

FASA 2009 Legislative Platform

Priority Statement: As Public School Administrators, we strongly support measures during this challenging economic environment that allow school districts and schools to focus on their core mission: Educating Florida's over 2.5 million public school students in safe and effective classrooms. To achieve this goal, we ask Florida's legislative leaders to consider the following recommendations:

No New Unfunded Mandates

Table discussions on additional un-funded mandates until funding improves

- No new voucher or performance pay programs
- Support language preventing SBE or Commissioner from developing and implementing new initiatives for school districts that require reprioritization of current district funds

Delay Implementation of Existing Mandates

Place certain programs on hiatus until funding improves to at least the 07-08 original allocation levels and budget impacts are evaluated

- Class-Size Reduction beyond school wide average, Textbook Adoption (math), Elementary and Middle School Physical Education, K-8 Virtual School, New High School Grading Formula
- MAP, SAC and School Recognition Bonus programs
- Differentiated Accountability Plan, Response to Intervention Pilots, and Bright Beginnings

Provide Maximum Flexibility

- Allow the statutory hourly requirement to stand in place of the 180-day requirement for school year and return school board control of school start date
- Allow maximum flexibility in using local capital outlay funds, including for property casualty insurance payments, educational or operational software supporting the classroom, and vehicle purchases
- Ensure local control of all educational employee salaries

Increase and Stabilize Revenue

- Designate new gaming revenues to K-12 PUBLIC education
- Review and eliminate sales tax exemptions that do not contribute to economic recovery
- Support a Joint Resolution to participate in the Internet and Catalog Sales Tax Compact
- Increase cigarette and alcohol taxes
- Oppose any effort to eliminate RLE millage funding

Preserve the Florida Retirement System for State Employees

- Protect the current DROP participation opportunity for state employees