



OVERVIEW

This week in Tallahassee the legislature met for the final round of pre-committee meetings. The House PreK-12 Innovation subcommittee discussed the Tax Credit Scholarship along with school voucher programs across the nation.

The legislature has received presentations on the Governor's education budget and the House has already said that they will pass a "simplified" version of the budget. The Houses' main concern with the Governor's education budget is its reliance on the local required effort to fund additional student funding. The Senate was more receptive.

Proposals to term limit school board members and to end the election of district superintendents has passed the Constitution Review Commission Education Committee. These proposals now head to the commission's Local Government committee.

In Washington, Congress has failed to reauthorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program. Congress has extended funding for CHIP by attaching a rule to the continuing resolution spending bill that averts a government shutdown until December 22. This rule would allow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide reserve CHIP funds to the states most in-need. As of last week, the Government had given \$1.2 billion of the \$3 billion in reserve CHIP funds to 15 states and Washington, DC. The House has passed a bill to continue the program, however the Senate has not due to disagreement on how to pay for it.

[Reports from MACPAC](#) project that Florida will run out of CHIP funding sometime in January. More than 27,000 children in Broward County and approximately 2.5 million statewide are insured through CHIP subsidized programs including HealthyKids, MediKids, and Children's Medical Services Managed Care Plan.

The Senate narrowly passed a tax bill on Saturday, December 2 that would provide incentives to private school parents through tax-free school savings accounts while curtailing the deduction for state and local taxes that fund public schools. The Senate Tax bill would bar school districts from using cost-effective, tax-free "advance refund bonds" to refinance school bond debt. The two versions (the House passed a tax bill on November 16) now head to conference where select lawmakers from both chambers will work to unify the bill.

Provisions regarding the DREAM Act have yet to pass the legislature. If they are not included in the year-end spending bill, the chances of legislation that allows children protection from deportation will have a slim chance of passing as a standalone bill. Broward County has approximately 19,500 DACA eligible immigrants.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Florida school voucher reforms proposed [Orlando Sentinel](#)

100-plus proposals to change Constitution affect taxes, schools, health [Orlando Sentinel](#)

Here's what the Senate tax bill means for schools, parents and students [Washington Post](#)

As Dreamers grow more anxious, little support comes from Florida Republicans [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Congress Buys a Little More Time for Children's Health Insurance Program [Bloomberg Politics](#)

Dreamers will be deported if DACA fix isn't used to avoid government shutdown [Newsweek](#)

EVENT CALENDAR		
<i>Please contact us for additional details on any event/meeting below.</i>		
Event	Date	Location
Joint School Board and Legislative Delegation Meeting	December 12 th	Broward County Governmental Center
First Day of Regular Session	January 9 th	Tallahassee, FL
Rally to Tally	February 6-8 th	Tallahassee, FL
Broward Days	February 7-8 th	Tallahassee, FL
TALLAHASSEE: THE WEEK IN REVIEW		
SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS		
Below is a summary of the Senate Committee and Subcommittee hearings this past week.		
<u>Education</u>		
<p>The committee met to discuss the following bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 96 by Steube - Human Trafficking Education in Schools • SB 118 by Hukill - Visitation of Schools by State Legislators • SB 436 by Galvano – Education • SB 564 by Young - John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program <p>All bills were passed unanimously. The committee was given a presentation regarding K-12 Education Accountability.</p>		
<u>Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>		
The subcommittee was given a presentation regarding the Governor's budget.		
<u>Appropriations Committee</u>		
The committee met this week, notably the committee discussed SB 88- High School Graduation Requirements. This bill requires .5 credit of financial literacy for graduation. This bill was passed unanimously and has been placed on the calendar for second reading.		
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>		
<p>The committee met this week to discuss the following bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 2003 - Volusia STEM/Blended Learning, by Rep. Santiago • HB 2239 - The ECHO Project - Ensuring Children Have Outstanding Teachers, by Rep. Caldwell • HB 2265 - City Year Florida, by Rep. Avila • HB 2343 - Junior Achievement Workforce Readiness Programs Expansion, by Rep. Fine • HB 2373 - State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida, by Rep. Clemons • HB 2391 - Youth Agricultural Development Center, by Rep. Raburn • HB 2419 - Easter Seals Southwest Florida, by Rep. Gruters • HB 2463 - Jobs for Florida's Graduates, by Rep. Latvala • HB 2541 -- Boys' Choir of Tallahassee, by Rep. Alexander • HB 2553 - Next Generation Agriculture Education Programs in Florida, by Rep. Caldwell • HB 2697 - All Pro Dad's Fatherhood Involvement in Literacy Campaign, by Rep. Grant (J) • HB 2943 - Lauren's Kids 'Safer, Smarter Schools', by Rep. Nunez <p>All bills passed unanimously. The subcommittee also was given a presentation regarding the Governor's budget.</p>		
<u>Innovation Subcommittee</u>		

The subcommittee was given a presentation on scholarship program requirements and listened to a panel discussion on oversight and monitoring in scholarship programs. The presentation featured Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and school voucher programs across the country.

Quality Subcommittee

The committee did not meet this week.

