



# 2026 END OF SESSION REPORT

VERSION 1: POLICY REPORT

[WWW.FEAWEB.ORG/SESSION](http://WWW.FEAWEB.ORG/SESSION)



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

During the 2026 legislative session, the Florida Education Association tracked hundreds of bills that would have a direct impact on educators, students, and school communities. Yet only 237 out of 1,926 bills passed this legislative session. This document includes information on the bills that passed, how they may impact your work and ways you can stay involved all year long.

---

The bills in this report are organized by the following topics:

- **Affordability** – Heading into the 2026 session, legislators were big on talk when it came to addressing Florida’s affordability crisis. Unfortunately, once session started, they were short on action.
- **Athletics and Extracurricular Activities** – Legislators still have not acknowledged their role in creating a massive teacher and staff shortage, but they are now trying to solve the issue of retention and recruitment of head football coaches.
- **Budget** – For the second consecutive year, session ended without a budget. Legislators will be coming back in April to (hopefully) finalize the 2026-27 budget. However, this session did provide a glance at what a final tax package might look like as well as potential changes to the Florida Retirement System. See more on page 6.
- **Collective Bargaining and Union Issues** – SB 1296 garnered a lot of attention for its anti-worker, anti-freedom attacks on public employees. Under the radar, there were a host of other bills that also curtail the constitutionally protected right to collective bargaining. Learn more about these efforts on page 12.
- **Culture War Issues** – Legislators provided the executive branch with a new weapon to attack groups and individuals who stand up for civil rights and question Florida’s creeping authoritarianism. The governor will now be authorized to label his enemies as domestic terrorists with stiff consequences applied to those who receive that label.
- **Curriculum and Instruction** – The legislature took a big step toward requiring the state to develop new math courses that can only be taught using artificial intelligence, creating a performance assessment for cursive writing, standardizing grade point average calculation and requiring the display of portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
- **Early Learning** – There was only one meaningful bill related to early learning that passed this year. It will bring additional support for professional development for childcare workers and authorizes a new direct support organization, the Florida Child Care Fund within the Department of Education to solicit and accept donations from private sources and use the funds to increase the number of available seats in child care facilities.
- **Ethics and Elections** – Hundreds of thousands of eligible voters in Florida will be removed from the voter rolls as a result of HB 991. Regaining their right to vote will be a costly and timely endeavor.
- **Exceptional Student Education** – School districts will be required to offer at least one training on working with students who have autism annually, and some tweaks were made to the IEP process.
- **Health and Safety** – The “Guardian” program that has been in place for K-12 for several years now will also be required for colleges and universities. Students with epilepsy will see additional support as new training requirements for teachers and staff are implemented.
- **Higher Education** – Lawmakers had a real opportunity to address health and safety on college and university campuses but instead decided to put their energy toward increasing the number of firearms on campus.
- **Privatization: Vouchers and Charters** – The legislature continues to play the long game when it comes to privatization. Seemingly innocent legislation about school districts being required to report on any vacant land they own could be expanded in future sessions to force districts to give that land away to charter school corporations.
- **School Boards** – There is now consistency to ensure School board members can access public records in a timely manner without having to pay fees to get their public record requests fulfilled.
- **Teacher Certification** – It will now be easier for educators who have let their professional certification lapse to return to the classroom with a temporary teaching certificate.
- **Bills that Failed to Pass** – There’s a very long list of good legislation that didn’t make it across the finish line this year. Some of the many bills that didn’t pass include ones that would have truly addressed Florida’s teacher and staff shortage, placed minimal guardrails on voucher funding, and repealed the charter school co-location provision that was added into the budget in the closing minutes of the 2025 legislative session. You can see the full list starting on [page 35](#).



No matter what your role in education, we are all united in the belief that a better life is possible. The foundation of success for our state and our country is built on public education. For so many of us, it's this belief that drove us to public education in the first place.

It's no secret that being an educator comes with many unique challenges. Public schools are safe havens for our students and educators are often the cheerleaders, the mentors, the guides, the fixers and, in many cases, the voices for our students and their families.

We show up for students and our community every day. All we ask is for legislators to show up for us in the same way.

Costs in Florida continue to rise for groceries, insurance, childcare, rent and more, all while wages aren't keeping up with inflation. Too many educators in our state can't afford to live

where they work and are struggling to pay their bills and support themselves or their families.

This legislative session served as a direct lens into the priorities of our state leaders. And for another year, people weren't the priority—politics were. While we were asking lawmakers to show up for us, they were distracted by infighting that persisted far past the technical end of legislative session.

Instead of supporting educators with bills that would create multiyear contracts, 10-year teaching certificates and remove many of the burdensome laws that hinder educators and their growth (all things that passed in the Senate), lawmakers passed a bill requiring cursive proficiency and called it an investment.

Instead of taking concrete steps to ensure the safety and security of students, faculty and staff on college and university campuses, lawmakers passed a bill that would allow firearms on campus and called it safety.

Instead of supporting workers and ensuring they can grow their families or invest in themselves, lawmakers passed a bill

that would limit the rights of public sector employees to keep the contracts that ensure they can be paid fairly, keep us safe, and advocate for themselves and their professions. They circumvented the rights of workers and called it accountability.

At every step of the way, you showed up. FEA members sent over 150,000 emails to lawmakers asking them to focus in on real solutions to the issues Floridians are facing. You made more than 2,000 calls and more than 300 of you traveled to Tallahassee so that you could have conversations in person.

No matter what hurdles and challenges are placed in front of us, we continue to show up, we continue to advocate, and we continue to make hope a reality.

This legislative session left us with one burning question: if lawmakers aren't listening to their voters and members of their communities, who *are* they listening to?

Instead of listening to workers and educators, too many lawmakers listened to out of state, billionaire backed groups that are convinced they know what we in Florida need better than us — the workers who are

on the ground, having to figure out how to pay our bills or take care of our families.

It's time for a change.

Together, we can and will strengthen our public education for our students, for parents, for our communities and for ourselves. It's up to us to stand up against opposition from the highest levels that only seeks to divide us and make public schools a thing of the past.

We must re-commit to using our collective power to show up, to force the conversations and the issues. We must raise our voices, even when they shake, even when we can only manage a whisper.

When we work together, we are unstoppable.

As Roger Baldwin once wrote: "Silence never won rights. They are not handed down from above; they are forced by pressures from below."

In solidarity,

Andrew Spar

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Spar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

President, Florida Education Association

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

|  |           |  |           |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| <b>Executive Summary</b> . . . . .   | <b>2</b>  | <b>Early Learning</b> . . . . .  | <b>21</b> |
| <b>President’s Message.</b> . . . . .  | <b>3</b>  | Childcare Regulations . . . . .  | 21        |
| <b>Table of Contents</b> . . . . .   | <b>4</b>  | Related Bills . . . . .  | 21        |
| <b>State Education Budget</b> [no budget passed<br>as of publication]. . . . .     | <b>6</b>  | ▪ SB 1690: Child Care and Early Learning Services                                  |           |
| Tax Package . . . . .  | 6         | <b>Ethics and Elections</b> . . . . .  | <b>22</b> |
| Retirement . . . . .   | 6         | Stripping Away Voting Rights . . . . .   | 22        |
| <b>Bills that Passed</b> . . . . .   | <b>7</b>  | Related Bills . . . . .  | 23        |
| <b>Affordability</b> . . . . .   | <b>7</b>  | ▪ HB 991: Election Integrity   |           |
| Property Tax Proposal . . . . .  | 7         | <b>Exceptional Student Education</b> . . . . .                                     | <b>24</b> |
| Affordable Housing . . . . .   | 8         | Training for Teaching Students with Autism . . . . .                               | 24        |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 9         | Special Olympic Participation Counts<br>Toward Graduation Requirements . . . . .   | 24        |
| ▪ HB 1389—Affordable Housing   |           | IEP Updates. . . . .   | 24        |
| <b>Athletics and Extracurricular Activities</b> . . . . .                          | <b>10</b> | Related Bills . . . . .  | 24        |
| Extracurricular Activities . . . . .   | 10        | ▪ HB 851: Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder                                   |           |
| Personal Funds to Support Student Welfare:<br>The Teddy Bridgewater Bill . . . . . | 10        | ▪ HB 453: Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma                          |           |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 11        | ▪ HB 1279: Education   |           |
| ▪ SB 178: Athletics in Public K-12 Schools   |           | <b>Health and Safety.</b> . . . . .  | <b>25</b> |
| ▪ SB 538: Extracurricular Activities   |           | New Epilepsy Language . . . . .  | 25        |
| <b>Collective Bargaining and Union Issues</b> . . . . .                            | <b>12</b> | Guardian Program Expansion . . . . .   | 25        |
| Potential Collective Bargaining Implications . . . . .                             | 12        | Background Screenings . . . . .  | 26        |
| Union Busting. . . . .   | 12        | Related Bills . . . . .  | 26        |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 17        | ▪ HB 1201: Student Health and Safety   |           |
| ▪ SB 1296: Public Employees Relations Commission                                   |           | ▪ HB 757: School Safety  |           |
| ▪ HB 1279: Education   |           | ▪ HB 1069: Background Screenings   |           |
| ▪ SB 538: Extracurricular Activities   |           | <b>Higher Education</b> . . . . .  | <b>27</b> |
| <b>Culture War Issues</b> . . . . .  | <b>18</b> | Safety on Campus. . . . .  | 27        |
| Targeting Political Opponents . . . . .  | 18        | Free For All on Domestic Terrorism Label? . . . . .                                | 28        |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 18        | SB 1296 and Higher Education . . . . .   | 28        |
| ▪ SB 1134: Official Actions of Local Governments                                   |           | Specialized Programs . . . . .   | 30        |
| ▪ HB 1471: Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations                              |           | Related Bills . . . . .  | 30        |
| <b>Curriculum and Instruction</b> . . . . .  | <b>19</b> | ▪ HB 757: School Safety  |           |
| Addressing Reading and Math Deficiencies . . . . .                                 | 19        | ▪ HB 1115: Grants for Genetic Counseling Education                                 |           |
| Required Instruction and Assessment . . . . .                                      | 19        | ▪ SB 1246: Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund                              |           |
| Student Grading and Graduation Requirements . . . . .                              | 20        | ▪ HB 1279: Education   |           |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 20        | ▪ HB 1471: Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations                              |           |
| ▪ SB 182: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program                            |           | <b>Privatization: Vouchers and Charters</b> . . . . .                              | <b>31</b> |
| ▪ HB 1279: Education   |           | Voucher Program Continues to Disproportionately<br>Impact Public Schools . . . . . | 31        |
| <b>Early Learning</b> . . . . .  | <b>21</b> | Charter School Land Grabs . . . . .  | 31        |
| Childcare Regulations . . . . .  | 21        | Related Bills . . . . .  | 32        |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 21        | ▪ SB 124: Florida Virtual School   |           |
| ▪ SB 1690: Child Care and Early Learning Services                                  |           | ▪ SB 182: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program                            |           |
| <b>Ethics and Elections</b> . . . . .  | <b>22</b> | ▪ SB 824: Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned<br>by School Districts       |           |
| Stripping Away Voting Rights . . . . .   | 22        |  |           |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 23        |  |           |
| ▪ HB 991: Election Integrity   |           |  |           |
| <b>Exceptional Student Education</b> . . . . .                                     | <b>24</b> |  |           |
| Training for Teaching Students with Autism . . . . .                               | 24        |  |           |
| Special Olympic Participation Counts<br>Toward Graduation Requirements . . . . .   | 24        |  |           |
| IEP Updates. . . . .   | 24        |  |           |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 24        |  |           |
| ▪ HB 851: Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder                                   |           |  |           |
| ▪ HB 453: Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma                          |           |  |           |
| ▪ HB 1279: Education   |           |  |           |
| <b>Health and Safety.</b> . . . . .  | <b>25</b> |  |           |
| New Epilepsy Language . . . . .  | 25        |  |           |
| Guardian Program Expansion . . . . .   | 25        |  |           |
| Background Screenings . . . . .  | 26        |  |           |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 26        |  |           |
| ▪ HB 1201: Student Health and Safety   |           |  |           |
| ▪ HB 757: School Safety  |           |  |           |
| ▪ HB 1069: Background Screenings   |           |  |           |
| <b>Higher Education</b> . . . . .  | <b>27</b> |  |           |
| Safety on Campus. . . . .  | 27        |  |           |
| Free For All on Domestic Terrorism Label? . . . . .                                | 28        |  |           |
| SB 1296 and Higher Education . . . . .   | 28        |  |           |
| Specialized Programs . . . . .   | 30        |  |           |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 30        |  |           |
| ▪ HB 757: School Safety  |           |  |           |
| ▪ HB 1115: Grants for Genetic Counseling Education                                 |           |  |           |
| ▪ SB 1246: Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund                              |           |  |           |
| ▪ HB 1279: Education   |           |  |           |
| ▪ HB 1471: Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations                              |           |  |           |
| <b>Privatization: Vouchers and Charters</b> . . . . .                              | <b>31</b> |  |           |
| Voucher Program Continues to Disproportionately<br>Impact Public Schools . . . . . | 31        |  |           |
| Charter School Land Grabs . . . . .  | 31        |  |           |
| Related Bills . . . . .  | 32        |  |           |
| ▪ SB 124: Florida Virtual School   |           |  |           |
| ▪ SB 182: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program                            |           |  |           |
| ▪ SB 824: Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned<br>by School Districts       |           |  |           |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>School Boards . . . . .</b>                          | <b>33</b> |
| Greater Transparency . . . . .                          | 33        |
| Related Bills . . . . .                                 | 33        |
| ▪ HB 1073: School Districts                             |           |
| <b>Teacher Certification . . . . .</b>                  | <b>34</b> |
| Coming Back to the Classroom . . . . .                  | 34        |
| Mentoring Crosses the Finish Line . . . . .             | 34        |
| Related Bills . . . . .                                 | 34        |
| ▪ SB 182: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program |           |
| ▪ HB 561: Educator Preparation and Certification        |           |
| ▪ HB 753: School Counselors                             |           |
| <b>Bills that Failed to Pass . . . . .</b>              | <b>35</b> |
| Accountability . . . . .                                | 35        |
| Affordability . . . . .                                 | 35        |
| Career and Technical Education . . . . .                | 35        |
| Collective Bargaining and Union Issues . . . . .        | 36        |
| Culture War Issues. . . . .                             | 36        |
| Curriculum and Instruction. . . . .                     | 38        |
| Early Learning. . . . .                                 | 40        |
| Educator Salaries and Recruitment . . . . .             | 41        |
| Ethics and Elections. . . . .                           | 41        |
| Exceptional Student Education. . . . .                  | 42        |
| Health and Safety . . . . .                             | 44        |
| Higher Education . . . . .                              | 47        |
| Juvenile Justice Education . . . . .                    | 50        |
| Privatization: Vouchers and Charters . . . . .          | 50        |
| Property Taxes. . . . .                                 | 51        |
| Retirement . . . . .                                    | 53        |
| Teacher Certification. . . . .                          | 53        |
| Miscellaneous. . . . .                                  | 54        |

**How to find how your Representative or Senator voted on a bill**

---

1. Go to [flsenate.gov](http://flsenate.gov)
2. At the top of the page enter the bill number in the **Go To Bill** field (Note: this will find House OR Senate bills)
3. On the bill page, click on the **“Vote History”** tab
4. In the **Vote History - Floor** table click on the last vote in either the House or Senate.

A copy of FEA's 2026 End of Session Report can be found at [FEAweb.org/eosreport](http://FEAweb.org/eosreport).

