

March 22, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Joy Frank
Justine Ravelo, Legislative Intern
Fe Warren, Legislative Intern

RE: Legislative Update – Week of March 18

General Information

There was a question about the statutory requirement for Youth Mental Health Training. Below is the information for you in case you need it.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=1012.584&URL=1000-1099/1012/Sections/1012.584.html

FEMA/Hurricane Irma

I wanted each of you to have a copy of the email that was forwarded to me regarding Hurricane Irma reimbursements.

----- Original message -----

From: "Guthrie, Kevin" <Kevin.Guthrie@em.myflorida.com>
Date: 18/03/2019 17:58 (GMT-05:00)
To: County Emergency Management Directors
<CountyEmergencyManagementDirectors@em.myflorida.com>
Cc: Eve Rainey <erainey@fepa.org>, Jeff Branch <jbranch@flcities.com>, "Poole, Eric (FL Assoc of Counties)" <epoole@fl-counties.com>
Subject: FEMA and EEI communications

Good Evening,

As discussed on the EM Director call last week, a couple of counties expressed concern over correspondence from FEMA regarding Hurricane Irma projects that are awaiting Essential Elements of Information (EEI). FEMA has corresponded with some applicants that projects, especially Category A (debris removal) and Category B (emergency protective measures), must be submitted by the end of March.

Currently, there are over 500 debris removal and emergency protective measures projects estimated at over \$670,000,000.00 pending information from applicants. Hurricane Irma made landfall over 18 months ago- it is unprecedented for there to be so many projects waiting on documentation from applicants for emergency work.

While the State, supports FEMA's initiative of working to move these projects along, applicants that cannot upload documentation within a timely manner must create an action plan with a timeline of when this documentation is expected to be uploaded. This plan must be presented to your FEMA program delivery manager. Action plans must show benchmarks and must be within a reasonable timeframe. For example, uploading documentation for debris removal projects should not take an additional year.

In the interests of the State of Florida, all applicants must show progress on all of their projects, especially the emergency work projects. With the 2019 Hurricane Season fast approaching, we need to replenish local funds in order to be prepared.

Thank you,

Kevin Guthrie, MA CEM MEP FPEM
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Ron Saff Public Records Request

I think everyone is getting a public records request from Ron Saff. He has copied me on every email. I do not know why but I would appreciate being copied on the response. Also, SB 66 relating to drinking water in public schools will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday. Body of Email:

Re: Public Record Request for Lead Testing Documents

Dear Superintendent Patton:

I am making a public records request for any records you hold that relate to testing for lead in school drinking water from potable sources such as drinking fountains and cafeteria water taps within the schools in your district. Please email the documents to ronsaff@aol.com. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

*Ron Saff, M.D.
ronsaff@aol.com
850-766-7886*

Initial Budget Rollout

I have also attached several documents on the budget developed by Jim Hamilton. The first report is an explanation of the budget proposals by the House and Senate budget chairs. There are significant differences between the two proposals. I have also resent the House and Senate FEFP summaries that are available. I sent these out yesterday but thought it would be good to attach to this report. Finally, two spreadsheets are attached. One features the Senate FEFP and the second features the House FEFP. The differences between the two spreadsheets are explained in the report.

Overall, the Senate proposal provides a very robust increase in total funds and dollars per student and addresses some of the funding concerns that districts have expressed. The House proposal is much more restrictive and provides much less support. However, the House proposal is more nearly aligned with the revenue projections from the Long Range Financial Outlook.

House

Below is a link to House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee – Chair’s Proposed Budget FY 2019-20

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3008&Session=2019&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=pka%203-20-19%20REVISED.pdf>

House FEFP Runs:

<https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2991&Session=2019&DocumentType=PCB%20GAA%20Supporting%20Documents&FileName=2019-20%20PCB%20APC%2019-01%20FEFP.pdf>

PKA1 by Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee re to Education Funding. This is the House budget conforming bill that conforms applicable statutes to the appropriations contained in the House General Appropriations Act (GAA). Below is a summary of the effective changes.

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program/Hope Scholarship Program

The bill revises the methodology for how the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and the Hope Scholarship Program scholarship amounts are calculated. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, scholarship amounts for both programs will be calculated based upon the grade level and school district in which the student resides as 97 percent of the district average for basic programs identified in s. 1011.62(1)(c)1., F.S. and the General Appropriations Act.

The bill amends the provisions relating to the 3 percent administrative fee that eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations (SFOs) are authorized to retain by allowing these organizations to use eligible contributions received pursuant to ss. 212.099, 212.1832, 1002.395, and 1002.40, F.S., during the fiscal year in which such contributions are collected for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses may not exceed 3 percent of the total amount of all scholarships awarded by an eligible nonprofit SFO under chapter 1002, to include the scholarships funded by tax credits as well as those funded by a legislative appropriation.

The bill limits the amount of contributions for the Hope Scholarship Program that an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization (SFO) may carry forward to 5 percent of net eligible contributions. Any contributions in excess of the 5 percent must be transferred to another eligible nonprofit SFO or if another such organization does not participate in the Hope Scholarship Program, eligible contributions may be used to fund Florida Tax Credit scholarships. The bill also allows contributions by motor vehicle purchasers to be used for Florida Tax Credit scholarships in addition to Hope scholarships.

