

FADSS supports initiatives and legislation which

- **Recognize that 75% of all publicly-funded students in Florida attend local, district-operated public schools, and**
- **Support school districts in educating students effectively and preparing them to be successful and productive citizens.**

FADSS supports:

- **Safe and secure schools for students and staff, including:**
 - Sufficiently funding the law enforcement and security-related staffing needs, as well as the physical security requirements of each school.
 - Recognizing that school safety is a component of public safety and should be part of a comprehensive approach involving local law enforcement, city and county governments, and local mental health providers.
 - Providing resources for mental health services in both the schools and local communities.
- **Flexibility and autonomy for school districts to provide a world-class education to the 75% of publicly-funded students served by local, district-operated public schools in Florida.**
 - Recognizing that a parent's *choice* to send a child to a local, district-operated school deserves the same amount of respect as other parental choices.
 - Providing some guardrails for the co-location of other schools within district-operated schools to prevent the 75% of families who choose district-operated schools from subsidizing the remaining 25%, such as defining underutilized to mean less than 60% of capacity and capping co-location usage at 90% of capacity to allow for fluctuations in enrollment without displacing or disadvantaging those families who choose to enroll in a district-operated school.
 - Allowing districts to offer and receive payment for virtual courses offered over the summer, as is allowed for other virtual options.
 - Recognizing that these parents deserve to have a school district that is able to provide a dynamic and innovative educational experience based on local needs and parental input.

- **Sufficiently funding public schools to allow for delivery of a world-class education while meeting all statutory obligations.**
 - Providing the same spending flexibility as other recipients of FEFP funding.
 - Fully funding all statutory mandates, such as transportation and school safety, so that funds intended for classroom instruction are not compromised.
 - Identifying Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) recipients before the start of the academic year and outside of district enrollment so that school districts have an accurate budget projection to make appropriate staffing and expenditure decisions, as well as ensuring that school districts are funded for all students served.
 - Recognizing the increased costs of doing business as a public school or district, whether it is from changing demographics and legal requirements or outside market forces (e.g., increasing number of ESE students and other students in need of special services, increasing costs of maintaining a secure campus, ballooning instructional materials costs, annual FRS rate increases, inflation, etc.).
 - Encouraging the development and execution of exciting and innovative programs and facilities.
 - Providing school districts with financial and other resources for schools used as emergency shelters, including assistance with insurance coverage, repairs, and timely reimbursement.

- **Flexibility and support for recruiting and retaining high-performing teachers and staff to deliver the high-quality instruction deserved by all publicly-funded students attending local, district-operated public schools.**
 - Creating new pathways and incentives for college students to enter the education profession.
 - Reducing overly burdensome certification and endorsement requirements placed on new teachers.
 - Incentivizing career changers, particularly content-area experts, to become teachers.
 - Providing school districts with additional flexibility to hire, compensate, and contract for high-performing and high-demand teachers and other instructional personnel (e.g., high-demand teacher needs areas, CTE instructors, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, and nurses).