**Important Links**

---

- **FEA** [FEAweb.org/session](http://FEAweb.org/session)
- **Florida House of Representatives** [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)
- **Florida Senate** [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)
- **Online Sunshine** [www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome)
- **Florida Channel Video Archive** [thefloridachannel.org/videos](http://thefloridachannel.org/videos)
- **FDOE** [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)

In what we hope does not become a recurring issue, the legislative session concluded without completing the one piece of legislation that is constitutionally required: the budget. The budget proposals from the House and Senate were approximately \$1.4 billion apart, yet throughout the 60-day legislative session, the two chambers did not meet once (in public) to discuss how to close this gap. The education budgets remain roughly \$300 million apart, and both chambers are firmly entrenched in their voucher policy positions.

---

During the final moments of the 2026 regular session, both the Speaker of the House and the Senate President announced that they would reconvene in April to finalize the budget. Dates have not yet been set as of this publication. This special session will be in addition to the one already scheduled for redistricting, as well as a potential special session for property tax reform. However, property tax reform could be part of the budget discussions. Additionally, we should remember that Schools of Hope were brought back during last year's extended session budget discussions, so while certain policies appear to be dead for the 2026 regular session, we don't know what will be resurrected during the special session.

When asked about the conclusion of the 2026 legislative session, Senator Gaetz (R-SD 1 – Pensacola), who served as Senate President from 2012 to 2014, stated, "I think we ought to be embarrassed. I think it's a shame." As Floridians struggle to make ends meet, the legislature has left so many issues unresolved it's hard not to feel they are indifferent to those struggles.

---

### TAX PACKAGE

Because the legislature did not end on time, a larger tax package may be included in the call for the special session on budget and property taxes. Last session, the legislature adopted a standing Back-to-School Sales Tax holiday for the entire month of August. Unless changed in the tax package, this should remain for the 2026 Back to School period as well.

The Senate's initial tax package, SB 7046, included changes to the revenue from voted millage referenda revenue and the proportional sharing with charter schools to include

all charter schools regardless of who sponsors the school. Currently, only charter schools sponsored by a school district are included in the proportional share. However, colleges and universities are now sponsoring charter schools and are pushing to be included in the voter-approved millage referenda as well. FEA raised concerns that any charter school that is its own Local Education Authority (LEA) would also get a portion of the funds for schools located in a district with a locally voted tax assessment. The House did not include this in their earlier versions of the tax package. We will be watching this as a conference issue going into the budget.

---

### RETIREMENT

The annual rate-setting bill, like the tax package, is caught up in the fight over the 2026-2027 budget. HB 7028 and SB 5205, Retirement, would have slightly raised the employer contribution to the FRS regular class to 7.11% and increased the DROP rate to 9.86%. Offsetting those increases was a reduction to 4.42% for regular class and 10.26% for DROP in the unfunded actuarial liabilities rate, commonly known as the catch-up rate. Overall, the rate would have decreased by 0.44% in the regular class and 0.10% in DROP. However, we will have to wait for the special session to see what happens.

# Affordability

Across the country, people are clamoring for their elected officials to address the affordability crisis, and here in Florida, we are no different. Housing costs continue to rise, as do health and property insurance costs. When surveyed, 40% of teachers in Florida reported working at least two jobs to make ends meet, and that number only increases when you ask education staff professionals (ESPs).

---

Several bills were filed to help address Florida's affordability crisis, including legislation to limit property insurance rate increases, make certain home-hardening purchases tax-free, and ensure fairness and transparency in utility rates, but none of those provisions passed. When discussing the legislative session, Former Speaker of the House Paul Renner said, "the gridlock, the excuses, and the failure to act on the biggest issues facing our constituents is unacceptable. When half of Floridians say affordability is their number one concern, doing nothing is not just disappointing — it's an abdication of responsibility and a failure of leadership."

---

### PROPERTY TAX PROPOSAL

Florida's property tax system is the largest source of revenue for local governments — nearly \$55 billion in local property taxes are collected each year. Property taxes help fund local governments and schools. Local government taxes help fund public safety (police, fire, EMS) and public infrastructure (roads, parks, senior centers, etc.). School taxes help fund capital projects and operating costs such as salaries, instructional materials and more. On average, school property taxes account for roughly 55% of school funding. However, in some counties with high-property values, their entire FEFP is funded

through property taxes. The reduction or loss of property tax revenue would vastly negatively impact what happens in our local communities. According to the [Florida Chamber of Commerce](#), an elimination of property taxes for homestead properties in Florida would result in loss of revenue of at least \$19.3 billion statewide. Imagine what that would mean for your community!

For the past six years, the Governor has emphasized the importance of reducing the property tax burden on Floridians. However, we have yet to see a concrete plan from him regarding property taxes in Florida. During a mid-session inquiry about his proposal, the Governor stated, "It's better to do it right than do it quick(ly)." Given that he has had years to develop his own property tax proposal, many are wondering where the Governor's plan is.

The Governor has indicated that he is collaborating with the Senate, but throughout the regular session the Senate Finance and Tax Committee did not discuss property tax reform.

Meanwhile, the House jumped into the deep end and proposed seven different Joint Resolutions on Property Taxes (see Table 1, following page). All the proposed House Joint Resolutions would be placed on the November 2026 ballot and would

**TABLE 1: HOUSE PROPOSED JOINT RESOLUTIONS ON PROPERTY TAXES**

| House Bill | Description   |
|------------|---|
| HJR 201    | Proposes a full exemption from non-school property taxes for all homesteaded properties in the state, while ensuring that local governments are prohibited from reducing funding for law enforcement services.  |
| HJR 203    | Proposes a full exemption from non-school property taxes for all homesteaded properties in the state, while ensuring that local governments are prohibited from reducing funding for law enforcement services, firefighters, and other first responders.  |
| HJR 205    | Proposes an exemption for the entire assessed value of homestead properties owned by individuals aged 65 or older for all non-school taxes, while also prohibiting local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement services.  |
| HJR 207    | Proposes a 25% exemption on the assessed value of homestead properties, applicable after the additional \$25,000 exemptions have been applied, while ensuring that local governments cannot reduce funding for law enforcement services.  |
| HJR 209    | Proposes an alternative second homestead exemption of \$200,000 in addition to the current \$25,000 exemption for homestead properties that have comprehensive homeowners' insurance. This exemption applies to properties with an assessed value ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000, adjusted for inflation, while prohibiting local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement services.   |
| HJR 211    | Proposes allowing homeowners to transfer the full amount of their accrued Save Our Homes benefit to a new home. It also removes the requirement that the benefit amount be reduced if the owner is downsizing. Additionally, the proposal would prohibit local governments from cutting funding for law enforcement.  |
| HJR 213    | Proposes changing the assessment structure for individual properties. It would require assessments for property taxes, conducted by cities, counties, and special districts, to occur once every three years. Additionally, it would limit assessment increases for homestead properties to 3% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. For non-homestead properties, increases would be capped at 15% every third year. The proposal also stipulates that increases are not permitted if the current just value of the property exceeds the just value recorded during the last assessment change. Furthermore, it prohibits local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement. |

make changes to non-school property taxes and require that law enforcement budgets be held harmless.

Because the House and Senate did not come to agreement on any of the above proposed joint resolutions, we will have to wait and see what comes of property tax reform during the special session.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Florida’s 2026 affordable housing legislation—particularly HB 1389, by Rep. Redondo (R-HD 118 – Miami) —continues the state’s push to expand where affordable and mixed use housing can be built by preempting many local zoning restrictions.

The bill requires counties and municipalities to allow residential development, including on publicly owned land, and prohibit them from imposing additional height limits, setbacks, or setbacks on qualifying projects. A major affordability benchmark embedded in this policy is Area Median Income (AMI), a federally defined measure used to determine what is considered “affordable.”

For teachers, professors, and education staff professionals, these policies have direct implications for housing stability and affordability. By expanding multifamily development into commercial, industrial, and public-land zones—and requiring that a share of units remain affordable

based on AMI levels—Florida is increasing the likelihood of rental housing options priced for middle-income workers who too often earn below what is needed to afford rising market rents comfortably. Accessory Dwelling Unit expansion is particularly important for early-career educators or support staff, as these units typically offer smaller, lower-cost living spaces within existing neighborhoods, increasing access to housing close to schools, colleges, and university campuses. Strengthened anti-discrimination rules in local permitting may also reduce community pushback that historically blocks affordable developments in higher-opportunity school zones, thereby making it less likely that education workers are priced out of the very communities they serve.

## RELATED BILLS

- **HB 1389—Affordable Housing**, by Rep. Redondo (R-HD 118 – Miami) and SB 1548, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami)

**Vote:** House: [98-4](#) | Senate: [35-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1389er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1389&Session=2026>

---

# Deep Dive

What kind of impact could eliminating property taxes have for students, educators and school communities? We took a deep dive look into your local community, [here](#).

# Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Legislators have intentionally passed policies designed to increase turnover in public schools. Those efforts have been successful, leading to a massive teacher and staff shortage. One side effect is that schools struggle to keep coaches as well. Rather than addressing the underlying retention problem they created, legislators spent this session focused on further picking winners and losers- but it's not likely that anyone wins when the legislature abdicates its responsibility to properly fund our schools. Instead, we expect to see greater inequity in pay for coaches as booster clubs begin to bankroll supplemental pay and foster unhealthy competition for athletic staff.

---

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

During Committee Week #3, the Florida Coaches Coalition was invited to present at the Senate Education PreK-12 Committee. During this committee meeting, they discussed the lack of funding for athletic coaches and bemoaned teachers' unions as the biggest obstacle to adequate funding for coaches. During that meeting, Marcus Chambers, Superintendent from Okaloosa County, accurately pointed out he'd love to pay his coaches more, but he also wants to pay his teachers, his bus drivers and his custodians more; however, there is only one pot of funding and it's too small.

In the weeks after this committee, SB 538 and HB 731 were filed. The bills started very differently: the House bill allowed booster club funds to be used to pay for coaches' salaries and gave the superintendent the power to designate the coach as an athletic administrator at the coach's request, while the Senate would have allowed the school board to determine the compensation of any coach or athletic program supervisor even those classified as instructional personnel.

Following concerns that academic coaches,

club sponsors, and other extracurricular activities were not receiving the same treatment as athletic coaches, the bill's sponsors began making adjustments. Ultimately, the bill authorizes district school boards to adopt policies allowing voluntary donations and booster club revenues to be used to pay coaches and activity sponsors, with certain restrictions. The bill allows coaches and extracurricular activity sponsors to request their superintendent classify them as athletic administrators, and only allows booster-funded stipends to pay them for those services, not direct salaries. However, the superintendent is authorized to negotiate salaries directly with these individuals. The bill also authorizes and sets limits for school districts to assess activity fees for any student participating in extracurricular activities whether enrolled in the school or not as approved by the school board or charter school governing board.

---

## PERSONAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT STUDENT WELFARE: THE TEDDY BRIDGEWATER BILL

In 2024, NFL quarterback Teddy Bridgewater became the head coach at his alma mater, Miami Northwestern Senior

High School. In his first season, he took his team to a Class 3A state championship. However, shortly after that success, Bridgewater was suspended from his position for paying for Uber rides, meals, and recovery services for his players.

The Florida Legislature took notice of what happened in this case and brought forth SB 178, Athletics in Public K-12 Schools. This bill would authorize head coaches to use personal funds to support student welfare, subject to set limits and reporting requirements. Additionally, the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) would be required to adopt bylaws allowing head coaches to use personal funds for necessities such as food, transportation, and recovery services, and limit the maximum amount of personal funds a head coach can spend to \$15,000 per athletic team annually.

## RELATED BILLS

- **SB 178: Athletics in Public K-12 Schools**, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens) and HB 1253, by Rep. LaMarca (R-HD 100 – Lighthouse Point)

**Votes:** House: [112-0](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0178er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=178&Session=2026>

- **SB 538: Extracurricular Activities**, by Sen. Simon (R-SD 3 – Tallahassee) and HB 731, Rep. Abbott (R-HD 5 – DeFuniak Springs)

**Votes:** House: [104-6](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0538er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=538&Session=2026>

## SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

150,000+

The number of emails sent to legislators through FEA action alerts.

# Collective Bargaining and Union Issues

Anti-worker and anti-public education legislators attacked public educators, public employees and unions instead of focusing on needed changes to recruit and retain high quality employees.

---

---

## POTENTIAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IMPLICATIONS

In addition to collective bargaining being universally attacked via SB 1296, there were several additional bills to weaken our right to negotiate with employers for better pay, working conditions, and terms of employment. An overview of the bills that relate to collective bargaining can be found in Table 2 on page 16.

---

## UNION BUSTING

The 2026 session continued with another round of anti-worker legislation taking away workers' rights to join a union and collectively advocate for their profession, their working terms and conditions and the students they serve. Framed as an attack on teachers and their unions, SB 1296 sets up a two-tiered system of laws that negatively impact public sector unions representing linemen, sanitation workers, doctors, nurses, municipal workers, and educators, while exempting "first responder unions" consisting of police, firefighters, corrections officers, EMTs and paramedics. The state is once again picking winners and losers. In Fiscal Policy committee when SB 1296 was heard, Sen. Jones said it best: "On a bus, the first responder is the bus driver. In a school, the first responder is the teacher. In a hospital, the first responder is a nurse. In a hurricane, the first responder is a lineman."

The bill sets up 5 potential constitutional issues including:

1. The right to Collectively Bargain as protected under Article 1, Section 6 of the Florida Constitution;
2. Freedom of Speech;
3. Freedom of Association;
4. Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution; and
5. Single Subject laws.

SB 1296 includes the following provisions:

- Local unions that do not have 60% membership density must now file for a recertification election under new rules. For any election petitions filed on or after July 1, 2026, at least 50% of all bargaining unit members must vote. Of all the votes cast, at least 50% must vote to keep their union. If either of these thresholds are not met, the union will be decertified and lose its status as the bargaining agent, and the collective bargaining agreement will become null and void.

- In some instances, a runoff vote may be required. This could happen in cases where more than one union vies to become the bargaining agent. If 50% of bargaining unit members vote and none of the choices on the ballot receive 50% of the vote, a runoff election would be required. The runoff election would be between the two choices that received the highest number of votes in the original election. The runoff election would be conducted using the same rules as outlined in the above bullet point.
- Establishes new definition of “employee organization activities” and limits those activities relating to:
  - supporting or opposing a candidate for federal, state, or local public office;
  - influencing the passage or defeat of any federal or state legislation or regulation, local ordinance or resolution, or ballot measure;
  - promoting or soliciting membership or participation in, or support of, an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization; seeking certification as a bargaining agent;
  - participating in the administration, business, or internal governance of an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization;
  - preparing, conducting, or attending employee organization events, conferences, conventions, meetings, or trainings, unless such training is directly related to the performance of a public employee’s job duties;
  - distributing communications of an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization; representing or speaking on behalf of an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization in any setting, venue, or procedure in which the public employer is not a participant; and
  - preparing, filing, or pursuing unfair labor practice charges or grievances.
- Defines “representational employee organization activities” to mean:
  - representing members in investigations, disciplinary proceedings or appeals including termination;
  - engaging in collective bargaining and any related mediation, factfinding, or arbitration;
  - administering a collective bargaining agreement; and
  - participating in labor-management committees.
- Permits the completion of “employee organization activities” by a public employee without pay or benefits, or compensated by the employee organization, or using compensated personal leave.
- Permits the completion of “representational employee organization activities” to be conducted while in a duty status without the loss of pay or benefits, provided the public employer and the bargaining agent agree.
- Codifies “release time” PERC ruling for union officers and/or staff into statute for “employee organization activities” provided that it is agreed to in the collective bargaining agreement and if the public employer is fully reimbursed by the employee organization for such compensation and benefits.

## SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

2,000+

FEA members and public school activists who put solidarity into action by taking part in FEA's weekly Power Hour calls. To join future calls sign up at [FEAweb.org/PowerHour](http://FEAweb.org/PowerHour)



- Defines “membership dues” as any amount a member is required to pay in exchange for membership in an employee organization, including, but not limited to, employee organization dues; uniform assessments; or fees including initiation fees.
- Updates the Membership Authorization Form (MAF) required statement, and requires the following to be included:
  - name of the bargaining agent;
  - name of the employee;
  - name of the public employer and employing agency;
  - amount of the membership dues;
  - the names and amounts disclosed under 447.305(2)(d) for the officers and employees receiving the five highest total dollar amounts. Disclosure includes salary, allowances, and other direct or indirect disbursements, including reimbursed expenses. Disclosure is required when an officer or employee received more than \$10,000 in the aggregate each fiscal year from the employee organization, or any other employee organization with which it is affiliated, including national or international employee organizations.
- Requires that a Showing of Interest Form may not be dated more than 12 months before the filing of the petition for certification or recertification.
- Changes the requirements for holding an election for certification, recertification, or decertification to include mail, in-person, or a combination of both. PERC must consider the following when determining the method of election and timing:
  - the number of eligible voters in the bargaining unit,
  - the number of work locations and availability of polling locations,
  - the size of the public employer’s operations,
  - the cost to the commission and parties to conduct the election,
  - the commission’s workload and election schedule,
  - the work schedules and shifts of the eligible voters,
  - whether the parties agree on a time to hold the election and method of the election to be used,
  - any other factors that might impact the integrity of the election.
- PERC must honor a request to hold an election by mail if one is made. The election must be conducted no earlier than 4 weeks after the postmark date on the ballot mailed by PERC. Notice of an election by mail must be provided by PERC to the bargaining agent, the public employer, and the public employees of the bargaining unit at least 4 weeks before the date of the election. An election conducted by mail ballot must include, subject to appropriation, return envelopes with prepaid postage affixed.
- Changes the required information required to be shared with PERC in the registration renewal application to also include salaries, wages, fringe benefits, allowances, and other direct or indirect disbursements, including reimbursed expenses, paid or accruing to each of its officers and also each of its employees who during the fiscal year received more than \$10,000 in the aggregate from the employee organization and any parent organization or any affiliate of either the employee organization or the parent organization. Also includes the reporting of any reimbursements paid by the employee organization to a public

employer for moneys paid by the public employer to the employee organization's officers or employees, as well as the amount of membership dues retained or distributed to the employee organization, any parent organization of the employee organization, and any affiliate of either the employee organization or the parent organization.

- As part of the snapshot report 30 days before the registration is scheduled to end, additional requirements to be reported include the certification number assigned to the bargaining unit by the commission, the number of public employees in the bargaining unit, the number of public employees in the bargaining unit who paid full membership dues sufficient to maintain membership in good standing and the number of employees who have submitted MAFs.
- 30 days after filing an application for renewal of registration, a copy of the application must now be shared with both the public employer and the public employees of the bargaining unit.
- Bargaining unit clarification petitions may be filed with PERC when significant changes in law or case law require clarification of the unit, or when a classification was created or substantially changed after the unit was initially defined by PERC, retitled with no substantial change in job duties, included or excluded through inadvertence or misunderstanding by PERC. When clarification of a bargaining unit would result in an increase in the size of the bargaining unit by more than 25%, the unit clarification petition raises a question concerning representation and must be dismissed.
- Establishes a new “financial urgency” for any appropriation that is directly appropriated for salaries by the state. The public employer and bargaining agent must be at the table no later than 15 days from the effective date of the appropriation (July 15), and must be completed with bargaining no later than 30 days after the effective date of the appropriation (July 30). If bargaining is not complete, impasse must be declared to PERC within 2 business days and an expedited impasse process is established including the assigning of a special magistrate. A ULP charge may not be filed during the 30-day period of negotiations or while the parties are proceeding through the resulting impasse process.
- Requires equal access to the public employer’s facilities and internal means of communication for any registered or petitioning public employee who is seeking to support, oppose, or intervene in the certification, recertification, or decertification of a bargaining agent.
- Increases strike fines and penalties.
- If a bargaining unit is decertified, they may not petition for certification until 12 months after the decertification occurred.
- Exempts “public safety” unions consisting of police, firefighter, corrections and EMT unions from all provisions within the legislation.

**TABLE 2: BILLS RELATED TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

**SB 178**

Permits a head coach to spend personal funds on food, transportation, and recovery services for student welfare, subject to parental written consent. These personal funds are limited to \$15,000 per team and per year.

**SB 182**

Authorizes school districts and charter schools to place certain experienced classroom teachers in struggling schools to serve as paid teacher mentors. Requires mentors to have at least 3 years of experience and a highly effective performance rating.

**SB 538**

Adds extracurricular athletic administrators to the K-12 administrative personnel classification. It allows district school superintendents to negotiate individual supplemental compensation, subject to a cap based on the district's highest-paid administrator.

**HB 757**

Provides training and resources to students and school district staff on youth mental health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures, including active shooter training; and school safety and security. The bill requires school district staff to explain the purpose, importance, and proper execution of school safety protocols and emergency procedures.

**HB 1073**

Upon request, school board members must be given free and timely access to all school district documents necessary to fulfill the duties and responsibilities required under the State Constitution and the Florida Early Learning Education Code.

A school board member may comment publicly during or outside district school board meetings on any matter of district school board business, except for student and employee disciplinary hearings specifically addressed in Florida Statutes 1006.07 and 1012.34, respectively, or other matters prohibited by law.

The district school board's decision to reject a person's nomination does not give that person a right of action to sue over the rejection and may not be used as a cause of action by the nominated employee. For this paragraph, the term "good cause" means the district school board has determined any of the following:

- That the nominated employee fabricated or materially exaggerated their credentials or background.
- The nominated employee does not meet the minimum requirements for the position.
- Another state has revoked the nominated employee's educator certificate.

A school district employee may not be required or otherwise incentivized to sign a nondisclosure agreement or confidentiality agreement. A school district may not impose conditions on employment to circumvent this paragraph.

**HB 1201**

Requires all employees who have regular contact with a student with epilepsy or a seizure disorder to complete training, which remains valid for 5 years.

**HB 1279**

Establishes that an educational emergency exists in a school district if one or more schools in the district have a school grade of D or F, or has a school that has been identified as "persistently low performing." The bill provides that salary incentives that differentiate based on a teacher's certification, subject

area taught, or grade level taught may not be subject to collective bargaining requirements.

If a related service identified in a student's IEP is not provided as scheduled, the school district must notify the parent or guardian in writing or by electronic means within 10 school days, explain the reason the service was not provided, and discuss a plan for make-up services. A parent or guardian has the right to access, upon request, all service provider logs or progress notes within 15 school days of the service being provided. The school district shall inform parents of this right at each IEP meeting.

Additionally, the bill contains changes to bonuses for classrooms teachers of advanced courses. The school district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided the advanced course instruction:

- A bonus of \$50 for each student taught by the Florida advanced course teacher in each Florida advanced course who achieves a minimum score on an assessment identified by the Florida Department of Education.
- An additional bonus of \$500 to each Florida advanced course teacher in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F" who has at least one student who achieves a minimum score on an assessment identified by the Florida Department of Education, regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of students who achieve a minimum score on an assessment identified by the Florida Department of Education.

**SB 1296**

See detailed description of SB 1296 on pages 12-15.

## RELATED BILLS

- **SB 1296: Public Employees Relations Commission**, by Sen. Martin (R-SD 33 – Fort Myers) and HB 995, by Rep. Persons-Mulicka (R-HD 78 – Fort Myers)

Votes: House: [73-37](#) | Senate: [20-14](#)

Bill Text: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/1296/BillText/er/PDF>

---

- **HB 1279: Education**, by Rep. Kincart Jonsson (R-HD 49 – Bartow) and SB 7038, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami) and Senate Education Postsecondary Committee

Votes: House: [81-16](#) | Senate: [36-1](#)

Bill Text: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1279er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1279&Session=2026>

---

- **SB 538: Extracurricular Activities**, by Sen. Simon (R-SD 3 – Tallahassee) and HB 731, Rep. Abbott (R-HD 5 – DeFuniak Springs)

Votes: House: [104-6](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

Bill Text: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0538er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=538&Session=2026>

---

## Did You Know?

At the start of 2026, educators in the state of Florida—for the 200th consecutive time—voted to recertify their local union. Across those elections, an average of 94.5% of the ballots cast voted “YES” to keep their unions and preserve their collective bargaining agreements. When educators and education workers are given the opportunity to vote, they vote overwhelmingly to keep their unions.

# Culture War Issues

2026 capped off another year of Governor DeSantis’ culture war attacks on public education, unions and the least among us. While Floridians are asking for much needed relief when it comes to the cost of living in the state, many bills that could have helped did not pass this session. In the quest to keep Florida “free” and make it seem like something was accomplished, the Governor further cemented his legacy of inaction for educators and public schools.

## TARGETING POLITICAL OPPONENTS

HB 1471, titled “Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations,” sponsored by Rep. Cassel (R-HD 101 – Hollywood) defines “domestic terrorist organization” in multiple criminal statutes and adds or expands penalties for persons who use, provide support or training to, or are members of such organizations.

The bill’s vague language creates particularly concerning implications for students and campus organizations. Students found to be “promoting” a designated organization — a term the bill defines as any statement or action that “supports, approves, or encourages violence” — would face expulsion from their college or university, be required to pay out-of-state tuition, and become ineligible for any financial aid or fee waivers. Many legislators and civil liberties advocates raised concerns that the governor could use the bill to target political opponents, protest organizations, or advocacy groups.

The bill also prohibits public K-12 schools, colleges and universities from spending state or federal funds to support programs or campus activities that promote a designated terrorist organization — a provision that, given the breadth of the bill’s definitions, could reach student organizations, academic programs, and invited speakers.

It also bars private schools participating in state scholarship programs from employing, contracting with, or receiving funds from individuals or entities linked to designated terrorist organizations, gangs, or organizations advocating terrorism.

## RELATED BILLS

- **SB 1134: Official Actions of Local Governments**, by Sen. Yarborough (R-SD 4 – Jacksonville) and HB 1001, by Rep. Black (R-HD 15 – Jacksonville)

**Votes:** House: [77-37](#) | Senate: [25-11](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/1134/BillText/er/PDF>

- **HB 1471: Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations**, by Rep. Cassel (R-HD 101 – Hollywood) and SB 1632, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

**Votes:** House: [80-25](#) | Senate: [25-11](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1471er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1471&Session=2026>

# Curriculum and Instruction

School grades, standardized testing and other elements of Florida’s failed “accountability” system took a back seat this session to other issues. Bills proposed by the Florida Department of Education, HB 1071 and SB 1090, that did address these issues did not make it across the finish line. In the waning hours of the legislative session, the House and Senate cobbled together two train bills into an education package that included cursive-writing assessments, standardized grade point average calculations, mentor-teaching programs, and portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

---

## ADDRESSING READING AND MATH DEFICIENCIES

This session, we did see a shift in focus to math deficiencies, as several bills moved through the committee process that required teachers to use student test scores to classify and remediate students who show math deficiencies. These efforts expand on prior-year legislation that focused on reading instruction.

SB 920, Mathematics Education, focused on the development of artificial intelligence-mediated programs for student tutoring and career-themed algebra courses. Ultimately, the House and Senate watered down the bill and included some of its provisions in HB 1279 without the words “artificial intelligence.” The new language will require the Florida Department of Education to develop several secondary-level algebra courses customized to specific career clusters while still meeting the requirements for Algebra I credit. Public school students enrolled in these math courses would still be required to pass the Algebra I End-of-Course exam to graduate.

For students who continue to struggle in reading, the bill requires that parents be informed about the New Worlds Reading

Initiative, created in 2021 to provide free books to students in VPK through grade 5 and administered by the University of Florida’s Lastinger Center and Scholastic. The program is funded through tax credits and operates similarly to the voucher program, providing businesses with tax credits for donating.

---

## REQUIRED INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

At the end of the legislative session, the House added a modified provision requiring cursive instruction in grades 3 through 5 to SB 182, which was entitled School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program. Even though cursive instruction is already in state standards, the legislature now adds cursive instruction as the 23rd item of required instruction in Florida Statute 1003.42(2). The main difference is that now students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency by the 5th grade. What remains to be seen is how performance will be assessed and what consequences will result if a student does not demonstrate the required skills, as this is not clear in the legislation and will be left to the rule-making process at the Florida Department of Education.

Additionally, SB 182 requires public schools to display portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in a prominent place. This is subject to an appropriation; the Florida Department of Education will be required to select and provide portraits for display in each public school in the district.

---

### **STUDENT GRADING AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

On the last day of session, several changes were included in what became an education train bill, HB 1279. Those changes will affect the credits students can use for graduation by bringing parity to students who participate in the marching band program, but do not play instruments. Students will be allowed to use dance technique and marching band credits to meet the requirements for physical education and performance arts credits for high school graduation. This will address the gap in prior year changes that allowed students playing instruments to earn graduation credits, but not students in the color guard or dance teams associated with the marching band programs.

This legislation also establishes a standardized system for calculating

weighted student grade point averages through rulemaking by the Florida Department of Education. They must specify how to award credit for the various advanced courses and articulated credits offered in the state. The bill also authorized not-for-profit independent private schools in Florida to offer dual enrollment courses to students under the same no-cost-to-student requirements as public institutions.

### **RELATED BILLS**

- **SB 182: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program**, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens) and HB 157, by Rep. Hinson (D-HD 21 – Gainesville)

**Votes:** House: [91-11](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/182/BillText/er/PDF>

- 
- **HB 1279: Education**, by Rep. Kincart Jonsson (R-HD 49 – Bartow) and SB 7038, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami) and Senate Education Postsecondary Committee

**Votes:** House: [81-16](#) | Senate: [36-1](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1279er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1279&Session=2026>

## **Did You Know?**

While the legislature may make laws on curriculum, there are more chances at the state and local level to enact change. The State Board of Education sets rules for how legislation is implemented in schools around the state. Their meetings are public and a great way to make your voice heard and weigh in on the rules they are considering.

Meetings are posted each year on the Florida Department of Education website: <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/state-board-of-edu/meetings>

# Early Learning

This session we called on lawmakers to fund full day Prekindergarten. The reality is Florida’s affordability crisis cannot be separated from our state’s educational crisis. Every parent wants to have the time to nurture a love of learning in their child, the time to develop a sense of curiosity and wonder about our natural world, and the time to simply read a few books together before bedtime. Those basic needs are out of reach when parents have to work multiple jobs and still aren’t able to make ends meet at the end of the month. Because of the inequities across Florida, our children need robust, full-time Prekindergarten. Florida’s failure to invest in early learning is a failure to invest in Florida’s future.

## CHILDCARE REGULATIONS

This year, the legislative load for early learning was low. Only one bill moved through the process, SB 1690, Child Care and Early Learning Services. The bill significantly revamps childcare regulations, enhances quality standards, and restructures state support for early learning providers. The legislation updates the childcare information that must be shared with communities. It removes the requirement for family childcare homes to distribute annual information and mandates previously exempt facilities to comply with minimum standards.

