



Legislative Affairs Department
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2026 Regular Session, Week 9 Report

March 9 – March 13, 2026

Executive Summary:

During Week 9 of the 2026 Regular Session, legislative leaders signaled a definitive shift in budget timing and end-of-session posture. During floor sessions on Thursday, March 12, Senate President Albritton and House Speaker Perez advised members that budget negotiations remain unresolved and that they anticipate returning to Tallahassee for a mid-April Special Session on the budget, following the Easter and Passover holidays. President Albritton further stated his intention for the Senate to adjourn *Sine Die* jointly with the House and to reserve the traditional Hankie Drop Ceremony for the anticipated Special Session. This development reinforces that final budget decisions, and any associated education implementing language, will remain unsettled beyond the close of the 60-day session.

Week 9 activity reflected continued movement on K–12 education measures that carry direct operational, compliance, and governance implications for school districts. The week's actions included advancement of school safety proposals affecting guardian programs and threat assessment record-sharing, school board governance and transparency measures expanding board member access to information and strengthening documentation and retention expectations, and multiple bills addressing extracurricular activities, athletics oversight, and background screening requirements. In parallel, House action advanced public records protections for assessment instruments and moved forward requirements for annual inventories of unimproved school district property, both of which may increase district compliance workload and reporting expectations.

For BCPS, the dominant signals this week are (1) the continued uncertainty and delay in budget finalization now tied to a mid-April Special Session, (2) sustained legislative momentum on governance/transparency proposals that could materially affect board operations, documentation, and internal workflows ([HB 1073](#) / [SB 1620](#) framework), (3) expanding safety and threat-management expectations with implications for cross-system coordination and record transfer ([HB 757](#)), and (4) the continued layering of compliance requirements affecting district reporting, property documentation, and extracurricular oversight ([SB 824](#); [SB 538](#); [HB 1069](#)).

Key Highlights:

- [SB 7022](#) (Public Records/Examination and Assessment Instruments, Pre-K–12) was reported favorably in the House (101–8), expanding confidentiality and revising disclosure and retention requirements for assessment instruments.
- [SB 538](#) (Extracurricular Activities) was reported favorably in the House (104–6), expanding and revising student eligibility, booster club funding, and administrative oversight for extracurricular activities.
- [SB 824](#) (Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned by School Districts) was reported favorably in the House (84–27), requiring annual district inventories of unimproved real property for DOE statewide reporting.
- [HB 1069](#) (Background Screenings) was reported favorably in the Senate (36–0); [SB 1168](#) was laid on the table in favor of [HB 1069](#), expanding screening requirements for youth athletic coaches/referees and revising disclosure rules for sealed/expunged records.

- [HB 1073](#) (School Districts) was reported favorably in the Senate (37–0); [SB 1620](#) was laid on the table in favor of [HB 1073](#), expanding school board member access to information, strengthening public retention of meeting materials, requiring line-item budget disclosure, and prohibiting mandatory or incentivized nondisclosure agreements.
- [HB 145](#) (Suits Against the Government) was reported favorably in the Senate (36–0); [SB 1366](#) was laid on the table in favor of [HB 145](#), increasing statutory liability limits and revising claim procedures and timelines.
- [HB 757](#) (School Safety) was reported favorably in the Senate (26–10); [SB 896](#) was temporarily postponed, expanding guardian program-related provisions and strengthening safety requirements with record-sharing components.
- [HB 905](#) (Foreign Influence) was reported favorably in the House (83–17), strengthening restrictions through registration requirements, contracting limits, and enhanced penalties.
- [HB 1279](#) (Education) was reported favorably in the Senate (36–1) and substituted for [SB 7038](#); [SB 7036](#) (Education, Pre-K–12) remained temporarily postponed with no additional floor action reflected in the report.

Major Legislative Actions:

School board governance, transparency, and district operations:

- [HB 1073 \(School Districts\)](#): reported favorably in the Senate (37–0); substituted for [SB 1620](#). Enhances school board members’ access to district documents, strengthens public retention of meeting materials, mandates line-item budget disclosure, and prohibits mandatory or incentivized nondisclosure agreements for district employees.
- [SB 1620 \(Public Education\)](#): laid on the table; referred to [HB 1073](#). Establishes additional rights for school board members to access information and consult on budget matters, increases public record documentation expectations, clarifies “good cause” for personnel decisions, and prohibits districts from requiring or incentivizing nondisclosure agreements.

School safety and threat-management record sharing:

- [HB 757 \(School Safety\)](#): reported favorably in the Senate (26–10); expands school safety measures across K–12 and public postsecondary institutions, including guardian program-related provisions and safety record-sharing expectations.
- [SB 896 \(School Safety\)](#): temporarily postponed; companion measure reflecting similar themes, including student threat assessment record transfer requirements into Florida College and state university contexts.

