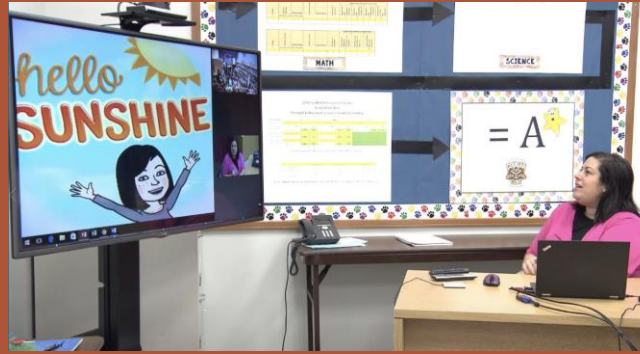




Communications and Legislative Affairs

June 24, 2025

2025 Regular Legislative Session Summary Report

(as of June 20, 2025)

Key Legislative Changes Affecting Education and District Operations

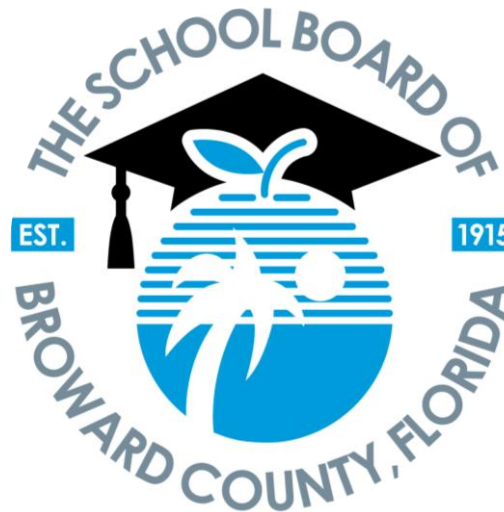
Introduction

RATIONALE

Legislative actions directly influence district operations, funding allocations, educational programs, staffing requirements, student services, and compliance responsibilities. By presenting a summary report, the School Board can assess the implications of newly enacted laws, guide policy adjustments, and support the Superintendent in aligning district priorities with state requirements.

PURPOSE

Provide the School Board with an update on the outcomes of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session is essential to ensure informed governance, strategic planning, and timely implementation of new state mandates.



STRATEGIC PLAN - GOALS and GUARDRAILS

- District Operations, Accountability
- Safety
- Academics, School Support, and Wellness Supports

REQUEST TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

Review the bills presented and provide any appropriate guidance to the Superintendent, as needed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Final budget implications to be presented during subsequent budget public hearings





2025 Regular Legislative Session Summary Report

Key Legislative Changes Affecting Education and District Operations

The 2025 Regular Legislative Session Summary Report presentation offers a detailed overview of the most significant legislative developments affecting the District, with a particular focus on education policy, funding, operations, and compliance. It summarizes over 30 enrolled bills that have direct or indirect implications for school sites, staff certification, student health and safety, curriculum standards, and district-level operations. Key areas addressed include adjustments to school start times, enhanced safety protocols, mental health service evaluations, instructional material updates, and changes to teacher preparation pathways.

The presentation also highlights budget negotiations and the status of the state's final appropriations bill, providing context for potential fiscal impacts and planning requirements. Legislative actions such as the implementation of the CERT Program, expanded student health services, and updated rules for charter schools and student athletics are also explored in depth. Additionally, it includes directives for compliance, strategic alignment with the District's goals, and guidance needed from the Department of Education.

Overall, the report equips the School Board and District leadership with the information necessary to begin implementing legislative changes effectively while identifying areas that require further clarification or planning.



External Government and Legislative Consultants

GRAYROBINSON

ATTORNEYS | ADVISORS | CONSULTANTS

Approved by the Board in December 2024, GrayRobinson is a premier law and consulting firm recognized as one of the most influential in Florida. Our multidisciplinary team of nearly 300 attorneys, advisors, and consultants brings deep experience and insight to every client engagement. With 16 offices across Florida and Washington, D.C., The firm serves a diverse range of clients—businesses, government entities, and individuals—by resolving complex legal issues, anticipating industry changes, and driving strategic momentum.

Their mission is to leverage our legal, lobbying, and regulatory expertise to help clients define and achieve their goals, while remaining deeply committed to serving our communities. We are proud to uphold a longstanding tradition of building relationships based on respect, loyalty, and integrity.



