

EMERGENT DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INC.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
MAY 4, 2006

The Legislative session is rapidly coming to a close. In my opinion the results can best be described as mixed.

There was significant new money available and I believe that all teachers in the state will find a healthy increase in salary.

Substantive legislation is another issue. The Legislative platform of the Governor continues to be in serious jeopardy. The effort to have the Constitutional Amendment regarding class size to be reconsidered by the voters has failed twice. The movement to have a Constitutional Amendment to allow vouchers has failed. The laptop initiative, which became Technology Tools for Teachers (T3) was not funded. The effort to force 65% of education dollars spent at the classroom level has not yet passed and the performance pay package has changed from its initial proposal (it now is the STAR plan)

Of the over 300 bills that we were tracking, only 17 have passed both houses as of 10:00 AM today. Only one has been signed into law. I would rate the laws that have passed as very routine bills:

HB 0037	Consumer Report Information
HB 0055	Restoration of Civil Rights
HB 0067	Automated External Defibrillators
SB 0080	Electronic Mail
SB 0122	Tuition Waivers for Purple Heart Recipients
SB 0170	Administration of Medication
HB 0263	Florida Prepaid College Program
SB 0266	Athletic Trainers/Licensure
SB 0428	Travel Expenses/Reimbursement
HB 0429	Relating to Florida School for Deaf and Blind
SB 0646	Sexual and Career Offenders
SB 0692	Sales Tax/School Supplies and Clothing
HB 0765	Student/Computers and Internet Access
HB 1089	Construction Contracting
SB 1282	Relating to K-12 Virtual School Program
SB 2034	Relating to Education, The Spouses of Disabled Veterans
HB 0047	Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax....(Signed Into Law)

It appears that we will be working well into the evening on Friday, to bring this session to a close. However, the majority of the budget was agreed upon by the end of the Conference Committee meetings. The Budget will probably be one of the last items to be voted upon. Surprises were:

Public School Technology	Previously was over \$49 million, now 0
Teacher Training	Previously was \$18 million, now 0
Liability Insurance	Previously was \$1.3 million, now 0
Technology Tools/Teachers	Request for \$97.5 million, funded at 0
Public School Construction	\$1.1 billion dollar increase
University Tuition	3% Increase
Community College Tuition	2.5% increase

Some Budget Items of Interest:

ITEM	2005-2006	2006-2007
Class Size Construction	\$43,902,077	\$100,310,506
Bright Futures	\$311,772,580	\$346,342,906
School Recognition	\$263,449,842	\$263,449,842
Charter School Repair	\$27,700,000	\$53,083,947
Class Size Reduction	not funded	\$1,100,000,000
V-Pre-K	\$387,137,762	\$388,100,000
Base Student Allocation	\$3,742.42	\$3,981.61
Sparsity	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
Required Local Effort	5.239 mils	5.239 mils
ESE Guarantee	\$1,030,409,927	\$1,101,383,681
Safe Schools	\$75,350,000	\$75,350,000
Supplemental Instruction	\$670,341,490	\$707,826,199
Reading Instruction	\$89,000,000	\$111,800,000
STAR Salary Reward	not funded	\$147,500,000
Class Size Operating	\$1,507,199,696	\$2,151,230,571
Instructional Materials	\$247,999,489	\$266,673,588
Transportation	\$451,431,961	\$483,032,198
Teacher Lead	\$17,877,200	\$45,021,406
Just Read Florida	\$68,043,873	\$76,543,873
Education Innovations	\$7,605,269	\$18,000,000 (A++)
Educational Partnerships	\$6,000,000	\$8,000,000
K-8 Virtual Schools	\$4,800,000	\$7,200,000
Teacher Professional Dev.	\$135,227,340	\$134,936,940

Numbers of Interest:

50,000 additional students (or 48,198 FTE's) budgeted for
Total Education Budget Increase...\$1,774,257,085. (10.76%)
State Education Funds Increase...8.79%
Local Education Funds Increase ...16.95%
Total Funds Per FTE increase \$542.21 (8.68%)

A final Legislative Newsletter will be sent after the session ends and the Governor has a chance to act on the budget items and the bills that passed both houses.