

**2020 Florida Legislative Session  
Key Bills to Watch**

**General Appropriations Act (bill number to be determined):** We will be watching to see

1. How much of an increase in per-pupil funding will be provided
2. How much of an increase there will be in the Base Student Allocation (BSA), that portion of per-pupil funding that school districts may use without restriction
3. What amount will be set aside for teacher compensation; if that compensation will come in the form of a base salary, a salary increase, a bonus based on standardized test results, or some other combination; if funds will be distributed equitably among districts and between new and veteran teachers; if compensation for non-teaching employees will be addressed
4. Whether supplemental teacher compensation allocations will be included within per-pupil funding, thus boosting in appearance the total funding amount
5. Whether any voucher program allocations will be included within per-pupil funding, thus boosting in appearance the total funding amount
6. Whether discretionary district-imposed taxes will be mandated to be shared with charter schools, and how
7. What budgetary pressure will be exerted to persuade school districts to embrace the Guardian Program
8. What funds will be allocated for student mental health and for school hardening

**Bills relating to teacher/school employee compensation and contracts**

**SB 486 Florida Best and Brightest Programs** (Senator Bradley): would repeal the program

**SB 1088 Teacher Salary Enhancement** (Senator Diaz): would create a targeted allocation for teacher salary enhancement in the General Appropriations Act to meet legislatively-determined salary target; would allow school districts already meeting target to use allocation for other operational expenses. Open-ended proposal.

**SB 1400 Education** (Senator Diaz): would create a specific allocation supporting a minimum base salary of \$47,500; would create a salary bonus program for high-performing teachers and principals whose schools make specified school grade improvements; would also expand current state voucher programs

**HB 1223 Instructional Personnel and Educational Support Employee Salaries** (Representative McGhee)/**SB 1854 Instructional Personnel and Educational Support Employee Pay Raise Initiative** (Senator Rodriguez): would require a minimum base salary of \$47,500 for instructional personnel, with designated yearly increases in minimum base salary up to \$51,376 in 2022; would provide designated percentage increases in salary for instructional personnel earning more than the base salary; would provide designated percentage increases in salary for educational support employees.

**HB 1359 Public School Instructional Personnel Contracts** (Representative Cortes): would do away with annual contract requirement

**Bills relating to school safety funding**

**SB 304 School Safety Funding** (Senator Cruz)/**HB 1167 School Safety Funding** (Representative Polsky): would allow unused Guardian Program funding to be repurposed for non-Guardian Program school safety uses.

**Bills relating to the District Cost Differential**

**SB 1858 District Cost Differential** (Senator Rodriguez): would revise the current methodology in calculating the DCD



#### **Bills relating to early childhood education**

**SB 156 Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program** (Senator Perry)/**HB 1321 Early Childhood Music Education Pilot Program** (Representative Aloupis): would provide for the continuation of the pilot program

**HB 1013 Early Learning and Early Grade Success** (Representative Grall)/**SB 1616 Early Learning and Early Grade Success** (Senator Harrell)/**SB 1688 Early Learning and Early Grade Success** (Senator Harrell): would seat the authority for directing early learning programs under the Department of Education; would provide for increased accountability of early learning/pre-kindergarten programs, including through the administration of state standardized testing

#### **Bills relating to English Language Learners**

**CS/SB 376 English Language Learners** (Senator Lee)/**HB 143 English Language Learners** (Representative Valdes): would provide for alternatives to passing the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA assessment for graduation purposes

**SB 678 Native Language Assessment in Public Schools** (Senator Taddeo)/**HB 515 Native Language Assessment in Public Schools** (Representatives A.M. Rodriguez and Aloupis): would fulfill a federal ESSA requirement that English learners be tested in their native languages in courses not directly involving the learning of English

#### **Bills relating to career and technical education**

**HB 71 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund** (Representative Santiago)/**SB 130 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund** (Senator Hutson): allowing the governor to allocate funds to public and charter schools for workforce education use

**SB 418 Workforce Education** (Senator Diaz)/**HB 725 Workforce Education** (Representative Robinson): altering the nature of programs that school district career centers may offer

**SB 1568 Education** (Senator Hutson): among other provisions would make enrollees in certain preapprenticeship programs employees of the state for workers compensation purposes; broadens the kinds of entities that may serve as apprenticeship/preapprenticeship sponsors

#### **Bills relating to special education**

**SB 1438 Dyslexia** (Senator Harrell)/**HB 1411 Dyslexia** (Representative Williams): would mandate K-3 screening of all students, intensive instruction for those with delays in early literacy skills, and the presence at each school of a dyslexia specialist; would create a statewide taskforce on dyslexia

#### **Bills mandating specific instruction**

**HB 91 Holocaust Education in Public Schools** (Representative Polsky)/**SB 184 Holocaust Education in Public Schools** (Senator Rader)

**HB 1283 Required Instruction** (Representative Thompson)/**SB 1660 Required Instruction** (Senator Thurston): would enforce mandate to offer Holocaust education and African American history education

**HB 105 Human Trafficking Education in Schools** (Representative Williams)/**SB 154 Human Trafficking Education in Schools** (Senator Thurston): would make human trafficking education part of required health course curriculum

#### **Bills affecting the state school accountability system**

**SB 1818 Education Accountability** (Senator Torres): among other provisions, would eliminate certain state standardized exams, and would allow districts to use recognized national exams in the place of



state standardized exams; would allow for administration of exams on paper and in languages other than English

#### **Bills that would level the playing field among public schools, charter schools, and voucher-accepting private schools**

**SB 1218 Anti-bullying and Anti-harassment in Schools** (Senator Diaz): would require voucher-accepting private schools to report bullying and harassment incidents

**CS/SB 534 Education** (Senator Diaz)/**HB 883 Education** (Representative Duggan): would prohibit public schools, charter schools, and voucher-accepting private schools from employing someone who appears on the state disqualification list due to unethical or criminal conduct, even if that person resigned from a previous position rather than being terminated.

