



Collier County Public Schools 2025 Florida Legislative Session Update

October 15th, 2025

Megan Fay
Capital City Consulting





Budget Update

The legislature finished its work on the General Appropriations Act and related conforming bills on June 16, 2025. Governor DeSantis has 14 days to review, approve, or veto budget items.

The GAA appropriates \$115.1 billion, or \$3.5 billion less than the adjusted total budget for the 2024 -25 fiscal year and authorizes early pay off of \$830 million in state debt. A budget adjusted for an anticipated CPI of 3% would total \$122.19 billion.

SJR 1908 by Hooper proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) from 10% to 25% of general revenue collections..

SB 2502 contains new language on “DOGE” authorizing and outlining the authority of the Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget to conduct local government reviews. Failure to provide access as required by the law may subject the local government to a fine of \$1,000 per day for noncompliance.

K-12 Budget Highlights

Florida's 2025 education budget brings modest increases and strategic funding allocations for traditional K-12 public schools.

Student Funding

- Base Student Allocation up \$41.62 (0.78%)
- Total per-student funding increase of \$142.74 (1.59%)

Required Spending

- \$101.9M for teacher salary increases
- \$76.7M for Florida Retirement System

Program Funding

- \$596.7M for Academic Acceleration Options
- Level funding for School Safety initiatives
- Level funding for Mental Health Assistance Allocation

SB 2510- Education Conforming Bill



Schools of Hope Expansion

Broadens definition of low-performing schools to include those failing to meet adequate progress for multiple years. It also allows colocation at underused public facilities at no cost, aiming to enhance educational opportunities in communities with persistently struggling schools. Schools of Hope must now report student demographics and re-enrollment rates, with performance comparisons to Title I schools published by the state.



Schools of Hope Funding Mechanisms

Creates a revolving loan program designed to provide financial assistance to improve school infrastructure and educational programs. This program requires a minimum balance of \$25 million starting July 2027 to ensure sustained support for ongoing initiatives.



CAPE Certification Changes

Eliminates the requirement for digital tools certificates for middle grades, streamlining the curriculum. It also creates more focused CAPE Pathways, allowing students to specialize in areas like cybersecurity, engineering, or health sciences, better preparing them for in-demand careers.



New Worlds Program Updates

Reduces the scholarship inactivity closure timeline from three years to one year for the New Worlds Reading Initiative. This change aims to ensure that literacy scholarships are actively utilized by students and to reallocate unused funds more efficiently to those in need of reading support.

SB 296 Middle and High School Start Times

by Sen. Bradley



Reporting Alternative

SB 296 allows districts to meet the July 1, 2026, start time requirements through a report to the Department of Education by June 1, 2026.



Required Documentation

Districts must document current start times, implementation strategies considered, financial impact, and any unintended consequences.



Fiscal Impact

This approach will likely help districts avoid significant fiscal impact by not having to implement the later start times (8:00 AM for middle schools, 8:30 AM for high schools).



Effective Date

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025, giving districts time to prepare their reports.



SB 1470 School Safety by Sen. Burgess



Guardian Program Expansion

SB 1470 extends eligibility to private schools and childcare facilities, with certification paths for qualified law enforcement personnel.



Enhanced Security Measures

All gates and doors to "exclusive zones" must be locked during school hours (defined as 30 minutes before/after school). Temporary door locks are allowed if compliant with fire code.



Charter School Protections

School districts cannot deny charter schools access to safe school officer options. New reporting requirements include data on hiring and certification.



Florida Institute of School Safety

A multi-stakeholder workgroup will propose the creation of this institute with recommendations due to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2026.



HB 1105– Education by. Rep. Kincart Johnson

School Bus Protections

Adds school buses to the definition of "school" for trespass laws. Clarifies that posted signs or verbal warnings suffice for arresting trespassers.

