

MEMORANDUM

August 30, 2011

TO: Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards

FROM: Andrea Messina
President

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED 2012 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Attached is the **proposed** 2012 Legislative Program of the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards. The proposal is the result of a Consortium legislative meeting held in Punta Gorda, Florida on August 26-27, 2011. There are two (2) versions: one clean, the other with old and new language. Please forward the proposed program to your School Board for its action.

Please remind your Board that, under the consortium bylaws, if any Board rejects any issue, that issue automatically is removed from the program.

The consortium members also agreed that, in addition to the issues included in the proposed program, the following items should be submitted to the Florida School Boards Association since they have a major impact on all 67 school districts.

Funding

- Provide long-term funding stability for teacher performance pay and teacher evaluation systems, the cost of end-of-course exam development/implementation and differentiated accountability.
- Replace federal funds (Edujobs) put into the base funding with state funds rather than local sources.
- Provide state funding to offset the major increases in transportation costs that result from the requirements necessary to implement Public School Opportunity Scholarships.

Residency Requirement

- Remove the one-year residency requirement before attending post-secondary programs at an in-state tuition level.

DJJ Funding

- Ensure that any additional funding for Juvenile Justice centers supplements rather than supplants funds available for the basic education program.
- Allow districts to waive the \$45 fee for adult education basic or GED courses offered to students in jails, stockades, or DJJ facilities.

Virtual Education

Allow virtual education reporting of FTE in all reporting periods for total 12-month FTE limit of 1.0 and open virtual enrollment to any Florida student entering kindergarten and ensure the Florida virtual school charges no more than the BSA.

Governance

- Provide for the same level of student and educator accountability for all state providers.
- High school graduation requirements should accommodate diploma options for students entering the workforce, technical or career education programs, or military, national or international study.
- Eliminate the requirement that middle school students must pass Civics (EOC exam) to be promoted to high school.
- Oppose any legislation that dictates a specific percentage of a district's operating budget that must be allocated to "direct classroom instruction."

Technology Infrastructure

Provide funding for the technology infrastructure (internet/hardware connectivity) within and among districts and provide for equitable access to virtual and online resources.

PECO Funds

Reinstate PECO funds for traditional public schools to no less than one third of the total dollars available.

School Board Members' Duties and Salaries

Oppose any restrictions to school board duties or salaries.

School Board Structure

Oppose any provisions impacting the school board's governance without local school board and community input.

We will appreciate your expediting action on the 2012 Program so that we can move ahead in seeking support for the issues it contains.

Please send the results of your school board's action to Florida School Services, Inc., Attention: Tom Cerra, at flschoolservices@mindspring.com.

Thank you.

AM:pw
Attachments