Approved by the Board in December 2024, The Southern Group is a pioneering influence firm that redefined the lobbying landscape in Florida and beyond. Founded 25 years ago, they were the first to introduce a new model of advocacy—bringing together top talent from business, government, and politics, and building a statewide network that gives our clients unmatched access to local and state decision makers.

Over the past two decades, the firm built and retained a seasoned team of experts who develop winning strategies, open doors to power, and connect clients with the right people at the right time. Many of them have served in the very institutions they now help their clients navigate. As the lines between government, business, and public interest continue to blur, they remain at the forefront—adapting to emerging trends and delivering strategic influence that goes beyond traditional lobbying. While advocacy remains their foundation, the firm’s approach evolves with the moment, ensuring they stay smart, agile, and deeply connected in an ever-changing landscape.



SB 2510 - Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education

(The budget is under Executive review and final action)

Funding	Description	2024-2025 SY	2025-2026 SY	Diff. +/-
Full-time Equivalent (FTE)	<i>Standardized funding unit that represents one full-time student</i>	282,394	284,222	+2,228
Family Empowerment Scholarship Full-Time Equivalent (FES FTE)	<i>Portion of full-time student funding allocated to students in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program</i>	40,477	48,822	+8,345
Base Student Allocation (BSA)	<i>Dollar amount assigned to each student in Florida's Education Finance Program (FEFP)</i>	\$5,330.98	\$5,372.60	+\$41.62
Total Funding	<i>Total Funding</i>	\$2,521,605,124	\$2,578,537,900	+56,932,776
Total FES Cost	<i>Total amount of public education funding that is used to support students participating in FES</i>	-\$353,358,100	-\$424,895,862	+71,537,762
Per Student Funding	<i>amount of money the state allocates for each student enrolled in public education (primarily calculated through the FEFP)</i>	\$8,929.40	\$9,059.53	+\$130.53
Comparable Wage Factor (CWF)	<i>Adjustment for regional differences in the cost of labor</i>	1.0259	1.0249	-.001

BCPS Line Items (subject to Governor's veto)

Broward Schools McArthur High School Aquaponics Greenhouse \$100,000

Broward County Public Schools Adults with Disabilities \$800,000



Description		2024-2025 SY	2025-2026 SY	Diff. +/-
Regular Class	<i>Standard retirement membership category</i>	6.73%	7.10%	+.37%
Elected Officials	<i>Individuals holding public elected offices</i>	11.79%	12.39%	+.60%
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)	<i>Eligible members who have "retired" without leaving their job for up to 60 months, while their retirement benefits are held in a tax-deferred account earning interest</i>	8.49%	9.37%	+.88%

Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) represents the portion of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Pension Plan's obligations that exceeds its current assets.

Regular Class	<i>Rates vary by membership class and are updated annually</i>	4.84%	4.87%	+.03%
Elected Officials		44.23%	40.72%	-3.51%
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)		10.64%	10.65%	.01%

Chief Financial Officer will provide a greater overview

*Estimated Total Statewide Contribution Public Schools = \$76.7m
Funds per student based on estimate: = \$27.50 (FES FTE removed)*



Schools of Hope

1002.333 F.S.

A charter school operated by a hope operator which serves students from one or more persistently low-performing schools; is in the attendance zone of a persistently low-performing school or within a 5-mile radius of such school, whichever is greater; and is a Title I eligible school.

These schools are designated to support charter schools established to serve students in areas with persistently low-performing traditional public schools. Recent legislative changes have expanded the criteria for designating a school as persistently low-performing, potentially increasing the number of schools eligible for this designation and, consequently, the number of Schools of Hope

- Expands the definition of a persistently low performing school to include lowest 10% in 2 of the last 3 EOY PM's in 3rd grade ELA or 4th grade math.
- Allowable locations outside of opportunity zone or school zone if no underused, vacant, or surplus property available within zone.
- Allows a school of hope to co-locate in an underused, vacant, or surplus public-school facility and requires the school district to provide facility-related services. Allows school of hope to use of underused, vacant, or surplus property is at no cost.
- Provides for continuation of schools of hope funding after 5 years based on performance metrics set by the State Board of Education (SBE).
- Requires reporting of schools of hope enrollment and performance data, including re-enrollment data and performance comparisons to similar Title I schools.
- Requires DOE to make recommendations, no later than July 1, 2028, on a Title I performance incentive program to reward Title I schools that have demonstrated excellence in student achievement and learning gains.

