

2016 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

2016-2017 EDUCATION BUDGET

- Pinellas County Schools received an increase of \$10,761,603, a 1.24% increase per student. This is an increase of \$88.25 per student.
- Last year Pinellas received an increase of \$23.1 million, a 3% increase per student.
- The final budget is especially disappointing in that the House had a 1.75% average per student going into final budget negotiations. The Senate had a 2% average increase.
- The final budget lowers the Required Local Effort millage, but does not fully replace it with recurring general revenue. This digs a hole in the budget for next year.

Other budget issues:

- The Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough aeronautics programs received continued funding: \$750,000
- \$400,000 is provided for the Lastinger Center at the University of Florida for a reading program for 1,000 students. Although it does not specifically mention Pinellas, floor discussion assured that at least some of the funding, if not all, will be used at several of our lowest performing schools. The budget reads as follows: “From the funds provided in Specific Appropriation 142, \$400,000 in general revenue funds is provided for the University of Florida Lastinger Center Winning Reading Boost Pilot Program to fund 1,000 students in Florida’s lowest performing elementary schools that have been in the lowest 300 performing elementary schools for at least two consecutive years”.
- The Best and Brightest program received funding of \$44 million. This provides up to a \$10,000 bonus for teachers with high SAT or ACT scores and a highly effective rating. First year teachers may also receive the bonus.
- Both traditional schools and charter schools will receive \$75 million each.

HB 7029 SCHOOL CHOICE: This Education Trains amends many sections of law. Highlights are as follows:

Section 1: FSBA: This impacts dues paid to the Florida School Boards Association and other similar organizations. It requires that, “dues paid to a membership association with public funds shall be assessed for each elected or appointed public officer and may be paid to a membership association. If a public officer elects not to join the membership association, the dues assessed to that public officer may not be paid...”

Section 2 School Boards: provides that school boards, acting as a board, shall, “Visit the schools, observe the management and instruction, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens with the view of promoting interest in education and improving the school.”

Section 4 School Choices:

- Allow parents to seek any public education school choice options available to students throughout the state.
- Public school educational choice now includes, CAPE digital tools, CAPE industry certifications, and collegiate digital programs.
- School Fiscal Transparency: “The school financial report must be provided to the parents and indicate the average amount of money expended per student in the school, which must also be included in the student handbook or a similar publication.”
- Allows, “public school students **may** be provided transportation to school in accordance with the controlled open enrollment provisions of 1002.31(2).
- Eligibility requirements for all students participating in high school athletic competition must allow the student to be **immediately** eligible in the school in which he or she first enrolls each school year. This no longer requires the approval of the district school board.

Section 5: School Choice:

- **Statewide Choice:** Beginning by the 2017-2018 school year each school board, as part of the district's or charter school's controlled open enrollment process, each parent from any school district in the state whose child is not subject to current expulsion or suspension may enroll his or her child and transport his or her child to any public school, including charter schools, that has not reached capacity in the district. School Boards
- **Capacity:** School boards must adopt a controlled open enrollment process and post it on the district website. The capacity of each school must be determined to determine schools eligible for the choice open enrollment process. Students residing in the district, out-of-district students applying for enrollment may, not displace including charter school students.
- **Preferential Treatment:** Military dependents, foster care relocations, children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to divorce or separation, or serious illness or death of the custodial parent, must be given preferential treatment in the process.
- **Continuity:** A student who transfers under this process may remain at the school chosen by the parent until the student completes the highest grade at the school.
- **Intrascholastic and Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities:** Students participating in controlled open enrollment are immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic and in intrascholastic extracurricular activities.
- **Schools and Programs of Choice Class Size Compliance:** There was no change in law that allows schools or programs of choice to have class size compliance by the school average.

Section 6: Prekindergarten Eligibility: Children reaching 4 years of age on or before September 1 of the school year is eligible for VPK during that school year or the next. They remain eligible until admitted to Kindergarten or unless he or she will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year.

Sections 7,8, and 14: Charter Schools: The charter school sections have clarifications and some substantive changes as follows:

Capital Outlay Changes:

- To be eligible for capital outlay funds, a charter school must have been in operation for 2 years, no longer 3 years.
- Charter schools with audits revealing financial emergency conditions may not receive capital outlay funds.
- Charter schools with 75% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, and/or 25% of students with disabilities will receive increased weighted funding.
- NOTHING PASSED THAT WOULD HAVE MANDATED A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SHARE ITS 1.5 MILLS.

