



OVERVIEW

This week in Tallahassee the legislature met for the second week of session. The House K-12 Quality subcommittee took up HB 1279 regarding school district accountability (summarized below). This bill passed the subcommittee unanimously. Additionally, the committee took up legislation regarding term limits for school board members, this bill passed by a vote of 12-2.

State Board of Education

Three Broward Schools were brought to the State Board of Education on Wednesday morning to address turnaround options. Commissioner Pam Stewart recommended an additional year of district managed turnaround (DMT) for C. Robert Markham Elementary School and Walker Elementary School. The State Board unanimously voted to extend the turnaround for one additional year for those two schools.

Commissioner Stewart recommended that the State Board not approve Dr. Martin Luther King Montessori Academy's turnaround option (an additional year of DMT). The State Board decided to go against the Commissioner's recommendation and allow for an additional year of DMT.

Therefore, all three schools will have an additional year of DMT as approved by the State Board of Education. The link to the video of the meeting can be found [here](#). Superintendent Runcie began speaking thirty minutes in to the second video.

Constitution Review Commission (CRC)

The CRC Education committee met on Friday to discuss nine proposals. The K-12 related proposals and vote outcome have been highlighted below.

Washington, DC

The Federal Government will [shut down](#) unless Congress passes a new spending bill and the President signs it into law before midnight on Friday, January 19, 2018. The House passed a one month spending bill on Thursday, January 18, 2018. The Senate has been unable to pass any legislation due to a Democratic filibuster. The Republicans hold a 51-49 majority in the Senate.

A six-year reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has been tied to the spending bill. Florida is expected to run out of CHIP funding in March. 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. Senate Democrats refuse to pass the spending bill without a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) fix. An estimated 32,800 Florida residents could face deportation without the DACA program.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Secret talks among CRC members 'just part of the process,' says commissioner [Politico](#)

Florida Supreme Court asked to review education 'adequacy' ruling [Sun Sentinel](#)

Turnarounds, teacher pay, class size and more [Tampa Bay Times](#)

House panel suggests some school voucher changes [Sun Sentinel](#)

Florida House advances proposal to limit school board member terms [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Senate takes first steps to reform juvenile justice system after series exposed abuse [Miami Herald](#)

Bill to sweeten Bright Futures scholarship sails through Senate [Tampa Bay Times](#)

South Florida Schools Competed for An Extra \$2K Per Student — And Broward Lost [WLRN](#)

There are just days of CHIP funding left [VOX](#)

Trump administration asks Supreme Court to immediately accept DACA case [Washington Post](#)

Education Department faced turbulent year during Trump's first year in office [ABC News](#)

Congress hurtles toward shutdown [Politico](#)

EVENT CALENDAR		
<i>Please contact us for additional details on any event/meeting below.</i>		
Event	Date	Location
Rally to Tally	February 6-8 th	Tallahassee, FL
Broward Days	February 7-8 th	Tallahassee, FL
Florida School Board Association Days	February 7-9 th	Tallahassee, FL
Sine Die (Last Day of Regular Session)	March 9 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>Appropriations</u>		
The committee met to discuss legislation regarding the McKay Scholarship. SB 564 was unanimously voted favorably.		
<u>Education</u>		
The committee considered the following legislation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 252 by Steube - State Employee Higher Education Fee Waivers • SB 496 by Baxley - Out-of-school Suspension • SB 654 by Perry - Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program • SB 1056 by Passidomo - Computer Coding Instruction • SB 1090 by Young - Enrollment of Dependent Children of Active Duty Military Personnel in the Florida Virtual School 		
All bills were passed unanimously.		
<u>Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>		
The committee did not meet this week.		
HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARINGS		
Below is a summary of the House Committee and Subcommittee hearings this past week.		
<u>Education Committee</u>		
The committee considered the following legislation:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 75 -- Postsecondary Fee Waivers, by Rep. Ponder • HB 577 -- High School Graduation Requirements, by Rep. Silvers • CS/HB 619 -- Renaming of Florida College System Institutions, by Rep. Nunez 		
All bills were passed unanimously.		
<u>PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee</u>		
The subcommittee met on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss nonrecurring funding bills. The bills discussed can be found here. All bills passed the committee unanimously.		
<u>Innovation Subcommittee</u>		
The subcommittee did not meet this week.		
<u>Quality Subcommittee</u>		
The subcommittee met to discuss the following bills:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 887 -- Reading Instruction, by Rep. Mariano • HJR 1031 -- Limitation of Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board, by Rep. Fischer • HB 1175 -- Early Learning Coalitions, by Rep. Sullivan • HB 1279 -- School District Accountability, by Rep. Sullivan 		
This bill:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ requires school districts with revenues over \$500 million to employ an internal auditor 		

- o requires school districts with low ending fund balances to reduce administrative costs and other expenditures
- o requires districts in a financial emergency to withhold the salaries of superintendents and school board members until the emergency is addressed
- o aligns school board member salaries with beginning teacher salary or the amount calculated by statute, whichever is less
- o requires prior school board approval for reimbursement of out-of-district travel expenses
- o requires school boards to withhold a portion of an employee's salary if they owe a public financial disclosure fine
- o repeals s. 1011.64, F.S., relating to school district minimum classroom expenditure requirements
- o prohibits superintendents, along with school board members, from employing or appointing a relative to work under their direct supervision.

House Bills 887, 1175, and 1279 passed unanimously. Joint Resolution 1031 passed 12-2.

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION

P 4 (R. Martinez)	Remove the prohibition against using public revenues in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or any sectarian institution. PASSED
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. FAILED
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. PASSED
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. PASSED
P 89 (N. Washington)	Specify the purpose and intent of the state's public education system. PASSED
P 93 (R. Martinez)	Authorize high-performing school districts to become charter districts. PASSED