

**Legislative Update**  
**Emergent Design and Development**  
**JANUARY 5, 2007**

January 2, 2007 was Inauguration Day For Charlie Crist. Governor Crist was sworn into office at a ceremony in front of the old Capital, on a very busy day of speeches, a parade, and numerous election related events in Tallahassee.

Also taking office during this ceremony were; Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, Attorney General Bill McCollum, and Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson.

Governor Crist made reference to the following issues during his inauguration speech:

- ✓ The Government must be the People's Legislature and the People's Governor following the People's Agenda.
- ✓ The Government should put common good above partisan politics and work together.
- ✓ The Government should reduce the burden from spiraling costs of property insurance and property taxes.
- ✓ We must improve education, give teachers raises, and recruit top educators to teach in Florida.
- ✓ We must bring new business to Florida.

Governor Crist has named several new State executive department heads, but as of this newsletter there has not been any formal announcements concerning any changes in the Department of Education.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

Our recent newsletter updated you on Committee Chairs and Committee Members. We now know Senate Committees are scheduled on Wednesdays for Education Pre-K-12 and on Thursdays for Education Pre-K-12 Appropriations.

The House has scheduled The Schools and Learning Council, the Education Innovation and Career Prep Committee, and the K-12 Committee to meet on Tuesdays and the House Policy Council to meet on Fridays.

A Special Session has been scheduled to begin on January 16. This session will focus on trying to solve the insurance problems caused by rising costs and limited availability of insurance in certain areas.

Regular Committee Weeks are: Jan. 8-12, Jan. 22-26, Feb. 5-9, Feb. 12-16, and concluding Feb. 19-23. The Regular Session begins March 6, 2007.



- SB 0148 Relating to Opening of Schools/Labor Day** Posey  
Opening of Schools/Labor Day; provides exception to requirement that school may not open earlier than 14 days before Labor Day.
- SB 0154 Relating to Parent-child Privilege** Geller  
Parent-child Privilege; creates parent-child privilege to prevent disclosure of communications that were made by children younger than specified age to their parents or by parents older than specified age to their children & intended to be made in confidence; prescribes proceedings in which privilege does not exist; requires that guardian ad litem be appointed to represent minor child prior to court's approving child's waiver of privilege, etc.
- SB 0162 Relating to Schools/Abstinence-only Instruction** Geller  
Schools/Abstinence-only Instruction; provides parental right to know re abstinence-only instruction; requires certain school principals to mail notice to parents re provision of abstinence-only instruction & right to review abstinence-only curriculum; authorizes excuse from such instruction under certain conditions; provides process for parental comment on curriculum; provides for filing of complaints & appeals & for investigation & corrective action.
- SB 0178 Relating to NoninstructionPersonnel/DOE** Geller  
NoninstructionPersonnel/DOE; requires DOE to limit number of said personnel that may be employed by school districts; requires that DOE classify school districts based on number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in district; requires that DOE establish ratios within each district classification for maximum percentage of said personnel to full-time equivalent students; limits maximum ratios that DOE may establish, etc.
- SB 0228 Relating to Bright Futures Scholarship Program** Lynn  
Bright Futures Scholarship Program; authorizes student to use award from Bright futures Scholarship Program for enrollment in summer term; authorizes DOE to reserve student's award if it is possible for student to raise his or her grade point average during summer term.
- SB 0290 Relating to High School Graduation Requirements** Fasano  
High School Graduation Requirements; provides that completion of course in electricity, as specified, counts as one substitutional credit in science which has laboratory component.
- SB 0302 Relating to Student Voter Education** Fasano  
Student Voter Education; encourages district school boards & county supervisors of elections jointly to provide program of voter education for high school seniors; provides guidelines for content of educational program; requires that program of voter education be conducted during school hours.
- SB 0332 Relating to Public School Student Progression** Wilson  
Public School Student Progression; revises components of school district student progression programs; eliminates mandatory retention requirements for certain students in grade 3; eliminates midyear promotion; revises parental notification requirements; revises guidelines for remedial reading instruction & intervention strategies; revises purpose of Reading Enhancement & Acceleration Development Initiative, etc.
- SB 0334 Relating to School Grading System** Wilson  
School Grading System; removes letter grades from performance grade categories by which schools must be identified in Commissioner of Education's annual report of results of statewide assessment program; corrects references to letter grades, to conform.

- SB 0336 Relating to 9th-grade Students/Required Info.** Wilson  
9th-grade Students/Required Info.; requires that 9th-grade students receive certain instruction re value of high school education & available postsecondary options.
- SB 0344 Relating to Voluntary Prekindergarted Education** Wilson  
Voluntary Prekindergarten Education; revises number of instructional hours that are required for school-year prekindergarten program delivered by private kindergarten provider; revises number of instructional hours that are required in order for student in said program delivered by public school or private prekindergarten provider to be considered full-time equivalent student in Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, etc.
- SB 0356 Relating to Teachers/Cost-of-living Increase** Wilson  
Teachers/Cost-of-living Increase; requires Legislature to fund cost-of-living increase in General Appropriations Act for teachers who teach prekindergarten through grade 12 in public school system.
- SB 0360 Relating to Mandatory School Attendance/Age** Wilson  
Mandatory School Attendance/Age; changes ending age for mandatory school attendance from 16 years to 18 years.
- SB 0406 Relating to Schools/Nutrition/Health Services** Dawson  
Schools/Nutrition/Health Services; requires nutritional standards for food that is available to school children on school campuses; requires State Board of Education to adopt rules; requires school districts to provide medical screening for type II diabetes for certain students.
- SB 0412 Relating to Education/Dependents/POWs/MIAs** Baker  
Education/Dependents/POWs/MIAs; expands provision of education opportunity at state expense for children of servicemembers, or civilian personnel captured while serving with consent or authorization of U. S. Government, who are classified as prisoners of war or missing in action.
- SB 0414 Relating to DROP/K-12 Personnel/Increase in Time** Wise  
DROP/K-12 Personnel/Increase in Time; increases period of time in which members of system who are employed as certain administrative personnel in grades K-12 may participate in DROP; provides declaration of important state interest.
- SB 0416 Relating to School Attendance/Termination** Wilson  
School Attendance/Termination; revises requirement that exit interview be conducted before student terminates school enrollment; requires that counselor present specified information to such student & assign to student followup counselor who shall provide educational information until student is 18 years of age.
- SB 0418 Relating to School Health Services** Wilson  
School Health Services; cites act as "One School, One Nurse Act"; specifies that certain persons be considered agents of state for purposes of sovereign immunity when rendering school health services; creates provision re public-private partnerships for provision of school nurse services; provides departmental duties; provides process for proposal submission & review; provides for scope of services to be provided, etc.

- SB 0428 Relating to School Bus Stops/Safety** Baker  
School Bus Stops/Safety; requires DOE to annually assess safety at school bus stops; requires each school district to submit annual report to DOE which includes plan to improve safety at school bus stops; requires DOE to adopt rules.
- SB 0450 Relating to Teachers Lead Program Stipend/Pre-K** Rich  
Teachers Lead Program Stipend/Pre-K; extends stipend to teachers of prekindergarten students.

We expect that bills will be filed at a record pace due to the reduced number of Committee weeks and the limited time until the regular session starts. We will keep you updated in a timely manner.

We believe that it will be a good year for education and we join you in anticipation of positive action by the 2007 Florida Legislature.