

## **Emergent Design and Development Legislative Update APRIL 9, 2007**

Last week (April 2 thru April 7), the Florida Senate did not meet. The House Schools and Learning Council met on Wednesday and Thursday to consider a large number of important bills.

It appears that the 2007 Legislature will pass significant education bills. Of course, the most important bill will be the budget (comparisons between the present positions in the House and Senate are shown below). I would not expect great amounts of flexible dollars for local school districts. While the increase appears to be in the neighborhood of 6.5%, district fixed costs have increased almost that much.

Governor Crist has set a somewhat easy-going style in his actions with the Legislature. His method seems to be to outline his expectations and leave it up to the Legislature to find out how to do it. His pledge of being the "People's Governor" has made him very popular with the public.

There is a concern in Tallahassee that the tax relief plans have not come together. The Senate and the House seem to be on different tracks as they try to reach agreement on this governor's wish. If the two houses do not reach agreement, you can expect a special session.

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

1. Governor Crist has announced that the Florida DOE will develop a new "office". The Office of Mathematics and Science will be similar in organization to the Just Read Florida office. This will be a highly visible and important recognition of the importance of Mathematics and Science in Florida education. Currently, we do not know who will be assigned to lead this office.
2. Federal funding for 2007 found most programs funded at the previous years level with a few increases. Title 1 increased \$125 million, School Improvement programs increased \$125 million, and IDEA state grants increased \$299 million.
3. President Bush's plans for 2008 would cut overall education spending by \$1.5 billion or 2.6%. Educational Technology would be eliminated, and Safe and Drug Free program dollars would be reduced by 70%. Title 1, however, would be increased at the high school level.
4. "*The Costs and Benefits of Excellent Education for America's Children*", indicates that U.S. taxpayers could save \$45 billion a year if the number of high school dropouts were cut in half. It identifies 5 cost effective educational strategies which are shown to increase graduation rates. This will be a major legislative issue across the country. It is a long report which you can find at [www.cbse.org](http://www.cbse.org)

5. There is a very interesting article in Educational Leadership, by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). [www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org) March 2007, Vol.64 No. 6. "The Case For and Against Homework". This article includes researched based homework guidelines.
6. There seems to be many questions regarding the new MAP educator performance pay plan (CS/CS/SB 1226), which Governor Crist has signed into law. The DOE has been gathering a list of items of concern. We have received permission to furnish you a copy of a Q&A document prepared by Ron Meyer, of Meyer & Brooks, P.A.(see attached). These questions and answers have been gathered as a result of inquires from across the state.

**B. BUDGET INFORMATION**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SENATE</b>	<b>HOUSE</b>
Bright futures	\$448,430,336	\$398,430,000
Class Size Capital	\$650,000,000	\$650,000,000
Voluntary Pre-K	\$372,529,462	\$388,100,000
Base Student Alloc.	\$4,158.00	\$4,129.97
Sparcity	\$35,000,000	\$42,000,000
Req. Local Effort	\$7,907,474,969	\$7,906,966,104
S.A.I	\$743,887,391	\$726,056,092
Reading Inst.	\$114,036,000	\$137,800,000
Class Size Oper.	\$2,710,046,527	\$2,691,787,779
Instructional Matl.	\$273,107,172	\$273,094,700
Transportation	\$473,781,338	\$507,183,808
Prof. Dev.	\$135,335,057	\$135,618,057

**C. PROGRAM COST FACTORS**

Some of the program cost factors will change when compared to last years. K-3 Basic increased and 9-12 Basic decreased. Also decreasing were ESE Levels 4 and 5, ESOL, and 9-12 Voc. Ed.

<b>Category</b>	<b>last year</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>House</b>
K-3 Basic	1.035	1.048	1.048
4-8 Basic	1.000	1.000	1.000
9-12 Basic	1.088	1.066	1.066
ESE Level 4	3.734	3.625	3.625
ESE Level 5	5.201	5.062	5.062
ESOL	1.275	1.200	1.200
9-12 Voc.	1.159	1.119	1.119

#### D. BILLS OF INTEREST OR CONCERN

Everyone needs to read SLC2 which is House Learning Council PCB 07-02. This bill is the closest thing to an educational “train” bill that we have seen this year. It incorporates many of the educational ideas of the “100 Ideas For Florida”.