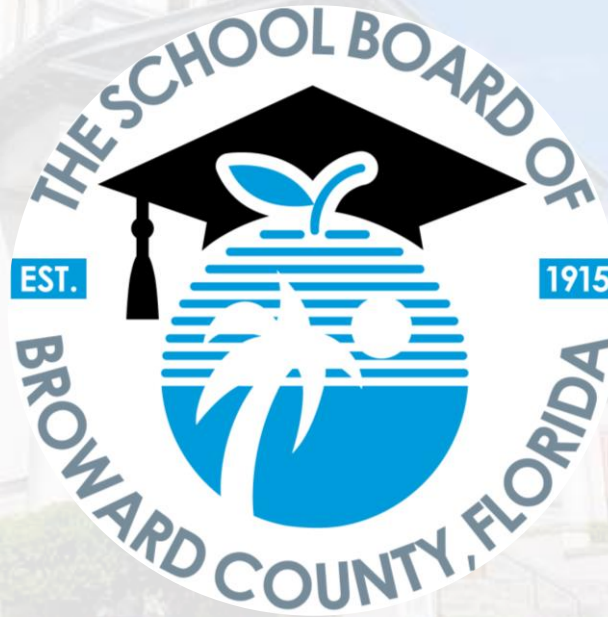


2025 Regular Legislative Session

Enrolled Bills Relative to BCPS School Sites

A total of 32 bills have been enrolled, indicating that they have passed both legislative chambers in identical form and are now pending executive action. These bills will become law if signed by the Governor or if no veto is issued within seven (7) consecutive days of their presentation. As of June 20, 2025, 28 of these bills have been signed into law, while 5 remain under executive review, with a deadline of July 3 for gubernatorial action.

The District is also awaiting further guidance from the Florida Department of Education.





Senate Bill 268

Public Records/ Congressional Members and Public Officers

Subject: School Board members

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON JUNE 18, DEADLINE JULY 3

Expands public records exemptions by protecting partial home addresses, telephone numbers, and certain personal information of current public officers, and their families.

Note from the Superintendent: This bill does not have a direct operational impact on the school district, as its provisions pertain solely to School Board members and the disclosure of their personal records.

House Bill 259

Special Observances

Subject: Declaration and Observances

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

This bill designates August 21 as Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day in Florida, promoting public understanding of fentanyl risks and encouraging schools, local governments, and agencies to host awareness and prevention events.

Note from the Superintendent: A resolution recognizing August 21 as Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day will be drafted and approved the Board at the July 2025 meeting to prepare for implementation in the upcoming school year. Legislation will lead the drafting, with support from District staff in developing awareness and prevention materials to support compliance of the bill.

Senate Bill 356

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Subject: Declaration and Observances

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

Establishes January 27 as “Holocaust Remembrance Day,” encouraging observance in public schools and state facilities, with optional instruction on the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and Jewish contributions to humanity.

Note from the Superintendent: The District currently has a Resolution recognizing International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27. We will update any language within it as necessary to ensure alignment with the new legislation.





House Bill 447

Disability History and Awareness Instruction

Subject: Declaration and Observances

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires K–3 to include lessons on bullying and physical disabilities, mandates autism instruction for grades 4–6, hearing impairments for grades 7–9, and various learning and intellectual disabilities for grades 10–12.

Note from the Superintendent: *The impact of this bill on the district is fiscally minimal; however, the ESE Department will develop and provide instructional materials to be used across K-12 grade bands during the first two weeks of October.*

House Bill 549

Gulf of America

Subject: Declaration and Observances

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires all state agencies to replace references to “Gulf of Mexico” with “Gulf of America.” Starting July 1, 2025, public and charter schools must use materials that adopt the “Gulf of America” terminology.

Note from the Superintendent: *This bill will not have a financial impact on the district. We will ensure that lessons, instructional materials, and resources purchased or created after the legislation’s start date accurately reflect the Gulf of America designation.*

House Bill 1237

Human Trafficking Awareness

Subject: Declaration and Observances

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill mandates human trafficking awareness training for Florida public and charter school staff. By December 1, 2025, the Department of Education will provide free training covering victim identification and reporting. All affected staff must complete and acknowledge the training.

