

EMERGENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
Legislative Update
May 19, 2008

One of the most difficult Legislative Sessions in recent years has ended, with many education bills passing on the final three days. Twenty-nine of the 300 bills that we were tracking were passed by the Legislature. As always, some of the bills that ultimately passed were a combination of several individual bills, forming what we call “education trains”.

The final State budget that passed this year was \$66.2 billion which is \$6 billion less than the \$72.2 billion budget that passed one year ago. District budgets reflect this loss of revenue. The revenue picture will not improve this year and there is always a possibility that another Special Session may be needed to reduce the budget even more.

Bills That Passed Both Houses And Will Be Sent To The Governor

When the Governor acts upon these bills, we will send you an update with hot links to the bills that pass. If you want to view a bill now, go to www.leg.state.fl.us . Click on House or Senate, look on the left side of the screen and enter the bill number. You want to view the enrolled copy.

SB 242	Single Gender Classes
SB 526	Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities
SB 610*	Physical Education
SB 642*	Multiple Birth Siblings, Classroom Placement
SB 856	Disability History and Awareness
SB 1070	Intergovernmental Cooperation
SB 1276	Educational Facilities Construction
SB 1414*	Supplemental Educational Services Providers
SB 1712*	Ethics in Education
SB 1742	Education Ethics
SB 1906	Alternative Credit High School Courses
SB 1908**	Designation of High School Grades
SB 1992	School Traffic Zones
HB 03	Children’s Zones
HB 43	Gang Activities
HB 251	ROTC Programs
HB 489	Sexual Violence
HB 623	Food Service Programs
HB 653*	Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarships
HB 669*	School Safety/Anti-Bullying
HB 879	Early Learning
HB 967*	Workplace Safety
HB 1203	Educational Opportunity for Military Children

HB 1313* Students with Disabilities
 HB 1395 Status of Black Men and Boys
 HB 5063 Retirement Contribution Rates
 HB 5083** National Board
 HB 7067* Virtual Education
 HB 7135* Green/Energy
 * (impact bills) ** (major impact bills)

Impact Bills That Failed To Pass

The following bills would have had significant educational and/or financial impact for schools and school districts. These bills failed for a variety of reasons.

Class Size Relief	HB 7043	SB 1756 Relief for 1 year	HB 5083
Evolution	SB 2692		
Baggy Pants	SB 302	HB 335	
Governance	SB 2308		
Charter Schools	SB 1652	HB 1301	
65% Classroom Exp.	HB 1463	on ballot for Constitutional Amend.	

General Information

Most of the 29 bills that dealt with education passed during the last 3 days.

Only 12% of the education bills that were proposed by members of the Legislature ultimately passed both houses. (The Governor may veto some of them.)

To date, the Governor has only signed one education bill into law. (SB 242 – Single Gender Classes)

The Governor has 15 days to act upon a bill once he receives them. (He has not yet received any education bills other than the single gender class bill which he signed.)

Thirty-seven (37) of the one hundred and sixty (160) Legislators will not be returning because of term limits. Others may get defeated in elections.

The flexibility language allowing the purchase of technology with 10% of the instructional materials allocation failed on the final day. However, if the District School Board declares that they do not need all of the instructional material allocation for textbooks, the Board may declare it to be flexible and use it for any purpose.

The Taxation and Budget Commission has proposed seven Constitutional Amendments for the November ballot. Three of the proposed amendments deal with education.

#5 Repeals the local required millage and replaces it with increased sales tax, budget cuts, and replacement income from other unnamed sources.

- #7 Repeals the Blaine amendment which forbids public school dollars being spent on private schools. (would allow vouchers to private and religious schools)
- #9 Will make school vouchers legal and will mandate that 65% of all school monies be spent at the classroom level.

Examples Of Declining Income 2008-09 Compared To 2007-08 in the Seven Largest School Districts.

	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>reduction in revenue</u>
Dade	\$2,504,517,375	\$2,379,146,535	\$125,370,840
Broward	\$1,877,211,769	\$1,772,898,354	\$104,313,415
Hillsborough	\$1,391,574,331	\$1,348,676,836	\$42,897,495
Palm Beach	\$1,271,609,308	\$1,213,426,730	\$58,182,578
Orange	\$1,263,339,346	\$1,195,604,970	\$67,734,376
Duval	\$906,203,390	\$876,460,245	\$29,743,145
Pinellas	\$795,593,503	\$746,355,034	\$49,238,469