Other Charter School Changes:

- The bill permits an aggrieved school the immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights against any authority who fails to treat the charter school equitably. An aggrieved school that receives injunctive relief may collect attorney fees and court costs.
- The bill prohibits sponsors from requiring charter schools to adopt the school district's reading curriculum as a condition of receiving the research-based reading allocation.
- The bill also prohibits a sponsor from delaying payment of any portion of a charter school's funding based upon the timing of receipt of local funds by the school board.
- The bill clarifies "financial stability" by specifying that a charter school may not have financial emergency conditions noted in its most recent annual audit in order to receive capital outlay funding and allows a charter school to be eligible for capital outlay funds if it has been in operation for two years rather than three years.
- The bill makes it clear that sponsors have authority to evaluate the applicant's history operating charter schools and aligns the law with the standard application currently in use and guidelines provided by the "Principles and Standards."

- The bill provides, upon approval of an application, that a charter school may defer opening for up to two years. The charter school must provide written notice of its intent to defer opening to the sponsor and parents of enrolled students at least 30 calendar days before the first day of school.
- The bill also prohibits a charter school from denying enrollment or withdrawing a student based on the student's academic performance.

Section 13: High School Graduation: School Boards and charter schools may offer students options to satisfy online course requirements, including completion of a course in which a student earns industry certification in information technology, without enrolling in or completing the course.

Section 15 and 35: School Construction:

- School districts must maintain accurate documentation related to the costs of all new construction of educational plant space. The auditor general shall review this documentation to determine if a district exceeded the cost per student station allowed in statute.
- The office of Economic and Demographic Research will conduct a study to update the cost per student stations.
- The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) will conduct a study of the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) and recommend changes if necessary.
- Effective July 1, 2017, in addition to the funding sources listed in subparagraph 1., a district school board may not use funds from any sources for new construction of educational plant space with a total cost per student station, including change orders, which equals more than the current adjusted amounts provided ... which shall subsequently be adjusted annually to reflect increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index.
- A school district that exceeds the cost per student station provided in paragraph (b), as determined by the Auditor General, shall be subject to sanctions.

- Sanctions include the loss of PECO funds for three years and the creation of a district capital outlay oversight committee.
- School Boards by a supermajority vote, may implement exceptions to SREF, relating to non-load bearing walls, walkways, roadways, driveways, and parking areas, covered walkways, and lighting. Areas are listed in the bill. The district must conduct a cost-benefit analysis prior to voting on the changes.

Section 16: Algebra I: This repeals the performance funding penalty for students failing to pass the Algebra I end-of-course exam.

Section 17: Auditory-Oral Education Programs: Beginning in 2017-2018, districts must add four special consideration points to the matrix calculation for students enrolled in an auditory-oral education program.

Section 19: Parental Teacher Change Requests: “Each school district board shall establish a transfer process for a parent to request his or her child be transferred to another classroom teacher. This section does not give a parent the right to choose a specific classroom teacher. A school must approve or deny the transfer within 2 weeks after receiving a request. If a request for transfer is denied, the school must notify the parent and specify the reasons for the denial. An explanation of the transfer process must be made available in the student handbook or a similar publication.”

Section 20: Acceleration Options: The Credit Acceleration Program is amended award course credit through passage of CLEP, EOC exams, and AP exams even if the course was not completed.

Sections 22-24: Participation in Extracurricular Student Activities/FHSAA:

- The bill authorizes a private school to join the FHSAA on a per-sport basis; and requires the FHSAA to allow a public school to apply for consideration to join another athletic association.

