

2017 Florida Legislature Legislative Review

Sarasota County Public Schools

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2017 Summary

- Regular Session March 7 –May 5, 2017

Bills

- 3132 bills filed; over 1,000 appropriations projects
- 249 passed.
- Almost 400 tracked for possible impact on Prek-12 education.
- 45 and counting passed and directly or indirectly impact Prek-12.

2017 Legislative Priorities

Ensure constitutional authority of school boards

- Mixed session; House governance bills were not heard in Senate; HB7069 requires, rather than makes optional, local millage sharing of capital outlay with charter schools; 20-minute recess mandatory; restrictions on charter application approvals; dates and requirements for referenda not changed.

HB7029 – cost of construction

- EDR/OPPAGA studies issued in January; no discussion or action taken by Legislature.

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

- Discussed in House/Senate committees, no action taken.

Support an accountability and evaluation system that is valid, fair, reliable and fully funded and provide school districts all possible flexibility in implementation and should not violate federal law by imposing requirements that are above and beyond the scope of the federal legislation.

- Changes in pending HB7069—moving state testing toward year end; results back quicker to parents, teachers and students; state posting of results; elimination of Algebra II EOC; study for use of ACT/SAT; use of paper/pencil exams for grades 3-6.

2017 Legislative Priorities

Stabilize school funding and enhance local discretion in expenditures

- Proposed further requirements for “Low 300” elementary schools’ additional reading instruction during summer school did not pass; FEFP increased 1.4%/FTE.

Amend F.S. 1002.395 (5), F.S., to delete automatic 25% increase in credits for Florida Tax Credit Scholarships

- Issue raised in committee and on house/Senate floors; 25% auto increase remained and dollar value of scholarships increased 4% to 88%, 92% and 96% (elem to High school) of total potential dollars/FTE.

What Did Not Pass

- HB205/SB196 – civil citation
- Employee/volunteer “guns on campus”
- SB392 – mandatory half-credit Financial Literacy
- SB104/HB265 – computer coding courses in lieu of foreign language requirement
- SB82 – repeal of state tuition rates for undocumented students
- Limits on local infrastructure sales tax referenda*
- Extending Legislative term limits from 8 to 12 years*
- Returning to elected state Commissioner and SBE*
- Extension/expansion of Gaming Compact (possible \$300M in new revenue)
- HB1397 Medical Marijuana implementation (Speaker calls for special session)
- Worker’s Compensation rates (legal fee limits)

*Likely issues before Constitutional Revision Commission

What Did Pass of Significance

- HB15 – Choice expansion Gardiner and Florida Tax Credit Scholarships;
- HB293 – Review of national research and effective programs for middle school CIA;
- HB371 – Assistive devices follow the student;
- SB374 – Higher Ed conforming budget bill; new university metrics; reinstates college board of education, renames state colleges to community colleges; limits CC 4-year programs;
- SB436 – clearly provides for voluntary freedom of religious expression in school work, activities before and after school;
- HB781 – school grades for K-3 centers will stand-alone, not be part of higher grades' school;

What Did Pass of Significance

- HB989 – requires greater input at beginning selection process and after adoption disposition of instructional materials for parents and residents; establishes non-district employee “hearing officer” to handle filed complaints;
- HB1109 – allows non-FHSAA school students to be eligible for sports in FHSAA schools;
- HB7059 – revisions to juvenile justice procedures; affects reporting to schools;
- HB7105 – November, 2018 Constitutional amendment to increase homestead exemption to \$75,000 for property valued under \$100,000 and to \$100,000 for property over \$100,000. Schools exempted;

Hb7069 – The “Everything” Bill

Chapter 2017-116, Laws Of Florida

- 274-page “Conforming” budget bill for Prek-12 Education
- Contains substance of over 22 separate bills, some budget and some not, some partly heard and one defeated in Senate;

Major Points:

- Continues funding and requirements for low performing 300 elementary schools with no changes;
- Puts Safe Schools categorical program into statute (had been only in FEFP budget)
- Continues student attire with modified requirement only have a uniform dress policy (appropriation 109A vetoed by Gov. Scott);

