

**2010 Session of the Florida Legislature
Week 2 Committee Meetings
Quick Summary**

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriation Committee (10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

The Committee heard several presentations and held a general discussion of the funding issues affecting public schools. The Committee had not received its revenue allocation at the time of the meeting; therefore no specific funding actions were proposed or considered.

Presentations:

- Overview of the Governor’s School of Mathematics, Science and Space Technology
- Overview of District Funding Plans for Low Performing Schools
 - Nikolai Vitti, DOE, Federal Funding for Struggling Schools
 - Scott Howat, Orange County Public Schools, Evans High School Improvement Project
- OPPAGA Overview of Education Budget Reductions in Other States

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

House Education PreK – 12 Policy Committee (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

The Committee took action on three bills:

H55 GENERAL BILL/CS by PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Reed; (CO-SPONSORS) Bullard; Schwartz; Steinberg; Taylor (Similar [S 0206](#))

District School Board Policies and Procedures; Provides legislative intent to recognize student academic achievement; encourages each district school board to adopt policies & procedures that provide for annual "Academic Scholarship Signing Day."

The bill passed unanimously as a Committee Substitute

H623 GENERAL BILL/CS by PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Burgin; (CO-SPONSORS) Nehr; Plakon; Rouson (Compare [H 1173](#), [S 1124](#), [S 2262](#))

Instructional Materials for K-12 Public Education; Includes computer hardware in definition of term "adequate instructional materials"; requires district school boards to provide technology as needed for educational program; authorizes use of certain funds for purchase of computer hardware by district school boards; provides restrictions.

The bill passed as a Committee Substitute on a 12-2 vote. It would allow districts to use that portion of the state instructional materials appropriation not restricted to the purchase of state adopted materials to purchase computer hardware. Most districts favor this as increasing spending flexibility. Dissenters expressed concern about the erosion of funds available to purchase instructional content.

H1061 GENERAL BILL/CS by PreK-12 Policy (EPC); Heller (Compare [S 0434](#))

Suicide Prevention Education; Requires that district school boards provide access to suicide prevention educational resources to all instructional & administrative personnel as part of school district professional development system.

The bill passed unanimously as a Committee Substitute.

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Committee (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

The Committee took action on two bills:

S6 GENERAL BILL/CS by Education Pre-K - 12; Thrasher; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Gaetz; Detert; Wise; Constantine; Richter; Peaden; Storms (Linked [S 2740](#), Compare [H 7037](#))

Education Personnel [SPSC]; Authorizes release of child abuse records to certain employees and agents of the Department of Education. Specifies the form of the public notice of proposed property taxes for school districts instituting the district accountability millage adjustment. Requires school districts to develop and implement end-of-course assessments. Repeals provisions relating to the Dale Hickham Excellent Teaching Program, etc.

The bill passed as a Committee Substitute on a 6-2 vote. The focal point of the legislation is the creation of new systems for evaluating and compensating instructional personnel and school level administrators. Student learning gains as measured by results on end of course exams will be the basis of the evaluation, or appraisal system as it will be called. All things will flow from the learning gain results. The changes are to be phased in so they will be fully operational by 2014-15. There is a penalty for districts who do not implement the new systems. As of July 1, 2010, all new

employees will be hired and continue employment on an annual contract basis. A professional service contract will no longer be an option for these employees.

S4 GENERAL BILL/CS by Education Pre-K - 12; Detert; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Thrasher; Wise; Gaetz; Richter; Storms; Peaden; Fasano; Negron; Altman (Compare [H 0061](#), [H 0473](#), [H 1173](#), [H 7037](#), [H 7053](#), [S 0120](#), [S 1154](#), [S 2262](#)) Education Accountability [SPSC]; Amends a provision relating to secondary school redesign, to delete obsolete provisions and to conform to changes made by the act. Revises requirements for middle grades promotion. Provides that successful completion of a high school level Algebra I, Geometry, or Biology I course is not contingent upon a student's performance on the end-of-course assessment. Revises requirements for high school graduation. Creates the Credit Acceleration Program.

The bill passed as a Committee Substitute on a 6-2 vote. Added high school graduation requirements will also include algebra II and chemistry or physics with corresponding statewide end of course exams. The course requirements and exams are scheduled to be phased in and fully operational by 2014-15. Committee members expressed concern for students who will be unable to master the added requirements. The need for increased academic counseling at the middle school level and the possibility of differentiated high school diplomas were mentioned as topics for future discussions.

Senate Bills 4 and 6 appear to be on a fast track for passage in the Senate, with a reference to the Policy & Steering Committee of Ways and Means as the only stop remaining before they reach the Senate floor. Related House bills have yet to be heard.

House Education PreK – 12 Appropriations Committee (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

The Committee heard a presentation by Superintendent Alberto Carvalho on Efficiencies and Student Achievement in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Committee Chair Anitere Flores explained that the Committee will begin next week to make decisions on budget items, proviso language and conforming bill contents.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriation Committee (9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

The Committee heard a presentation on KIPP schools. KIPP stands for the Knowledge is Power Program, and KIPP schools are charter schools that focus on education programs for students from low income areas. The organization is planning to open the first of five Florida KIPP schools in northwest Jacksonville next year.

Committee Chair Steve Wise echoed Rep. Flores' comments when he advised his Committee members they will begin making budget, proviso and conforming bill decisions next week.

Next Week

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Appropriation Committee, March 15

The Committee plans to finalize:

- Chairman's budget proposal
- Proviso language
- Conforming bill
- Implementing bill

This will probably be the Committee agenda for all three of the meetings it has scheduled for Week 3.

Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Committee, March 17

The Committee has scheduled the following bills for consideration:

S206 GENERAL BILL by Hill (Similar CS/[H 0055](#))

District School Board Policies and Procedures [SPSC]; Provides legislative intent to recognize student academic achievement. Encourages each district school board to adopt policies and procedures that provide for an annual "Academic Scholarship Signing Day."

S434 GENERAL BILL by Sobel; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Fasano; Storms (Compare CS/[H 1061](#))

Suicide Prevention Education [SPSC]; Requires that district school boards provide access to educational resources regarding suicide prevention to all instructional and administrative personnel. Provides for school personnel who choose to participate in suicide prevention training to receive in-service credit hours. Requires that each district school board determine the amount of such credit.

S896 GENERAL BILL by Peadar; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Jones; Fasano; Sobel; Lawson; Detert; Storms (Compare [H 0747](#))

Students with Diabetes [SPSC]; Requires the DOH to develop guidelines, with the assistance of certain entities, for the training of diabetes personnel. Requires each district school board and the governing body of each private and charter school to provide training to a minimum number of school employees. Prohibits a school district from restricting the assignment of a student who has diabetes to a particular school

House

Committee notices for the third week of the Session were not available at reporting time.

Questions, requests, comments and suggestions may be addressed to mike@mixonandassociates.com