

School Board of Sarasota County, Florida 2011 Legislative Platform

Support Providing Statutory Flexibility with the Class Size Amendment

- Support flexible caps for Class-Size Reduction Amendment requirement
- Reduce penalties for non-compliance with amendment requirements
- Apply class size amendment requirements equally to charter schools and traditional public schools

Stabilize School Funding and Enhance Local Discretion in Expenditures

- Support stable state funding for K-12 public education that accounts for the loss of federal stimulus dollars
- Adequately fund the start-up and ongoing costs of any new legislative requirements
- Continue weighted funding for costly programs that are essential to maintain rigorous high school instructional programs, including Advance Placement programs, the International Baccalaureate program, the Advanced International Certificate of Education program and Certified Career and Professional academy courses.
- Continue flexibility in the use of Instructional Materials categorical funds
- Allow districts to purchase used textbooks after year two of the adoption cycle

Support a Collaborative Approach for Educational Reform Efforts

- Allow local control to create performance evaluation plans and differentiated pay schedules to meet local needs, promote fairness among all instructional personnel, and increase buy-in from all stakeholders