

Broward Principals & Administrative Assistants

2010 Final Session Report

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Budget

Education: PreK-12

This Education (PreK-12) budget maintains funding in the classroom in order to meet our commitment to Florida's kids and the future they represent. It addresses a promise to protect core education programs and to maintain eligibility for the Federal Stabilization Funds under the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) waiver.

Included in this budget area is \$21.2 million for Excellent Teaching to fund 4% bonuses for National Board Certified Teachers. This is a component of our effort to reward the state's best teachers.

The total budget for PreK-12 Education is \$22.3 billion for 2010-11. This includes:

- \$9.1 billion in General Revenue (an increase of \$1 billion over 2009-10)
 - The GR increase is to backfill the required local effort "RLE" reduction that has occurred due to reduced property tax collections. These collections are down this year as a result of the decline in the real estate market and economy.
 - This increase occurs in lieu of millage rate increases. (Meaning, there are no hidden tax increases for our constituents in this budget.)
- \$353.3 million from the Florida education trust funds
- \$969.5 million from Federal Stabilization funding
- \$8.3 billion from required and discretionary local effort in the FEFP.

Some specific summary areas are as follows:

The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) – This budget slightly increases per-student funding.

- Total FEFP of \$18.1 billion (state, local, and federal stabilization funds); increase of \$111.3 million (0.62%) from 2009-10.
- Individual funding per student (FTE) increased \$1.22 (0.02%) to a total of \$6,843.51.
- Student enrollment increase of 15,796 or 0.6%.
- Tax roll decrease of 9.48%.
- Included is a benefits increase in the state's contribution to FRS of \$182.7 million.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) – This program budget is \$404.4 million.

- A \$37.6 million increase which includes funding for additional students offset by a class size adjustment from 1:10 to 1:12.
- Funding per student is \$2,562 for the school year and \$2,179 for the summer program.

Non-FEFP Budget Entities – Most programs reduced by 4%. The following programs have no reduction in funds:

- FDLRS

Budget

- Autism Centers
- Regional Consortia
- Public Broadcasting
- Florida School for the Deaf & Blind

Additional PreK-12 provisions:

- Reading Grants are funded at \$2.3 million.
- The bill also provides an additional \$143 million for the Federal School Lunch program.
- An administrative reduction of 14 positions at the State Board of Education (BOE).

Retirement Issues

While retirement issues took precedence over a vast majority of the session, retirement issues ultimately were either withdrawn or died in committee. The only bill to successfully pass was HB 5607. This bill:

- * Revises s. 121.71 FS to establish the required employer payroll contribution rates for each membership class and subclass of the defined benefit plan and the optional retirement plans within the FRS for the FYs beginning July 1, 2010 & July 1, 2011.
- * Reduces the interest rate earned on participants in DROP from 6.5% to 3% annually for employees entering DROP after July 1, 2010. Current DROP participants are not affected.
- * Specifies methods of funding DROP for the state actuary when conducting the annual actuarial study of the State Retirement System.

Subject to the Governor's veto power, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2010.

It is also expected that the Senate, at the request of Senator Mike Bennett will conduct an interim study on retirement issues that were considered or discussed during the legislative session. As soon as those work products are announced, we can formulate a plan to work with the appropriate committee staff and members to discuss our issues.

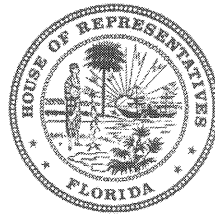
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Education Policy Council

Representative Will Weatherford, Chair

Representative Marti Coley, Vice Chair

2010 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



PreK-12 Policy Committee

Representative John Legg, Chair

Representative Erik Fresen, Vice Chair

State Universities & Private Colleges Policy Committee

Representative Seth McKeel, Chair

Representative H. Marlene O'Toole, Vice Chair

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SJR 2 - Class Size Requirements for Public Schools

By: Gaetz and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HJR 7039

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Pre-K – 12; Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means

The Joint Resolution provides voters with the opportunity to amend Section 1, Article IX of the State Constitution, relating to class size. This constitutional section currently specifies that the maximum number of students who may be assigned to a teacher in public school classrooms, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, is: (a) 18 students in prekindergarten (PreK) through grade three; (b) 22 students in grades four through eight; and (c) 25 students in grades nine through 12.

The Joint Resolution, if approved by the voters, would modify the class size requirements so that compliance, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, would be calculated as follows:

- **PreK–Grade 3:** The maximum number of students who could be assigned to each teacher in an individual classroom would be 21, but the average number of students assigned per class to each teacher within each public school could not exceed 18 students;
- **Grades 4–8:** The maximum number of students who could be assigned to each teacher in an individual classroom would be 27, but the average number of students assigned per class to each teacher within each public school could not exceed 22 students; and
- **Grades 9–12:** The maximum number of students who could be assigned to each teacher in an individual classroom would be 30, but the average number of students assigned per class to each teacher within each public school could not exceed 25 students.

Additionally, the Joint Resolution proposes revisions that would: expand the current exemption of extracurricular classes from class size requirements to also exempt virtual classes; require the Legislature to provide sufficient funding to maintain the average number of students that would be required under the modified class size requirements; and delete obsolete language that currently requires the Legislature, beginning 2003-2004, to provide sufficient funds to reduce the average number of students in each classroom by at least two students annually.

The Joint Resolution would take effect upon approval by the voters and would operate retroactively to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

HB 7037 (ch. 10-70, LOF) - Education

By: Education Policy Council; Coley and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1806

Committee(s) of Reference: None

The bill amends law governing a variety of education-related topics for purposes of:

- Conforming statutes that address vocational rehabilitation programs to changes in controlling federal law and repealing provisions of law related to those programs that are duplicative or obsolete;