The bill establishes a funding priority for Florida Tax Credit scholarships beginning in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to include:

- Eligible students who received a scholarship during the previous school year.
- New applicants whose household income levels do not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level or who are in foster care or out-of-home care.
- New applicants whose household income levels are greater than 185 percent of the federal poverty level but do not exceed 260 percent of the federal poverty level.

And finally, the bill renames the Florida Sales Tax Credit Scholarship Program to Credits for Contributions to Eligible Nonprofit Scholarship-funding Organizations consistent with similar laws. The bill revises the use of the sales tax credits by maintaining the priority for Florida Tax Credit scholarships and eliminating the priority for the Gardiner Scholarship Program which would have been effective starting in Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

John R. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program

The bill specifies that for purposes of calculating the amount of the McKay scholarship, the per-student share of the reading instruction funds must also be included.

Supplemental Academic Instruction Allocation

The bill modifies the SAI allocation by deleting the requirement that each school district that has one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on the statewide reading assessment must use its portion of the SAI funds to provide an additional hour each day of intensive reading instruction.

District Cost Differential

The bill requires that by January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research must develop a methodology for calculating the variation in the cost of wages and salaries and calculate each school district's wage level index using applicable county- and occupational-level data. To improve the integrity of the calculation, the bill requires the office to seek input from a broad range of stakeholders, to include school districts and the Department of Economic Opportunity, to verify factors that result in the cost differences among counties.

Research-based Reading Instruction Allocation

The bill makes the requirement for the additional hour per day of intensive reading instruction for school districts with one or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year average of the statewide reading assessment permissive rather than mandatory

Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Programs

The bill deletes the provision of the Best and Brightest Teachers Scholarship Program that provides a \$6,000 award for classroom teachers who are rated “highly effective” and who scored at or above the 80th percentile nationally on either the SAT or the ACT at the time the assessment was taken. The bill also increases the yearly bonuses to \$2,000 for each classroom teacher rated “highly effective” and up to \$1,100 for each classroom teacher rated “effective”.

Virtual Education Contribution

The bill includes the new Florida Best and Brightest Teachers allocation and the Florida Best and Brightest Principals allocation in the calculation of the Virtual Education Contribution.

The bill passed the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably and was filed as HB 5101.

Senate

Below is a link to the Senate FY 2019-20 Subcommittee Budget Proposal including Spreadsheet, Proviso and Implementing Bill Summary. Additional information can be found on the website at www.flsenate.gov.

http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2018-2020/AED/MeetingRecords/MeetingPacket_4518.pdf

SB 190 by Stargel re to Education. This bill is not necessarily a budget conforming bill but contains many provisions that could be in a conforming bill.

The bill amends s. 1009.215, F.S., relating to Bright Futures Scholarship. Students enrolled in the pilot program are eligible to receive the scholarship for attendance during the spring and summer terms. This student cohort is also eligible to receive the scholarship during the fall term which may be used for off-campus or online coursework, if scholarship funding is provided by the Legislature for three terms for other eligible students during that academic year.

The bill amends s. 1009.53, F.S., relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The requirement that the scholarship be used within 3 years of graduation from high school is deleted. The scholarship program is increased to four awards and now includes the Florida gold Seal CAPE Scholarship. The 45 annual semester credit hour cap is removed. An institution that receives funds from the program for the summer term must submit the certification to DOE of any undisbursed advances within 30 days after the end of the summer term.

The bill amends s. 1009.531, F.S., relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and authorizes a student who earns a high school diploma from a Florida private school to be eligible for a scholarship. The bill also authorizes a student who graduates midyear to apply no later than December 31 rather than August 31 of the student’s graduation year to be evaluated to receive an award. The bill requires that a student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013 academic year and thereafter is eligible to receive an award for 5 years following high school graduation. The student may also reapply for up to 5 years rather than 2 year. For a student who enlist in the Armed Services after high school, the 5-year period

begins upon the date of separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to accept an initial award due to a full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months which begins within 1 year after completion of high school, the 5-year period begins upon completion of the obligation.

The bill specifies that districts shall annually provide to each 11th and 12th grader a Bright Futures Scholarship Evaluation Report and Key. A student who is not eligible by the applicable deadlines may be allowed additional time to complete the requirements. A student who completes the requirements by December 31, must receive the award for the full academic year, including the fall term. The bill specifies the required examination scores for the SAT and ACT for students graduating in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic year. Thereafter, a student must achieve the required scores published by the department. The bill specifies the process of establishing the required scores and establishes thresholds based on national percentile scores on the Act and the required ACT scores must be concordant to the required SAT scores.

The bill amends s. 1009.532, F.S., relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to provide conforming language and delete obsolete language. The bill provides that a student who receives an award and is subsequently ineligible due to an updated grade or hour information may not receive a disbursement for a subsequent term, unless the student successfully restores the award.

The bill amends s. 1009.536, F.S., relating to the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards to provide conforming language and delete obsolete language.