Note from the Superintendent: *Staff from the Department of School Culture and Student Support will ensure all required personnel complete the training provided by the Florida Department of Education and will coordinate with the Professional Learning team to document formal acknowledgment through our professional learning management system.*





House Bill 279

False Reporting

Subject: Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The legislation targets individuals who knowingly make false or malicious emergency calls, like fake threats of violence, that cause serious harm, panic, or disruption. If such false reports result in severe injury, permanent harm, or death, the responsible parties face enhanced criminal penalties, mandatory restitution, and prosecution costs.

Note from the Superintendent: *This bill may impact the Student Code of Conduct, but no changes are needed from a discipline standpoint, as the district already enforces the strictest penalties for false threats. Principals will notify students and parents of the increased consequences within the first 10 days of school.*

Senate Bill 1374

School District Reporting Requirement

Subject: Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires quick removal of arrested instructional staff, expands law enforcement notification to schools, mandates staff self-report arrests within 48 hours, allows volunteer background checks, and ensures confidentiality of sealed records.

Note from the Superintendent: *The bill has minimal impact, as the district already follows these practices. We will review potential rulemaking requirements for School Board Policies 2404 – Disqualifying Offenses and 2405 – Employee Self-Reporting of Arrests, Charges, and Criminal Proceedings in response to this legislation.*

Senate Bill 1546

Background Screening of Athletic Coaches

Subject: Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill extends the deadline for completing Level 2 background screenings of athletic coaches to July 1, 2026.

Note from the Superintendent: *The bill has minimal impact, as the district already follows the conditions outlined in the bill .*





Senate Bill 1470

School Safety

Subject: Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

This bill expands the school guardian program to include childcare facilities, which must cover training and security costs, and allows partnerships with law enforcement. It authorizes sheriffs to certify guards, requires annual weapons checks, and strengthens reporting. School safety requirements are updated to cover times before and after school, define gate access zones, permit temporary classroom door locks, allow certain CTE exemptions, require safety briefings for substitute teachers, and direct the creation of a centralized panic alert system, pending funding.

Note from the Superintendent: *The impact of this bill on the district includes revising locked door requirements for CTE programs, common areas, parking lots, and other exclusive zones, including the types of locks used. The district already has integrated measures in place that meet the requirements for the centralized panic alert system.*

House Bill 597

Diabetes Management in Schools

Subject: Student Health

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill allows schools to stock undesignated glucagon, enter supply agreements, and accept donations or grants for its purchase. It permits glucagon to be prescribed and dispensed in the school's name for emergency use per student care plans, provides liability protections for proper administration, and requires the State Board of Education to adopt implementing rules.

Note from the Superintendent: *The impact of this bill on the district is minimal, as school staff who work with students with diabetes already receive training from a licensed nurse on recognizing the signs and symptoms of hypo- and hyperglycemia, including when the administration of glucagon is necessary.*





Senate Bill 1070

Electrocardiograms for Student Athletes

Subject: Student Health

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON JUNE 18, DEADLINE JULY 3

The bill requires ECG screening for student athletes before participation, starting in 2026–27, with medical and religious exemptions. The FHSA will set rules for clearance after abnormal results. Schools have limited liability, and districts must seek partnerships for low-cost ECGs, with exemptions if under \$50 screenings aren't available.

Note from the Superintendent: *The district will support this legislation through existing partnerships, with the Student Athletics department collaborating closely with the Strategic Partnerships department.*

Senate Bill 1514

Anaphylaxis in Traditional Public and Public Charter Schools

Subject: Student Health

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires K–8 schools to provide anaphylaxis training, maintain emergency plans, train staff on epinephrine use, and ensure students' action plans are accessible. The State Board of Education will adopt rules by October 1, 2025.

Note from the Superintendent: *The District already uses three methods to identify students with anaphylaxis: parents or guardians indicate allergies on the Student Emergency Contact Card, Coordinated Student Health Services collects detailed health information via the Health Condition Review form on Focus, and gathers medical statements for special meal accommodations.*

Senate Bill 958

Type 1 Diabetes Early Detection Program

Subject: Student Health

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

Requires the Department of Health to develop informational materials on Type 1 diabetes for parents of VPK through 1st grade students. District must notify parents of the Type 1 diabetes early detection materials by September 30, 2025, and annually thereafter.