Cell Phone Restrictions

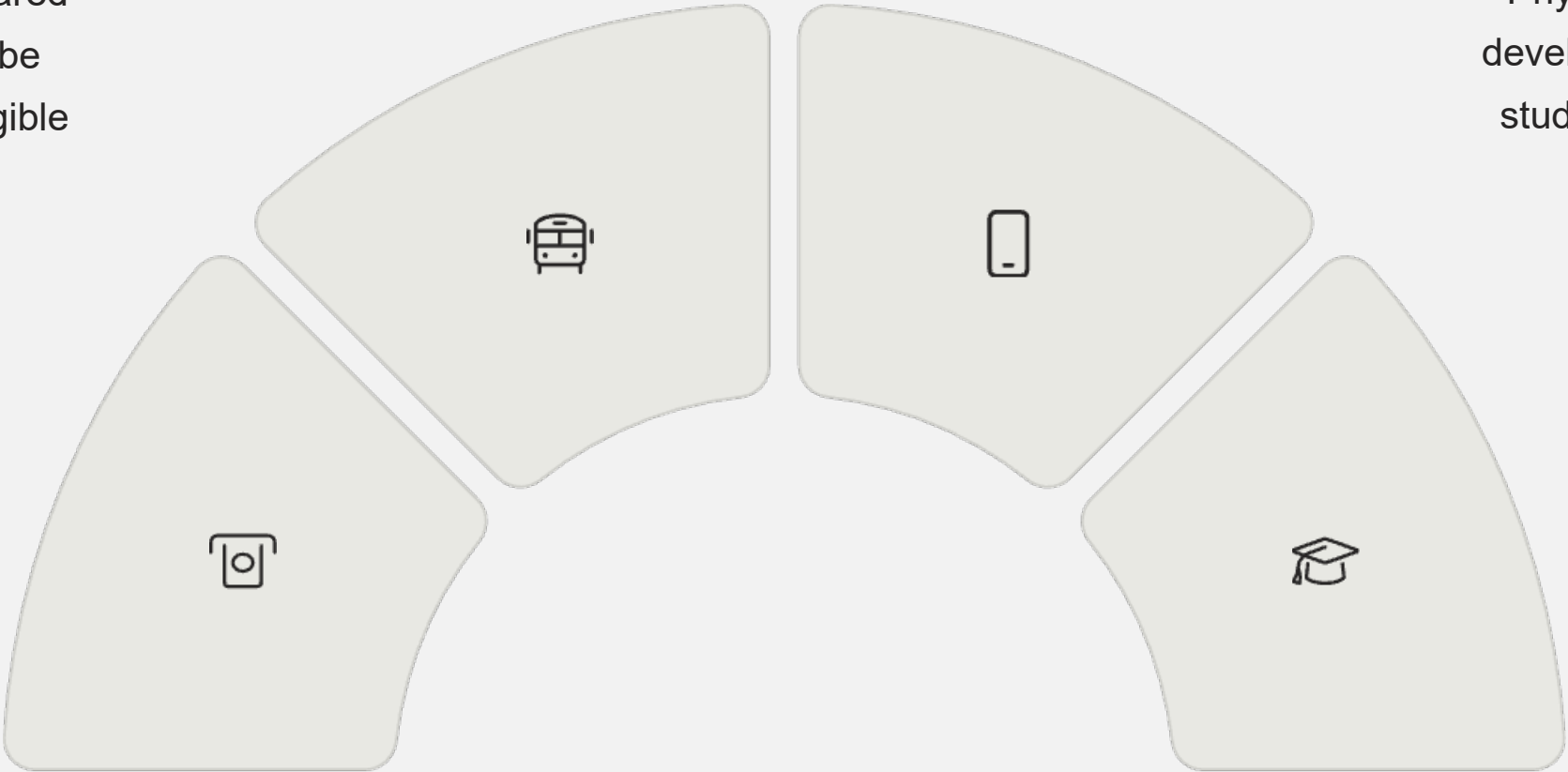
Implements a total ban on cell phones in grades K8 and creates a six-district pilot program to study a total cell phone ban in high schools.

Curriculum Changes

Repeals Certificates of Completion, allows marching band to satisfy Phys. Ed./arts requirements, and develops a workforce credential for students on the autism spectrum.

Charter School Funding

Requires surtax revenue shared with school districts to also be proportionally shared with eligible charter schools.



HB 1255– Education by Rep. Trabulsy

Academic Standards

New and revised standards documents must consist only of academic standards and benchmarks. All current standards must be revised and resubmitted to the State Board of Education by July 1, 2026.

Reading Interventions

New requirements for intensive reading interventions, which must be conducted by personnel with reading certification/endorsement or a literacy micro -credential. Those with micro-credentials must be supervised by certified reading specialists.

Testing Options

Allows preeminent universities to accept the CLT with a score of 83 or higher. Authorizes CLT10 as an option for students in addition to Pre-ACT and PSAT.

Student Discipline

Requires school child study teams to frequently attempt communications with families, evaluate alternative education programs, and implement behavior contracts.

Athletic Participation & Holocaust Remembrance

SB 248 - Student Participation in Interscholastic Sports

Expands opportunities for home education and private school students to participate in interscholastic athletics. Home education students can now participate at any public school in their district of residence.

Students can participate at FHSAA member schools when their private school doesn't offer the sport. Previous enrollment-size restrictions limiting eligibility for private school students have been removed.

FHSAA appeals decisions must now be published online in a searchable format, subject to student privacy laws.



SB 356- Holocaust Remembrance Day

Requires the Governor to annually proclaim January 27th as "Holocaust Remembrance Day." The day may be suitably observed in public schools, the Capitol, and elsewhere as designated by the Governor.

Permits instruction on this day about the harmful impacts of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, as well as the positive impacts of the Jewish community on humanity.





SB 1374 School District Reporting Requirements by Sen. Yarbrough



Volunteer Screening

SB 1374 authorizes specified entities to conduct background screenings of volunteers at the entity's discretion.



Personnel Removal

Requires district school boards to adopt policies for temporarily removing instructional personnel from the classroom within 24 hours after certain arrest notifications.



Law Enforcement Notification

Expands requirements for law enforcement to notify educational entities within 48 hours when employees are arrested for certain offenses.



Self-Reporting

Requires instructional and administrative personnel to selfreport arrests or judgments for specified offenses within 48 hours, with school districts preserving confidentiality as required.

Student Health and Safety Measures

SB 1514 Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools by Sen. Smith

- SB 1514 requires each district school board and charter school governing board to require that a school that serves students in kindergarten through grade 8 provide specified training to an adequate number of personnel;
- Requiring each district school board and charter school governing board to require that a student's emergency action plan remain effective at all times while the student is on school grounds.

SB 1070 Electrocardiogram s for Student Athletes by Sen. Simon

- Beginning with the 2026 -2027 school year, SB 1070 requires high school student athletes to complete at least one ECG to detect heart conditions.
- The ECG requirement includes provisions for religious or medical exemptions, or if no affordable provider (under \$50) is available.
- Schools are encouraged to form partnerships for low-cost ECGs, and liability protection is provided for exempted cases.



SB 994 - Driver License Education Requirements by Sen. Collins



Substance Abuse and Traffic Law

SB 994 requires drivers license applicants who are 18 years or older to complete a substance abuse and traffic law course.



Learner's Permit

Requires applicants for a learner's drivers license to satisfactorily complete a driver's education course approved by the Florida Department of Education.



Course Requirements

The learner's permit driver's education course must meet or exceed FDOE Driver Education/Traffic Safety -Classroom course 1900300.

Questions or Comments?