**SB 632 Education** (Senator Stewart)/**HB 859 Education** (Representative Goff-Marcil): would require voucher-accepting private schools to provide recess, administer state standardized assessments, etc.

#### **Bills that would expand or otherwise change current voucher programs**

**SB 1164 Gardiner Scholarship** (Senator Perry): among other provisions would allow funds to be spent on arts education

**SB 1400 Education** (Senator Diaz): among other provisions, would expand eligibility for the Family Empowerment Scholarship to certain virtual school students, and for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship to those whose family earnings do not exceed 300% of the federal poverty rate; would exclude recipients of the Family Empowerment Scholarship from maximum value for funding calculations.

#### **Bills that would affect charter schools**

**SB 526 Charter Schools** (Senator Diaz): would restrict those who fail to win renewal of a charter school contract, or whose contract is terminated, or whose school closes within a year of opening from applying to found another charter school for five years.

**SB 536 Charter Schools** (Senator Diaz): among other provisions, establishes the High-Performing Charter School Council to oversee high performing charter schools, currently overseen by school districts.

**SB 1578 Education** (Senator Hutson)/**HB 953 Charter Schools** (Representative McClain): among other provisions, would allow state universities and state colleges to sponsor charter schools throughout the state, and be designated as local educational agencies for federal funding purposes; would set the length of a charter operated by a municipality, a public entity, or a non-profit organization at 15 years; would allow selective recruitment of students in the case of developer-built charter schools; would prevent local government entities from imposing additional prohibitions or restrictions on charter schools than imposed on traditional public schools; would loosen construction requirements for traditional public schools

#### **Bills involving student health/safety**

**HB 41 Conversion Therapy** (Representative Grieco)/**SB 180 Conversion Therapy** (Senator Rodriguez): would prohibit certain individuals from performing conversion therapy on individuals under a certain age.

**SB 120 Naloxone in Schools** (Senator Pizzo)/**HB 331 Naloxone in Schools** (Representative Geller): establishes authority and procedures for the administration of naloxone in public schools

**CS/SB 168 Drinking Water in Public Schools** (Senator Cruz)/**HB 139 Drinking Water in Public Schools** (Representative Jenne): would provide for the identification of schools with unsafe drinking water, as well as for the installation of mitigating filters



### **Bills relating to the Baker Act**

**HB 407 Removal of a Student for an Involuntary Examination** (Representative Silvers)/**SB 1426**

**Removal of a Student for an Involuntary Examination** (Senator Powell): would change requirements for parental notification prior to a student's removal

**HB 1083 Involuntary Examinations of Minors** (Representative Webb)/**SB 1062 Involuntary**

**Examinations of Minors** (Senator Harrell): would change requirements for parental notification, create school reporting requirements; facilitate referral to mental and behavioral health providers

### **Bills that would limit the powers of School Boards/School Board members**

**SB 62 K-12 Education** (Senator Stargel): among other provisions, would require (rather than simply allow) school districts to share discretionary sales taxes with charter schools on a proportionate per-pupil basis

**HB 157 Limitation on Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board** (Representative

Sabatini)/**SB 1480 Limitation on Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board** (Senator

Book)/**SB 1216 Limitation on Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board** (Senator

Gruters): would mandate term limits of 8 or 12 years for school board members

### **Bills relating to juvenile justice reform**

**HB 285 Direct Filing of an Information** (Representative Bush)/**SB 610 Direct Filing of an Information** (Senator Powell): among other provisions would eliminate a district attorney's discretion in referring a juvenile's case directly to adult court; would revise criteria for direct file; would prevent housing of children in adult detention facilities in certain cases.

**HB 165 Youth in Solitary Confinement** (Representative Driskell)/**SB 228 Youth in Solitary Confinement** (Senator Thurston): would prevent solitary confinement of juveniles; would provide for youth suicide prevention; would prevent denial of service to youth held in isolation; would mandate a review of juvenile detention practices.

**HB 347 Youth in Confinement** (Representative Alexander)/**SB 436 Youth in Confinement** (Senator Montford): would prohibit youth disciplinary confinement; would limit emergency confinement; would mandate youth confinement policy review

**HB 421 Detention of Children** (Representative Alexander)/**SB 618 Detention of Children** (Senator Powell): would prohibit confinement of a juvenile in an adult facility

**HB 517 Prosecuting Children as Adults** (Representative Alexander)/**SB 628 Prosecuting Children as Adults** (Senator Powell): would remove a mandate to transfer a child accused of certain crimes to adult court ; would limit the age at which a child committing certain crimes must be tried as an adult; would alter mandatory sentencing guidelines for children

**SB 578 Juvenile Justice** (Senator Powell)/**HB 949 Juvenile Justice** (Representative Eskamani): would prohibit the arrest and detention of children under a certain age; would proscribe certain policies regarding the detention of children

**HB 615 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction** (Representative C. Watson)/**SB 700 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction** (Senator Perry): would allow for diversion program enrollment by youth facing felony charges

**HB 1173 Pub Rec./Nonjudicial Arrest Record of a Minor** (Representative C. Watson)/**SB 1292 Pub Rec./Nonjudicial Arrest Record of a Minor**: would exempt record of juvenile participation in a diversion program from public review