Note from the Superintendent: *Coordinated Student Health Services (CSHS) is currently collaborating with the FDOH to determine the educational materials that will be developed. Once finalized, CSHS and Senior Leadership will implement a plan to inform all parents of VPK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students and the required resources.*





House Bill 1607

Cardiac Emergencies

Subject: Student Health

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires schools to teach hands-on CPR and AED use, with basic first aid and CPR training provided once in middle school and once in high school. Schools must develop a PULSE plan for urgent emergencies aligned with local responders. Every public and charter school must have at least one operational AED and train staff in first aid, CPR, and AED use. Liability protection is provided for staff and volunteers using defibrillators under Good Samaritan laws.

Note from the Superintendent: *The impact on the district may include rulemaking for Policy 5303 – First Aid but overall is low since the district already has AEDs and provides CPR training. The district will also monitor charter school compliance with the legislation.*

House Bill 969

Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes

Subject: Student Mental Health Services and Compliance

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires OPPAGA to evaluate and report on school district mental health services by the end of 2025 and 2026, reviewing compliance, outcomes, and program integration, with input from districts and the Department of Education.

Note from the Superintendent: *The impact to the district is minimal, as we will collect and provide required data per the new policy. The department is already experienced in submitting similar data and reports to evaluators.*

Senate Bill 738

Child Care and Early Learning Providers

Subject: Academics

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON JUNE 18, DEADLINE JULY 3

The bill modernizes childcare licensing by introducing a three-level violation system, stricter inspections, faster background checks, and revised training requirements including in-person CPR. It allows provisional hires under supervision, requires annual county licensing votes, and exempts certain federal facilities and preschools from licensing or fees.

Note from the Superintendent: *In-person CPR training with at least one trained staff member present and now includes free online training.*





Senate Bill 1102

School Readiness Program

Subject: Academics

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill expands special needs eligibility and funding for school readiness providers who meet training and program standards, with new staff training requirements starting July 1, 2027.

***Note from the Superintendent:** The district is working with the Early Learning Coalition to access additional funds for Before and Aftercare programs supporting students with disabilities. It will communicate the legislation's impact to the community and adjust eligibility evaluations and training to ensure compliance.*

House Bill 681

Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding

Subject: Academics

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill mandates fair division of apprenticeship funding with formal agreements, requires a standard contract and transparency tool by July 2026, and sets public notice and reporting rules for Workforce Education Funding meetings.

***Note from the Superintendent:** The district is working with Broward College to start the program. The district must use state contract templates to split apprenticeship funding, with administrative-only roles capped at 10%. It must submit detailed program data for an annual state report.*

Senate Bill 112

Children with Development Disabilities

Subject: Exceptional Student Education

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill expands state support for children with autism and developmental disabilities through early intervention, school readiness, specialized education, and professional training.

***Note from the Superintendent:** This bill may increase enrollment in BCPS ESE PreK 3-year-old programs if families opt for the Early Steps Extended Option. It could also impact ESE PK-12 ASD traditional school enrollment due to grant-funded autism charter school startups or expansions, potentially increasing workload and affecting overall district enrollment.*





House Bill 1145

Workforce Education

Subject: Academics

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill makes charter schools eligible for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program, requires districts and colleges to offer money-back guarantees on three more programs by July 1, 2026, and sets stricter student eligibility and reporting requirements for tuition reimbursement.

Note from the Superintendent: *Charter schools are now eligible for Workforce Grant funds and were included in Broward's prior application. By July 1, 2026, the district must expand its money-back guarantee to six programs, increasing accountability as unsuccessful job outcomes may require tuition refunds.*

House Bill 85

Hazardous Walking Conditions

Subject: Operations and Safety

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill broadens the criteria for identifying hazardous walking conditions for public elementary students to include walkways adjacent to limited access facilities, as defined by Florida transportation law.

Note from the Superintendent: *The bill poses minimal impact to the district, as transportation exceptions for students facing hazardous walking conditions are already in place. The Environmental Health & Safety Department will continue coordinating with Student Transportation to review and administer these exemptions.*

Senate Bill 296

Middle/High School Start Times

Subject: Operations

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires middle schools to start no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and high schools no earlier than 8:30 a.m. by July 1, 2026. However, districts will be considered compliant if they submit a report to the Department of Education by June 1, 2026, outlining start times, planning strategies, financial impacts, and potential unintended consequences.

