

Proposed Legislative Platform Statement HB 7029-Cost of Construction

Provide Districts flexibility in the cost of construction of new or replacement schools, without being subject to penalties listed in FS1013.64. Specifically, amend the maximum allowable cost per student station in response to one or more of the following:

- Upfront Investments that minimize the overall cost of building ownership over its life through investment in green technologies, energy reduction technologies, selection of construction materials and construction techniques which decrease long term operational costs.
- Local building code requirements for wind load and additional infrastructure to meet jurisdictional storm evacuation and sheltering requirements.
- Unique site work needs and associated costs.
- Extended construction schedules on student occupied campuses.
- Costs of local labor

Proposed Legislative Platform Item

Address shortage of substitute teachers by allowing recent retirees to work as substitutes

Amend Florida Statute 238.181 to allow teachers to return to the classroom as substitutes within three months of retirement rather than being required to wait 12 months as mandated in the current statute.

School Board of Sarasota County, Florida 2016 Legislative Platform

Ensure the constitutional authority of school boards to “operate, control, and supervise” all public schools within their school districts.

- Empower the local school board with the final decision-making authority over charter schools within the district, including decisions to accept, reject, renew, or terminate the charter contract.

Stabilize school funding and enhance local discretion in expenditures.

- Adequately fund the start-up and ongoing costs of any new legislative requirements.
- Restore the FTE definition to provide for six periods and fund additional instructional time for dual enrollment and virtual programs.
- Continue weighted funding for costly programs that are essential to maintain rigorous high school instructional programs, including Advanced Placement programs, the International Baccalaureate program, the Advanced International Certificate of Education program and Certified Career and Professional academy courses.
- Allow school districts to establish local agreement provisions inclusive of cost structure with post-secondary institutions related to the delivery of dual enrollment.
- Restore grant funding for the Adults with Disabilities Program

Support an accountability and evaluation system that is valid, fair, reliable and fully funded.

- Ensure that the assessment system can be supported by local infrastructure and does not have an unreasonable negative impact on instructional time.