The bill revises student eligibility requirements by:

- Prohibiting a school district from delaying eligibility or otherwise preventing a student participating in controlled open enrollment or a school choice program from being immediately eligible to participate in extracurricular activities;

- Authorizing students enrolled in a non-FHSAA member private school to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports at their zoned public high school or middle school regardless of whether the private school offers an athletic program;
- Defining “eligible to participate” to include a student participating in tryouts, off-season conditioning, summer workouts, preseason conditioning, in-season practice, or contests. A student is not required to be placed on any specific team for extracurricular activities; and
- Relaxing the evidentiary standard for establishing a student’s ineligibility from clear and convincing evidence to a preponderance of the evidence.
- The bill creates s. 1006.195, F.S., which provides district school boards and charter schools the authority and responsibility to establish student eligibility standards regarding participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities, notwithstanding existing eligibility standards established in s. 1006.15 and the duty of the FHSAA to “adopt bylaws that, unless specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility requirements for all students who participate in high school athletic competition in its member schools.” However, the FHSAA retains jurisdiction over the following:
 - membership in the FHSAA;
 - recruiting prohibitions and violations;
 - Student medical evaluations;
 - Investigations;
 - Sanctions for coaches;
 - School eligibility and forfeiture of contests;
 - Student concussions or head injuries;

- The sports medical advisory committee; and
- General operational provisions of the FHSAA.

Each district school board must establish eligibility standards and student disciplinary actions in its code of student conduct. The code must at least provide that:

- A student not suspended or expelled is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics;
- A student's eligibility to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic activity may not be affected by recruiting allegations until a final determination has been reached;
- A student may not participate in any interscholastic or intrascholastic activity if the student participated in that same sport at another school during the same school year unless the student:
 - Is a dependent child of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;
 - Has been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone;
 - Has moved due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent; or ,
 - Is authorized for good cause in district or charter school policy.
- The bill provides that home education students charter school students, full-time Florida Virtual School students, and private school students who participate in extracurricular activities for a public school are subject to the school district's code of student conduct for purposes of eligibility.
- The bill establishes escalating penalties for the recruitment of student athletes. Specifically, the bill enhances current recruitment penalties found in the FHSAA bylaws by adding stringent penalties for the recruitment of a student athlete by a school district employee or contractor.

Section 28: Recalculation of ESE Guaranteed Allocation/Bonuses/Federally Connected Students:

- This section provide that ESE allocations are subject to recalculation once.
- The bill establishes two new tiers of bonuses available to CAPE industry certification teachers. A teacher who provided instruction to a student in a course that led to the attainment of a CAPE industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List with a weight of 0.3 will earn a \$75 bonus, which is \$25 more than currently authorized. A teacher who provided instruction to a student in a course that led to the attainment of a CAPE industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List with a weight of 0.5 or 1.0 will earn a \$100 bonus, which is \$50 more than currently authorized. The bill increases the maximum annual bonus for teachers providing instruction in courses leading to these CAPE industry certifications from \$2,000 to \$3,000.
- The bill places the Federally Connected Student funding language in statute.

Section 30: Out-of Field Teachers: “Each school district shall report out-of-field teachers on the district's website within 30 days before the beginning of each semester. A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that his or her child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled. The school district must approve or deny the parent's request and transfer the student to a different classroom teacher within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 2 weeks, if an in-field teacher for that course or grade level is employed by the school and the transfer does not violate maximum class size pursuant to s. 1003.03 and s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution. If a request for transfer is denied, the school must notify the parent and specify the reasons for the denial. An explanation of the transfer process must be made available in the student handbook or a similar publication. This subsection does not provide a parent the right to choose a specific teacher. “

Section 31: Charter Schools/Teachers: Authorizes, but does not mandate, a charter school to create system for teachers to show mastery of professional competence.

Section 32: Suicide Awareness and Prevention: This section authorizes, but does not mandate, staff development training in youth suicide awareness and prevention training. “Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and suicide prevention experts, shall develop a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials that may be used for training in youth suicide awareness and prevention for instructional personnel in elementary school, middle school, and high school.” Schools taking the two-hour course will be designated as “Suicide Prevention Certified Schools”.

Section 37: Reemployment After Retirement: This section clarifies that instructional personnel employed after retirement are eligible for only an annual contract, and may not earn a professional service contract.

Section 39: Pledge of Allegiance: The bill repeals the requirement to conspicuously post notice of the right not to participate and instead provides that students shall be informed of this right by a written notice published in the student handbook, the code of student conduct or a similar school publication.

The bill addresses the constitutional issues by removing the requirement that all civilians, including excused students, stand and place their hand over their heart during the pledge. Instead, only unexcused students must stand and recite the pledge.

