

Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2000 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA
CONSORTIUM OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

The South Florida Consortium of School Boards is an informal coalition of 11 school boards which have joined to assist each other in advancing educational issues of mutual concern. The members include: Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Monroe, Palm Beach, Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, Indian River, and Orange counties.

On December 2, 1999, representatives of the Consortium will meet in Tampa, Florida to finalize the draft of their proposed 2000 Legislative Program. The draft program includes only those items which were approved by the School Board representatives at that meeting. Further, it adheres to the Consortium's guideline to include only a select number of issues in order to ensure maximum cohesiveness in the program and concentration of the Consortium's resources on its priorities.

All 11 Consortium school boards are being asked to review the draft program and to take official action on it. Each issue must be supported by all Consortium members to be included in the final adopted program. Once all 11 boards have officially adopted the 2000 Legislative Program, the Consortium will print and distribute the document to the Governor, State Cabinet, all legislators, and interested citizen groups.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
BETSY H. KAPLAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adopt the proposed 2000 Legislative Program of the South Florida Consortium of School Boards or modify as deemed appropriate.

BHK:ca

SOUTH FLORIDA CONSORTIUM OF SCHOOL BOARDS' PROPOSED 2000 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

FUNDING ISSUES

District Cost Differential (DCD)

Continue to use the District Cost Differential (DCD) as an adjustment in the funding formula to address the higher or lower costs-of-living among school districts.

Funding for Federally Mandated Programs

Reimburse school districts for federally mandated English as a Second Language (ESOL) and Exceptional Student Education programs at each district's actual enrollment and do not establish arbitrary caps for weighted enrollment since districts, by law, must offer these programs to all eligible students.

Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

Implement Average Daily Attendance as incentive funding using each district's actual ADA percentage in 1999-2000 as its baseline of 100 percent.

Safe Schools

Increase funding for safe schools and continue to provide local school boards flexibility in determining the most effective way to meet their local needs.

Other Safety Issues

Allocate funds from the tobacco lawsuit settlement to districts to support a healthcare provider at every school.

Fully fund transportation and redefine hazardous walking conditions to consider additional safety issues (i.e. transport all K-3 students, transport all elementary students over one mile).

FTE Impact from Natural Disasters

Hold school districts harmless for the impact of FTE changes due to natural disasters such as a hurricane.

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Study

The study of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) should:

- include the original principles, which are designed to simplify the funding while ensuring equitable educational opportunity among districts; and
- include a poverty factor which would supplement the basic funding at high poverty schools; and
- ensure the study group represents all school districts including those with high, average or low costs and those that are property-poor, average or rich.

GOVERNANCE

Workforce Development

Continue to give local school boards and community colleges the authorization to determine within each district who will be responsible for the delivery of Workforce Development Programs.

Juvenile Justice Programs

Support school board control when determining the delivery of educational programs for Juvenile Justice.

Earmarking FEFP Funds

Discontinue the practice of earmarking school districts funds for specific community projects that have not received prior approval from the local school board.

Supplemental Academic Instructional Categorical

Increase funding for the Supplemental Academic Instructional Categorical and give school boards more flexibility in determining how to expend the funds to improve student achievement.

School Managers

Define the role of principals and assistant principals to include and enhance their role as managers of the school.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Public Education Capital Outlay

Restore the allocation of Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds among local school districts, community colleges and the state universities to the percentages that were in place prior to the 1997 special session on school construction.

Plant Survey

Modify substantive law to force State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) to track capacity limits set in statute including exempting art and music rooms from the student space count.

Disaster Shelters (Hurricane Hardening)

Exclude the cost of disaster shelters in schools from the maximum allowable student station construction costs. Provide state dollars to cover the additional expense of building those shelters.