HB7069 – Continued

- Creates “schools of excellence” for top 20% performing schools (FSA-rated) statewide with flexibility same as 2016 autonomous principal pilot;
- Modifies temporary certificate to allow exemption from educator competency exam or extends certificate by a year if holder is “highly effective”;
- Requires training in phonics and phonetics;
- Requires teacher mentorship program;
- Establishes September as American Founders’ month; requires civics proficiency for entering college students;
- Clarifies changes to charter contract application may be violation if SBE rule not followed (note: rule allows mutually agreed to changes);

HB7069 – Continued

- Allows certain charter applicants to by-pass local zoning/land use jurisdictions to put a charter school on an existing site;
- Permits charter schools to “grade” school districts on cooperativeness;
- Allows high performing charter systems to replicate anywhere in Florida;
- Requires districts to share local 1.5mill capital dollars after deduct for debt service and any state funds charter school receives; charter (for or non-profit owner) may use funds for capital purposes or share with other charter schools within a charter system; charters must have }75% FRL students and/or }25% ESE students to receive indexed state dollars;
- Districts and charter Capital Outlay FTE (COFTE) now calculated for Prek-12;

HB7069- Continued

- Algebra II End-of-Course exam eliminated;
- State assessment moved toward end of year;
- Mandatory paper-pencil, grades 3-6, ELA and Math; possible grade expansion in FY19;
- Grade 3 results back by May 31st; others by June 30th; Grade 3 tested no earlier than April 1st; others no earlier than May 1st;
- Set dates for data reporting by FLDOE and by school districts;
- VAM assessment made voluntary for school districts as part of teacher evaluation;
- SAT/ACT concordance study to use in lieu of FSA in FY19;

HB 7069 – Continued

- “Early warning system” for K-8, specifically K-3 reading for reading difficulties such as dyslexia;
- School rated “D” or “F” is in “educational emergency”; freed from contract restrictions, but MOU required for placement and expectations of instructional and administrative personnel;
- No annual contract may be “rolled over” for teacher’s effective or highly effective rating (SB856 defeated in committee);
- If school below “C” two consecutive years, district must do turn-around plan for following year; if still below “C”, must assign students to different schools; open a charter school or contract with outside entity to run the school; if no change after 2 more years, must implement another of the three strategies;

HB7069 – Continued

- “Schools of Hope” – (section 43), allows out of state charter providers to either seek to take over a “persistently low performing” school or establish a school in a neighborhood of a low performing school/s or within 5 miles of the school/s;
- Funds \$140M for estimated 115 schools in 2017-2018 to provide wrap-around services and have complete autonomy in school operations; contractor is SBE/FLDOE, not the district;
- Sets up to 25 schools for which a district may apply to SBE and run the school as a district charter;

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HB 7069 – Continued

(From House Analysis)

- The bill requires school districts to provide Title I funds directly to all eligible schools and limits the amount of Title I funds that a district may withhold as follows:
 - One percent (1%) for parent involvement
 - A necessary and reasonable amount for administration not to exceed eight percent (8%)
 - A reasonable and necessary amount to provide:
 - o homeless programs;
 - o delinquent and neglected programs;
 - o prekindergarten programs and activities;
 - o private school equitable services; and
 - o transportation for foster care children to their school of origin or choice program.
- The bill also provides that, after providing Title I funds to schools above the 75 percent poverty threshold, the district shall distribute all remaining Title I funds to all eligible schools in accordance with federal law and regulation.
- The threshold for identifying eligible schools may not exceed the school district 2016-2017 threshold or the statewide percentage of economically disadvantaged students, as determined annually.
- Schools may participate in district-wide or district sponsored initiatives by paying a proportionate share of Title I funds to the school district. The bill enables school-level administrators to determine the best use of the funds to serve the students at their schools.

Of the 7 percent State Title I funds that must be set aside for school improvement, 95 percent must be awarded to districts through either a formula or competitive approach or some combination thereof. The remaining 5 percent would be used primarily to support DA regional activities as it is, currently.

