined in the Florida Optional Innovative Reopening Plan in order to provide parental choice.
- Continue to hold school districts harmless for enrollment shifts associated with COVID-19 through at least the end of the 2020-21 school year.

#### HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

- Maintain funding for teacher salary categorical in order to attract and retain highly-effective teachers and address a growing teacher shortage.
- Increase general operating dollars (Base Student Allocation) by a minimum of 3% to sufficiently fund the costs including innovative programming, salaries, benefits, mandatory employer contributions to the Florida Retirement System and increased fixed costs such as utilities and insurance.
- Update the calculation for the Required Local Effort (RLE) millage rate to capture the increases in residential and commercial property values, revenue gained from new construction and the change of value in real estate caused by the sale of property value so that growth pays for itself.

### KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED

#### EARLY LEARNING/VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN (VPK)

- Enhance the investment in developmentally appropriate, high-quality early learning and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) full-day programs.
- Increase quality VPK programs in vulnerable, at-risk communities including the establishment of VPK pilot programs in high poverty areas where at-risk students reside utilizing National Institute for Early Education Research standards or other research-based standards.

#### SUMMER CAREER ACCELERATION PROGRAM

- Appropriate \$300,000 to Pinellas County Schools for Summer Career Acceleration Program to support rising juniors and seniors and serve as a statewide model for enhancing access to student internships/apprenticeships and career technical education.

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Appropriate \$6.5 million statewide, in alignment with the Workforce Performance fund formula, to school district workforce education programs for performance-based industry certifications earned by postsecondary students in the 2020-21 school year.

### KEEP STUDENTS SAFE

#### SAFETY AND WELLNESS

- Maintain the level of funding in the mental health categorical to support public schools.
- Appropriate funding to maintain Guardian Program as outlined in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act.
- Require that public facilities, other than K-12 schools, are utilized as hurricane shelters and post-storm support to ensure schools can resume as soon as possible following a storm.