



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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SUPERINTENDENTS VOICE APPRECIATION FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION FUNDING AND REITERATE CALL FOR VETO OF HB 7069

Tallahassee, FL – Florida superintendents appreciate the additional \$215 million or roughly \$100 per student allocated to K-12 public education funding by Florida Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives during Special Legislative Session 2017A. However the fiscal impact of K-12 education policy embedded in HB 7069 will have negative repercussions on school districts throughout Florida, impacting the programs and services that serve Florida’s 2.8 million public school students.

“Despite some good education policy in HB 7069, the overall damage to public education and the delivery of services to our students far outweighs the good,” states FADSS President and Escambia County Superintendent Malcolm Thomas. “Therefore, with a united voice, Florida superintendents again call upon the Governor to veto HB 7069 in support of Florida public education,” adds Thomas.

Two issues of particular concern with far reaching fiscal implications that will directly impact the ability of Florida school districts to provide needed educational services are Title I and Capital Outlay.

Title I is a federal program that provides funds to school districts to serve economically disadvantaged students. The Title I provision in HB 7069 threatens to put district-wide services at risk, particularly impacting students in poverty. While school districts will receive the same amount of funding; HB 7069 undermines a school district’s local decision-making ability to spend those funds to ensure the greatest positive impact on student learning. This change will result in good Title I programs that are positively impacting student learning to be shut down as of July 1, 2017.

HB 7069 changes the language regarding the sharing of the discretionary capital outlay millage, rendering it a requirement rather than a local decision. This means that basic maintenance and repair needs for Florida’s traditional public schools will go unmet, while those needed dollars are given to charter schools regardless of need and void of a locally-driven process.

Superintendents Reiterate Concern Regarding HB 7069, page 2

Title I and Capital Outlay are just two of many education-related policy issues embedded in HB 7069 that will have negative repercussions for Florida school districts.

“The fiscal reality is that the impact of changes to Title I and Capital Outlay in HB 7069, along with other K-12 policy changes will have very real consequences for Florida schools and the students they serve,” adds Thomas.

As Constitutional Officers charged to oversee the education of Florida’s more than 2.8 million public education students, Florida superintendents stand united in once again calling upon Governor Scott to veto HB 7069.

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The mission of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents is to assist and support superintendents in providing leadership to ensure that every student in Florida acquires the skills, knowledge and attitude to be contributing members of our democratic society through leadership development programs focused on student achievement, building relationships with business and governmental leaders, and communication and networking services.

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