Additionally, SB 1690 revises the definitions of childcare facilities and personnel, updates licensing standards, and strengthens insurance protections for family childcare home operators by prohibiting insurers from denying, canceling, or refusing to renew coverage based on childcare operations. The bill also expands the professional development infrastructure through initiatives like the TEACH Scholarship Program and the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition.

## RELATED BILLS

- **SB 1690: Child Care and Early Learning Services**, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami) and HB 765, by Rep. McFarland (R-HD 73 –Sarasota) and Rep. Basabe (R-HD 106 – Miami Beach)

**Votes:** House: [111-0](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/1690/BillText/er/PDF>

## Did you know:

According to the 2022 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census, early educators earn a median wage of \$13.07 per hour. What’s worse, no states paid early educators a living wage in 2022, according to the Berkeley Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE). In Florida, 50% of early educator households participate in one or more public safety net programs and the early childcare educator workforce is 5.1 times more likely to live in poverty than elementary and middle school teachers. [Learn more here.](#)

# Ethics and Elections

Typically, during a session before an election, we don't see many changes regarding elections. However, this session is different. There are discussions about a potential mid-decade congressional redistricting as the Trump Administration encourages state legislatures in "red" states to help secure more seats in Congress.

Moreover, Republican state legislatures across the country are using the guise of targeting noncitizen voting to disenfranchise low-income and minority citizens by making it harder for them to register to vote. This is despite records from a federal citizenship verification tool indicating that only 0.04% of voter verification cases were flagged as involving noncitizens.

## STRIPPING AWAY VOTING RIGHTS

HB 991 significantly alters the processes for voter registration applications and election audits.

To eliminate noncitizens from voter rolls, the bill mandates that the Florida Department of State (DOS), in collaboration with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), verify the citizenship status of all voter registration applicants. Supervisors of Elections must work with the DHSMV and use "credible and reliable information" to assess whether a voter is ineligible due to their citizenship status.

While this might sound innocent enough, hundreds of thousands of Floridians who are eligible to vote are likely to be removed from the voter rolls. This includes individuals who aren't able to obtain a birth certificate. As was pointed out in the House when debating the bill, there are many Floridians alive today who were born when hospitals were still racially segregated, and

many Black and Brown Floridians were simply never issued a birth certificate due to our state's legacy of systemic racism and segregation.

Additionally, the bill requires that all Florida identification cards and driver's licenses indicate the holder's legal status. During the debate on this bill, many pointed out that REAL ID compliance is already a form of citizenship verification, as it requires proof of a Social Security number, a passport, or a birth certificate. The bill also involves federal jury coordinators who will search for noncitizen voters and provide a list of ineligible and potentially ineligible voters to County Supervisors of Elections.

The bill further modifies the list of acceptable forms of identification at polling places by removing debit cards, credit cards, student identification cards, retirement center cards, neighborhood association cards, and public assistance cards. It specifies that only identification cards from the United States Uniformed Services or the Merchant Marine are acceptable for voters.

Lastly, the bill states that candidates, political parties, political committees, and electioneering communications organizations are prohibited from willfully accepting or soliciting campaign contributions from foreign nationals. Violating this rule would be classified as a third-degree felony, and those found in

violation would face fines equal to three times the amount contributed.

Following so many concerns about this bill, the bill's sponsors, Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R-HD 78 – Fort Myers) and Sen. Erin Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce), pushed the implementation date to July 1, 2027, to allow citizens, supervisors of elections, and state agencies to make the necessary changes to meet the bill's new requirements.

Similar legislation in other states has been found to be unconstitutional, and major voting rights groups have already announced their intent to sue over HB 991 once the bill is signed into law.

## RELATED BILLS

- **HB 991: Election Integrity**, by Rep. Persons-Mulicka (R-HD 78 – Fort Myers) and Rep. Trabulsy (R-HD 84 – Fort Pierce) and SB 1334, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

**Votes:** House: [77-28](#) | Senate: [27-12](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0991er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=991&Session=2026>

---

## Learn More:

It's more important than ever to be informed as a voter. You can start by checking your voter registration at the Florida Department of State's Voter Information Lookup site: <https://registration.dos.fl.gov/en/CheckVoterStatus/Index>.

# Exceptional Student Education

Several bills focused on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) were filed, as were other bills focused on Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services and documentation. The bill provisions that were finally passed were significantly less ambitious in scope, and mostly not in the same bill where they began the session. The problems these bills were attempting to solve include persistent shortages of certified teachers for students who are identified as needing ESE support, especially in ASD; increasing training and scholarships, or loan forgiveness, for teachers; and improving communication with parents about student progress and services provided.

---

## TRAINING FOR TEACHING STUDENTS WITH AUTISM

In the end, only a few bills and provisions survived, including HB 851, Professional Learning for Instructional and School Administrative Personnel, by freshman Rep. Long (D-HD 90 – Boynton Beach), which requires that school districts provide at least one training session each year on teaching students with autism.

---

## SPECIAL OLYMPIC PARTICIPATION COUNTS TOWARD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

HB 453, Graduation Requirement for a Standard High School Diploma, allows students who participate in Special Olympics for a year to earn a credit in Physical Education to satisfy their high school graduation requirements.

---

## IEP UPDATES

On the last day of the session, another provision related to Individual Education Plans (IEP) was added to HB 1279. That provision requires that parents be notified whenever a “related service,” such as speech or physical therapy, is not provided, along with a plan for making up the service. The legislation also sets a timeline for parents to request a review of their child’s service logs and progress notes.

---

## RELATED BILLS

- **HB 851: Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**, by Rep. Long (D-HD 90 – Boynton Beach) and SB 206, by Sen. Harrell (R-SD 31 – Stuart)

**Votes:** House: [108-0](#) | Senate: [38-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0851er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=851&Session=2026>

---

- **HB 453: Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma**, by Rep. Gossett-Seidman (R-HD 91 – Boca Raton) and SB 556, by Sen. Berman (D-SD 26 – Boynton Beach)

**Votes:** House [111-0](#) | Senate [36-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0453er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=453&Session=2026>

---

- **HB 1279: Education**, by Rep. Kincart Jonsson (R-HD 49 – Bartow) and SB 7038, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami) and Senate Education Postsecondary Committee

**Votes:** House: [81-16](#) | Senate: [36-1](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1279er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1279&Session=2026>

---

# Health and Safety

Health and safety in schools took the center stage this legislative session, with bills ranging from pedestrian safety and corporal punishment to student mental health and student elopement. But, like many bills, very few crossed the finish line this legislative session.

## NEW EPILEPSY LANGUAGE

Since 2022, the legislature has been focused on helping Florida's students with epilepsy. At the forefront of this is Sen. Garcia (R-SD 36 – Miami), who lives with epilepsy herself. This year, she worked on HB 1201, Student Health and Safety, with Rep. Mooney (R-HD 120 – Key Largo) to update Florida's existing framework for managing epilepsy and seizure disorders in schools, originally enacted in 2022.

The bill updates the Florida Department of Health (DOH) responsibilities for school-based epilepsy education programs, modifies requirements for individualized seizure action plans (ISAPs), and updates the list of employees required to complete seizure-care training to include any employee who teaches or transports the student to and from school and school activities, with validity for that training extended to five years.

The bill passed both chambers unanimously and takes effect July 1, 2026.

## GUARDIAN PROGRAM EXPANSION

Prompted by the April 2025 shooting at Florida State University, the House and Senate brought us HB 757 and SB 896, Student Safety, which extends Florida's K-12 School Guardian Program to public colleges and universities. Under the legislation, a college or university president may appoint faculty or staff to serve as armed guardians after completing a 144-

hour training program — including 132 hours of firearms instruction and 12 hours of conflict de-escalation. It is important to note, that participation is optional for institutions. The bill also:

- Creates a new second-degree felony (punishable by up to 15 years) for discharging a weapon within 1,000 feet of a school during school hours or sanctioned events, with mandatory pretrial detention for those arrested;
- Requires public postsecondary institutions to adopt active assailant response plans, campus-wide emergency alert systems, family reunification plans, and threat management teams;
- Mandates promotion of the FortifyFL suspicious activity reporting app; and
- Requires K-12 behavioral and threat assessment records to transfer to a college or university upon a student's enrollment.

FEA and UFF raised concerns that adding more firearms to campus environments increases risk, heightens anxiety among students and staff, and could create confusion during emergencies.

The bill passed both chambers with significant Democratic opposition and now heads to the Governor for his signature.

## SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

+  
0  
0  
0  
2,

Phone calls made to lawmakers on the issues that matter most to community members, parents and educators.

### BACKGROUND SCREENINGS

Every year, the legislature makes changes to statutes related to background screenings in Education. This year, HB 1069 makes two targeted adjustments to Florida's background screening framework. First, it exempts athletic coaches from the Level 2 screening requirement if they work under the direct supervision of a coach who has already cleared that screening — preventing the automatic disqualification of coaches who are actively working under qualified oversight while their own screenings are processed. Second, it designates independent sanctioning authorities as qualified entities for purposes of the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse, allowing the Clearinghouse to share criminal history check results directly with those organizations. The bill passed unanimously in both chambers.

### RELATED BILLS

- **HB 1201: Student Health and Safety**, by Rep. Mooney (R-HD 120 – Key Largo) and SB 186, by Sen. Garcia (R-SD 36 – Miami)

**Votes:** House: [112-0](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1201er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1201&Session=2026>

- **HB 757: School Safety**, by Rep. Salzman (R-HD 1 – Cantonment) and SB 896, by Sen. Gaetz (R-SD 1 – Pensacola)

**Votes:** House: [88-20](#) | Senate: [26-10](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0757er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=757&Session=2026>

- **HB 1069: Background Screenings**, by Rep. Trabulsy (R-HD 84 – Fort Pierce) and Rep. Hunschofsky (D-HD 95 – Coconut Creek) and SB 1168, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

**Votes:** House: [104-0](#) | Senate: [36-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1069er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1069&Session=2026>

# Higher Education

As in the last several sessions, the legislature seemed more focused on creating problems on our college and university campuses than on fixing them. At the start of the legislative session, we saw bills that would have capped the number of international students who were allowed to enroll in Florida's Colleges and Universities, required all colleges and universities to rename specific roads on campus for Charlie Kirk, as well as a bill that would severely limit what political activities could take place on college and university campuses. While most of these bills were never placed on a committee agenda, the ones that passed will likely bring significant changes to our college and university campuses.

---

## SAFETY ON CAMPUS

HB 757, School Safety, by Rep. Salzman (R-HD 1 – Cantonment) and Sen. Gaetz (R-SD 1 – Pensacola), passed the House 88-20 and the Senate 26-10, and expands the Guardian Program to Florida's colleges and universities. The Guardian Program was created following the February 14, 2018, shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The Guardian Program allows school employees and staff — not exclusively classroom teachers — to carry a firearm on campus under certain conditions, though it offers flexibility in how institutions implement it. Some K-12 districts have used the program primarily to help staff their school district police forces or hire "Safe-School Officers," rather than arm instructional staff directly.

How this program will work on Florida's college and university campuses was a major topic of discussion throughout the legislative process. Campuses are large, open to the public, and faculty and staff work nontraditional hours, making this already concerning program more complicated. It is especially important to note that most, if not all, of Florida's

universities already have their own police forces, and many of Florida's colleges have agreements with their local sheriff's department to help ensure campus security.

During the Senate floor debate, Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-SD 17 – Orlando) expressed his concern over the potential for further expansion of the program in future sessions, saying, "today, this bill is not about allowing students to be guardians, but next session we probably will be dealing with a bill that makes students eligible to be guardians."

It is also important to note that the legislature adjourned sine die without passing a final budget, meaning funding for HB 757 remains unresolved pending a special session. Both chambers had allocated only \$1.8 million to universities and \$4.2 million to colleges — totaling approximately \$150,000 per institution — which raises serious questions about whether the program can be implemented at the scale the bill contemplates.

The United Faculty of Florida (UFF) prioritized campus safety during this session through a different lens, focusing

on preventing violence through improved institutional policies rather than expanding firearms access. UFF supported HB 77 and SB 176, Public Postsecondary Education Safety Policies and Procedures, by Rep. Woodson (D-HD 105 – Hollywood) and Sen. Polsky (D-SD 30 – Boca Raton). The bill would have required state universities and Florida College System institutions to adopt, implement, and annually review comprehensive safety policies and procedures. SB 176 passed unanimously through every Senate committee stop and through the full Senate floor — a meaningful bipartisan endorsement of a non-firearms-based approach to campus safety. However, the House never scheduled the companion bill HB 77 for a hearing, and it died at the session’s end.

---

### **FREE FOR ALL ON DOMESTIC TERRORISM LABEL?**

HB 1471, titled “Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations,” was sponsored by Rep. Hillary Cassel (R-HD 101 – Dania Beach) and represents a deeply concerning piece of legislation for both our members and the students on our college and university campuses. The bill was motivated in part by Governor DeSantis’ December 2025 executive order designating the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Muslim Brotherhood as terrorist organizations — an order that U.S. District Judge Mark Walker struck down with a preliminary injunction on March 5, 2026, ruling that it violated CAIR’s constitutional rights. Despite that ruling, both chambers continued to advance the bill.

The bill empowers Florida’s chief of domestic security — the head of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement — to designate any U.S.-based organization as a “domestic terrorist organization” if it engages in terrorist activity that poses an ongoing threat to state or national security.

The designation is then subject to review by the Florida Cabinet. “Terrorist activity” is broadly defined to include any act dangerous to human life that is intended to intimidate the civilian population, influence government policy through coercion, or affect government conduct through violence.

The bill’s vague language creates particularly concerning implications for students and campus organizations. Students found to be “promoting” a designated organization — a term the bill defines as any statement or action that “supports, approves, or encourages violence” — would face expulsion from their college or university, be required to pay out-of-state tuition, and become ineligible for any financial aid or fee waivers. Many legislators and civil liberties advocates raised concerns that the governor could use the bill to target political opponents, protest organizations, or advocacy groups. House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell (D-HD 67 – Tampa) expressed concern that students exercising their right to free speech could be swept up in designations without adequate due process protections. As the ACLU of Florida noted, the absence of a meaningful pre-designation process means groups have no guaranteed opportunity to rebut a designation before penalties attach.

The bill also prohibits public universities and colleges from spending state or federal funds to support programs or campus activities that promote a designated terrorist organization — a provision that, given the breadth of the bill’s definitions, could reach student organizations, academic programs, and invited speakers. The bill passed the House 80-25 and the Senate 25-11 and is headed to Governor DeSantis’ desk.

---

### **SB 1296 AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

A lot of questions remain about the impacts

of SB 1296 on higher education, as many of the bill’s provisions are geared toward attacking K-12 unions. Here is what we do know.

SB 1296 codified the K-12 PERC “release time” rule into statute. The ruling stated that union officials could conduct union business during duty time so long as it was agreed to in the collective bargaining agreement and the bargaining agent repaid the public employer for employees’ salaries and benefits during release time.

This doesn’t exactly fit with the “course release time” on college and university campuses. FEA’s legal department is continuing to assess how that provision of the bill will play out in higher education. Bargaining units that conduct course release time must include the practice in their collective bargaining agreement and determine the cost of the course and the benefits per employee on release time, to be paid back to the college or university.