Section 40: Biliteracy Programs for High School Graduates: The bill establishes the Florida Seal of Biliteracy to recognize a high school graduate who has attained a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more foreign languages in addition to English. Consistent with the guidelines, the bill differentiates two levels of competency, allowing students to earn a Seal of Biliteracy at either the “Gold” or the “Silver” level.

SUBSTANTIVE EDUCATION BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED THE LEGISLATURE

HB 229 Bullying Policies: This bill requires school districts to review its policy prohibiting bullying and harassment at least every three years. It also clarifies district reporting procedures and requires that principals must implement the policy and integrate bullying prevention programs.

CSHB 1147: Character Development Instruction: This is a bill requested through the “There Ought to be a Bill” competition at Countryside High School. Senator Jack Latvala and Representative Chris Latvala sponsored the bills. The bill adds to existing the following language:

“The character-development curriculum for grades 9 through 12 shall, at a minimum, include instruction on developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills; creating a résumé; developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews; conflict resolution, workplace ethics, and workplace law; managing stress and expectations; and developing skills enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.”

HB 719: Education Personnel: This bill amends several sections of law:

- It revises the membership and minimum requirements, of the Education Practices Commission.
- It creates Level I and Level II competency based school leadership programs. Both can be offered by school districts.
- It requires that school districts providing clinical field experience for educators to” notify the student electronically or in writing of the availability of educator liability insurance.

HB 672: Education Options/School Uniforms: \$10 million in standard student attire school financial incentives for grades K-8 was included in last year’s budget but not placed into statute. The Senate included the concept and funding in SB 672 that passed last week dealing with adults with unique abilities, assuring that the program will continue. The statute created is the Students Attired For Education ACT (SAFE). The language allows for \$10 per student for participating districts. Part of the language is as follows:

“To qualify for the incentive payment, a school district or charter school must, at a minimum, implement a standard attire policy that:

(a) Applies to all students in kindergarten through grade 8 in the school district or charter school, regardless of individual school grade configurations.

(b) Prohibits certain types or styles of clothing and requires solid-colored clothing and fabrics for pants, skirts, shorts, or similar clothing and short- or long-sleeved shirts with collars.

(c) Allows reasonable accommodations based on a student's religion, disability, or medical condition."

SB 386: Expunction of Records of Minors: Representatives Chris Sprowls and Chris Latvala co-sponsored this bill.

The bill requires all records related to minors who are not classified as serious or habitual juvenile offenders (non-serious juvenile offenders) to be automatically expunged when the minor reaches the age of 21, so long as one of the three above-mentioned exceptions does not apply. The automatic expunction of records related to juveniles who are classified as serious or habitual juvenile offenders remains at age 26.

The bill also permits non-serious juvenile offenders to apply to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to have their record expunged before the minor reaches 21 years of age. FDLE must expunge the juvenile criminal history record earlier than age 21 if:

- The minor has reached 18 years of age and has not been charged with or found to have committed a criminal offense in the 5-year period before the application; and
- The State Attorney for each circuit in which an offense specified in the criminal history record occurred has given approval. A juvenile seeking to have his or her criminal history record expunged before age 21 must submit a:
 - \$75 application fee;
 - Full set of fingerprints taken by a law enforcement agency for identification purposes; and
 - Sworn, written statement that he or she is no longer under court supervision and that he or she has not been charged with or found to have committed a criminal offense, in any jurisdiction of the state

or within the United States, within the 5-year period before the application date.

HB 793: Bright Futures Scholarship Program: This bill makes several changes to the Bright Futures Program:

- Allows eligible students with at least an 18-month religious or service commitment to delay the award.
- Modifies the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars program.
- Clarifies how hours of voluntary service may be documented.

Pinellas County Schools is eligible to apply for the following two pilot programs:

HB 1365 Competency Based Education Pilot Program:

The bill creates the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program within the Department of Education (DOE) to provide an educational environment that allows students to progress based upon the mastery of concepts and skills. The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to waive State Board of Education rules relating to pupil progression and the awarding of credit. Applications to participate are limited to the P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School and the Lake, Palm Beach, **Pinellas** and Seminole County school districts.