Note from the Superintendent: *There is minimal impact to district operations, as compliance only requires submitting a report to the Florida Department of Education by the June 1, 2026, deadline.*





Senate Bill 1402

Student Enrolled in Dropout Retrieval Program

Subject: Academics

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill requires virtual instruction providers to receive separate school grades or improvement ratings in each district they serve. Dropout retrieval programs, which serve students who have withdrawn and are not currently enrolled, are exempt from district grading but must choose either a school grade or improvement rating for accountability.

Note from the Superintendent: *There is no impact on the District's virtual programs, as Broward Virtual already receives a school grade. The legislation increases accountability for providers like the Acceleration Academy. The District will monitor whether students coded as dropout retrieval must be included in school improvement ratings. Overall, this bill mainly affects providers' accountability and has low impact on the District.*

House Bill 443

Education

Subject: Charter Schools Support

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill updates charter school rules, allowing greater flexibility in funding, enrollment, and conduct codes. It limits sponsor audit demands, ensures data access, prevents landlord conflicts of interest, permits high-performing charters to take over others, and gives Pre-K students enrollment preference.

Note from the Superintendent: *The Charter Schools Support Services Department will work with Finance to monitor the impact of relaxed timing for charter schools' financial and cost report submissions, ensuring they align with district deadlines.*

House Bill 809

School Social Workers

Subject: Student Services and Certifications

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill exempts school social workers from needing to demonstrate mastery of general and subject area knowledge under s. 1012.55, F.S.

Note from the Superintendent: *This exemption is anticipated to enhance the retention of school social workers by alleviating the challenges and financial burdens associated with passing the general knowledge examination. At this time, the bill does not necessitate any changes to existing district policies.*





Senate Bill 462

Transportation

Subject: Operations

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill creates an administrative hearing option for school bus safety violations, allowing individuals to contest citations within 60 days and avoid court fees. Hearings may be virtual or in person, with evidence reviewed under oath. If upheld, a \$200 fine plus administrative costs applies. Appeals follow existing state procedures, and the process applies to unresolved cases after July 1, 2025. The bill also allows FDOT to grant up to \$5 million annually (FY 2025–2030) to state colleges and school districts—prioritizing rural areas—for equipment simulators, instructional aids, and construction courses with OSHA and simulator certifications.

Note from the Superintendent: *The bill amends Fla. Stat. § 316.173 and imposes new administrative duties on the District related to the implementation of the school bus infraction detection system, including managing the hearing process and appointing qualified hearing officers*

House Bill 875

Educator Preparation

Subject: Teacher Preparation, Certification, and Mentorship Pathways

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill reduces internship hours for experienced counseling students, allows part-time non-degreed arts teachers, and sets uniform teacher prep curricula by 2027. It creates the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence and a mentorship-based alternative certification program (CERT). By 2029, general knowledge tests are replaced with education courses, and mentors must have professional certification and reading endorsements for K-3 teaching support.

Note from the Superintendent: *We have concerns about implementing the CERT Program outlined in HB 875, particularly how it will impact our district's existing Professional Learning Certification Program (PLCP), which supports over 150 educators through 2026–2027. To ensure a smooth transition, we need clear guidance on how CERT will be implemented at the district level and integrated with PLCP, steps we should take now to prepare mentors, staff, and participants for the shift, and given our current PLCP scale, early planning is critical. We are seeking direction from the Department of Education to begin aligning our systems and teams with the new certification requirements.*





House Bill 1105

Education

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

Subjects: Governance, Charter Schools Policy, Student Services, Academics, and Technology Use

The bill requires local government infrastructure surtax revenues shared with school districts to also be proportionally shared with eligible charter schools for specified uses, with unspent funds reverting to the sponsor if a charter closes. It expands definitions and enforcement related to trespassing on school property and buses, including warrantless arrests. The bill updates conversion charter school processes, allows new sponsors, mandates financial reporting, and sets property and leasing rules. It grants enrollment preference to children of employees in job-creating entities and standardizes charter monitoring. Graduation changes include alternative paths for non-diploma students, revised IEP reviews, and new course options like AICE and marching band credits. It requires FDOE to develop workforce credentialing for students with autism or on modified curricula. Wireless device use is banned for elementary and middle school students during the school day, with designated phone areas in high schools and a study on phone bans' effects. State colleges may set enrollment rules for students who lack exam passage but have credits, and dual enrollment agreements must clarify transportation and scheduling. The bill also adds liability insurance to allowable millage expenditures, expands Bright Futures academic awards, raises volunteer hour requirements, broadens grant eligibility to charters, and mandates math endorsement competencies by 2026.

