

**EMERGENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
APRIL 27, 2007**

The 2007 Legislative session is drawing to a close and we have only 2 weeks of meetings remaining. We believe that the session will end on time, however if there is no tax relief, there is the possibility of a special session being called by the Governor. Both Houses of the Legislature are working hard to find a workable tax solution.

We have reduced the number of bills that we are tracking on a daily basis, from over 300 to 126. This is mainly due to the fact that many bills have not been heard in the assigned committees. Of the 126 that are still alive, I would predict that less than 20 have a real chance of becoming law. We will continue to watch carefully and keep you informed since several of these bills could become educational “trains”.

Four (5) education bills have passed. The **Merit Pay bill** and three (3) Trust Fund bills and the tax free week for school supplies.

Following are some bills that I think have a **chance of passing**: (You can find a description of each bill in our previous Legislative updates.) There are only 8 days of session left and that is not much time for the multitude of bills to be heard on the floor of each chamber. (In order to pass the bills must be identical in both houses.)

HB 35 / SB 412	Education of Children of POWS or MIAS
SB 108 / HB 403	Minority Underrepresented Students
HB 187 /SB 2088	Kautz Student Safety
SB 414 / HB 689	DROP K-12 Personnel
HB 355 / SB 450	Teacher Lead Program
HB 461 / SB 2200	High School Drug Testing
HB 463 / SB 2202	Drug Testing, Public Records
HB 465 /SB 1212	Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarships
SB 574 / Many	School District Tax Millage
HB 643 /SB 428	School Bus Stop Safety
HB 967 / SB 2746	Physical Education
SB 1060 / HB 7099	Tax on Documents for Public Education
HB 1219 / SB 2512	ESOL
SB 2622 / HB 965	Career and Professional Education
SB 1238 / HB 7151	World Class Standards (procedural problem in Senate)
SB 2800	Appropriations
SB 2802	Implementation Bill
SB 1426 /HB 7085	FRS Contribution
HB 287 /SB 848	First Generation Matching Grant
SB 1270 /HB 7147	Higher Education Governance
HB 1371 / SB 2598	Governor’s School for Mathematics and Technology
SB 988 / HB 7103	Background Screening
HB 7189 / SB 1740	Kid Care

The following list contains bills that **could pass but** I feel that their chances of passage are **questionable** at best.

HB 561 / SB 660	HPV Notification by Schools
HB 1501 /SB 2536	Commission on Independent Education
HB 1257 / SB 2136	Green Schools
HB 1421 / SB 2304	Digital Divide
SB 1228	High Performing Districts
SB 1426 / HB 7085	Pocketknives
SB 2746	External Defibrillators
SB 850	University Technology Fee (changes in bill could pass)
SB 228 /HB 1067	Bright Futures
SB 302 / HB 581	Student Voter Education
SB 336 / HB 447	Student Attendance / Withdrawal from School
SB 114 / HB 575	Bullying / Harassment

The following bills **will not pass**.

HB 423	Repeal of Florida Schools of Excellence Commission
SB 148	Start of School Date
HB 285	District School Board Chair repeal (Orange Co. issue)
SB 2428 / HB 7093	School District Division into Multiple Districts
SB 924	Single Gender Classes

All Shell Bills 1066, 1068, 1070, 1072, 1230, 1236, 1246, 1248, 1250, 1252, 1254, 1256, 1258, 1260, 1268, 1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1282, 1284, 1286, 1288, 1290, 1292, 1294, 1296.

As always the main issue is the budget. Education conference committees began orientation meetings on Thursday April 19th and have already concluded their work.

House Education Conference Committee: **Pickens (chair)**, Traviesa (vice-chair), Altman, Coley, Flores, Legg, McKeel, Meador, Proctor, Simmons, Bendross-Mindingall, Heller, Kiar, Long, Richardson, Vana, and Waldman

Senate Education Conference Committee: **Wise (chair)**, Bullard, Constantine, Dockery, Garcia, and Siplin.

The Senate final budget offer was accepted by the House Monday afternoon. (April 23)

SOME BUDGET ITEMS OF INTEREST: (Growth is funded for 7,771 new students)

Base Student Alloc.	\$3,981.61	\$4,163.47	+\$181.86
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ALLOCATION \$	2006-2007	2007-2008
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Sparcity	35,000,000	40,000,000
Safe Schools	75,350,000	77,150,000
SAI	707,826,199	736,402,596
Reading	111,800,000	116,909,260
Performance Pay	147,500,000	147,500,000

Transportation	483,032,198	493,556,586
Inst. Materials	266,673,588	271,944,498
Teacher Lead	45,021,406	48,021,406
Class Size Red.	2,108,529,344	2,708,412,008
ESE Guarantee	1,101,383,681	1,133,668,598
State Science Fair	60,000	60,000
Science Lab Matl's	4,100,000	4,100,000

The total funding for Unweighted FTE is \$7,305.79, an increase of \$455.36 or 6.65%.

Required Local Effort remained at 5.010 mils

Discretionary Millage remained the same at .510 mils

Additional Discretionary Millage remained the same at .250 mils