

School Board of Sarasota County, Florida 2015 Legislative Platform

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

- Preserve school board constitutional and home rule authority by opposing legislation that would subvert, bypass, or undermine that authority and seek input from those impacted by such legislation.
- Repeal provisions calling for a standard charter school contract and 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

- Restore the FTE definition to provide for six periods and fund additional instructional time for dual enrollment and virtual programs.

Support an Accountability and Evaluation System that Can Be Adequately Supported by the District

- Extend, until fiscal year 2016-17, the transition period for the implementation of accountability measures relating to student progression, teacher evaluation, school grades, and district ranking and allow districts to identify their own means for determining student promotion, graduation, and educator evaluations during the transition period.
- Create a workable accountability system, not to be implemented before July 1, 2017 with limited assessment requirements including local end-of-course exams.
- Hold all schools to the same public and academic accountability requirements including those school receiving benefits through the voucher/scholarship programs.