Note from the Superintendent: *Internship info must be included in counseling materials, and two years of marching band can fulfill a PE or arts credit. By January 2026, the DOE will create a guide for students who don't earn a standard diploma, which districts must provide with transcripts. Districts must develop programs for students with autism or modified curricula and promote Bright Futures scholarships in their career plans. The district will expand work-based learning for students with disabilities in grades 9-12 to boost engagement, career readiness, and experiential learning.*





House Bill 1255

Education

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

Subjects: Teacher Workforce, School Choice, Academics, Student Services, and Parental Engagement

The bill updates teacher shortage area terminology and private school background checks, removes the Commissioner's role in diversity oversight, and sets admission standards for preeminent universities. It expands opioid antagonist definitions, requires parental consent for corporal punishment, and limits local rules on charter schools. It changes VPK transfer rules, revises School Readiness income eligibility, and mandates waitlist tracking by income and priority. Academic standards must be simplified by 2026, and reading interventions require certified or micro-credentialed staff. Financial literacy courses must cover higher education costs and FAFSA. Principals must refer certain students to support teams, and superintendents manage expulsion extensions. Districts must inform parents about scholarship and tutoring programs, count tutoring hours for Bright Futures, and can use millage funds for liability insurance.

Note from the Superintendent: *The district will implement the necessary measures and protocols to ensure full compliance with the legislation and effectively accommodate its provisions.*





Senate Bill 248

Student Participation in Interscholastic & Extracurricular Sports

Subject: Student Athletics

SIGNED INTO LAW BY SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR

The bill allows home-educated and private school students more access to public school sports.

Note from the Superintendent: *The district will implement the necessary measures and protocols to ensure compliance with the legislation and effectively accommodate the increased participation of home-education and private school students in our athletic programs.*

Senate Bill 1080

Local Government Land Regulation

Subject: Facility Planning & Real Estate

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON JUNE 18, DEADLINE JULY 3

The bill prohibits school districts from charging alternative fees instead of impact fees unless they comply with legal requirements and requires districts to justify these fees in any legal disputes.

Note from the Superintendent: *The impact to the district is still under review; meanwhile, Local Government Land Regulation will continue routine operations, and the Real Estate Department will monitor and report on proportional share mitigation and school concurrency fees.*





2026 REGULAR SESSION DATES

October, November & December 2025

Committee Weeks are scheduled periods before the official start of a legislative session during which lawmakers meet in committees to review, discuss, and revise proposed legislation. These weeks serve as a preparatory phase for the regular session, allowing legislators to:

- Hear presentations from state agencies and stakeholders
- Draft and debate bills
- Conduct oversight of existing programs
- Begin budget discussions
- Set priorities for the upcoming session

September 16, 2025

School Board adopt the 2026 State Legislative Priorities

October 2025
(Exact Date TBD)

Joint Delegation Meeting with the Broward Legislative Delegation

January 13, 2026

Regular Session convenes

March 3, 2026

Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings

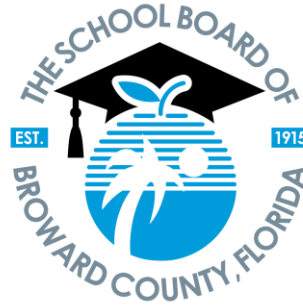
March 13, 2026

Last day of Regular Session

July 1, 2026

New legislation becomes effective





Debra Hixon, Chair
Sarah Leonardi, Vice Chair

Lori Alhadeff
Maura McCarthy Bulman
Alex Cervera, Esq.
Dr. Jeff Holness
Nora Rupert
Rebecca Thompson
Dr. Allen Zeman

Dr. Howard Hepburn
Superintendent of Schools

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator at 754-321-2150 or email eeo@browardschools.com.

Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or email eeo@browardschools.com.