- \* Stresses World Class Education.
- \* DOE to contract with outside agencies to develop World Class Standards.
- \* Includes social studies with an emphasis on history, government, civics, and United States patriotism and national identity to standards development and area to be tested state-wide . (Once in elementary, middle and high school)
- \* Grants site based management to high performing schools.
- \* Establishes world language curricula.
- \* Requires accelerated learning opportunities for academically talented students.
- \* Establishes criteria for exemptions from the common placement test.
- \* Beginning in 2009-10, FCAT writing may not be tested before March 1.
- \* Beginning in 2009-10, other FCAT exams may not begin before April 15.
- \* Allows in-service points earned in world class standards to count in any specialization area for educators.
- \* The DOE must provide standardized staff development on the FCAT. (How it was developed and how it is scored.)
- \* OPAGGA must study the amount of sales tax contractors pay when building a school and report to the Legislature.
- \* A public private partnership task force is to be formed to study facility construction, transportation, and food service.

HB 965 & SB1232 Both of these bills address courses leading to industry certification. Districts would earn normal funding and then receive a bonus upon students completing the programs and finding job placement. The law requires collaboration between the school district, the local work force board, and post-secondary education. A program similar to this already exists in Okaloosa County.

SB 0660 & HB 0561 requires middle schools to furnish information concerning HPV, its vaccine and cervical cancer. Beginning in 2008-09, students that are 11 or 12 years old may not be admitted to a public or private school without proof of vaccination or proof that the parent elected that the student not receive the vaccination.

HB 1219 & SB 2512 Both of these bills change the requirements relating to staff development activities connected to ESOL. ( Primary English instructor-300 hours, Core subjects-60 hours, non-core subjects-18 hours)

SB 0461 requires a 1 year drug testing program administered to randomly selected high school students who participate in certain sports.

SB 0924 allows school boards to establish school, class, or educational programs with enrollment limited to a single gender.

HB 1371 establishes the Governor's School for Science and Technology under the control of the Florida Virtual School.

HB 7093 proposes a change in the Florida Constitution which would allow the voters in a county to divide a school district into two or more districts as long as each had 25,000 or more students.

## **New Bills Filed Since the Legislative Update of March 21, 2007**

- SLC2 Relating to K-12 Education for the 21st Century** Schools & Learning Council  
PCB SLC 07-02 -- K-12 Education for the 21st Century  
(Pending Bill number designation)
- SLC4 Relating to World Class School Leaders** Schools & Learning Council  
PCB SLC 07-04 -- World Class School Leaders  
(Pending Bill number designation)
- SLC5 Relating to Post Secondary Education Enhancements** Schools & Learning Council  
PCB SLC 07-05 -- Post Secondary Education Enhancements  
(Pending Bill number designation)
- SLC6 Relating to Scholarship Programs** Schools & Learning Council  
PCB SLC 07-06 relating to Scholarship Programs  
(Pending Bill number designation)
- SLC7 Relating to Option to Divide School Districts** Schools & Learning Council  
A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution to option to divide school districts.  
(Pending Bill number designation)
- SLC9 Relating to VPK Program Enhancements** Schools & Learning Council  
PCB SLC 07-09 -- VPK Program Enhancements  
(Pending Bill number designation)
- HB 5001 Relating to Appropriations** Policy & Budget Council  
Appropriations; provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2007, & ending June 30, 2008, to pay salaries, & other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government. APPROPRIATION: \$70,350,818,195. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2007 or upon becoming law, whichever occurs later, except as otherwise provided. (*Full House Budget*)
- HB 5003 Relating to Appropriations Implementing Bill** Policy & Budget Council  
Appropriations Implementing Bill; prohibits DOH from using annual appropriation to administer & evaluate area health education center network; authorizes DCFS to allocate funds appropriated for forensic mental health treatment services by specified allocation methodology; creates Seaport Strategic Planning & Financing Task Force; creates Fla. Local Update of Census Addresses Program with Economic & Demographic Research Office, etc. Amends FS. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2007 except as otherwise provided.
- HB 7021 Relating to Merit Award Program/School Board Employees** Schools & Learning Council