The bill:

- Requires the DOE to develop an application; compile specific information related to student and staff schedules; provide participating schools with access to statewide-standardized assessments; and provide an annual report to the Legislature.
- Specifies reporting requirements for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program.
- Outlines minimum provisions that must be included in the application.
- Lake and Pinellas County school districts received a Next Generations Systems Initiative Grant award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2013 to support their work in creating a system of personalized learning through competency-based

education¹⁶ The competitive grant targeted medium to large public school districts committed to developing a system-wide personalized learning strategy to launch new schools, or completely redesign existing schools.

- Lake and Pinellas County Public Schools were each awarded a three-phase grant of approximately \$3,100,000. Since 2013, the districts have developed strategic plans for implementation, developed and conducted teacher and administrative training, established cross-functional work groups, developed an application process and reviewed and approved school applications for participation. Both districts implemented personalized learning in five schools beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.
- The DOE must develop an application that must include, at a minimum:
 - The vision and timelines for implementation of the program, including first year participating schools and additional schools that will be added in subsequent years;
 - The annual goals and performance outcomes;
 - A communication plan for parents and stakeholders, including local business and community members;
 - The scope of and timelines for professional development for instructional and administrative personnel;
 - A plan for student progression based on mastery of content;
 - A plan for utilizing technology and digital and blended learning;
 - The proposed allocation of resources at the school and district level.
 - The recruitment and selection of participating schools; and

- The rules relating to student progression and award of credits that the district intends to waive for participating schools.

The DOE must also:

- Compile student and staff schedules of participating schools before and after program implementation.
- Provide participants access to statewide, standardized assessments.
- Provide an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor, by June 1, summarizing the accomplishments of the program and recommendations for statutory revisions. Adopt rules to administer this program.

HB 287 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program: The bill establishes the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative (PAPPI) within the Department of Education to provide the principals of participating schools in participating school districts with increased autonomy and authority regarding allocation of resources and staffing. Participation is voluntary, but limited to the school districts of Broward, Duval, Jefferson, Madison, Palm Beach, **Pinellas** and Seminole Counties.

School districts seeking to participate in PAPPI must submit a principal autonomy proposal to the State Board of Education for approval. Among other things, the proposal must identify three schools that received at least two school grades of "D" or "F" during the previous three school years, describe the areas in which increased autonomy will be granted, and state measurable goals regarding student achievement and operational efficiency. The initial term of the program is three years.

The bill grants the principals of participating schools greater authority regarding staffing decisions, allocation of financial resources, and budgeting.

To participate a district must:

1. Identify three schools that received at least two school grades of "D" or "F" pursuant to s. 1008.34 during the previous 3 school years.

2. Identify three principals who have earned a highly effective rating on the prior year's performance evaluation pursuant to s 1012.34, one of whom shall be assigned to each of the participating schools.
3. Describe the current financial and administrative management of each participating school; identify the areas in which each school principal will have increased fiscal and administrative autonomy, including the authority and responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8); and identify the areas in which each participating school will continue to follow district school board fiscal and administrative policies.
4. Explain the methods used to identify the educational strengths and needs of the participating school's students and identify how student achievement can be improved.
5. Establish performance goals for student achievement, as defined in s. 1008.34(1), and explain how the increased autonomy of principals will help participating schools improve student achievement and school management.
6. Provide each participating school's mission and a description of its student population.

A district school board must submit its principal autonomy proposal to the state board for approval by December 1 in order to begin participation in the subsequent school year. By February 28 of the school year in which the proposal is submitted, the state board shall notify the district school board in writing whether the proposal is approved.

Each district shall require that the principal of each participating school, a three-member leadership team from each participating school, and district personnel working with each participating school complete a nationally recognized school turnaround program which focuses on improving leadership, instructional infrastructure, talent management, and differentiated support and accountability. The required personnel must enroll in the nationally recognized school turnaround program upon acceptance into the pilot program. Each participating school district shall receive **\$100,000** from the department for participation in the nationally recognized school turnaround program.

The Legislature shall provide an appropriation to the department for the

costs of the pilot program, including administrative costs and enrollment costs for the nationally recognized school turnaround program, and an additional amount of **\$10,000** for each participating principal in each participating district as an annual salary supplement, a fund for the principal's school to be used at the principal's discretion, or both, as determined by the district.

