

**GREATER FLORIDA CONSORTIUM
OF
SCHOOL BOARDS'
2014 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Constitution of the State of Florida, Article IX - - Section I.

“The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is therefore a paramount duty of the State to make adequate provision for the education of all the children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education....”

GOAL: TO INCREASE, ON A PHASED-IN BASIS, THE AVERAGE PER STUDENT FUNDING TO ENSURE THAT FLORIDA IS IN THE TOP HALF OF THE STATES AND CAN PROVIDE A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION TO ENABLE ITS STUDENTS TO COMPETE AND EXCEL IN THE GLOBAL MARKET PLACE.

PRIORITY GOALS

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/GOVERNANCE

Ensure that, in all cases, legislation be evaluated to provide that it does not conflict with the constitutional authority of school boards to “operate, control, and supervise” all public schools within their school districts.

- Preserve school board constitutional and home rule authority and oppose legislation that would subvert, bypass, or undermine that authority.
- Allow school districts to establish local contract provisions inclusive of cost structure with post-secondary institutions related to the delivery of dual enrollment.
- Provide local school boards the final authority to grant or reject charter school applications.
- Preserve the constitutional authority of a school board to negotiate a performance contract with a charter school.
- Maintain school boards’ authority regarding the disposition of local capital outlay funds and impact fees.
- Modify penalty for non-compliance with the constitutional class size requirement to be based on the school-wide average for all public schools.

FUNDING

Allocate sufficient state dollars with flexibility to enable school districts to support: guaranteed continuation budgets that provide for enrollment changes, inflationary increases, competitive salaries and benefits for teachers and other personnel and quality program improvements, including those mandated by SB 736. **Use state revenue to provide for this continuation budget as opposed to the state using increases in local property tax revenues as the source of additional funds.**

- Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by at least \$200 per student above the total potential 2013-14 K-12 funding level.
- Fully fund both the infrastructure cost and the acquisition of computers/technology for the mandated expansion of computer-based administration of statewide testing, earmarking funds from the internet sales tax by passing an internet sales tax and earmarking this revenue for this purpose.
- Oppose further equalization of the local discretionary millage. until the basic education program is funded to the 2006-07 level adjusted for the three-year average of inflation
- Restore the FTE definition to provide for six periods and fund additional instructional time for dual enrollment and virtual programs.

OPTIONAL CAPITAL OUTLAY LEVY (2.0 MILLS)

- Restore the full optional 2.0 mill levy for capital purposes and reject any further reduction and continue the flexibility to use this revenue to pay property and casualty insurance premiums; to purchase equipment to implement on-line testing; and, to purchase software required to run equipment purchased with capital funding.
- Oppose any mandatory diversion of Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue from traditional public schools to non-traditional public schools.
- Establish a long-term, stable, and recurring revenue source to provide increased school construction funds to support new facilities, renovations, replacement schools, school maintenance, land acquisition, mandated class size reduction, hurricane shelter retrofitting, pre-kindergarten programs housed in public schools, and the additional costs of constructing environmentally efficient "green" schools.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND STATE TESTING PROGRAM

Support Common Core State Standards and Accountability, and develop a workable timeline for implementation of accountability, but not before July 1, 2017, that includes student, teacher, principal, school and school district assessment, professional development, and evaluation.

- Ensure that the state assessment and standards are aligned, valid, fair, reliable, and fully funded.

- Repeal requirements for districts to adopt EOCs in every subject not covered by the state assessment program.
- Allow alternative ways for Post-secondary Readiness Test compliance, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, AICE, or Dual Enrollment programs.
- Approve the recommendations by the Commissioner's Task Force (Spring 2012) to have equitable and appropriate assessments for students in special education centers and those students classified as English-for-Language-Learners (ELL).
- Ensure there is a waiver (utilizing a portfolio such as that in the ENNOBLES Act) available for these students regardless of the assessments utilized.