

FADSS Legislative Platform 2024

FADSS supports:

- Providing students and staff with safe and secure schools
 - Sufficiently funding the law enforcement and security-related staffing needs as well as the physical security requirements of each school.
 - Providing resources for mental health services in both the schools and local communities.
 - Providing appropriate and timely resources in recognition of district schools operating and staffing most emergency shelters.

- Removing overly burdensome requirements, providing school districts with the flexibility and autonomy to respond to local needs and compete with other school options on a more-equal playing field
 - Recognizing that the vast majority of parents in Florida *choose* to send their children to local, district-operated schools.
 - Deregulating the PreK-12 public school system and providing school districts with flexibility and autonomy, comparable to what is given to charter schools.
 - Providing school districts with financial and other resources to allow timely reimbursement for emergency shelters and other services provided during emergencies.

- Providing sufficient and sustainable funding to allow for delivery of a world-class education to all students
 - Encouraging exciting and innovative programs and facilities.
 - Providing the same spending flexibility as other recipients of FEFP funding.
 - Addressing the mental and emotional health of students and staff.
 - Recognizing the increased costs of doing business – e.g., annual FRS rate increases, inflation, and supply chain issues.

- Recruiting and retaining high-performing teachers and staff
 - Creating new pathways and incentives for college students to enter the education profession.
 - Reducing overly burdensome certification and endorsement requirements placed on new teachers.
 - Finding new ways to incentivize career changers to become teachers, particularly content-area experts.
 - Rewarding all of Florida's high-performing teachers, not just beginning teachers.

- Recognizing the vital role of the superintendent in a high-performing educational system
 - The superintendent is on duty 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.
 - The superintendent is the CEO of the school district, which is often the largest employer in the county.
 - The superintendent's responsibilities go well beyond education. The superintendent's responsibilities also include:
 - Student mental health and physical safety
 - Student nutritional needs
 - Parent and family support
 - Overseeing and staffing emergency shelters
 - Business and local community needs
 - The superintendent's compensation should recognize the importance of the profession and the need for stability in district leadership.