



Legislative Affairs Department  
Broward County Public Schools

Legislative Weekly Report: Pre-Committee Week 3

## OVERVIEW

This week in Tallahassee, education subcommittees in both bodies met on Wednesday. The Senate PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee passed legislation that would require a 0.5 Financial Literacy course graduation requirement. The House Innovation subcommittee passed the "Hope Scholarship" bill along party lines. This bill would allow for school vouchers for students to attend private schools if they have been bullied in public schools.

Senate Appropriations Chair Jack Latvala temporarily stepped down from his chairmanship following allegations of inappropriate conduct. A rules complaint was filed on Wednesday against him and he is under investigation now.

Last week, the Constitution Review Commission (CRC) reviewed and submitted proposals. Proposals were filed relating to school vouchers, charter schools, class size, and the first day of school. Summaries of these proposals can be found below. The CRC is scheduled to meet again on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

In Washington, the House released the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act." This legislation includes a removal of the \$250 teacher supply deduction, as well as phasing out the Coverdell savings accounts. More information on the impact to school districts can be found below.

The legislature has still not extended funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), more information can be found below.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

New scholarship for bullied kids gets OK from Florida House panel [Orlando Sentinel](#)

Financial literacy requirement sought for Florida students [Florida Trend](#)

Complaint filed with Senate Rules Committee against Jack Latvala [Florida Politics](#)

Florida Constitution Proposal Would Target Class Size, Higher Teacher Pay [WLRN](#)

Constitution Revision Commission Out With First Proposals [NPR](#)

Inside Betsy DeVos's efforts to shrink the Education Department [The Washington Post](#)

Could Betsy DeVos be on her way out of the Trump administration? [Detroit Metro Times](#)

Raging Tax Debate Sucks In Teachers' Deductions, School Choice [Education Week](#)

House Passes Children's Health Insurance Bill, Kids Are No Closer To Health Insurance [Huffington Post](#)

EVENT CALENDAR		
<i>Please contact us for additional details on any event/meeting below.</i>		
Event	Date	Location
Pre-Committee Week 4	November 13-17 <sup>th</sup>	Tallahassee, FL
Constitution Review Commission	Nov 27 <sup>th</sup> –Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tallahassee, FL
Next Gen Engage	December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Monarch High School
Joint School Board and Legislative Delegation Meeting	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Broward County Governmental Center
First Day of Regular Session	January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tallahassee, FL
Rally to Tally	February 6-8 <sup>th</sup>	Tallahassee, FL
Broward Days	February 7-8 <sup>th</sup>	Tallahassee, FL
TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW		
SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS		
Below is a summary of the Senate Subcommittee hearings this past week.		
<u>Education</u>		
The committee did not meet this week.		
<u>Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>		
The subcommittee met this week to hold workshops regarding the implementation of HB 7069. The committee also discussed <a href="#">SB 88</a> regarding a financial literacy class graduation requirement. The bill was voted favorably and heads to the Appropriations committee.		
HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARINGS		
Below is a summary of the House Committee and Subcommittee hearings this past week.		
<u>Education Committee</u>		
The committee did not meet this week.		
<u>PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>		
The committee met this week to discuss Jefferson County School District's budget and finances. The committee also discussed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program enrollment and the impact of Hurricane Maria on school readiness.		
<u>Innovation Subcommittee</u>		
The committee met this week to discuss HB 001, regarding <a href="#">HB 1, the Hope Scholarship Program</a> . This legislation passed 9-5 along party lines. It now heads to the PreK-12 Appropriations Committee.		
<u>Quality Subcommittee</u>		
The committee did not meet this week.		

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION: THE WEEK IN REVIEW	
Commissioner Proposals	
<a href="#">P 4 (R. Martinez)</a>	Remove the prohibition against using public revenues in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or any sectarian institution.
<a href="#">P 10 (D. Gaetz)</a>	Require the Legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public education.
<a href="#">P 32 (E. Donalds)</a>	Provide that members of district school boards shall serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses in accordance with state law.
<a href="#">P 33 (E. Donalds)</a>	Require that the superintendent of schools of a school district be appointed by the district school board.
<a href="#">P 43 (E. Donalds)</a>	Establish a limitation on the period for which a person may be elected as a member of a district school board.
<a href="#">P 45 (E. Donalds)</a>	Specify that no provision of the State Constitution may be construed to limit the Legislature from making provision for other educational services that are beneficial to the children and families of this state.
<a href="#">P 59 (M. Johnson)</a>	Establish rights of public school students and to create an exception to the prohibition on the appropriation of public funds to certain private schools.
<a href="#">P 60 (M. Johnson)</a>	Require the Legislature to annually appropriate certain funds to be used towards postsecondary education financial assistance and to establish conditions on a student's eligibility to receive such financial assistance.
<a href="#">P 71 (E. Donalds)</a>	Specify that the Legislature is authorized to enact general laws providing alternative processes to authorize the establishment of charter schools in the state.
<a href="#">P 82 (B. Heuchan)</a>	Provide a limitation as to the opening date for schools set by a school board.
<a href="#">P 89 (N. Washington)</a>	Specify the purpose and intent of the state's public education system.
<a href="#">P 90 (P. Levesque)</a>	Revise requirements relating to class size limitations in public schools and to require that any funds not expended towards the maintenance of average class sizes be applied towards increasing teacher pay to the national average.
<a href="#">P 93 (R. Martinez)</a>	Authorize high-performing school districts to become charter districts.
WASHINGTON DC: THE WEEK IN REVIEW	
Tax Cuts and Jobs Act	
<p>The impact on teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act removes the \$250 deduction for teachers to use on necessary classroom expenses such as instructional materials and art supplies.</li> </ul> <p>The impact on school districts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Revenue Loss: The bulk of school district revenue comes from state and local property taxes and state and local income and sales taxes, which are current "write-offs" for nearly a third of the nation's taxpayers.</li> <li>Reducing the Deduction for State and Local Taxes: The loss or limitation of state and local tax deductions (SALT) in the House tax bill will restrict the ability of school districts (as well as states, cities, and counties) to maintain or raise operational revenue for schools and other public services.</li> <li>Reducing Deductions for Property Taxes and Mortgage Interest: The changes in the SALT deductions along with the new limitation on the homeowner mortgage interest deduction (not to exceed \$500,000) will lower home values by 10% (estimated in September by the National</li> </ul>	

Association of Realtors), resulting in a reduction in assessed valuation (i.e. the property tax base) on which public school revenue generally relies.

- Loss of Federal Bonding Authority: The tax bill also repeals a number of important bond provisions often used to finance public school infrastructure improvements (private activity bonds, advanced refunding, and tax credit bonds).
- New Tax Break for Private School Tuition: Adding insult to injury, the bill includes a significant change to federal tax policy allowing "529" tax-favored education savings accounts of up to \$10,000 per year to pay for private school tuition costs.

### Children's Health Insurance Program

The House passed a bill along party lines to renew funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), among other public health programs. The Senate has its own version of legislation supported by both parties that does not include any offsets. The House's bill will have difficulty passing in the Senate. Arizona, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and four US territories were in danger of running out of CHIP funding, however the Trump administration made \$230 million in excess funds available to continue funding. Florida is set to run out of CHIP funding December.

More than 27,000 children in Broward County are insured through CHIP subsidized programs including HealthyKids, MediKids, and Children's Medical Services Managed Care Plan.