



2018 Legislative Platform

Sarasota Priorities

- Obtain flexibility and resources for Sarasota Schools to fully implement a summer learning program for educationally vulnerable children and their parents with emphasis on grade 3 in partnership with groups such as the Florida Chamber of Commerce;
- Fund Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) programs offered on the campus of Title 1 Elementary Schools at the same FTE level as K-3 (Florida Education Finance Program) if offered as part of a comprehensive school improvement effort tied to the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading.
- Create a waiver of tuition for parents and/or guardians of students at Title 1 Elementary Schools who take workforce development programs offered by technical colleges or technical centers offered on the campus of their child's school.
- Modify funding for workforce development programs to reward institutions experiencing growth by funding EITHER the most recent year's enrollment OR a current three-year rolling average.

Regional/State Priorities

- Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to cover enrollment growth, workload and state programmatic changes, and inflation; AND calculate the Required Local Effort (RLE) in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to include new construction added to annual county tax rolls;
- Provide for hiring of instructional personnel as substitute teachers and re-hiring of retired school bus drivers part-time one month after termination, not to exceed 780 hours, without penalty to their state retirement pension;
- Continue to streamline and reduce the amount of state required student assessment to bring it in line with requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), also ensuring the FLDOE concordance with SAT/ACT exams with FSA is completed;
- Modify the waiver for certain special education students from state assessment requirements (Florida Standards Assessment in particular) so that students enrolled in ESE programs, except gifted, are exempt unless the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) provides for such assessment;
- Strengthen teacher training standards and curriculum for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs to assure all participating children are ready for kindergarten.