GOVERNOR SCOTT'S PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW

Governor Scott's recommended budget was released on November 14, 2017 and included \$180 million in tax cuts including reducing the fee when obtaining or renewing a driver's license, reducing traffic citation fines for individuals attending driving school and implementing a 10-day back-to-school sales tax holiday and three one-week disaster preparedness sales tax holidays in May, June and July.

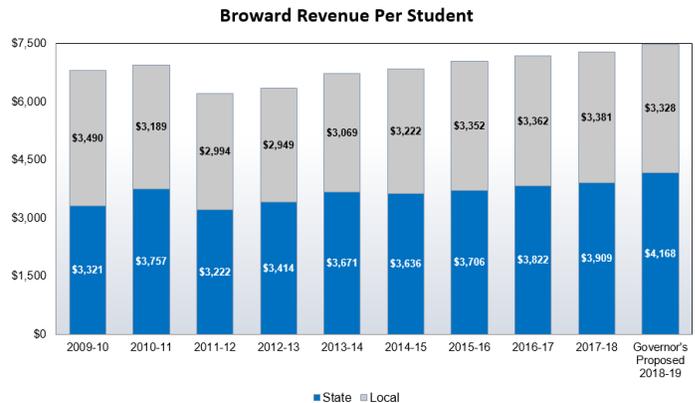
The proposed budget includes \$21.4 billion to be allocated for K-12 education. The Governor's budget also includes an average **increase of \$200 in per student funding** and funding for new programs related to computer coding and English Language Learning (ELL).

The Governor does not change the current Local Required Effort (LRE) rate. In past sessions, the House has demanded a decrease in the LRE rate. A portion of the Governor's recommended increase relies on the current LRE rate.

STUDENT FUNDING

The Governor's budget includes **\$7,477.85 for per student funding** in the Florida Education Finance Program for Broward County. This is a proposed increase of \$188.31 (2.58%) from last year's budget. FEFP Highlights:

- The Base Student Allocation (BSA) has a proposed increase of \$152.45 (3.63%). The proposed BSA is \$4,356.40.
- The Safe Schools allocation has a proposed increase of \$10,000,000.
- The Governor's proposed budget also includes a 39.59% increase in the Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program. The proposed increase would provide an additional \$100 per teacher for classroom supplies. This increases the funding for school supplies to \$350 annually.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The Governor's budget maintains the PECO funding from last year's budget, at this rate we will be required to share a portion of school board levied millage with charter schools.

- \$50 million for maintenance of public schools
- \$50 million for maintenance of charter schools

CODING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAMS

The Governor's budget includes \$15 million in funding for coding and computer science programs. This funding will:

- Provide funds to train public school teachers, including teachers at charter schools;

- Provide a one-time \$3,000 bonus to teachers who earn a state certification in Computer Science, or a one-time bonus of \$1,500 to teachers who earn an applicable industry certification; and
- Provide the Department of Education the authority to award high-need school districts with technology grants to purchase hardware and software for coding or computer science courses.

ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Governor's budget has included \$800,000 for the Adults with Disabilities- Broward County program. This is the same amount that was allocated last year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS SUMMER ACADEMICS PROGRAM

The Governor's budget includes \$12 million in funding to establish the English Language Learners Summer Academics program for students in grades 4-8. The program's emphasis will be on reading improvements and making sure students displaced by Hurricane Maria have access to summer academies.

EARLY LEARNING

The Governor's budget has included a \$31 million increase in funding for early child education, totaling \$1.1 billion.

VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Governor's budget has included an additional \$11.6 million in funding for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program (VPK), totaling \$408 million.

SCHOOL READINESS

- The Governor's budget has included:
- T.E.A.C.H. – \$10 million for early childhood teacher scholarships;
 - Performance Funding – \$15.5 million to award child care providers and instructors for improving School Readiness program outcomes;
 - Help Me Grow – \$2.5 million to connect children and families with information, resources and developmental services to enhance health, behavior and learning in the development of young children;
 - Lastinger Center Teacher Training – \$3 million for a statewide professional learning system for Florida's early learning workforce; and
 - Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) – Nearly \$4 million to deliver high quality School Readiness curriculum directly to parents so they may strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children.

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER PROPOSALS

P 4 (R. Martinez)	Remove the prohibition against using public revenues in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or any sectarian institution.
P 10 (D. Gaetz)	Require the Legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public education.
P 32 (E. Donalds)	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.

P 33 (E. Donalds)	Require that the superintendent of schools of a school district be appointed by the district school board.
P 43 (E. Donalds)	Establish a limitation on the period for which a person may be elected as a member of a district school board.
P 45 (E. Donalds)	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.
P 59 (M. Johnson)	Establish rights of public school students and to create an exception to the prohibition on the appropriation of public funds to certain private schools.
P 60 (M. Johnson)	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.
P 71 (E. Donalds)	Specify that the Legislature is authorized to enact general laws providing alternative processes to authorize the establishment of charter schools in the state.
P 82 (B. Heuchan)	Provide a limitation as to the opening date for schools set by a school board.
P 89 (N. Washington)	Specify the purpose and intent of the state's public education system.
P 90 (P. Levesque)	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.
P 93 (R. Martinez)	Authorize high-performing school districts to become charter districts.