

Responses Ranked in Priority Order

1. Maintain the policy of remaining at the school wide average for Class Size Reduction Compliance with no penalty for non-compliance until adequate funding to fully implement is provided.
2. Continue to allow school districts flexibility with the 1.75 capital outlay millage for paying property and casualty insurance costs, thereby freeing significant operational dollars.
3. Prevent further expansion of voucher programs.
4. Remove statutory limits on school start dates to reflect needs of local communities.
5. Designation of Constitutional and Indian gaming revenue collected by State to K-12 public education.
6. Support equitable DROP Extension for all School Employees.
7. Remove statutory requirement for at least 180 days in a school year to allow districts flexibility in their calendar. Statutory hourly requirement will remain.
8. Postpone implementation of the revised High School grading formula until components and their measurement are in place and validated.
9. Ensure local control of all educational employee salaries in the State.
10. Pass Joint Resolution requesting Congress to enact the Internet sales tax compact to allow equitable collection of taxes owed to Florida.
11. Delay implementation of mandated virtual education programs and ensure equity of rigor and quality between virtual and traditional courses.
12. Reinstate funding for professional development for school administrators.
13. Provide funding for the FASA Green Spirit Award.



FASA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – 2009



Priority Statement: As Public School Administrators, we strongly support measures during this challenging economic environment that allow school districts and schools to focus on their core mission: Educating Florida's over 2.5 million public school students in safe and effective classrooms. To achieve this goal, we ask Florida's legislative leaders to consider the following recommendations:

No New Unfunded Mandates

Table discussions on additional un-funded mandates until funding improves

- No new voucher or performance pay programs
- Support language preventing SBE or Commissioner from developing and implementing new initiatives for school districts that require reprioritization of current district funds

Delay Implementation of Existing Mandates

Place certain programs on hiatus until funding improves to at least the 07-08 original allocation levels and budget impacts are evaluated

- Class-Size Reduction beyond school wide average, Textbook Adoption (math), Elementary and Middle School Physical Education, K-8 Virtual School, New High School Grading Formula
- MAP, SAC and School Recognition Bonus programs
- Differentiated Accountability Plan, Response to Intervention Pilots, and Bright Beginnings

Provide Maximum Flexibility

- Allow the statutory hourly requirement to stand in place of the 180-day requirement for school year and return school board control of school start date
- Allow maximum flexibility in using local capital outlay funds, including for property casualty insurance payments, educational or operational software supporting the classroom, and vehicle purchases
- Ensure local control of all educational employee salaries

Increase and Stabilize Revenue

- Designate new gaming revenues to K-12 PUBLIC education
- Review and eliminate sales tax exemptions that do not contribute to economic recovery
- Support a Joint Resolution to participate in the Internet and Catalog Sales Tax Compact
- Increase cigarette and alcohol taxes
- Oppose any effort to eliminate RLE millage funding

Preserve the Florida Retirement System for State Employees

- Protect the current DROP participation opportunity for state employees

(11)