



Broward County Public Schools

2021 State Legislative Priorities

The Legislature should boost funding and adopt policies that educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world. BCPS will advocate for legislation consistent with School Board policy and programs.

School Board Authority:

- Preserve School Board constitutional and home rule authority and oppose legislation that would subvert, bypass, or undermine that authority.
- Allow school boards with at least 10 percent of its student enrollment in Charter Schools to determine the need for additional schools.
- Allow school boards to fulfill public notice requirements outlined in Florida State Statute through posting on the District's website.

School Safety:

- Support the Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS Public Safety Commission recommendation to allow districts to levy up to .5 mills for capital outlay or personnel for safety purposes.
- Enhance previous legislation and clarify the method and frequency of Active Assailant Drills/Trainings. Allow the Office of Safe Schools to work with District School Security Specialists to determine the proper balance and frequency of drills/trainings.
- Fully fund the requirements for Safe-School Officers at all public schools.
- Fully fund and expand training for Guardians. Allow neighboring Sheriff Departments or other entities to provide Guardian training to increase consistency and availability.
- To ensure compliance, require charter schools to provide an executed contract of a full-year plan for Safe-School Officers two (2) weeks prior to the start of school. Allow Districts to regularly request compliance certifications and documents to adequately monitor charter schools' compliance with the SSO requirements.
- Continue funding for school safety infrastructure enhancements to schools.

Teacher (Instructional Personnel) Retention and Recruitment:

- Fully fund the teacher salary enhancement allocation within the FEFP.
- Include all certified instructional personnel, including preschool teachers, in the education statute for the purpose of allowing them inclusion in incentive programs, such as the Best and Brightest retention bonus, and retirement options currently afforded to K-12 teachers.

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP):

- Allow the forecasted FTE for FY 2020-21 to remain as the funded FTE through all 2020-21 calculations.
- Fully fund FTE credit for innovative learning environment.
- Increase per-pupil funding through the FEFP, allowing Florida school districts to be competitive nationwide.
- Maintain the Required Local Effort rate to allow for growth to pay for FEFP enhancements such as Base Student Allocation, Safe Schools Allocation, Mental Health Assistance Allocation, and supplemental services for additional students.
- Make the FEFP formula more equitable by eliminating compression within the FEFP and account for costs such as average teacher salaries, health insurance for employees, property and transportation per FTE.
- Expand the Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation to all Title I schools for wraparound services.

- Oppose any redirection of taxpayer funding to voucher programs.

Funding (Non-FEFP):

- Establish a Victim's Compensation Fund for victims of the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS.
- Continue \$800,000 in funding for the BCPS Adults with Disability (AWD) program.
- Provide funding for the Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders program.
- Allocate non-millage funding for charter schools to minimize the impact of sharing capital millage.
- Redirect Schools of Hope funding to District schools for wraparound services.
- Expand funding for full-day Pre-Kindergarten programs for all eligible students.
- Increase funding for student health services such as school nurses at each campus.
- Continue funding the Matching Fund program for BCPS students.
- Provide funding to enhance hurricane shelters.

Accountability:

- Use State Assessments in the 2020-21 school year as a baseline for accountability measures for FY 2021-2022.
- For 2020-21 school year, waive the sanctions related to third grade promotions, end-of-course calculations, graduation test requirements, and suspend school letter grades.
- Waive the graduation requirement of forty (40) documented Student Volunteer Service Program hours for the 2020-21 school year.
- Require the State Board of Education and Commissioner to conduct a concordance of national assessments for all grade levels of Florida's standards that districts may use in lieu of FSA.
- Include career dual-enrolled students in the acceleration calculation for state high school grades.
- All schools that receive taxpayer dollars should have the same accountability measures as public schools.

College, Career and Technical Education:

- Restore funding to cover the costs associated with the Dual Enrollment program.
- Provide adequate funding for Post-Secondary Workforce Education per the funding needs as identified in the State DOE Funding Model.
- Continue statewide funding for CTE Industry Certifications which are attained by Post-Secondary students included on the Performance Incentive Funding list.
- Continue to support the Governor's initiative to expand apprenticeship programs (Pathways to Career Opportunity Grant).