Merit Award Program/School Board Employees; establishes Merit Award Program for instructional personnel & school-based administrators; requires that district school board adopt Merit Award Program plan in order to receive funding under program; provides for reversion of funds that are not distributed when district or charter school chooses not to adopt plan; requires school districts to be able to administer end-of-course examinations with certain exceptions, etc. Amends Ch. 1012, 447.403. APPROPRIATION: \$147,500,000. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon becoming law except as otherwise provided.

**HB 7023 Relating to University Concurrency TF/DOE** Schools & Learning Council  
University Concurrency TF/DOE; re-creates said trust fund within Department of Education without modification; carries forward current balances & continues current sources & uses thereof; removes provisions re termination of trust fund, to conform. Amends 1013.63. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2007.

**HB 7025 Relating to Administrative Trust Fund/DOE** Schools & Learning Council  
Administrative Trust Fund/DOE; creates said trust fund within Department of Education; provides for sources of funds & purposes; provides for annual carryforward of funds; provides for future review & termination or re-creation of trust fund. Creates 1001.282. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

**HB 7027 Relating to Operating Trust Fund/DOE** Schools & Learning Council  
Operating Trust Fund/DOE; creates said trust fund within Department of Education; provides for sources of funds & purposes; provides for annual carryforward of funds; provides for future review & termination or re-creation of trust fund. Creates 1001.281. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

**HB 7081 Relating to K-8 Virtual Schools** Schools & Learning Council  
K-8 Virtual Schools; provides mission for K-8 Virtual School Program; revises eligibility requirements for school participation & student enrollment; revises funding for said program to include definition of "full-time equivalent student"; establishes district cost differential; provides calculation of supplemental allocation for juvenile justice education programs, etc. Amends 1002.415, 1003.01,.03, 1011.61,.62,.71, 1012.71,1013.64. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2007.

**HB 7085 Relating to FRS/Retirement Contribution Rates** Government Efficiency & Accountability Council  
FRS/Retirement Contribution Rates; revises payroll contribution rates for membership classes of FRS for state fiscal years effective July 1, 2007, & July 1, 2008. Amends 121.71. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2007.

**HB 7093 Relating to Option to Divide School Districts** Schools & Learning Council  
Option to Divide School Districts; constitutional amendment to provide that school districts may be divided into two or more school districts, each having no fewer than 25,000 students, upon approval by vote of electors of county pursuant to general law; provides that said district taxes shall be imposed countywide & distributed to such districts in equitable & nondiscriminatory manner as provided by general law, etc. Amends s. 4, Art. IX.

**SB 7096 Relating to Appropriations** Education Pre-K-12  
Appropriations  
Appropriations; provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2007, & ending June 30, 2008, to pay salaries, & other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of various agencies of State government.

**SB 7108 Relating to Appropriations**

Fiscal Policy & Calendar

Appropriations; provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2007, & ending June 30, 2008; pays salaries, & other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of various agencies of State government.

**SB 7110 Relating to Appropriations**

Fiscal Policy & Calendar

Appropriations; implements the 2007-2008 General Appropriations Act. (*Full Senate Budget*)

**HB 7141 Relating to Improving Graduation Rates**

Schools & Learning Council

Improving Graduation Rates; revises provisions re school district responsibilities re exit interviews when student seeks to terminate school enrollment; creates Transition Success Program to ease school transitions, reduce dropout rates & provide information re certain opportunities; adds graduation rate & dropout rate to evaluation criteria for school grades for certain schools, etc. Amends 1003.21, 1008.34,.36; creates 1003.4935. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2007.