Outside of course release, completion of “employee organization activities” by a public employee may be conducted without pay or benefits, or compensated by the employee organization, or using compensated personal leave. “Employee organization activities” is defined as

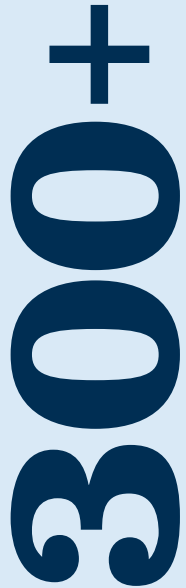
- activities relating to supporting or opposing a candidate for federal, state, or local public office;
- influencing the passage or defeat of any federal or state legislation or regulation, local ordinance or resolution, or ballot measure;
- promoting or soliciting membership or participation in, or support of, an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization;
- seeking certification as a bargaining agent;

- participating in the administration, business, or internal governance of an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization;
- preparing, conducting, or attending employee organization events, conferences, conventions, meetings, or trainings, unless such training is directly related to the performance of a public employee’s job duties;
- distributing communications of an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization;
- representing or speaking on behalf of an employee organization or any parent organization or affiliate of the employee organization in any setting, venue, or procedure in which the public employer is not a participant; and
- preparing, filing, or pursuing, unfair labor practice charges or grievances.

Representational activities are permitted to be conducted during duty status without the loss of pay or benefits, provided the public employer and the bargaining agent agree. SB 1296 defines these activities as

- representing members in investigations, disciplinary proceedings, or appeals, including termination;
- engaging in collective bargaining and any related mediation, factfinding, or arbitration;
- administering a collective bargaining agreement; and
- participating in labor-management committees.

All other provisions of SB 1296 can be found in the “Collective Bargaining and Union Issues” section starting on page 12.

| SESSION BY THE NUMBERS   |
|--|
|    |
| The number of FEA members – from the panhandle to the Keys – that came to Tallahassee to testify, meet with lawmakers and advocate for public education. |

---

## SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

This year, we saw some additions and changes to specialized grant programs. Universities will now have access to the Genetic Counseling Education Enhancement Grant Program, established by HB 1115 and subject to appropriations. Universities will be able to use grant funds to establish an accredited genetic counseling program, recruit and retain qualified faculty, provide financial aid for students enrolled in the program, and establish and maintain clinical rotations. Once the final budget is adopted, pending a special session, we will have a clearer picture of what this could mean for the state's universities.

In addition to creating the Genetic Counseling Grant, the legislature amended the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund. Health care partners may now make both monetary and nonmonetary contributions to the fund, broadening the pool of support available for nursing education partnerships.

## RELATED BILLS

- **HB 757: School Safety**, by Rep. Salzman (R-HD 1 – Cantonment) and SB 896, by Sen. Gaetz (R-SD 1 – Pensacola)

**Votes:** House: [88-20](#) | Senate: [26-10](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0757er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=757&Session=2026>

- 
- **HB 1115: Grants for Genetic Counseling Education**, by Rep. Anderson (R-HD 57 – Tarpon Springs) and SB 1376, by Sen. Burgess (R-SD 23 – Zephyrhills)

**Votes:** House: [107-0](#) | Senate: [38-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1115er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1115&Session=2026>

- 
- **SB 1246: Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund**, by Sen. Davis (D-SD 5 – Jacksonville) and HB 1325, by Rep. Booth (R-HD 35 – Orlando)

**Votes:** House: [112-0](#) | Senate: [39-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1246er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1246&Session=2026>

- 
- **HB 1279: Education**, by Rep. Kincart Jonsson (R-HD 49 – Bartow) and SB 7038, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami) and Senate Education Postsecondary Committee

**Votes:** House: [81-16](#) | Senate: [36-1](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1279er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1279&Session=2026>

- 
- **HB 1471: Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations**, by Rep. Cassel (R-HD 101 – Hollywood) and SB 1632, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

**Votes:** House: [80-25](#) | Senate: [25-11](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1471er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1471&Session=2026>

# Privatization: Vouchers and Charters

Heading into the legislative session, FEA along with many of our community partners were advocating for changes following concerns about Schools of Hope and the mismanagement of voucher dollars. There was significant outcry from parents, educators and community members who wanted a fix to Schools of Hope legislation, which unleashed an avalanche of over 700 charter school co-location requests. Despite the widespread public opposition to charter school co-location, the proposed legislation to address the problems was not heard in any committees.

## **VOUCHER PROGRAM CONTINUES TO DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The House and Senate both spent significant time during committee weeks looking at the voucher program. That, coupled with the recommendations in the Auditor General's [scathing takedown](#) of the Florida Department of Education's handling of the private school voucher funds, provided a glimmer of hope that changes were coming to the voucher program. The Senate took this task seriously, with Sen. Gaetz (R-SD 1 – Pensacola) filing SB 318. However, the House showed no interest in fixing the issues in the voucher program. Meanwhile, enrollment in private schools continues to outpace projected enrollment. As a result, the already low funding for public schools has been prorated to cover the costs of voucher schools. When legislators return in special session to develop the state's budget, voucher funding accountability could be addressed through implementing language in the budget.

One of the pro-voucher proposals that did pass will allow private schools of fewer than 150 students to open in available spaces in commercial properties, such as strip malls and warehouses, without regard to most local ordinances. A late addition to

SB 182 would permit local government to set limited mitigation requirements for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and for fire safety.

## **CHARTER SCHOOL LAND GRABS**

It wouldn't be a session in the Florida legislature without proposals to give charter schools more advantages. One piece of legislation sought to require school districts to hand over unused land and facilities to charter schools under terms that were highly unfavorable to taxpayers. The pushback against this provision was intense, leading to modifications in the legislation. Ultimately, it was amended to require school districts to create an inventory of their real estate holdings.

## **Learn More:**

How do provisions like the charter school takeover found in Florida's Schools of Hope Program hurt public schools, our students and our communities?

Learn more at [SchoolsOfNope.org](https://SchoolsOfNope.org).

Senate Bill 824 passed both the House and Senate and represents the first step toward allowing charter schools to utilize taxpayer-funded district land, particularly in areas of urban decline or in suburban and rural regions that may have been acquired in anticipation of demographic changes within a county. However, further developments on this will likely be addressed in the next session.

## RELATED BILLS

- **SB 124: Florida Virtual School**, by Sen. Rodriguez (R-SD 40 – Doral) and HB 129, Rep. D. Smith (R-HD 38 – Winter Springs)

Votes: House: [110-2](#) | Senate: [39-0](#)

Bill Text: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/124/BillText/er/PDF>

- **SB 182: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program**, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens) and HB 157, by Rep. Hinson (D-HD 21 – Gainesville)

Votes: House: [91-11](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

Bill Text: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/182/BillText/er/PDF>

- **SB 824: Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned by School Districts**, by Sen. Truenow (R-SD 13 – Tavares) and HB 1147, by Rep. Nix (R-HD 75 – Port Charlotte)

Votes: House: [84-27](#) | Senate: [33-4](#)

Bill Text: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0824er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=824&Session=2026>

## Learn More:

Florida's \$4.4 billion (and growing) unaccountable voucher program, coupled with a statewide affordability crisis that has pushed Floridians out of the state due to skyrocketing living costs and policies targeting migrant communities, has led to a decline in enrollment in public schools. Even still, thousands of vacancies remain, which shows us that districts are struggling to retain qualified educators.

[Where does your county stand in the latest vacancy count?](#)

# School Boards

Over the past decade, the legislature has greatly weakened local control as they have attempted to consolidate power in Tallahassee. As part of this attack on local control, the authority of school boards has been diminished and both the Governor and Commissioner of Education have targeted school board members they have personal disagreements with. This session, legislators passed a “School Board Member Bill of Rights” to clarify the authority school board members have.

## GREATER TRANSPARENCY

In response to the Volusia County Superintendent’s request for employees to sign non-disclosure agreements and for school board members to pay to access public records, the legislature has created a bill they refer to as the School Board Members’ Bill of Rights.

Overall, this bill clarifies the rights of School Board members, establishes a definition of “good cause” for rejecting a potential employee, and prohibits requiring district employees to sign a nondisclosure or confidentiality agreement. House Bill 1073, concerning School Districts, specifies that School Board Members have the right to:

- Receive free and timely access to all school district documents necessary to fulfill their duties and responsibilities under the Constitution and Education Code.
- Consult with the school district’s Chief Financial Officer on general budget-related matters and have reasonable access to any detail or line item in the proposed or approved budget or transactions by the school district.
- Request any document or information from school district staff with the permission of the superintendent

or other administrative members, ensuring that such permission is not unreasonably withheld.

- Publicly comment during or outside of district school board meetings on any matters related to district school board business, except for student and employee disciplinary hearings.

The bill would also require that any attachments to the School Board agenda, such as vendor contracts or budget documents, be kept as public records in the minutes of the meetings. Additionally, the bill would prohibit requiring or incentivizing an employee to sign a nondisclosure agreement or confidentiality agreement.

## RELATED BILLS

- **HB 1073: School Districts**, by Rep. Koster (R-HD 66 – Safety Harbor) and SB 1620, by Sen. Leek (R-SD 7 – St. Augustine)

**Votes:** House: [108-0](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1073er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1073&Session=2026>

# Teacher Certification

Last year, the legislature spent considerable time rewriting the statutes regulating teacher preparation and certification. These changes have not yet been implemented, so we didn't see too many bills related to teacher certification and preparation.

## COMING BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

One important bill that did pass was HB 561, Educator Preparation and Certification, by Rep. Gerwig (R-HD 93 – Greenacres), which makes it easier for teachers with expired teaching certificates to recertify. Teachers who once held a professional license in Florida will be able to receive a five-year temporary certificate while they complete any training and in-service requirements. They will not be required to restart the certification process or retake the certification tests they would have had to complete before this legislation passed. HB 753, School Counselors, by Rep. Hunschofsky (D-HD 95 – Coconut Creek) changes the assessment requirements for school counselors and social workers, exempting them from taking the General Knowledge exams and requiring their evaluations to be based on the Florida School Counseling Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

## MENTORING CROSSES THE FINISH LINE

For several years, Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens) and Rep. Hinson (D-HD 21 – Gainesville) have been working to improve district support for new teachers by providing a program of incentives for retired teachers and current teachers with highly effective evaluations to be mentors for new and struggling teachers in schools receiving a “D” or “F.” Districts will be permitted to use funds from the Educational Enrichment Allocation for this purpose. After several sessions, the bill sponsors' persistence finally paid off this year when SB 182 passed

on the next-to-last day of session, with a few extra provisions that needed a home after the original bills failed to pass in time.

## RELATED BILLS

- **SB 182: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program**, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens) and HB 157, by Rep. Hinson (D-HD 21 – Gainesville)

Votes: House: [91-11](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

Bill Text: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/182/BillText/er/PDF>

- **HB 561: Educator Preparation and Certification**, by Rep. Gerwig (R-HD 93 – Green Acres) and SB 1718, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 39 – Miami)

Votes: House: [112-0](#) | Senate: [37-0](#)

Bill Text: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0561er.&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=561&Session=2026>

- **HB 753: School Counselors**, by Rep. Hunschofsky (D- HD 95 – Coconut Creek) and SB 1036, by Calatayud R-SD 39 – Miami)

Votes: House: [103-0](#) | Senate: [34-0](#)

Bill Text: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0753er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=753&Session=2026>

# BILLS THAT FAILED TO PASS

---

## ACCOUNTABILITY

1. **HB 305: Statewide, Standardized Assessments**, by Rep. Harris (D-HD 44 – Orlando) and SB 342, by Sen. Arrington (D-SD 25 – Kissimmee)

*This bill would have required the Florida Department of Education to develop statewide assessments and coordinated screening tools in the five most common languages besides English, allowing ESOL students to take these assessments in their primary language.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0305.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=305&Session=2026>

---

2. **SB 1340: Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring**, by Sen. Harrell (R-SD 31 – Stuart)

*This bill would have strengthened district obligations when the state's coordinated screening and progress monitoring (CSPM) system identifies a student as exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia. When a student screens positive, the district must place the student under a progress monitoring plan with evidence-based, disability-specific interventions, treat the screening result as reasonable suspicion that the student may have a disability for purposes of triggering the exceptional student education (ESE) initial evaluation process, and promptly seek parental consent to conduct that evaluation. Under certain conditions, a student identified with these characteristics must also undergo further, more refined screening — but that further screening runs concurrently with interventions. It cannot be used to delay or deny an ESE evaluation.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1340.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1340&Session=2026>

---

## AFFORDABILITY

3. **HB 1065: Public Employee Housing Benefit**, Rep. Grow (R-HD 23 – Inverness) by and SB 1432, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami)

*This bill would have allowed public employees to take a one-time payout of their annual leave, sick leave, or a combination of both to help purchase a primary residence.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1065.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1065&Session=2026>

---

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

4. **HB 417: Career and Academic Planning for Middle and High School Students**, by Rep. Tant (D-HD 9 – Tallahassee) and Rep. LaMarca (R-HD 100 – Lighthouse Point) and SB 448, by Sen. Arrington (D-SD 25 – Kissimmee)

*This bill would have required fifth grade students and parents to receive a list of schools that provide career and technical education programs. Additionally, the bill would have required students in eighth grade to receive career and academic planning, this would continue through graduation.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0417.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=417&Session=2026>

---

5. **SB 1048: Reimagining Education and Career Help Act**, by Sen. Osgood (D-SD 32 – Tamarac)

*This bill would have added leadership and soft skills certificates to the list of credentials approved for workforce training under the Reimagining Education and Career Help Act.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1048.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1048&Session=2026>

---

---

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND UNION ISSUES

6. **SB 136: Protections for Public Employees who use Medical Marijuana as Qualified Patients**, by Sen. Polsky (D-SD 30 – Boca Raton)

*This bill would have established the “Medical Marijuana Protection Act,” establishing a process that would prohibit a public employer from taking adverse personnel action on a public employee who used medical marijuana while under the care of a qualified physician.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s0136 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=136&Session=2026>

7. **HB 221: Minimum Wage Requirements**, by Rep. Chamberlain (R-HD 24 – Ocala) and SB 1412, Sen. Martin (R-SD 33 – Fort Myers)

*This bill would have allowed employers to be exempt from state minimum wage requirements for specified employees. It would have prohibited certain work-based learning opportunities from lasting longer than a specified period and authorized employees to voluntarily opt out of state minimum wage requirements by signing a waiver. The bill would also prohibit employers from coercing employees into opting out of state minimum wage requirements.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0221c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=221&Session=2026>

8. **HB 997: Public Records/Public Employees Relations Commission**, by Rep. Persons-Mulicka (R-HD 78 – Fort Myers) and SB 1298, by Sen. Martin (R-SD 33 – Fort Myers)

*This legislation would have created a public records exemption for the showing of interest cards, written communications from PERC, and certain PERC employees from the list of personnel whose home information is protected under law.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0997 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=997&Session=2026>

9. **SB 1236: Employers Receiving Economic Development Incentives from State Agencies**, by Sen. Massullo (R-SD 11 – Inverness) and HB 1387, by Rep. Overdorf (R-HD 85 – Stuart)

*This legislation would have established requirements for employers receiving state-awarded economic development incentives, and would have required an employer to sign an agreement with the state agency awarding the economic development incentive stating that it will not take certain actions prior to being eligible for an economic development incentive.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1236 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1236&Session=2026>

---

## CULTURE WAR ISSUES

10. **HB 31: Recognizing Judea and Samaria**, by Rep. Tramont (R-HD 30 – Port Orange) and Rep. Tendrich (D-HD 89 – Lake Clarke Shores) and SB 1106, by Sen. Massullo (R-SD 11 – Inverness)