The bill amends s. 1011.62, F.S., relating to funds for operation of schools. The Federally Connected Student Supplement language is modified and the language requiring recalculation and proration is removed. The Safe Schools Allocation is amended to modify the calculation so that one-third is allocated to districts based on the Crime Index and two-thirds is allocated based on the proportionate share of UWFTE. The language requiring the additional funds appropriated in 2018-2019 to be used for SROs is repealed. The Funding Compression Allocation becomes permanent in that the sunset provision is repealed.

The bill amends s. 1011.80, F.S., relating to funds for operation of workforce education programs. The funding cap of \$15 million for industry certifications earned by students is removed.

The bill amends s. 1011.81, F.S., relating to the Florida College System Program Fund. The \$15 million funding cap for industry certifications earned by students is removed.

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

School Choice

PK12 by PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee re to School Choice. The bill amends several provisions relating to school choice.

Controlled Open Enrollment

The bill modifies the controlled open enrollment process to require schools districts to report the number of controlled open enrollment applications it receives as well as the percentage of applications granted

per school year. The bill clarifies annual public school choice reporting requirements of school districts to include the number of students who applied for and are using school choice.

Charter Schools

The bill repeals the requirement that a charter school sponsor report on draft applications it receives and revises the date by which a sponsor must annually report the number of applications it receives from August 31 to November 1. Accordingly, the bill revises the date by which the DOE annually reports the number of applications on its website from November 1 to January 15.

The bill repeals the obsolete August 1 application deadline and specifies that each sponsor's report to the DOE must reflect the applications it receives by the February 1 deadline, which became effective in 2018.

Schools of Hope

The bill amends the definition of persistently low-performing schools to include the addition of Florida Opportunity Zones designated by the Treasury. In December 2017, the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was signed into law. The act provides tax incentives for investments in opportunity zones, comprising economically-distressed communities, to spur economic development and job creation.

The bill revises the definition of persistently low-performing to mean a school that has earned three grades lower than a "C" in at least 3 of the last 5 years. The definition for a school of hope is amended to include a charter school operated by a hope operator serving students in a Florida Opportunity Zone, and a school operated by a hope operator selected by a school district to turnaround a low-performing school.

The definition of hope operator, after the SBE adopts measureable eligibility criteria, is amended to include an entity that meets the criteria established in statute or an operator who receives funding through the National Fund of the Charter School Growth Fund.

The bill expands eligible expenditures of Schools of Hope funds to include:

- capital outlay up to the amount a school would receive under the charter school capital outlay formula until the school is eligible for such funds;
- hiring of executive directors and regional directors;
- hiring and compensating of specified staff until the school has reached full enrollment; and
- initial leasing and related costs of a school facility in the event that a district-owned facility is not available or was not leased in a timely manner.

Program awards for traditional public schools are amended to an amount up to \$500 per FTE. The bill allows these awards to continue during the implementation of the school's turnaround plan and for one school year after the school exits from turnaround status. Further, awards are now contingent upon approval of the turnaround plan by the SBE. A school's turnaround plan must identify public and private funds to be used to sustain the turnaround plan beyond the award and assure that the award funds will not replace funds already provided to the school. The bill expands the number of program awards the SBE may provide to traditional public schools from up to 25 to up to 75 and requires the grant to describe how the plan can be continued beyond the award period.

Hope Scholarship Program

The bill clarifies that a student who enrolls in a public school program within the district is considered to have returned to a public school for the purpose of determining the end of the scholarship's term. However, a scholarship student who enrolls in a public school located outside of the district in which the incident occurred may convert the scholarship to a transportation scholarship for up to \$750.00. The bill also repeals DOE requirements to contract with an independent entity to provide an annual evaluation of the program.

Private School Eligibility in State School Choice Scholarship Programs

The bill repeals the background screening exemption for teachers with a Florida educator certificate, to allow a participating private school to screen those teachers along with all of its instructional staff.

Community Partnership Schools

The bill codifies the Center in law to provide technical assistance, university-assisted partnerships, training, assessment, and evaluation for the establishment and implementation of community school models.

The bill defines "community organization" and designates it as the lead partner in the community school model that facilitates the use of grant funds. The "community school model" is defined as the model developed by the Center that utilizes a long-term partnership among a school district, community organization, a college or university, and a healthcare provider. The bill requires the model to include a governance structure that includes members from the partnership and provides that it may include community leaders. The model must also establish standards for effective implementation, reporting, and evaluation of each participating school, and provide for family engagement and expanded learning opportunities and support.

Subject to available funds, the Center may use grants to facilitate the implementation of the CPS model in Florida. The bill requires that the Center:

- require a participating public school to establish a long-term partnership through a memorandum of understanding and condition the grant award upon the community organization securing matching funds; and
- prioritize awards based on demonstration of the technical and financial ability to sustain the model beyond the initial grant period and in districts where a community school has not already been established.

The Center must publish on its website information on each community organization receiving a grant to implement a community school

The bill was amended to provide that state college, college and university facilities may provide land within their property for charter schools under their preexisting zoning and land use designations without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change. Currently, they may only provide space within their facilities.

