

2017 PCSB DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

ACCOUNTABILITY

CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FLORIDA'S ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM, INCLUDING:

- Ensure that districts are prepared to administer the statewide testing system without interruption of the ongoing instruction to students not being assessed.
- Include adequate and proven technology as part of the system.
- Reduce the number of days required to administer State assessments.
- Allow paper and pencil tests when necessary.
- Ensure that implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) adopts the flexibility provided to the state:
 - Adopt alternative assessments for students with the most significant disabilities.
 - Allow districts to administer an alternative locally chosen nationally recognized high school assessment (ACT or SAT).
 - Reinstate the “banking” of middle-school Algebra I results for high school accountability purposes.
 - Require the Florida Department of Education to provide itemized score analysis on state assessments to districts.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING:

OPERATING:

- Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for 2017-2018 by at least \$200 per student in total potential state and local dollars, exclusive of categorical programs.
- 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 for a 6-week summer Reading/Mathematics and Science Program for students below grade level in grades K-12.

- 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.
- Calculate the penalty for failure to meet class size requirements at the school average and not at the classroom level.
- Increase Workforce Education funding for Postsecondary programs, including expansion of apprenticeship programs.
- Fully fund the industry credentials including the Postsecondary CAPE funding list.
- Allow all district Virtual programs to report FTE beyond the 180-day school year, and use the same enrollment procedures used by the Florida Virtual School.

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:

- Allow districts to make the final decision on authorizing charter schools.
- Maximize local flexibility when enacting changes in law.