

## **OCASA/FASA Legislative Priorities And Talking Points**

2010 Legislative Platform and talking points follow and is based upon our core belief that Florida's Public School Administrators strongly support measures that allow school districts and schools to focus on their core mission: Educating Florida's public school students in safe and effective classrooms.

To achieve this goal, we ask Florida's legislative leaders to consider the following recommendations:

### **1) Support Changing the Class Size Amendment to School Wide Average**

\* Support a Joint Resolution to place before Florida Voters an amendment to the State Constitution to provide that, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, class-size requirements will be permanently calculated at the school level, using the average number of students assigned to each teacher for measurement of compliance.

### **2) Delay Additional Changes to High School Graduation Requirements**

\* Allow for the effects of Florida's new High School grading formula to be analyzed before making any additional changes to the current requirements.

\* Any new requirements should be delayed until state revenues stabilize to allow for the costs of hiring qualified teachers, providing professional development and adding classroom space to be covered.

### **3) Protect the Florida Retirement System**

\* Allow flexibility for entry into the current DROP program to allow our high quality school leaders to remain in their schools, replacing current age and years of service requirements that are outdated.

\* Provide for monies paid into the retirement system for an employee who dies prior to retirement to default to a defined

contribution plan and allow for beneficiaries to receive support.

#### **4) Increase and Stabilize Revenue and School District Budgets**

\* A portion of any new revenues established by the Legislature should be dedicated to K-12 PUBLIC education in order to stabilize budgets.

\* Review and eliminate sales tax exemptions that do not contribute to Florida's economic growth.

\* Support a Joint Resolution to participate in the Streamlined Sales Tax Project, allowing for Internet and Catalog sales taxes to be collected according to law.

#### **5) Return Control of School Start Date to Locally Elected School Boards**

\* Competing statutes are allowing differing start dates among districts, thereby making this change unnecessary.

\* Returning authority to local boards will allow more input and choice for families in school calendars and reflect individual communities' needs and standards.

Please use these issues and talking points to ensure consistency of our goals and the issues confronting our schools in Orange County.