The bill passed the House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee favorably as amended. The proposal was filed and is now HB 7095.

SB 7070 by Education re to K-12 Education and is the Senate’s major K-12 Education bill. The bill was summarized in a previous report. Senator Montford proposed two amendments that were adopted by the committee. The underlying bill provides flexibility in the use of the 1.5 discretionary millage and removes restrictions in the application of the cost per student station provisions. The first amendment modified the definition of “cost per student station” to include several factors including hurricane hardening and school safety costs so that those districts that continue to receive state funds, primarily in the Special Facilities Program. The second amendment requires districts submitting an application for a Special Facilities project to submit Phase I instead of Phase III plans which is a cost savings to districts.

The bill passed the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee as amended. The vote was along party lines. Senator Montford voted against the bill.

School Safety

EDC2 by Education Committee re to School Safety. The bill makes several changes relating to school safety.

Office of Safe Schools

The bill requires the Office to include data from Fortify Florida and SESIR in the centralized data repository and revises the date the repository must be available from December 1, 2018 to August 1, 2019. The Office must also provide access to data to support evaluation of mental health services by the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida whose purpose is to strengthen mental health services throughout the state.

The bill codifies SESIR by requiring the Office to collect school safety and discipline data for incidents that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events, which are committed by students, non-students, or if the offender is unknown. The Office must monitor compliance and report any violation to the Commissioner of Education for review by the Education Practices Commission (EPC). The bill authorizes the EPC to fine school board members, superintendents, and school personnel for noncompliance with requirements of the Office.

The bill requires the Office to identify the types of schools and campuses that must comply with the requirements for school safety and safe-school officers and make the FSSAT available for use by charter schools. Charter schools must comply with the requirements to conduct emergency drills, establish threat assessment teams, and provide mental health assistance. The bill requires each district school board to adopt policies and procedures for and conduct active shooter and hostage situations drills in compliance with the requirements of the Office. These drills must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Office, instead of as often as other drills.

Safe-School Officers

The bill requires the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to adopt the training and skills necessary to become a school guardian and allows, in addition to sheriffs, law enforcement academies and school districts that employ school resource officers to offer the training.

The bill eliminates the obsolete use of the term “school safety officers” which are equivalent to school resource officers and clarifies that school resource officers may be employed by a law enforcement agency or a school district. The bill authorizes district school boards, charter school boards, and private school boards to employ or contact for employment, school guardians to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, and in the support of school-sanctioned activities and the bill removes the limitation on who may serve as school guardians.

Student Discipline and School Safety

The bill clarifies the requirement to disclose mental health referrals by limiting such disclosure to instances that are related to a previous school expulsion, arrest resulting in a charge, or a DJJ action.

The bill removes the requirement that the school safety specialist must be a school administrator thereby allowing school districts to determine the appropriate individual to serve as the specialist. The school safety specialist must conduct an annual school security risk assessment at each district public school, using the FSSAT, in collaboration with law enforcement, firefighting, medical, and other emergency services public safety agencies. The school safety specialist must provide recommendations to the school board to address the FSSAT findings to improve school safety and security.

The school safety specialist is responsible for compliance with the requirement that school districts report all school district student discipline and school safety incidents on time and accurately to DOE.

Each school principal must designate school personnel who may declare an emergency in response to any incident that threatens school safety and who must contact the primary emergency response agency in accordance with the emergency response policy of the school district.

Each district school board’s threat assessment team policy must include procedures for conducting standardized threat assessments using the threat assessment instrument developed by Office. The school district must provide members of the team with school and district level data and data from the centralized data repository. The bill authorizes the threat assessment team to obtain criminal history record information based on the county interagency juvenile offender information sharing agreement.

Students that are referred for mental health assistance must be screened or assessed within 45 days of such referral and school-based intervention must begin within 30 days of the screening or assessment and continue until the student receives community-based care, where appropriate. When a student transfers to another school, the team must verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat assessment team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services.

Zero Tolerance for Crime and Victimization

The bill clarifies that petty acts of misconduct are not subject to zero tolerance. The bill repeals the discretion to consult with law enforcement by requiring consultation for misdemeanors and acts that pose a threat to school safety.

The bill was amended to clarify that an individual may not serve as a school guardian in a school unless the individual is appointed by the superintendent or in a charter school unless the individual is appointed by the charter school governing board.

The proposal passed the committee favorably and was filed as HB 7093.

SB 7030 by Education re to School Safety and Security

A detailed summary of this bill was sent out earlier. The bill was temporarily deferred in the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee. The chairman said it would be considered next week. Time ran out before the bill could be heard. Chair Lee wanted to give the bill due consideration since so many people had signed up to testify.

Committee Action – House

HB 1207 by Aloupis re to Office of Early Learning. The bill codifies early learning professional development standards and career pathways in law. The bill requires the Office of Early Learning to develop early learning professional development training and course standards for school readiness program providers and identify both formal and informal early learning career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications, which allow early childhood teachers to access specialized professional development. The bill requires the established credentials and certifications to align with the training for K-12 teachers, reading coaches, and school principals to the greatest extent possible.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee favorably.