To be eligible for a salary supplement under this subsection, a participating principal must:

- (a) Be rated "highly effective" as determined by the principal's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34;
- (b) Be transferred to a school that earned a grade of "F" or three consecutive grades of "D" pursuant to s. 1008.34 and provided additional authority and responsibilities pursuant to s. 1012.28(8); and
- (c) Have implemented a turnaround option under s.1008.33(4) at a school as the school's principal. The turnaround option must have resulted in the school improving by at least one letter grade while he or she was serving as the school's principal.

HB 585: Hospital Homebound Program: The bill requires school districts with children's specialty hospitals to enter into an agreement with the hospital no later than August 15, 2016.

The bill also provides the State Board of Education express rulemaking authority regarding instruction for homebound and hospitalized students and clarifies that districts must provide instruction to eligible students in accordance with state board rule. The rules must establish, at minimum:

- Criteria for eligibility of K-12 homebound or hospitalized students for specially designed instruction.
- Procedures for determining student eligibility.
- A list of appropriate methods for providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students.
- Requirements for initiating instructional services for a homebound or hospitalized student once the student is determined to be eligible.

SB 7076 Legislative Meeting Dates: This sets the early start to the legislative session for January 9,2018.

HB 5003 The Implementing Bill: This bill amends many sections of law but only for one year. Major issues are as follows:

- **Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Allocation:** Requires a one-time recalculating.
- **Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI):** Requires a one-time recalculation.
- **Low 300 Funding:** Provides that districts with one or more of the low 300 elementary schools in reading, will receive an additional allocation from the SAI funds.
- **Digital Classrooms Allocation:** Although statewide funding increased from \$60 to \$80 million, the minimum allocation increased from \$250,000 to \$500,000. This hurts larger districts that may actually receive a decrease in funding.
- **Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Fund:** \$49 million. “To be eligible for a scholarship, a classroom teacher must have achieved a composite score at or above the 80th percentile on either the SAT or the ACT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment and have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.”
- **Liability Insurance Notification Mandate:** The district school board providing the clinical field experience shall notify the student electronically or in writing of the availability of educator liability insurance under s.1012.75. A postsecondary educational institution or district school board may not require a student enrolled in a state- approved teacher preparation program to purchase liability insurance as a condition of participation in any clinical field experience or related activity on the premises of an elementary or secondary school.

HB 7099: Taxation: This is the tax cut bill that did not include all of the cuts requested by the Governor. It does include a three-day back to school sales tax free holiday. Details are as follows:

The bill provides for a three-day back-to-school sales tax holiday from August 5, 2016, through August 7, 2016. During the holiday, the following items that cost \$60 or less are exempt from the state sales tax and county discretionary sales surtaxes:

- Clothing (defined as an “article of wearing apparel intended to be worn on or about the human body,” but excluding watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, and handkerchiefs);
- Footwear (excluding skis, swim fins, roller blades, and skates);
- ☐Wallets; and
- Bags (including handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags, but excluding briefcases, suitcases, and other garment bags).
The bill also exempts “school supplies” that cost \$15 or less per item during the holiday. The holiday does not apply to the following sales:
 - Sales within a theme park or entertainment complex.
 - Sales within a public lodging establishment.
 - Sales within an airport.

HB 189 Teacher Certification: The bill makes it easier for qualifying temporary certificate holders to earn a professional certificate by reducing the coursework associated with meeting professional preparation and education competence requirements. Under the bill, an individual may earn a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12 in a STEM subject without having to complete additional coursework if the individual:

- Meets the general certification requirements;
- Holds a master’s or higher degree in the area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;
- Passes the subject area examination for the correlated educator certificate;
- Passes the professional education competency examination required by state board rule;
- Teaches a high school course in the subject of the advanced degree; and

- Is rated highly effective under the school district's performance evaluation system based in part on student performance as measured by a statewide-standardized assessment or an AP, Advanced International Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate examination. A candidate who meets all of these requirements may apply for a professional certificate before the completion of his or her three-year temporary certification period.

HB 229: Bullying Policies: The bill requires school districts to review its bullying and harassment policies every three years, and to include students, parents, teachers, administrators, school staff, volunteers, community representatives, and law enforcement agencies in the review.