

Proposed Legislative Priorities

Brevard Public Schools

Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a stable recurring funding source for capital needs and allocate dollars equitably to all public schools • Return weighted funding to career (vocational) education programs • Increase FEFP (Florida Education Finance Program) funding to appropriately provide for student growth in the state • Increase capital millage from 1.50 to 1.75 • Allow proceeds from a voter referendum for capital purposes to be expended on any project/item that the 1.50 capital millage can be expended on (SB 706)
Virtual/Dual Enrollment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return Virtual and Dual Enrollment funding to the 2012-13 level (SB 850) • Fully fund Dual Enrollment textbooks
Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a designated funding source for technology to provide resources to cover devices, bandwidth, associated infrastructure costs, and professional development (SB 790)
Testing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate high stake tests until the teaching methods and changes have been verified for all the modifications that have occurred over the past 5 years • Reduce the amount of state required testing • Remove FCAT Writes until teaching methods have caught up to State changes
School Calendar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School start times should be a local decision • School start date should be adjusted to ensure that the end of 1st semester and exams can occur prior to Winter break • Allow for calendar alignment with colleges for Dual Enrollment courses
Value Added Model (VAM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance data must be proven to be valid and reliable prior to being used to evaluate teacher's performance for high stakes purposes • Performance pay and other statutes impacting teacher's salary or employment status must be postponed until based on statically valid data and fully funded by the legislature • VAM must accurately reflect the growth of each student on a teacher's roster in each course they teach
Future Law Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider delaying the effective date of new laws until the following year • Refrain from changing the laws/rules for education for a few years to allow for a better look at the results • Delay implementation of school grades and pay for performance until new standards and assessments are in place

Note: Numbers in parentheses represent Senate Bills that have been filed as of February 25, 2014 and reference the individual topics listed above. It is anticipated that a bill related to testing will be filed within the next week or so. Any topic related to funding would ultimately be covered in the Appropriations Bill.

February 25, 2014