HB 1193 by Grail re to Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The bill revises accountability requirements for the VPK program by: 1) requiring the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to adopt an end-of-kindergarten screening to be administered at the end of the VPK program year and requiring the parents of children enrolled in a VPK program to submit their child to the screening; 2) requiring the SBE to adopt a kindergarten screening and alternate, equivalent screenings to be used at the beginning and end of kindergarten to determine a kindergarten readiness rate for public schools; 3) requiring each VPK provider to undergo a program assessment that measures, among other things, child-teacher interactions; 4) establishing a program score for each VPK provider that incorporates the end-of-prekindergarten screening, the evidence-based pre- and post-assessment, and the program assessment scores; and 5) specifying that a VPK provider's contract can be terminated for a period of 2 to 5 years, rather than 5 years, for failure to comply with certain laws or meet a satisfactory program score over a certain period of time.

The bill also: 1) requires the OEL and DOE to provide for a coordinated assessment system to track the progress of students in the VPK program through grade 2 in order to provide timely interventions and supports; 2) revises VPK student performance standards to include math skills and executive functioning skills; and 3) requires the OEL to make available online professional development and training courses, that are at least 8 clock hours long, that support prekindergarten instructors in increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee favorably.

HB 1197 by Fischer re to Charter Schools. The bill provides that the board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or FCS institution is a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds and accepting responsibility for all requirements in the role. The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE), in collaboration with charter school sponsors and operators, to develop a sponsor evaluation

framework and report results in its annual charter school application report. In addition, the bill revises charter school application reporting requirements and submission dates for both sponsors and the DOE. The bill establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university and FCS institution.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee favorably.

HB 189 by Zika re to Postsecondary Education for Secondary Students. The bill renames the “collegiate high school program” as the “early college acceleration program” and expands the program from 1 to 2 years. The bill requires the program be made available to students in both grades 11 and 12 and specifies that the program must include an option for a participating student to graduate from high school with an associate degree. District school boards are prohibited from limiting the number of eligible students who may enroll in an early college program.

The bill deletes the requirement for a separate early college program contract and requires each dual enrollment articulation agreement between a Florida College System institution and a school district to establish at least one early college program.

The bill authorizes a district school board to establish an early college program with a state university or an eligible institution and authorizes a charter school to establish an early college program with a state college, state university, or other eligible postsecondary institution. The bill requires each district school board, by September 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, to post on its website information regarding earning college credit through the early college program and the associated cost savings.

Beginning September 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, each postsecondary institution must report information regarding each dual enrollment articulation agreement it has entered into during the previous year to the Commissioner of Education. The bill specifies that dual enrollment instructional materials must be provided to students in a home education program at no cost.

By November 30, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Department of Education must post on its website information regarding the status of early college programs.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee favorably.

HB 15 by Burton re to Local Government fiscal Transparency. The bill creates the Local Government Fiscal Transparency Act, providing for increased fiscal transparency for local governments by requiring: 1) easy public access to voting records of local governing body members as related to tax increases or the issuance of tax-supported debt; 2) easy online access to TRIM notices and a 4-year history of property tax rates and total revenue generated by each local government; 4) additional public meetings and expanded public notice requirements for local option tax increases and the issuance of new long-term, tax-supported debt; 5) local governments to conduct a debt affordability analysis prior to issuance of new long-term, tax-supported debt; 5) the chair of the local governing body to sign an affidavit of compliance with the Act; and 6) the Auditor General to request evidence of corrective action from local governments found not to be in compliance with the Act and reporting those who fail to do so to the Legislative Auditing Committee.

The bill revises reporting requirements for local government economic development incentives. The bill requires each county and municipality to report to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research on

economic incentives provided directly to an individual business or by another entity on behalf of the local government, as well the source of all funds obligated for the incentive. The bill provides a statement that the Legislature finds that this act fills an important state interest.

The bill passed the Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute. Then, the bill passed the Ways & Means Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

HB 225 by Beltran re to Education. The bill allows a student to wear the uniform of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard at the student's graduation ceremony if the student has completed basic training and is an active member.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute.

HB 1127 by Duggan re to Educational Employees. The bill requires the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to create and maintain an electronic employment disqualification list (DQ list) with the intent of preventing individuals subject to disciplinary action from working or serving in an education environment. Individuals who may not be subject to extensive criminal background checks would be exposed by the DQ list. The DQ list must be used by all public schools, including charter schools, and private schools that accept students who participate in a state scholarship program listed in s. 1002, F.S., to screen potential employees contract employees, board members, or owners for past bad conduct that would disqualify them from being in an educational environment. Screening against the DQ list acts to supplement current criminal background screenings required by Florida law.

The bill authorizes the Educational Practices Commission (EPC) and the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) to place an individual on the DQ list. "Individuals" include: public school employees, public school contracted personnel, charter schools, charter school governing boards, and private schools that accept students who participate in a state scholarship program listed in s. 1002, F.S. The DOE must place individuals on the DQ list when directed to do so by the EPC for reasons such as an individual has had their education certificate permanently revoked by the EPC, a private school owner's authority to own or operate has been revoked by the Commissioner, or a private school operator's authority to own or operate has been revoked by the Commissioner.