*This legislation would have Prohibited the use of the term “West Bank” in official government and educational materials, replacing it with “Judea and Samaria.”*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0031c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=31&Session=2026>

11. **HB 347: Adoption and Display of Flags by Governmental Entities**, by Rep. Borrero (R-HS 111 – Doral) and SB 426, by Sen. Yarborough (R-SD 4 – Jacksonville)

*This legislation would have prohibited governmental entities from displaying certain flags such as the pride flag and would have set requirements for permissible flag displays on public property.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0347 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=347&Session=2026>

12. **HB 415: Discrimination in Education**, by Rep. Tendrich (D-HD 89 – Lake Clarke Shores) and Rep. Valdes (R-HD 64 – Tampa) and SB 486, by Sen. Polsky (D-SD 30 – Boca Raton)

*This legislation would have required each school district and postsecondary institution to designate a Title VI coordinator to oversee and address discrimination complaints.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0415.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=415&Session=2026>

13. **HB 583: Protection of Religious Expression in Public Schools**, by Rep. Tramont (R-HD 30 – Port Orange) and Rep. Jacques (R-HD 59 – Clearwater) and SB 1104, by Sen. Massullo (R-SD 11 – Inverness)

*This legislation would have created a ballot initiative for the November 2026 ballot to provide protections from discrimination for students and school personnel religious expression in public schools.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0583.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=583&Session=2026>

14. **HB 641: Gender Identity Employment Practices**, by Rep. Plakon (R-HD 36 – Longwood) and Rep. Nix (R-HD 75 – Port Charlotte) and SB 1642, by Sen. McClain (R-SD 9 – Ocala)

*HB 641 would have prohibited the mandatory use of pronouns at odds with biological sex and disallow required instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity for state-funded employment.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0641c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=641&Session=2026>

15. **HB 677: Education**, by Rep. Nixon (D-HD 13 – Jacksonville) and SB 790, by Sen. Davis (D-SD 5 – Jacksonville)

*A wide-ranging bill titled the “Freedom to Learn Act” would have removed many legislative changes related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, discrimination, gender equity, and instructional materials across K-12, college, and university systems.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0677.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=677&Session=2026>

16. **HB 743: Prohibited Sex-reassignment Prescriptions and Procedures**, by Rep. Melo (R-HD 82 – Naples) and SB 1010, by Sen. Yarborough (R-SD 4 – Jacksonville)

*This bill would have allowed the Attorney General to investigate and bring civil actions for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties for aiding or abetting restricted sex-reassignment interventions.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0743c2.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=743&Session=2026>

17. **HB 835: Freedom of Speech and Religious Expression in Public Schools**, by Rep. Borrero (R-HD 111 – Doral) and SB 1006, by Sen. Yarborough (R-SD 4 – Jacksonville)

*This legislation would have prohibited discrimination and ensured equal treatment of religious, political, or ideological expression in Florida’s public schools.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0835.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=835&Session=2026>

18. **SB 1114: Equity and Inclusion**, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce) and HB 6013, by Rep. Miller (R-HD 33 – Palm Bay)

*This bill would have repealed several sections of statute in chapter 760 regarding minority representation on boards, commissions, councils, and committees; eliminated the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice; and would have deleted the definition of “African American.”*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1114.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1114&Session=2026>

19. **HB 1119: Materials Harmful to Minors**, by Rep. Bankson (R-HD 39 – Apopka) and Rep. Trabulsy (R-HD 84 – Fort Pierce) and SB 1692, Sen. McClain (R-SD 9 – Ocala)

*HB 1119 would have defined “harmful to minors” and changed the processes for objecting to and removing instructional materials.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1119 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1119&Session=2026>

20. **HB 1189: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Affirmative Action**, by Rep. Sapp (R-HD 20 – Palatka) and SB 1662, by Sen. McClain (R-SD 9 – Ocala)

*This bill would have removed statutory references to affirmative action and minority-based preferences or set-asides across multiple Florida laws and renamed certain offices and amending procurement and appointment requirements.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1189 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1189&Session=2026>

21. **HB 6031: Objections to Instructional Materials**, by Rep. Harris (D-HD 44 – Orlando)

*This bill aimed to eliminate the laws that regulate the procedures for objecting to and banning books.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h6031 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=6031&Session=2026>

---

## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

22. **HB 127: Required Instruction in Cursive Writing**, by Rep. Overdorf (R-HD 85 – Stuart) and Rep. Trabulsy (R-HD 84 – Fort Pierce) and SB 444, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

*While this bill ultimately died, modified provisions of the bill were included in SB 182.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0127 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=127&Session=2026>

[docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=127&Session=2026](https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1119 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=127&Session=2026)

23. **HB 331: Reproductive Health and Instructional Materials**, by Rep. Hart-Lowman (D-HD 63 – Tampa) and HB 1492, by Sen. Davis (D-SD 5 – Jacksonville)

*HB 331 would have shifted the approval of instructional materials on reproductive health and diseases from the Florida Department of Education to the district school board in an open, publicly noticed meeting.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0331 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=331&Session=2026>

24. **SB 420: Patriotic Displays at Public Schools**, by Sen. Burgess (R-SD 23 – Zephyrhills) and HB 371, by Rep. Snyder (R-HD 86 – Palm City)

*While this bill ultimately died, the provisions of the bill were included in SB 182.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s0420c1 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=420&Session=2026>

25. **SB 920: Mathematics Education**, by Sen. Gaetz (R-SD 1 – Pensacola)

*This bill would have directed the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to develop algebra courses for specific career clusters that align with the Algebra I end-of-course exam that would have been accepted at Florida’s universities. Modified provisions of this bill were included in HB 1279 on the last day of session.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s0920 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=920&Session=2026>

26. **HB 1071: Education**, by Rep. Trabulsky (R-HD 84 – Fort Pierce) and Rep. Cassel (R-HD 101 – Hollywood) and SB 7036, by Sen. Corey Simon (R-SD 3 – Tallahassee) and Senate Education PreK-12 Committee

*These two lengthy bills were widely recognized as “agency bills” written from a wish list for the Department of Education. Provisions in the bill included both clean-up provisions and new policy. Some of the policy changes proposed were too controversial to survive the legislative process, but at the end of the session a few sections of the bill were amended into other bills that did pass.*

*The most controversial sections included an expansion of the limits and required curriculum for human reproduction and sexuality, restrictions on the membership in school advisory councils by striking a requirement that members of the SAC include representatives that reflected the ethnic, racial and economic community of the school along with other provisions to remove anti-discrimination provisions from state law.*

*The bill also attempted to restrict collective bargaining over supplements for critical shortages and hard to staff schools and permitting a school district use having a “D” or “F” graded school or a “persistently low performing school” as defined in the schools of hope legislation to declare an educational emergency and avoid collective bargaining over compensation and teacher placement in the district.*

*The bill also included requirements for school districts and charter schools to develop mathematics instruction plans similar to the reading plans, permitted the commissioner to unilaterally remove a publisher’s curriculum with accompanying penalties, allowed DOE to publish its own curricular materials, added a new category to label school districts as failing accompanied by a lengthy set of reports that would have been submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.*

*In the Senate version, math instruction included a requirement that the Lastinger Center develop recommendations for individualized, adaptive artificial instruction tools to support math instruction in kindergarten through grades 12.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1071e1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1071&Session=2026>

27. **SB 1090: Education**, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

*This large omnibus bill included an anti-DEI bill that would have banned educational institutions from permitting*

*public funds to go to organizations that “Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, or promote or engage in political or social activism, as defined by the State Board of Education.” It would have added specific human reproduction instructional videos and content to the required instruction statute and provided a requirement for parental opt-in provisions for instruction in reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases. Also made changes to math instruction to add student supports and authorized the commissioner of education to remove instructional materials and require corrective actions of the publisher. The bill would have permitted the Department of Education to produce instructional materials for purchase by school districts, added criteria for designating a school district as in need of state intervention and support, and established actions required of the school district.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1090.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1090&Session=2026>

28. **HB 1123: Pilot Program for Students with Reading Deficiencies**, by Rep. Bartleman (D-HD 103 – Weston) and SB 1252, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34– Miami Gardens)

*This bill would have created a pilot program in two school districts to help create a summer reading immersion program for first graders with a reading deficiency or at risk of developing one.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1123.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1123&Session=2026>

29. **HB 1149: Recess Requirements for Middle School Students**, by Rep. Stark (R-HD 47 – St. Cloud) and Rep. Valdes (R-HD 64 –Tampa) and SB 1518, by Sen. Arrington (D-SD 25 – Kissimmee)

*This bill would have added students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades to the list of grades required to have 20 minutes of recess every day.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1149.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1149&Session=2026>

30. **HB 1181: Enforcement of School Attendance**, by Rep. Hart-Lowman (D-HD 63 – Tampa) and SB 1190, by Sen. Rouson (D-SD 16 – St. Petersburg)

*This legislation would have required school districts to implement a mandatory electronic alert system to alert administrators, study teams, and parents when a student reached the truancy threshold.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1181 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1181&Session=2026>

31. **SB 1472: Required Instruction**, by Sen. Bernard (D-SD 24 – West Palm Beach)

*This bill would have specified the content taught in certain grade bands to meet the requirements for teaching about Hispanic contributions to the United States in K-12 classrooms.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1472 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1472&Session=2026>

32. **HB 1503: Computer Science Education and Certification**, by Rep. Giallombardo (R-HD 79 – Cape Coral) and SB 1694, Sen. Avila (R-SD 39 – Hialeah Gardens)

*This bill would have required all high school computer science courses that school districts are already mandated to offer to include instruction on artificial intelligence. Also required that any general education core course integrating technology include AI-application instruction specific to that subject area. On the certification side, the bill directed the State Board of Education to establish separate computer science subject-area coverage for specific grade bands (rather than the current K–12 comprehensive coverage). It would have required the DOE to present competency recommendations and coordinate certification examinations for new subject-area coverages by a specified date.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1503c2 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1503&Session=2026>

---

## EARLY LEARNING

33. **HB 345: Funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program**, by Rep. Edmonds (D-HD 88 – West Palm Beach) and SB 512, by Sen. Osgood (D-SD 32 – Tamarac)

*The bill sought to increase the per-child funding rate for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0345 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=345&Session=2026>

34. **HB 715: School and Child Care Facility Emergency Alerts**, by Rep. Young (D-HD 40 –Orlando) and SB 814, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens)

*This bill would have established the “Ya Ya Alert,” requiring law enforcement agencies to notify private schools and child care facilities within a defined area when an imminent threat is present.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0715 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=715&Session=2026>

35. **HB 1029: Maternal Health and Early Learning**, by Rep. Hinson (D-HD 21 – Gainesville) and SB 1508, by Sen. Davis (D-SD 5 – Jacksonville)

*This bill would have linked maternal health supports to access to early learning. The bill would have expanded eligibility for certain early learning programs and connect maternal health services to child care and VPK enrollment pathways. It did not advance out of committee.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1029 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1029&Session=2026>

---

## EDUCATOR SALARIES AND RECRUITMENT

36. **SB 250: Rural Communities**, by Sen. Simon (R-SD 3 – Tallahassee) and HB 723, by Rep. Abbott (R-HD 5 – DeFuniak Springs)

*Among other things, this bill would have created the Rural Incentive for Professional Educators Program to provide student loan repayment for teachers who move to rural areas to teach.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0250e1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=250&Session=2026>

---

37. **SB 320: Administrative Efficiency in Public Schools**, by Sen. Simon (R-SD 3 – Tallahassee) and HB 936, by Rep. D. Smith (R-HD 38 – Winter Springs)

*The third version of public school deregulation. Among other things, this bill would have established a 10-year teaching certificate, allowed multi-year contracts for effective and highly effective teachers, and clarified when an advanced degree could be used for salary adjustments.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0320.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=320&Session=2026>

---

38. **HB 471: Recruitment and Retention of Speech-language Pathologists**, by Rep. Chambliss (D-HD 117 – Homestead) and SB 574, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens)

*This bill would have required the Department of Education to develop and maintain statewide strategic plan for the recruitment and retention of speech language pathologists.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0471.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=471&Session=2026>

---

39. **HB 727: Instructional Personnel and School Administrator Salaries**, by Rep. Edmonds (D-HD 88 – West Palm Beach) and SB 1272, by Sen. Davis (D-SD 5 – Jacksonville)

*HB 727 would have set the minimum teacher salary at \$65,000, as well as set guidelines and parameters for school districts and charter schools to help address teacher salary compression.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0727.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=727&Session=2026>

---

40. **HB 1187: Public School Personnel Compensation**, by Rep. Gonzalez Pittman (R-HD 65 – Tampa) and, SB 1216 by Sen. Rodriguez (R-SD 40 – Doral)

*This legislation would have removed the requirement under performance pay for individuals with an evaluation of highly effective to be paid 25% more than an evaluation of effective and added additional requirements for districts to pay advanced degree supplements.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1187.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1187&Session=2026>

---

## ETHICS AND ELECTIONS

41. **HJR 27: Term Limits for Members of County Commissioners and District School Boards**, by Rep. Holcomb (R-HD 53 – Spring Hill)

*This bill aimed to create a ballot question for the November 2026 election to amend the term limits for members of county commissions and school boards to 12 years. Additionally, it proposed that there be a four-year gap between terms for individuals wishing to run again for the County Commission or School Board.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0027.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=27&Session=2026>

---

42. **HB 437: Public Records**, by Rep. Andrade (R-HD 2 – Pensacola) and SB 770, by Sen. Rouson (D-SD 16 – St. Petersburg)

*This legislation would have strengthened citizens' access to public records by ensuring timely responses to public records requests, eliminating certain public records request fees, and increasing penalties for noncompliance.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0437c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=437&Session=2026>

43. **HJR 619: State Reapportionment**, by Rep. Campbell (D-HD 99 – Fort Lauderdale) and SB 728, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens)

*This joint resolution would have put a question on the November 2026 ballot asking Florida's voters whether we should have three independent redistricting commissions for the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, and Congress.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0619.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=619&Session=2026>

44. **HJR 947: Reorganization of Florida Government**, by Rep. Campbell (D-HD 99 – Fort Lauderdale)

*HJR 947 would have placed a question on the November 2026 ballot regarding several changes to Florida's Government structure. Among other things, it would have changed the location of the Florida Capitol, increased the number of Representatives and Senators, extended the length of legislative session to six months, and created new elected cabinet positions.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0947.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=947&Session=2026>

45. **SB 1320: Tax Referenda**, by Sen. Martin (R-SD 33 – Fort Myers) and HB 1439, by Rep. Sapp (R-HD 20 – Palatka)

*This bill would have required any tax referendum placed on the ballot by a local government to include a government spending analysis statement.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1320.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1320&Session=2026>

46. **HB 1369: Penalties for Late-filed Disclosures or Statements of Financial Interests**, by Rep. Antone (D-HD 41 – Orlando) and SB 1622, Sen. Rodriguez (R-SD 40 – Doral)

*This legislation would have allowed a one-time waiver for a late-filed financial disclosure if it was the person's first time completing the financial disclosure form.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1369.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1369&Session=2026>

47. **HB 1419: Elections**, by Rep. Young (D-HD 40 – Orlando) and SB 1598, by Sen. Bracy Davis (D-SD 15 – Orlando)

*HB 1419 and SB 1598 would have made large-scale changes to Florida's election laws, including making the Secretary of State an elected position, allowing for same-day voter registration, establishing the Florida Voting Rights Act Commission, and more.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1419.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1419&Session=2026>

