

**EMERGENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
**April 16, 2010**

**STATUS OF SENATE BILL 006 TEACHER QUALITY**

Yesterday, Governor Crist vetoed Senate Bill 006. Many people had contacted the Governor regarding this bill. The impact of social networking thru the web, email, Facebook, Twitter, etc. allowed thousands of people to let their opinions known on this bill. In the Governor's veto message, he stated support for many of the ideas in SB 006, but found overriding reasons to veto the legislation. I would expect that the issues involved in this bill will continue to be addressed in both the House and the Senate. I would expect the Legislature and the DOE to address the issues expressed in the veto message and try to pass Legislation next year. The veto will impact Florida's reapplication for "Race To The Top" funding.

<http://www.fsba.org/userfiles/File/SB%206.GovernorCristMessage.4.15.10.pdf>

**HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATE BILL 004 HIGH SCHOOL STANDARDS**

This is a very brief outline of the major highlights of Senate Bill 004. I have tried to direct you to the beginning section of the highlight by giving a line number where the section begins. **EOC** means End of Course Exam. This is a 46 page bill available at;

<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s0004er.pdf>

Beginning in 2011/12 Middle School students in Algebra I must pass the EOC for high school credit. (158)

Beginning in 2012/13 Middle School students in Geometry must pass the EOC for high school credit. (161)

Beginning in 2012/13 Middle School students in Biology I must pass the EOC for high school credit. (171)

The personalized academic and career plans, must inform students of high school graduation requirements, Bright Futures, college entrance requirements, courses which lead to college credit, AP, IB, AICE, Dual Enrollment, career academies, and courses that lead to national certification. (181)

Entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2010 must earn a credit in Geometry (to grad.) (EOC counts 30%) after 2010, students must pass EOC to get credit. (228)

Entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2012/13 must take Algebra II to graduate. (240)

Entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2011/12 must take Biology I EOC and it counts 30% of the grade. After 2010, students must pass the EOC to receive credit. (247)

Entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2013/14 must take a credit in either Chemistry or Physics. (255)

The course name for American History has changed to United States History. (263)

Beginning in 2011/12 each High School must offer IB, AICE, or a combination of AP and Dual Enrollment equal to 4 courses. (one in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social studies.) (562)

The Credit Acceleration Program is created. This program allows a secondary student to earn high school credit in any course which requires a statewide standardized EOC, simply by achieving a score indicating satisfactory performance on the EOC. Students may take the exam if they not enrolled in, or have not completed the course. (574)

The definition of industry certification is “national certification”, identified in the Industry Certification Funding List. (596)

Beginning in 2010/11 the 9<sup>th</sup> grade FCAT Math is discontinued. Beginning in 2011/12 the 10<sup>th</sup> grade FCAT Math is discontinued. (except, for those who have not attained the minimum performance required. ) (651)

FCAT writing will continue to be administered once in Elementary, Middle and High school. FCAT Science will be administered once in the Elementary, Middle and High school until 2011/12 when the high school Science FCAT will be discontinued. (658)

A student ,who has not passed the required grade 10 FCAT, must continue to retake the exam until they pass or achieve acceptable concordant scores. (818)

FCAT test result must be available no later than the week of June 8. EOC results must be provided no later than 1 week after the school district completes testing for each course. (895)

The Commissioner will select a 3 week period for the administration of state-wide assessments. (906)

The high school Principal will decide if a transfer student, who has received credit in a course in which Florida requires an EOC, must take the Florida EOC. (966)

If a school selected for a School Recognition award is no longer in existence when the award is presented, the Superintendent shall distribute the award to teachers who taught at the school the previous year. (1300)

OPPAGA is required to study the different types of high school diplomas offered in other states and report to the Legislature and the Governor. (1308)

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF SB 002 CLASS SIZE**

This is a brief outline of the highlights of the class-size bill. It will place the issue on the ballot in November. It will have to get 60% of the vote in favor of the proposed changes.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s0002er.pdf>

Within each public school, the average number of students assigned per class in grades K-3 does not exceed 18 students and the maximum number in any class does not exceed 21. (33)

Within each public school, the average number of students assigned per class in grades 4-8 does not exceed 22 students and the maximum number in any class does not exceed 27. (39)

Within each public school, the average number of students assigned per class in grades 9-12 does not exceed 25 students and the maximum number in any class does not exceed 30 students. (45)

The class size requirements do not apply to extracurricular or virtual classes. (52)

Class size requirements for public schools in the bill will take effect upon approval and shall operate retroactively to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. (84)