The bill requires certain individuals to report and investigate credible allegations of misconduct. Those with duties to report or investigate include: superintendents of schools who must investigate all allegations; the DOE, which must investigate legally sufficient complaints involving misconduct; and the Commissioner who must, at a minimum, suspend and remove from direct student contact any individuals with credible allegations of misconduct.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee favorably.

HB 259 by Williams re to Human Trafficking. The bill revises the required comprehensive health education curriculum to include instruction on the dangers and signs of human trafficking and techniques to recognize and respond to child abuse. With parental consent, a student may opt out of portions of comprehensive health education.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee favorably.

HB 349 by DuBose re to Students with Disabilities in Public Schools. This bill amends s. 1003.573, F.S., regarding the use of seclusion and restraint on students with disabilities in public schools. Specifically, the bill defines terms related to seclusion, physical restraint, and mechanical restraint, and instructs when such techniques may be used. The bill prohibits placing a student in seclusion. The bill provides that physical restraint may be used only to protect students or school personnel, but not for disciplining a student. A student may only be physically restrained for the time necessary to protect the student and others.

The bill prohibits straightjackets and restraint techniques such as obstructing or restricting breathing or blood flow or inflicting pain to induce compliance. The bill requires school districts to adopt policies and procedures related to positive behavior interventions and supports and identifying all school personnel authorized to use the restraint. Each school district must report to the Florida Department of Education (DOE) approved procedures for training.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop recommendations to incorporate instruction regarding autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, other developmental disabilities, and emotional or behavioral disabilities into continuing education or inservice training requirements for instructional personnel. These recommendations must address the use of restraint techniques, positive behavior interventions and supports, and effective classroom behavior management strategies.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee favorably as a committee substitute.

HB 587 by Andrade re to Medicaid School-based Services. The bill aligns current law with the federal Medicaid requirements by removing the requirement that Medicaid recipients receiving services through the Florida Medicaid Certified School Match Program qualify for Part B or H of the IDEA, or for exceptional student services, or have an IEP or IFSP. The bill revises provisions set forth in sections 409.908(21) and 1011.70, F.S., regarding the reimbursement of school-based services by the Agency for Health Care Administration to certain school districts. The bill further deletes a requirement specifying the use of certified state and local education funds for school-based services and revises a requirement for the agency's reimbursement of school-based services to certain private charter schools. The bill specifies the federal agency that may waive certain school-based provider qualifications as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill passed the Health Market Reform Subcommittee favorably.

HB 361 by Silvers re to Admission to Mental Health Facilities. In 2017, the Legislature created a task force within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to address the issue of involuntary examination of minors (Task Force). Two recommendations were to:

- Encourage school districts to adopt a standardized suicide assessment tool that school-based mental health professionals would implement prior to initiation of an involuntary examination; and
- Increase the number of days, from the next working day to five working days that the receiving facility has to submit forms to DCF, to allow DCF to capture data on whether the minor was admitted, released, or a petition filed with the court.

The PCS for HB 361 implements these two recommendations and the PCS was passed favorably by the Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee.

HB 213 by Massullo, Jr., re to Immunization Registry. The bill requires physicians, physician assistants, and nurses who administer vaccines to children aged 18 or younger, or to certain college or university students, to report the vaccinations to the immunization registry. The bill authorizes such a college or university student to refuse to be included in the immunization registry. The bill also authorizes automated data uploads to the immunization registry from existing electronic health record systems. The bill eliminates DOH's specific rulemaking and replaces it with general authority to adopt rules as needed to administer the communicable disease prevention program. Currently, a school district or private school may accept a child's immunization record on a DOH-approved form or obtain it by accessing the immunization registry. The bill requires school districts and private schools to have a policy that requires each student to have a certification of immunizations on file with the state's electronic immunization registry. However, the school must still accept the DOH-approved immunization form if the child's parent has opted out of the immunization registry.

The bill passed the Health Quality Subcommittee favorably. Then, the bill passed the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

HB 807 by Aloupis re to Civics Education. The bill requires that all instructional materials for the civics education course required for middle school students be reviewed by the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

The bill passed the PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee favorably.

HB 741 by Fine re to Anti-Semitism. This bill amends the Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) by adding religion as a protected class with regard to discrimination against students and employees in the Florida K-20 public education system. The bill requires all public K-20 educational institutions to treat discrimination, based on anti-Semitism, by students or employees or resulting from institutional policies in an identical manner to discrimination based on race.

The bill passed the House Education Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

HB 1171 by Grall re to Parental Rights. The bill creates ch. 1014, F.S., relating to Parents' Bill of Rights. The bill specifies that the state, any of its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or any other institution may not infringe on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by a less restrictive means. As to education, a parent has the right to direct the education and care of his or her minor child, the right to enroll his or her child in a public school or, as an alternative to public education, a private school, religious school, a home education program, or other available options, the right to access and review all school records relating to the child and the right to consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions makes a video or voice recording of his or her child except for certain circumstances (including legitimate academic or extracurricular activity, regular classroom instruction, security or surveillance of buildings/grounds, a photo identification card).

