

# PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 2020 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

**VISION:** 100% Student Success

**MISSION:** Educate and prepare each student for college, career and life

*Empowering school districts through the legislative process.*

**Working together we can support students, teachers, schools and families to achieve 100% student success!**



## School Board Members

Lisa N. Cane  
Nicole M. Carr, Ph.D.  
Carol J. Cook  
Bill Dudley  
Rene Flowers  
Joanne Lentino  
Eileen M. Long

## Superintendent

Michael A. Grego, Ed.D.

## Contact

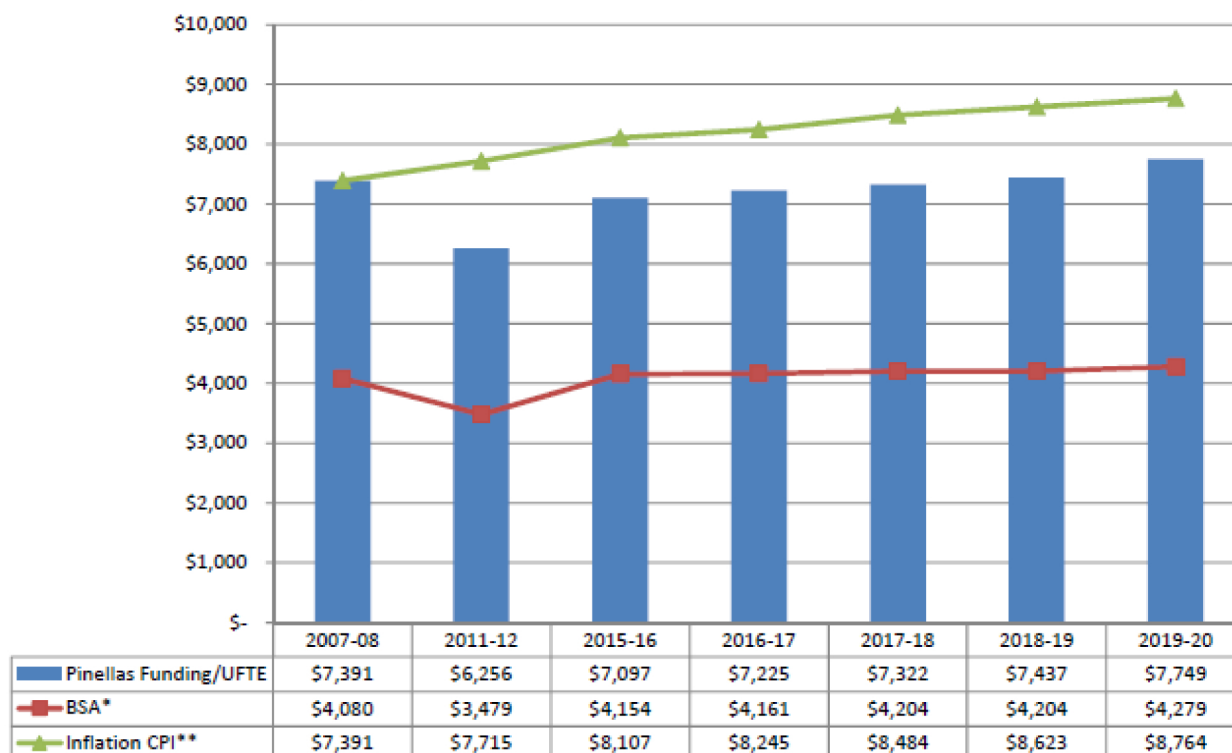
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*Partnering together for a brighter Pinellas in alignment with:*

Florida School Boards Association, Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards and Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

**The Florida Education Finance Program formula (FEFP) per student allocation significantly lags behind inflation, even though the Base Student Allocation (BSA) has been restored to the 2007-08 level of funding.**

Since the 2007-08 school year, applying inflation based on the Consumer Price index, funding per UFTE would have risen by \$1,373 while the actual funding per UFTE increased by only \$358.



\*Base Student Allocation (BSA) - funding amount set annually by the Legislature to provide Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) base funding.

This funding may be used to support the general operations of the school district and does not carry the mandates of state categorical funds.

\*\*Consumer Price Index (CPI)

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## **Keep Students First:** *Sufficiently and Sustainably Fund Schools to Meet the Educational Needs of Students*

- Increase teacher salaries in a meaningful, sustainable manner 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 salaries, benefits, mandatory employer contributions to the Florida Retirement System and increased fixed costs such as utilities and insurance.
- Enhance the investment in developmentally appropriate, high-quality early learning and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) full day programs. Revise school readiness pre-school application to permit funding for school day and after school services for Pre-Kindergarten students.
- Rename the education statute to include Pre-Kindergarten, allowing certified teachers to be included in incentive and retirement afforded to K-12 teachers.
- 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.
- Ensure fair process and structures within the District Cost Differential (DCD) study to accurately reflect the cost of living in Pinellas County.
- Extend voter authorized millage set forth in s. 1011.73, F.S. from 4-year up to 10-year terms.

## **Keep Learners Engaged:** *Support Career Technical Education and Public Technical Colleges*

- 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.
- Continue to build tax credits or fund grants for businesses to support student internships and apprenticeships.
- 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 2019-20 school year.
- Appropriate \$3 million statewide to provide grants to technical colleges to establish new apprenticeship programs and expand existing programs.
- Include career dual enrolled and apprenticeship students in the acceleration calculation for state high school grades which is currently provided for academic dual enrolled students.

## **Keep Students, Families and Schools Safe**

- Increase funding for community mental health and substance abuse agencies and require that the new revenue identify specific service slots for students in need of services as identified by public school personnel.
- Increase total funds for the Safe Schools Allocation to support the full cost of school safety requirements.
- 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.

## **Keep Students in World-Class Facilities**

- Appropriate funds to Pinellas County Schools for a state-of-the-art professional development center to serve as a model for teacher and leadership development and support.
- Maintain state commitment and structure for funding capital outlay for public schools through Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO).
- Restore authority of local school boards to levy up to 2.0 mills for capital outlay, continued implementation of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act and full cost of school safety requirements.

*If millage had remained stable at 2.0 mills, Pinellas County Schools would have been able to leverage an additional \$485.5 million for Capital Improvements since 2007 to renovate, remodel and maintain an aging infrastructure.*