HB7069 - Continued

- Best and Brightest – for FY18, FY19 and FY20, “highly effective” regular classroom teachers (s.1012.01(2)(a), F.S., receive a \$1200 bonus for each year of rating; “effective teachers” receive up to \$800 bonus/year; continues \$6,000 bonus for highly effective teachers scoring in top 20% of ACT/SAT; provides \$234M for funding
- Starting in 2020-21, program reverts to qualifying for bonus based on rating and score on varying high school (SAT/ACT) and/or college exams (GRE, LSAT, MCAT, etc.)
- Creates bonus for principals – Title 1 school principals up to \$5,000; non-Title 1 at \$4,000 if over 80% of faculty meet above qualifications
- New stipulations on Gardiner scholarship; adds hospitals and specific groups (art, music, equestrian) as providers; provides \$30M for increases;

HB7069 - Continued

- Allows Supt's designee to vote at children services council meetings;
- Opens Fund for Minority Teachers for eligibility at any time during undergrad period;
- Eliminates career planning course from middle school curriculum;
- Allows charter schools to become prek provider;
- Requires state instructional materials funds be spent on K-5 state-adopted reading materials;
- Expands virtual ed option to home ed and private school students without any prior public school enrollment;

HB7069 - Continued

- Mandates 20min/day, 100min/week for unstructured supervised recess in addition to PE requirement; charter schools are exempt;
- Allows student absence for treatment of autism spectrum disorder;
- Promotes shared use of facilities for afterschool; requires FLDOE to conduct study;
- Authorizes school board member to visit schools without appointment;
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- Authorizes student to bring and use sunscreen that is FDA approved for over-the-counter;

2017-2018 Appropriations

K-12 Education

(SB2500; SB2502; SB7022)

- Original HB2500 – VETOED - total potential \$7220.72; .34% increase over last February calculation; Base Student Allocation down \$27.07 from FY17, first time in increasing revenue year;
- *Special session 2017A—HB3A; added \$215M or \$100/FTE over FY17; final total potential at \$7296.23. 1.39% increase*
- RLE frozen at current year level, even if new construction is added;
- *Total increase of \$455M to cover 24K more students (39.2K FTEw) and \$54M increase in FRS*
- \$50M capital outlay for charter schools and \$50M for school districts, down from \$75M in FY17;
- FRS rates up slightly, new entrants required to start in investment plan; have 9 months to switch; no other changes;

2018 Legislative Session

January 9-March 9, 2018

- Early start; committees beginning in September, lasting through December;
- Some potential Prek-12 Issues
 - School/parental choice (also see CRC)
 - Gardiner; Florida Tax Credit; ESSA portability pending Congressional action;
 - Expansion of corporate charter systems;
 - Future of PECO funding
 - Early childhood education (VPK)
 - State Assessment/accountability
 - FEFP – formula changes and funding
 - Issues related with Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC)

2017-2018 Constitutional Revision Commission

www.flcrc.gov

- 37 appointed members—15 by Governor; 9 each by Speaker and Senate President, 3 by Supreme Court Chief Justice, and Attorney General.
- Meet and work March, 2017 – April/May, 2018.
- http://revisefl.com/images/CRC_PPT_website.pdf - Leroy Collins Institute
- Held 9 public hearings March 29-May 17; on break now; final recommendations on Nov., 2018 general election ballot.
- Standing Committees
 1. Declaration of Rights (Article I)
 2. Executive (Article IV)
 3. Judicial (Article V)
 4. Legislative (Article III)
 5. Local Government (Article VIII)
 6. Finance and Taxation (Article VII)
 7. Ethics and Elections (Article VI, part of Article II)
 8. Bonding and Investments (Article VII)
 9. Education (Article IX)
 10. General Provisions (Articles II, X, XI, and XII)Each standing committee shall be composed of no less than five (5) members.

This presentation is a working draft
and will be updated as Governor
Scott acts on bills.

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