

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2020

VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

FUNDING REFORM

Eliminate the District Cost Differential (DCD) and establish a more equitable and non-arbitrary funding formula to ensure equity for all school districts.

Reallocate the *Best and Brightest* Allocation of \$284.5 million to specifically address teacher salaries across the State of Florida.

Maintain the Required Local Effort (RLE) due to increase in taxable values, to increase the base student allocation. The statewide average increase in 2019 was 5.6%.

Expand current Mental Health Assistance Allocation to reduce ratio of students per mental health professional for the third year of this program.

Identify school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors as critical shortage areas so that personnel entering the field may have access to loan forgiveness in order to attract more candidates.

Identify ongoing capital revenue stream to fund school campus hardening projects.

Provide funding to support a minimum of 3 days of teacher professional development that would be in addition to local school district efforts and categorically funded.

Provide funding to districts for required 1000 to 2000 hour internships for student services professionals.

ACCOUNTABILITY REFORM

Provide an alternate pathway for students that are successful in the classroom but struggle with standardized testing to graduate from high school with a standard high school diploma.

Eliminate the practice of using student performance on a single standardized test as the sole basis of student and school performance.

Restore local control and allow school districts more flexibility in selecting supplemental evaluations to substitute for the state required assessments and provide alternate concordant scores.

Authorize alternate methods for assessing learning and achievement for special populations such as ESE and English Language Learners (ELL) students and provide Florida's statewide assessments in multiple languages as allowed by federal regulations.

Allow students who receive a Certificate of Completion to be eligible for Financial Aid in a Post-Secondary Institution.

Enact legislation and fully fund, mandatory in-service training for teachers and other school professionals each year specific to behavioral interventions and classroom management.

Support oversight of charter school contracts with regard to legislative mandates, administrative fees, facility contracts, teacher salaries and benefits, instructional innovation, independence of charter board members, and unmet need in the district by restoring local control to school districts.