The bill creates s. 1014.05, F.S., relating to school district notifications of parental rights. Each school board must develop a policy to promote parental involvement and specifies procedures for objecting to classroom materials and from certain assignments.

A parent may request information from a school superintendent to which the superintendent must respond with information within 10 days. If the superintendent denies the request or does not respond within 10 days, the parent may appeal the denial to the school board.

The bill passed the House Education Committee favorably as a committee substitute.

HB 249 by Drake re to Repeal of Constitution Revision Commission. The proposal repeals the Constitution Revision Commission.

The proposals passed the Judiciary Committee favorably.

HB 251 by Drake re to Constitution Revision Commission. This bill removes all references to the CRC in current law and is linked to HB 249 above.

The bill passed the Judiciary Committee favorably.

HB 7035 by Oversight, Transparency and Public Management Subcommittee re to Government Accountability. The bill amends statutes pertaining to government accountability and auditing. Specifically, the bill:

- Specifies that the Governor or Commissioner of Education, or designee, may notify the Legislative Auditing Committee of an entity's failure to comply with certain auditing and financial reporting requirements;
- Provides definitions for the terms "abuse," "fraud," and "waste;"
- Requires each agency, charter schools, school districts, etc. to establish and maintain internal controls; • Requires counties, municipalities, and water management districts to maintain certain budget documents on their websites for specified timeframes;
- Revises the composition of auditor selection committees;
- Requires completion of an annual financial audit of the Florida Virtual School;
- Prohibits any person from willfully failing or refusing to provide access to an employee, officer, or agent of an entity subject to an audit if such access is necessary for a proper audit or examination by the Auditor General or the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability

The bill passed the House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee favorably.

HB 1047 by Tomkow re to Government Integrity. The bill creates the Florida Accountability Office under the Auditor General for the purpose of ensuring integrity in state and local government and facilitating the elimination of fraud, waste, abuse, gross mismanagement, and misconduct in government. The bill creates the position of the Florida Integrity Officer who will be a legislative employee and is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Auditor General. The remainder of the bill sets forth the duties, power and authority of the office.

The committee substitute passed the Public Integrity & Ethics Committee favorably.

HB 7051 by Higher Education re to Higher Education. The bill increases higher education transparency and accountability but does impact K-12 Education in some ways. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to report to the State Board of Education (SBE) any findings by the Auditor General that a district school board or FCS institution is acting without statutory authority or contrary to state law. The SBE must

then require the district school board or FCS institution board of trustees to document compliance with the law.

The bill passed the Public Integrity & Ethics Committee favorably.

Committee Action – Senate

SB 194 by Stargel re to Higher Education. This bill is primarily a higher education bill but it does require each school board to notify students in acceleration mechanism of opportunities guaranteeing college credit for specified examinations for completion of dual enrollment courses.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee favorably.

SB 292 by Lee re to Education. The bill prohibits a district school board from barring a student from lawfully wearing to his or her graduation ceremony a uniform of any of the Armed Forces of the state or of the United States.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee favorably.

SB 318 by Montford re to Child Abuse, Abandonment, and Neglect. The bill expands the public records exemption that protects the name of a reporter of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to also include other identifying information. Such information would be confidential and exempt, and would only be released to specified persons, officials, and agencies specified in law.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee favorably.

SB 770 by Hutson re to Alternative High School Graduation Requirements. The bill creates an alternative pathway, namely the career and technical education (CTE) graduation pathway option, for students to earn a standard high school diploma, and specifies related requirements. Additionally, the bill provides responsibilities for district school boards and the Department of Education (DOE) regarding career education opportunities, specifies options for students to substitute computer science credit for certain credits required for high school graduation, and revises requirements related to CAPE Digital Tool Certificates and adjunct educator certification.

Specifically, the bill:

- Requires students to successfully complete at least 18 credits to receive a standard high school diploma under the CTE graduation pathway option, and exempts a charter school that exclusively offers the CTE pathway option from application requirements related to district school boards but specifies that such charter schools must comply with the application requirements relating to the DOE.
- Modifies the 24-credit pathway for earning a standard high school diploma by revising computer science credit substitution for mathematics or science credits, and creates a mechanism for the review of the sufficiency of career education course standards to meet the Algebra I credit requirement.
- Revises the acceleration mechanism component for the school grade calculation for high schools by specifying that dual enrollment courses include career clock-hour dual enrollment courses.
- Creates the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program to enable high school and Florida College System institutions to offer applied learning opportunities for students in high-

demand career pathways linked to occupations that will provide students with middle level and high-level wages.

- Increases from 15 to 30, the limit on the number of CAPE Digital Tool Certificates that must be identified annually.
- Restores middle grades career education and planning course requirements which were eliminated in 2017, with some modifications.
- Requires district school boards to also declare a “College and Career Decision Day” to recognize high school seniors and encourage them to prepare for college and pursue advanced career pathways.
- Requires the DOE to provide assistance to specified entities in notifying students, parents, and members of the community about apprenticeship and preapprenticeship opportunities.
- Authorizes school districts to issue an adjunct teaching certificate for a full-time teaching position, but specifies that such certificates are valid for a period of three years and are not renewable. The bill also specifies reporting requirements for school districts.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee favorably.