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATE BILL 2126 TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS.**

This is a brief outline of the highlights of the Florida Tax Scholarship bill. This existing law is being changed by increasing both the scholarship fund and the amount of the award. It also places restrictions on schools receiving funds from this program.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2126er.pdf>

The total amount of tax credits that may be received by the program is \$140 Million. This is an increase from the current cap of \$118 Million. (218)

The total cap can increase by 25% under certain conditions. (expenditure of 90% of previous years available funds) (222)

Tax credits are awarded on a first come first served basis. (246)

Certain controls are placed upon private schools which receive \$250,000 or more from this scholarship program. (454)

A private school receiving \$250,000 or more from this program must be audited by a certified public accountant. (563)

A report must be developed which will compare the learning gains of students in the private schools which receive funds and students in public schools with similar socioeconomic backgrounds. (628)

The Commissioner of Education may deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's participation in this program under certain conditions stated in law. (729)

The amount of the scholarship shall be \$3,950 in 2009-2010, it shall be 60% of the public school unweighted FTE for 2010-2011, and in 2011 and thereafter can increase by 4% until it reaches the cap of 80% of the public school unweighted FTE. (825)

Scholarships for students attending a private school outside the home district , are limited to \$500.  
(841)

The annual limit to a regular Scholarship is reduced by 25% if the household income is equal to or greater than 200%, but less than 215%, of the Federal poverty level. It is reduced by 50% if the household income level is equal to or greater than 215%, but less than 230% of Federal poverty level. Households which exceed 230% of the Federal poverty level are not eligible for this program.  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2126er.pdf> (844)

\$144,494 is appropriated to the Department of Revenue for the purpose of implementing this program.  
(1463)

### **EDUCATION BILLS WHICH CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ACTION**

**HB 747** Treatment of Diabetes (allows students to self administer treatment, in any school and does not permit assignment of diabetes students to a specific school )  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/House/bills/billtext/pdf/h074702c2.pdf>

**SB 140** Food Service Programs (encourages the development of rules to enable school food service to buy fresh and buy locally)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s0140c1.pdf>

**SB 1060** Education Compact/Military Children (deletes certain provisions and establishes a revue process) <http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s1060.pdf>

**SB 1806** Vocational Rehabilitation Services.  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s1806c1.pdf>

**SB 2550** Religious Freedom (calls for a Constitutional amendment which would allow the use of public program dollars to be spent with a religious provider)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2550.pdf>

**SB 2320** Code of Student Conduct (the baggy pants or underwear bill)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2320.pdf>

**SB 2356** Education Plan Surveys (allows extension of survey submission deadline)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2356.pdf>

**SB 2746** Educational Programs for Children With Disabilities (relates to McKay Scholarships)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2746.pdf>

**SB 2014** Early Learning  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2014c2.pdf>

**HB 1287** IB, AP, and AICE (100% of Funds generated by these programs must be spent on program.)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/House/bills/billtext/pdf/h128702c2.pdf>

**SB 1074** Fire Safety <http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s1074.pdf>

**SB 2262** Virtual Charter Schools (allows virtual providers approved by the DOE to become Charter Schools) <http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2262.pdf>

**SB 2042** College and Career (establishes a school to work program)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2042.pdf>

**SB 2408** State Financial Information (requires the auditor general to provide the Legislature with a list of School Districts that have failed to comply with certain financial transparency requirements)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2408c1.pdf>

**SB 2060** Sovereign Immunity (increases the limits on tort claims against government agencies)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2060c1.pdf>

**SB 150** Screening of Sport's Coaches  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s0150.pdf>

**SB 206** Academic School Signing Day (recognition of academic achievement by the School Board)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s0206c1.pdf>

**SB 2580** Group Insurance (requires school districts to form insurance consortia)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s2580c1.pdf>

**SB 1096** Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Bill (requires a middle school civics course and exam)  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s1096c1.pdf>

### **THE SEMINOLE GAMING COMPACT**

On Thursday, the Senate approved the Seminole Gaming Compact. The Senate had already included the money from this anticipated agreement in the Senate budget. The change that occurred during the passage, however, moved the revenue generated by this agreement from the lottery (education) into the General Fund. The House is expected to act upon this agreement very soon. The Senate had also included \$880 Million in Medicaid revenue that they expected from the Federal Government. Today, a news report has cast doubt on Florida receiving this additional money.

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

As of this morning, the conference committee members have not been named. We expect that they will soon be named and the **Budget, Conforming bill, and the Implementing bill** can be finalized.