Extracurricular activities, athletics oversight, and background screening:

- [SB 538 \(Extracurricular Activities\)](#): reported favorably in the House (104–6); expands and revises eligibility, booster club funding, and administrative oversight for extracurricular activities.
- [SB 178 \(Athletics in Public K–12 Schools\)](#): reported favorably in the House (112–0); authorizes head coaches to use personal funds for student welfare within limits and reporting requirements.
- [HB 1069 \(Background Screenings\)](#): reported favorably in the Senate (36–0); expands screening requirements for youth athletic coaches and referees and modifies disclosure obligations for sealed/expunged records.
- [SB 1168 \(Background Screenings\)](#): laid on the table; referred to [HB 1069](#).

Public records, assessments, and compliance workload:

- [**SB 7022 \(Public Records/Examination and Assessment Instruments\)**](#): reported favorably in the House (101–8); expands confidentiality and revises disclosure and retention requirements for assessment instruments.
- [**SB 824 \(Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned by School Districts\)**](#): reported favorably in the House (84–27); requires annual district inventories of unimproved real property for DOE statewide reporting.

Liability exposure and risk management:

- [**HB 145 \(Suits Against the Government\)**](#): reported favorably in the Senate (36–0); increases statutory liability limits for tort claims against governmental entities and revises claim procedures, timelines, and related provisions.
- [**SB 1366 \(Claims Against the Government\)**](#): laid on the table; referred to [**HB 145**](#).

Cross-cutting: foreign influence and broader policy environment:

- [**HB 905 \(Foreign Influence\)**](#): reported favorably in the House (83–17); strengthens restrictions through registration requirements, contracting limits, and enhanced penalties.

End-of-session posture and budget timing:

- Legislative leaders advised members that they anticipate a mid-April Special Session on the budget, and that the traditional Hankie Drop Ceremony would be reserved for that Special Session, reinforcing continued uncertainty in budget completion timelines.

Alignment with BCPS Priorities:

Retaining High-Quality Staff:

While Week 9 did not center on direct compensation or pipeline incentives, multiple measures may affect staffing and compliance workload, including expanded screening requirements for youth athletic roles ([**HB 1069**](#)) and operational governance changes affecting district processes and HR/legal practices ([**HB 1073**](#)).

Strengthening Operations:

Governance and transparency measures ([**HB 1073**](#) / [**SB 1620**](#) framework) represent a high-impact operational issue for BCPS, with potential effects on board support workflows, documentation practices, public records management, and internal information-sharing processes. Property inventory reporting ([**SB 824**](#)) and assessment confidentiality/retention revisions ([**SB 7022**](#)) also carry administrative and compliance implications.

Addressing the Funding Gap:

The anticipated mid-April Special Session on the budget extends uncertainty for district planning and may delay clarity on education funding levels and implementing language. Several advancing measures may carry downstream costs tied to documentation, reporting, safety coordination, and compliance.

Enhancing Safety & Mental Health:

School safety proposals ([**HB 757**](#) / [**SB 896**](#) framework) continue to advance, including provisions that may expand guardian program expectations and strengthen cross-system safety record-sharing requirements—potentially increasing coordination demands and compliance steps.

Promoting Academic Equity:

Week 9 actions were less centered on direct instructional equity initiatives; however, governance and transparency measures may shape how districts document and communicate decisions affecting students and families, and assessment instrument confidentiality changes ([SB 7022](#)) may affect testing security and information access practices.

Next Steps:

- Track end-of-session posture and confirm the timeline and scope of the anticipated mid-April Special Session on the budget, including any education implementing language that may affect district funding, staffing, and compliance requirements.
- Prepare an internal implementation crosswalk for high-impact measures advancing this week ([HB 1073](#); [HB 757](#); [SB 824](#); [SB 7022](#); [HB 1069](#); [SB 538](#)), identifying likely owners, required policy/procedure updates, records retention impacts, training needs, technology needs, and anticipated effective dates.
- Coordinate with Legal, HR, and Board Services to assess operational implications of governance/transparency provisions ([HB 1073](#) / [SB 1620](#) framework), including document access protocols, meeting material retention standards, and nondisclosure agreement limitations.
- Monitor compliance and reporting workload growth tied to property inventory requirements ([SB 824](#)), assessment confidentiality/retention revisions ([SB 7022](#)), and expanded screening requirements for youth athletic roles ([HB 1069](#)).
- Continue monitoring safety legislation ([HB 757](#) / [SB 896](#) framework) for final language on record transfer requirements and any new operational steps affecting threat assessment documentation and inter-institution coordination.