---

## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

48. **HB 281: Use of Artificial Intelligence in Psychological, Clinical, Counseling, and Therapy Services**, by Rep. Hunschofsky (D-HD 95 – Coconut Creek) and Rep. Trabulsy (R-HD 84 – Fort Pierce) and SB 344, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

*The bill would have restricted the use of artificial intelligence in counseling and school counseling for administrative uses such as scheduling, managing records and billing processes but not for counseling or related patient services.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0281.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=281&Session=2026>

49. **HB 411: Developmental Disabilities**, by Rep. Maggard (R-HD 54 – Zephyrhills)

*While this bill ultimately died, provisions of the bill were included in HB 565.*

*Would have added the genetic condition known as Tatton-Brown-Rahman syndrome to the list of conditions causing developmental disabilities that are considered a substantial handicap and are expected to continue indefinitely.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0411c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=411&Session=2026>

50. **HB 533: Communication Rights of Individuals with Disabilities**, by Rep. Woodson (D-HD 105 – Pembroke Pines) and SB 562, by Sen. Garcia (R-SD 36 – Miami)

*Would have created a “Communication Bill of Rights for Individuals with Disabilities” to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the communications devices and methods of their choice and that the Agency for Persons with Disabilities develop training and create rules and an advisory board to assist implementation of the provisions in the bill.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0533.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=533&Session=2026>

51. **HB 615: Individual Education Plans**, by Rep. Tendrich (D-HD 89 – Lake Clarke Shores) and SB 72, by Sen. Harrell (R-SD 31 – Stuart)

*Would have codified federal law related to initial evaluation timelines related to the development of Individual Education Plans for students. The bill also would have designated the responsible administrator and creates a report for notifying parents when related services were not provided. Would have created an orientation and refresher training for parents to assist them in accessing services and information related to exceptional student education services.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0615c2.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=615&Session=2026>

52. **HB 717: Autism Spectrum Disorder**, by Rep. Maggard (R-HD 54 – Zephyrhills) and SB 1652, by Sen. Burgess (R-SD 23 – Zephyrhills)

*The proposed bills aimed to standardize the definition of “autism” and required K-12 teachers to hold Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) endorsements if their classes had a majority of students with ASD. However, they did not provide resources to achieve this goal.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0717.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=717&Session=2026>

53. **HB 859: Exceptional Students and Video Cameras in Public Schools**, by Rep. Chambliss (D-HD 117 – Homestead) and Rep. Tramont (R-HD 30 – Port Orange) and SB 1170, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami)

*This bill would have required school districts, except for those fiscally constrained counties, to provide video cameras that also record sound in self-contained classrooms upon a parent’s request.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0859c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=859&Session=2026>

54. **HB 969: Detection of Developmental Delays and Autism Spectrum Disorders**, by Tant and SB 1046, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami)

*This bill would have required the Department of Health, in collaboration with school districts, to develop informational materials for parents and guardians to help detect developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder. Additionally, it would have required early learning coalitions to notify parents and guardians of the availability of such informational materials.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0969.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=969&Session=2026>

55. **SB 1330: Disability Awareness and Inclusion Education**, by Sen. Rodriguez (R-SD 40 – Doral)

*The bill would have created a Disability Awareness and Inclusion Education Program to promote empathy and awareness of people with disabilities with specific goals and activities for students in grades K-12.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1330.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1330&Session=2026>

---

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

56. **SB 54: Use of Substances Affecting Cognitive Function**, by Sen. Sharief (D-SD 35 –Davie) and HB 1519, Rep. Young (D-HD 40 –Orlando)

*Among other things, this bill would have required school district safety specialists to provide training and resources to staff on the adverse effects of psychotropic drugs and intoxicating substances. Additionally, safe-school officers would have been required to complete the training on psychotropic drugs and intoxicating substances.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0054c2.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=54&Session=2026>

57. **HB 109: Corporal Punishment**, by Rep. Lopez (D-HD 43 –Orlando) and Rep. Valdes (R-HD 64 –Tampa) and SB 662, by Sen. Bernard (D-SD 24 –West Palm Beach)

*This bill would have prohibited school districts from administering corporal punishment as a form of discipline.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0109.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=109&Session=2026>

58. **HB 283: School Zone and Pedestrian Safety**, by Rep. J Alvarez (D-HD 46 – Kissimmee) and Rep. Conerly (R-HD 72 – Lakewood Ranch) and SB 498, by Sen. Rodriguez (R-SD 40 – Doral)

*HB 283 would have required all crosswalk design and construction plans in a school zone or on a highway with a speed limit higher than 35 miles per hour to have pedestrian hybrid beacons, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, or in-roadway warning lights.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0283.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=283&Session=2026>

59. **HB 321: Carrying Weapons and Firearms**, by Rep. Hunschofsky (D-HD 95 – Coconut Creek) and SB 406, by Sen. Polsky (D-SD 30 – Boca Raton)

*Following the decision of the First District Court of Appeals striking down Florida’s open carry ban, this bill would have clarified that a person may not carry a weapon or firearm into a police station, detention facility, courthouse, courtroom, polling place, governing body of a county, school district, city, or special district, legislative meeting, school, college or professional athletic event, elementary or secondary school, bar or other establishment licensed to serve alcoholic beverages, airport, and more.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0321.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=321&Session=2026>

60. **HB 423: Student Elopement**, by Rep. Eskamani (D-HD 42 – Orlando) and Rep. Tramont (R-HD 30 – Port Orange), and SB 494, by Sen. Arrington (D-SD 25 – Kissimmee)

*This legislation would have ensured all school districts have School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Teams and a school elopement plan to serve better and support Florida’s students with disabilities who are “runners” or elope.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0423.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=423&Session=2026>

61. **HB 521: Fines for Violations Detected by Traffic Infraction Detectors**, by Rep. Yeager (R-HD 56 – New Port Richey) and SB 654, by Sen. DiCeglie (R-SD 18 – St. Petersburg)

*This bill would have made changes to the process for camera-based traffic infractions to help ensure consistency and transparency. Specifically, the bill would have limited the use of such systems to times when school zone speed limits are in effect, required the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to post program data, and allowed virtual hearings to challenge citations.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0521.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=521&Session=2026>

62. **HB 553: Temporary Door Locking Devices**, by Rep. Partington (R-HD 28 – Daytona Beach) and SB 936, by Sen. McClain (R-SD 9 – Ocala)

*This bill would have authorized “temporary door locks” to be used during emergencies and incorporated into the Florida Building Code, safety planes, drills, and training programs.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0553.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=553&Session=2026>

63. **HB 563: Repetitive Head Impact Prevention by Rep. Daniels (D-HD 14 – Jacksonville) and Rep. Owen (R-HD 70 – Apollo Beach)**

*The “Mac Parkman and Ray Lewis III Act” would have required the parent or guardian registering a child in a high-risk sport to receive and sign standardized educational materials on repetitive head impacts and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). Additionally, the bill would have created the Florida Brain Health in Sports panel in the Department of Health to report to the Legislature, offering policy recommendations and guidance on parental education content and training requirements to reduce repetitive head impact exposure.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0563.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=563&Session=2026>

64. **SB 626: School Attendance Immunizations**, by Sen. Smith (D-SD 17 – Orlando)

*This bill would have added hepatitis B, chicken pox, pneumococcal and additional vaccines to the list of required immunizations for enrollment in Florida’s public schools.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0626.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=626&Session=2026>

65. **HB 671: School Safety Equipment**, by Rep. Blanco (R-HD 115 – Miami) and Rep. Rizo (R-HD 112 – Hialeah) and SB 1174, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami)

*This bill would have required that every school, including private and charter schools, have a “ballistic shield” and a “breaching tool” on each campus, and that a school employee or safe-school officer receive training in their use.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0671.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=671&Session=2026>

66. **SB 730: Sexual Violence Policies**, by Sen. Arrington (D-SD 25 – Kissimmee) and HB 1025, by Rep. Porras (R-HD 119 – Miami)

*SB 730/HB 1025 would have required all public and private K–12 schools and postsecondary institutions to adopt, publish, and regularly communicate written sexual violence policies and available supportive measures. Policies would have been required to address sexual assault, sexual abuse, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence occurring on school property. Institutions would have been required to notify students, employees, and parents of the policies at enrollment or during hiring, and to maintain them on publicly accessible websites.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0730.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=730&Session=2026>

67. **HB 857: Student Support Services for K-12 Schools**, by Rep. Lopez (D-HD 43 –Orlando) and SB 1008, by Sen. Truenow (R-SD 13 – Tavares)

*This bill would have allowed School Boards to refer students to outside organizations that provide student support services. These support services would not have been allowed to restrict participation based on race, color, or ethnicity and must have had staff or volunteers who have passed a level 2 background check.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0857 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=857&Session=2026>

---

68. **HB 917: Medical Freedom**, by Rep. Holcomb (R-HD 53 – Spring Hill) and SB 1756, by Sen. Yarborough (R-SD 4 – Jacksonville)

*This bill would have created a nonmedical exemption from school immunization requirements if the vaccine conflicts with the parent’s conscience. Additionally, the bill would have required parents who elect to receive vaccinations to receive information about the risks and benefits of the vaccination. It would also have allowed for Ivermectin to be sold over the counter without a prescription*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0917 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=917&Session=2026>

---

69. **HB 973: Bleeding Control Kits in K-12 Schools**, by Rep. Campbell (D-HD 99 – Fort Lauderdale) and SB 1204, by Sen. Osgood (D-SD 32 – Tamarac)

*This bill would have required schools to develop plans to address severe bleeding incidents and required each public and charter school in the state to have bleeding control kits on school grounds by July 1, 2028.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0973 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=973&Session=2026>

---

70. **SB 978: Student Mental Health**, by Sen. Osgood (D-SD 32 – Tamarac)

*This bill proposed changes to schools and classrooms to ensure we consider students’ mental health. It would have required at least one licensed mental health therapist at each school, every classroom to have a cool-down corner, and for homework to be purposeful and considerate of students’ time outside of the classroom. Additionally, the bill would have required the State Board of Education to adopt rules to enforce maximum class-size requirements.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s0978 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=978&Session=2026>

---

71. **HB 1091: Dental Screenings for K-12 Students**, by Rep. Skidmore (D-HD 92 – Delray Beach) and SB 1136, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami)

*The bill would have allowed schools to sponsor noninvasive visual dental screenings with parental consent to help identify signs of disease or abnormality.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1091c1 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1091&Session=2026>

---

72. **SB 1098: Universal Free School Breakfast and Lunch Program**, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34– Miami Gardens)

*This bill would have required the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish and operate a universal free breakfast and lunch program for K-12 students by maximizing federal reimbursements using federal programs.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1098 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1098&Session=2026>

---

73. **SB 1206: School Personnel Screening Standards**, by Sen. Osgood (D-SD 32 – Tamarac)

*SB 1206 aimed to require any applicant seeking employment as a teacher or for any position with direct student contact at a traditional public school, charter school, or private school that accepts vouchers to provide their name, address, phone number, and other relevant information. This bill would have included details about their current and former employers for positions with direct student contact. Additionally, applicants would have been required to submit a written statement disclosing whether they have ever been the subject of an investigation related to abuse or sexual misconduct, faced disciplinary action, been discharged, resigned, or had their employment not renewed due to such conduct. They would also have been required to indicate whether their license or certificate has ever been suspended, surrendered, or revoked for similar reasons.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1206 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1206&Session=2026>

74. **HB 1239: Sexual Assault Education and Support**, by Rep. Gantt (D-HD 109 – Miami) and SB 1590, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34– Miami Gardens)

*The “Safe Students and Survivors Act” would have created a sexual assault response liaison at school districts to help connect students with law enforcement, counseling, and advocacy services in response to a sexual assault. Additionally, it would have created the Safe Students and Survivors Grant program to help fund this work and allowed for partnerships with local nonprofits to provide workshops, instructional personnel training, and survivor support programs. It would also have made changes to the required instruction in Health Education to include information on sexual assault.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1239 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1239&Session=2026>

75. **SB 1464: Food and Plastic Waste Reduction**, by Sen. Rodriguez (R-SD 40 – Doral) and HB 1523, by Rep. Rayner (D-HD 62 – St. Petersburg)

*This bill would have required the Department of Education to develop a 3-year pilot program with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to help reduce food and plastic waste in certain school districts.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1464 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1464&Session=2026>

76. **HB 1501: K-12 School Lunches and Breakfasts**, by Rep. Joseph (D-HD 108 – North Miami) and SB 1674, by Sen. Rouson (D-SD 16 – St. Petersburg)

*This bill sought to expand access to free school meals in Florida public schools, drawing on models in other states that have moved toward universal free breakfast and lunch programs.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1501 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1501&Session=2026>

---

## HIGHER EDUCATION

77. **HB 113: Redesignations of State University and Florida College System Institution Roads**, by Rep. Steele (R-HD 55 – Hudson) and SB 1428, by Sen. Garcia (R-SD 36 –Miami)

*This bill would have required all of Florida’s public colleges and universities to rename specific roads for Charlie Kirk.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0113 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=113&Session=2026>

78. **HB 121: Nursing Education Programs**, by Rep. Overdorf (R-HD 85 – Stuart) and SB 254, by Sen. Harrell (R-SD 31 – Stuart)

*This bill would have made changes to Nursing Education Programs, requiring graduates to complete a remedial course before taking the NCLEX if it has been more than six months since graduation, requiring programs to administer an exit exam to assess licensure exam readiness, requiring programs to post their graduation rates for the past two years on their website, and more.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0121c1 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=121&Session=2026>

79. **SB 176: Public Postsecondary Safety Policies and Procedures**, by Sen. Polsky (D-SD 30 – Boca Raton) and HB 77, by Rep. Woodson (D-HD 105 – Pembroke Pines)

*A priority of UFF, this bill would have helped create a safer school environment by requiring colleges and universities to maintain written, enforceable safety protocols, including threat prevention, victim protection, and a designated campus safety coordinator.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0176c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=176&Session=2026>

---

80. **HB 307: Public Postsecondary Tuition and Fee Waivers for Sheriff's Office Employees**, by Rep. Johnson (R-HD 22 – Newberry) and SB 372, by Sen. Trumbull (R-SD 2 – Panama City)

*This bill would have expanded tuition waivers at Florida's colleges and universities for employees of sheriff's offices, allowing them to receive up to 6 credit hours per term if space is available.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0307.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=307&Session=2026>

---

81. **HB 391: Public Postsecondary Reports on Pell Grant Eligibility and Food Insecurity**, by Rep. Chambliss (D-HD 117 – Homestead) and Rep. Rayner (D-HD 62 – St. Petersburg) and SB 534, by Sen. Bernard (D-SD 24 – West Palm Beach)

*This bill would have created the Hunger Free Campus Pilot Program to help fight hunger and food insecurity on college and university campuses. The pilot program would have worked with the three colleges or universities with the largest percentage of Pell Grant-eligible students to combat hunger and food insecurity by creating a hunger task force, establishing food pantries on campus, and more.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0391.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=391&Session=2026>

---

82. **SB 720: Resident Status for Tuition Purposes**, by Sen. Osgood (D-SD 32 – Tamarac)

*This bill would have prohibited an incarcerated person from losing their resident status for in-state tuition solely due to incarceration.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0720.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=720&Session=2026>