SB 934 by Diaz re to High-performing Charter Schools. The bill modifies the high-performing charter school eligibility criteria, and related authorities regarding increasing student enrollment and replicating charter schools.

The bill passed the Senate Education committee favorably.

SB 1308 by Perry re to Pathways to College and Career Success. The bill is primarily a postsecondary bill but contains some elements of importance to K-12 education. The bill provides for greater access to meaningful credentials that prepare students for additional postsecondary education or a career. Specifically, the bill: requires the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) to conduct an annual review of career and technical education offerings in the K-12 education system, career centers, and the Florida College System (FCS) to determine their alignment with employer demand, postsecondary degree or certificate programs, and industry certifications. As a result of the review, the commissioner must:

- Phase out programs not aligned to the needs of employers or do not provide completers with middle- or higher-wage jobs.
- Encourage school districts and FCS institutions to offer new programs that are in demand by employers.
- Provide an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature summarizing findings and recommendations.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee favorably.

SB 1316 by Brandes re to Civic Education. The bill creates the United States Government and Civic Engagement course and provides:

- An option for students entering grade 9, in the 2020-2021 school year, to take one-half credit in United States Government and Civic Engagement.
- A nonpartisan civic literacy project as the laboratory component of the United States Government and Civic Engagement course.

Additionally, the bill:

Creates the Florida Seal of Civic Engagement Program.

- Provides an option for students initially enrolling in a Florida College System institution or state university to demonstrate competency in civic literacy by earning the Seal of Civic Engagement.
- Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to include nonpartisan civic literacy projects when encouraging school districts to initiate, adopt, and expand service-learning programs and policies in kindergarten through grade 12.
- Amends the school grading requirements beginning with the 2020-2021 school year to include the percentage of students who complete the United States Government and Civic Engagement course with a grade of “B” or higher in the calculation.

SB 1366 by Baxley re to Education. The bill promotes options for education in computer science by:

- Providing that a student may substitute one computer science credit for one science credit, excluding Biology I, in order to satisfy the credit requirements to earn a standard high school diploma;
- Including high-quality professional development for teachers to provide instruction in computer science courses and content to the existing training that a school district or consortium of school districts may apply to the Department of Education for funding to deliver, subject to legislative appropriation; and
- Increasing the number of potential certificates available to elementary and middle school students by doubling the limit on CAPE Digital Tool certificates that may be included on the Industry Certification Funding List.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee favorably.

SB 1444 by Diaz re to Education. The bill provides safeguards to help protect students by requiring the creation of a state disqualification list to be maintained by DOE, which must include the following information:

- The name of any individual who has been placed on the list by the Education Practices Commission (EPC) pursuant to law, or whose educator certificate has been permanently revoked by the EPC.
- The name of any private school owners or operators who have been permanently disqualified from participation in a state scholarship program by the DOE.

Additionally, the bill:

- Requires the DOE to provide authorized staff of school districts, charter schools, the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, and private schools that accept scholarship students who participate in a state scholarship program with electronic access to the DOE’s disqualification list.
- Prohibits any individual on the disqualification list from earning an educator certificate or being employed in any position which requires direct contact with students in any public school, charter school, or private school that accepts state scholarship money.
- Provides the DOE and EPC with authority to place individuals on the disqualification list for certain purposes.
- Requires the DOE to immediately investigate, under certain circumstances, any legally sufficient complaint that involves the misconduct by an employee or contracted personnel in a public school, charter school or private school that receives state scholarship funds.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee favorably.

SB 144 by Gruters re to Impact Fees. The bill prohibits local governments from requiring the payment of impact fees prior to issuing the property's building permit. The bill also codifies the 'dual rational nexus test' for impact fees, as articulated in case law. This test requires an impact fee to have a reasonable connection, or rational nexus, between 1) the proposed new development and the need and the impact of additional capital facilities, and 2) the expenditure of funds and the benefits accrued to the proposed new development.

Additional conditions of the bill include earmarking impact fee funds for capital facilities that benefit new residents and prohibiting the use of impact fee revenues to pay existing debt unless specific conditions are met. The bill provides that certain statutory provisions related to impact fees do not apply to water and sewer connection fees.

The bill passed the Senate Finance and Tax Committee favorably.

SB 336 by Brandes re to Local Tax Referenda. The bill amends s. 212.055, F.S., to require that a referendum to adopt or amend a local government discretionary surtax must be held at a general election. This will limit the timing and frequency of these referenda to even-year November elections.

The bill passed the Senate Finance and Tax Committee favorably

SB 1412 by Gruters re to Sales Tax Holiday for disaster Preparedness Supplies. The bill establishes a 14-day period, from June 1 through June 14, 2019, where certain items purchased for disaster preparedness and protection are exempt from the sales and use tax and local discretionary sales surtaxes. The bill provides a list of items that are exempt from sales tax during the sales tax holiday

The bill passed the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee favorably