

FASA 2009 Legislative Platform Update

New Unfunded Mandates

No new voucher or Performance Pay programs.

No new voucher or performance pay programs were enacted.

Support language preventing SBE or Commissioner from developing and implementing new initiatives for school districts that require reprioritization of current district funds.

No language preventing the SBE or Commissioner from developing and implementing new initiatives was enacted. **The passage of HB 991 will enforce differentiated accountability across all schools. The Appropriations Act requires that districts follow the requirements of the application for Federal Stimulus Money, and there seems that there will be requirements inside that bill that will require new initiatives.**

Delay Implementation of Existing Mandates

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

Class-size maintained at school average for 2009-2010 school year.

Joint resolution by Rep. Weatherford (R) Pasco and Senator Wise (R) Duval to modify Constitutional class-size requirement did not pass.

Flexible use of instructional materials money is authorized after March 1, 2010.

Math adoption and adoption schedule left unchanged.

No change in elementary and middle school PE requirements.

Virtual school mandate remains – options for meeting it are expanded.

High school grading formula.

MAP funds reduced to \$20 million **from \$32 million**.

School Recognition dollars reduced to **\$75 per student from \$85 per student**.

Differentiated Accountability required by HB 991.

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.

Hourly equivalent of 180 day school year authorized in the Conforming Bill (SB 1676).

No change in school start date law.

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.

Flexibility in use of capital outlay millage revenue authorized in the Conforming Bill (SB 1676) include \$100 per student for property Casualty Insurance, purchase of certain district software and vehicles. **This eflexibility is now permanent.**

Ensure local control of all educational employee salaries

Local control maintained on personnel salaries, limitation placed on school board members at no higher than beginning teacher salary and appointed superintendent salaries, (\$225K from state funds) suggested reduction for elected superintendent salaries.

Increase and Stabilize Revenue

Designate new gaming revenues to K-12 PUBLIC education. Revenue has been designated for 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. Bill filed by Rep. Vacillinda (D) Tallahassee and Senator Lynn (R) Daytona was not successful.

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.

Employees currently in DROP are protected from any changes.

DROP will still be available for future enrollment by employees.

Effective July 1, 2009, employees retiring under FRS must wait at least 6 months before being reemployed by an agency participating in FRS. If reemployed, may not draw retirement benefits or start a second retirement.