---

83. **HB 721: Foreign Students Enrolled in Public Postsecondary Educational Institutions**, by Rep. Jacques (R-HD 59 – Clearwater) and SB 1276, by Sen. Martin (R-SD 33 – Fort Myers)

*This bill would have placed caps on the number of foreign students that could enroll at Florida's public colleges and universities at 10%.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0721.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=721&Session=2026>

---

84. **HB 725: Political Activity at Public Institutions of Higher Education**, by Rep. Gossett-Seidman (R-HD 91 – Boca Raton) and SB 1736, by Sen. Harrell (R-SD 31 – Stuart)

*HB 725 started as a laundry list of prohibited political activities on Florida's colleges and universities. The Education Administration Subcommittee eventually amended it to give the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, respectively, all rulemaking authority over political activities on state university and college campuses.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0725c1.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=725&Session=2026>

---

85. **SB 802: Public Officers and Employees**, by Sen. Mayfield (R-SD 19 – Melbourne)

*Among other things, this bill would have required that members of the Board of Governors be U.S. citizens and Florida residents or a graduate of one of Florida's state universities. Additionally, it would have required members of University Boards of Trustees to be Florida residents or graduates of the state university they would be serving.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0802.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=802&Session=2026>

---

86. **SB 882: Fee Waivers**, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34–Miami Gardens) and HB 1273, by Rep. Aristide (D-HD 111 – North Miami Beach)

*This bill sought to reinstate the Dreamers Fee Waiver and enable undocumented students in Florida to qualify for in-state tuition rates.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0882.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=882&Session=2026>

---

87. **HB 899: Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in Public Postsecondary Education**, by Rep. Spencer (D-HD 45 – Winter Garden) and SB 1458, by Sen. Davis (D-SD 5 – Jacksonville)

*A priority of UFF, this bill would have established a statewide taskforce to help establish guidelines and guardrails for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Florida's colleges and universities.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0899.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=899&Session=2026>

---

88. **SB 1052: Education**, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce)

*This omnibus bill would have added tuition and fee waivers to the benefits available for Florida State Guard members, protections for fee-based services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and protections for individuals with disabilities who receive vocational rehabilitation services. Additionally, the bill prohibited a school district, state college, or state university from admitting students who are not citizens or lawfully in the United States and removed part of the statutory protections for gender equity. Those changes would have added weighted funding in the FEFP for advanced courses, created a CAPE scholarship in the Gold Seal scholarships, standardized the grade point average, and made other changes.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1052.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1052&Session=2026>

---

89. **HB 1441: Optional Retirement Programs for Public Postsecondary Employees**, by Rep. Dunkley (D-HD 97 – Lauderdale)

*A priority of UFF, this bill would have raised employer contribution rates to match Florida Retirement System rates, currently 8.3%, for those faculty and staff members enrolled in the Optional Retirement Program at Florida's colleges and universities.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1441.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1441&Session=2026>

---

90. **SB 1478: Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity**, by Sen. Davis (D-SD 5 – Jacksonville)

*A priority for UFF, this bill would have ensured that Florida's colleges and universities remained free from undue political influence and interference regarding curriculum design, faculty appointments, research, and administrative operations.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s1478.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1478&Session=2026>

---

91. **HB 1555: Postsecondary Education**, by Rep. Johnson (R-HD 22 – Newberry)

*This bill would have created several new admissions data reporting requirements for Florida’s colleges and universities. Additionally, the bill would have allowed students, employees or officers to bring civil action against a state college or university over any violation of the Stop WOKE Act.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1555 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1555&Session=2026>

---

## JUVENILE JUSTICE EDUCATION

92. **HB 523: Education in the Criminal Justice System**, by Rep. Chambliss (D-HD 117 – Homestead) and SB 818, by Sen. Truenow (R-SD 13 – Tavares)

*This legislation would have required the Florida Virtual School to offer blended learning and established a Justice Education Program for students under the Department of Corrections.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0523 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=523&Session=2026>

---

## PRIVATIZATION: VOUCHERS AND CHARTERS

93. **SB 318: Educational Scholarship Programs** by Sen. Gaetz (R-SD 1 – Pensacola)

*SB 318 proposed several changes to the voucher program. It aimed to enhance financial accountability for both the recipients of the voucher program and the scholarship funding organizations. Additionally, it included many of the Auditor General’s suggestions in his 2025 assessment of the Voucher Program.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s0318e1. docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=318&Session=2026>

94. **SB 424: Educational Facilities**, by Sen. Rouson (D-SD 16 – St. Petersburg) and HB 6023, by (D-SD 109 – Miami)

*This bill would have repealed Schools of Hope laws passed during the 2025 Legislative Session.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s0424 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=424&Session=2026>

95. **HB 579: Family Empowerment Scholarship Program**, by Rep. Bartleman (D-HD 103 – Weston) and SB 690, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens)

*This bill would have required private schools participating in the Family Empowerment Voucher Program to provide specified information in writing to parents before student enrollment in school.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0579 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=579&Session=2026>

96. **HB 833: Private Schools**, by Rep. Cassel (R-HD 101 – Hollywood) and SB 1264, by Sen. Calatayud (R-SD 38 – Miami)

*While this bill ultimately died, some of the provisions of the bill were included in SB 182.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0833e1. docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=833&Session=2026>

97. **SB 1100: Charter Schools**, by Sen. Massullo (R-SD 11 – Inverness) and HB 1393, by Rep. Rizo (R-HD 112 – Hialeah)

*This bill would have created a new category of charter schools called “job engine charter school,” sponsored by colleges or universities, and created a mechanism for these schools to access school district tax revenue from the district in which they are located.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1100 . docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1100&Session=2026>

98. **HB 1543: Schools of Hope**, by Rep. Aristide (D-HD 111 – North Miami Beach)

*This bill would have modified the Schools of Hope statute by requiring a mutual management plan with shared costs for a co-located school.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1543 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1543&Session=2026>

99. **SB 1676: Advanced Education Options**, by Sen. McClain (R-SD 9 – Ocala)

*SB 1676 would have allowed private high schools to participate in dual enrollment articulation programs with institutions in the state college and university system, with an emphasis on STEM programs. It would have created an Advanced Academics Supplement for private schools, with students receiving vouchers using a prescribed calculation methodology. Additionally, it would have created a complicated supplemental funding mechanism within the FEFP for accelerated academics and academic competitions in math and science.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1676 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1676&Session=2026>

100. **SB 1318: Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program**, by Sen. Rodriguez (R-SD 40 – Doral) and HB 6025, by Rep. Busatta (R-HD 114 – Coral Gables)

*This language would have clarified that if funds remain unused in a student's voucher account, they revert to the scholarship funding organization's accounts to be made available to fund new vouchers. This provision was added to SB 182 at the end of session.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1318 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1318&Session=2026>

101. **HB 1437: Conversion Charter Schools**, by Rep. Sapp (R-HD 20 – Palatka) and SB 1704, by Sen. Yarborough (R-SD 4 – Jacksonville)

*This bill would have required a mutual facilities management agreement between the district and the charter school management for co-located schools and conversion charter*

*schools. It would have required using capital outlay funds at that facility.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h1437c2 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1437&Session=2026>

---

## PROPERTY TAXES

102. **HB 149: Maximum Millage Rates for the 2027-28 Fiscal Year**, by Rep. Chamberlian (R-HD 24 – Ocala)

*The bill would have set the maximum county millage rate and the maximum school millage rate for the 2027-28 fiscal year at the rate that was levied during the 2022-23 fiscal year. The bill would have sunset on January 1, 2029.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0149 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=149&Session=2026>

103. **HJR 201: Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads**, by Rep. Steele (R-HD 55 – Hudson) and Rep. Miller (R-HD 33 – Palm Bay)

*Proposed a full exemption from non-school property taxes for all homesteaded properties in the state, while ensuring that local governments are prohibited from reducing funding for law enforcement services.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0201 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=201&Session=2026>

104. **HJR 203: Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads**, by Rep. Miller (R-HD 33 – Palm Bay)

*Proposed a full exemption from non-school property taxes for all homesteaded properties in the state, while ensuring that local governments are prohibited from reducing funding for law enforcement services, firefighters, and other first responders.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0203e1 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=203&Session=2026>

105. **HJR 205: Elimination of Non-School Property Tax for Homesteads for Persons Age 65 or Older**, by Rep. Porras (R-HD 119 – Miami)

*Proposed an exemption for the entire assessed value of homestead properties owned by individuals aged 65 or older for all non-school taxes, while also prohibiting local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement services.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0205.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=205&Session=2026>

---

106. **HJR 209: Property Insurance Relief Homestead Exemption Non-school Property Tax**, by Rep. Busatta (R-HD 114 – Coral Gables)

*Proposed an alternative second homestead exemption of \$200,000 in addition to the current \$25,000 exemption for homestead properties that have comprehensive homeowners' insurance. This exemption would have applied to properties with an assessed value ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000, adjusted for inflation, while prohibiting local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement services.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0209c2.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=209&Session=2026>

---

107. **HJR 211: Accrued Save-Our-Homes Property Tax Benefit for Non-school Property Tax**, by Rep. Overdorf (R-HD 85 – Stuart)

*The proposal would have allowed homeowners to transfer the full amount of their accrued Save Our Homes benefit to a new home. It also would have removed the requirement that the benefit amount be reduced if the owner is downsizing. Additionally, the proposal would prohibit local governments from cutting funding for law enforcement.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0211.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=211&Session=2026>

---

108. **HJR 213: Modification of Limitations on Property Assessment Increases**, by Rep. Griffiths (R-HD 6 – Panama City)

*This proposal would have changed the assessment structure for individual properties. It would have required assessments for property taxes, conducted by cities, counties, and special districts, to occur once every three years. Additionally, it would have limited assessment increases for homestead properties to 3% or the rate of inflation, whichever was lower. For non-homestead properties, increases would have been capped at 15% every third year. The proposal also stipulated that increases are not permitted if the current just value of the property exceeded the just value recorded during the last assessment change. Furthermore, it prohibited local governments from reducing funding for law enforcement.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0213c2.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=213&Session=2026>

---

109. **HB 787: County and School District Ad Valorem Taxing Authority**, by Rep. Chamberlain (R-HD 24 – Ocala)

*The legislation would have proposed a constitutional amendment to the November 2026 ballot to remove the authority of counties and school districts to levy ad valorem taxes.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0787.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=787&Session=2026>

---

110. **HB 789: Ad Valorem Tax Levies**, by Rep. Chamberlain (R-HD 24 – Ocala)

*This bill was the accompanying legislation to HB 787, that if passed by voters, would have established sweeping changes to property tax levies after county and school districts were prohibited from assessing ad valorem taxes.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0789.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=789&Session=2026>

---

111. **HB 791: Tax/Sales Taxes**, by Rep. Chamberlain (R-HD 24 – Ocala)

*This bill would have replaced school ad valorem taxes with an increase of the state sales tax from 6% to 9%.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0791 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=791&Session=2026>

---

112. **HB 799: Ad Valorem Tax Revenue in Fiscally Constrained Counties**, by Rep. Tuck (R-HD 83 – Sebring) and SB 932, by Sen. McClain (R-SD 9 – Ocala)

*This bill would have required the legislature to appropriate funds to counties that are fiscally constrained to offset any potential reductions in property tax revenues resulting from a constitutional amendment.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0799 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=799&Session=2026>

---

## RETIREMENT

113. **SB 1018: Deferred Compensation Plans for Public Employees**, by Sen. Truenow (R-SD 13 – Tavares) and HB 1403, by Rep. Salzman (R-HD 1 – Cantonment)

*The “Deferred Compensation Automatic Enrollment Act,” would have authorized the inclusion of automatic enrollment arrangements in governmental 457(b) deferred compensation plans — meaning employees could have been automatically enrolled in a supplemental retirement savings plan unless they actively opt out. The bill also would have authorized counties, municipalities, political subdivisions, and constitutional county officers to adopt automatic enrollment for their own deferred compensation programs. It included provisions for a default investment option and required that the automatic enrollment arrangement allow employees to elect different contribution levels or opt out entirely.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1018 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1018&Session=2026>

---

114. **SB 1528: Transferring Years of Creditable Service**, by Sen. Pizzo (N-SD 37 – Hollywood)

*This bill would have established a process for those state employees within the Florida Retirement System to transfer years of creditable service to another employee under certain circumstances.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= s1528 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1528&Session=2026>

---

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

115. **HB 23: Educator Certifications and Training**, Rep. Daley (D-HD 96– Coral Springs) and SB 510, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34– Miami Gardens)

*This legislation would have ensured that teachers received training on preparing for, addressing, and responding to mass casualty incidents during their educator preparation program.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0023 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=23&Session=2026>

---

116. **HB 147: Oaths of Classroom Teachers**, by Rep. Fabricio (R-HD 110 – Miami Lakes) and SB 430, by Sen. Yarborough (R-SD 4 – Jacksonville)

*This bill proposed an additional oath that college, university, and K-12 school personnel would need to take before starting their jobs. The oath required them to promise to “support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States,” along with other elements that are already part of the Professional Code of Ethics.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0147 .docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=147&Session=2026>

---

---

**MISCELLANEOUS**

117. **SB 166: Parental Rights**, by Sen. Grall (R-SD 29 – Fort Pierce) and HB 173, by Rep. Kendall (R-HD 18 – St. Johns)

*This bill aimed to expand parental rights while limiting the ability of minors to give consent for medical and behavioral services. Additionally, the bill required school districts to provide parents with specific information before administering certain questionnaires or forms to students.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=s0166.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=166&Session=2026>

---

118. **HB 235: Prohibited Discrimination Based on Hairstyle**, by Rep. Driskel (D-HD 62 – Temple Terrace) and Rep. Campbell (D-HD 99 – Fort Lauderdale) and SB 252, by Sen. Jones (D-SD 34 – Miami Gardens)

*This legislation would have established a “protected hairstyle” typically associated with a particular race, such as afros, braids, locks, and twists. It would have protected individuals with protected hairstyles from discrimination in K-20 education – public or private.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0235.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=235&Session=2026>

---

119. **HB 409: Observance of Veterans’ Day by K-12 Schools**, by Rep. Giallombardo (R-HD 79 – Cape Coral) and SB 464, by Sen. Avila (R-SD 39 – Hialeah Gardens)

*This bill would have designated Veterans’ Day as an official school holiday, requiring all districts to close on Veterans’ Day.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0409.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=409&Session=2026>

---

120. **HB 1321: Educational Facilities**, by Rep. Conerly (R-HD 72 – Lakewood Ranch)

*This bill would have revised the formula used to calculate state funds for the remodeling, renovation, maintenance, repair, and site improvement of existing school facilities. Notably, it would require school boards to prioritize a specified portion of those funds to correct unsafe, unhealthy, or unsanitary conditions.*

**Bill Text:** <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h1321.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1321&Session=2026>

---



The **Florida Education Association** is the state's largest association of professional employees, with more than 120,000 members. We are affiliated nationally with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the National Education Association (NEA) and the national AFL-CIO.

## FLORIDA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

213 South Adams Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

850-201-2800 | 888-807-8007

[www.feaweb.org/session](http://www.feaweb.org/session)

[Facebook.com/floridaea](https://www.facebook.com/floridaea)

[Twitter.com/floridaea](https://twitter.com/floridaea)

[Instagram.com/floridaea](https://www.instagram.com/floridaea)

[Facebook.com/feanespanol](https://www.facebook.com/feanespanol)

[Twitter.com/enespanolfea](https://twitter.com/enespanolfea)

[Instagram.com/fea\\_enespanol](https://www.instagram.com/fea_enespanol)