

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 2018 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Recognize and respect the Constitutional and Statutory Authority of School Boards:

- Revise the Schools of Hope statute to require that all potential school operators apply to the district school board for approval as do all other charter schools.
- Ensure that school boards make the final decision on authorizing charter schools and Schools of Hope.
- Maximize local school board flexibility when enacting changes in law.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

OPERATING:

- Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for 2018-19 and ensure an increase in total potential funding by at least 4% per student.
- Return the decision on compensation and bonuses to the local school boards.
- Provide funding for a six-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.
- Increase Workforce Education funding for postsecondary programs, including expansion of apprenticeship programs.
- Fully fund the industry credentials including the Postsecondary CAPE funding list.
- Provide funding for students taking district-run virtual school summer courses beyond the 180-day school year.

CAPITAL OUTLAY:

Pass legislation that the charter school capital funding formula from local revenue should be:

- Based on proven need, just as school boards are required to provide.
- Based on projected school enrollment, and the age and square footage of the charter school.
- Incorporated into the school district's five-year capital outlay work plan.

This legislation would increase fairness to school boards, ensure that charter schools receive only needed funds, and that charter school management companies would not receive a windfall in funding.

Legislation should also:

- Restore the authority for local school boards to levy up to 2.0 mills for capital outlay purposes.
- Identify new state revenue streams for public school construction, remodeling, maintenance, and instructional technology.

Facilities issue:

- Require that public facilities, other than K-12 schools, should be required to be used as hurricane shelters.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Continue to review and reduce the number of state-mandated tests, allowing for replacement with national tests.
- Include additional grade levels in the paper and pencil test option.