

Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

**SUBJECT: ADOPT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR 2005 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AND DIRECT THAT THESE PROPOSALS BE INCLUDED IN THE BOARD'S 2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES**

The 2005 Florida Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, March 8, 2005. The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) has a process for the development of the association's legislative platform which begins with the solicitation of legislative proposals from member districts and culminates in final adoption on Friday, October 15, 2004. In order for the legislative proposals to be considered by FSBA's Legislative Platform Committee and the Legislative Committees, proposals from member districts were due to FSBA by Friday, August 6, 2004. Their platform consists only of legislative proposals that impact public education statewide. Proposals may be submitted by school board members, superintendents, or district staff; however, each proposal must be adopted by the respective school board submitting the proposals.

Seven proposals were submitted, subject to Board approval, to FSBA. The proposals submitted relate to universal pre-kindergarten; physical education; performance-based funding; middle school reform; and post-secondary career education. The legislative proposals are attached for your review and approval. The Superintendent has also begun the process of identifying and developing the Board's legislative agenda for the 2005 legislative session. Therefore, I propose that the proposals submitted to FSBA be included in the Board's 2005 State Legislative Program.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. approve the proposals and notify Florida School Boards Association of such action; and
2. direct that these proposals be included in the Board's 2005 State Legislative Program.

**FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**  
**203 South Monroe Street - Tallahassee, FL 32301**  
**Phone: 850/414-2578 Fax: 850/414-2585**  
**www.fsba.org**

**2005 FSBA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PROPOSAL**

*(Please use a separate form for each proposal)*

**PROPOSAL:** *(Please word the proposal as it should appear in the FSBA Platform.)*

To develop a sustainable funding formula for school district operated workforce development education programs and properly fund it.

**RATIONALE:** *(Please describe the purpose and desired effect of the proposal. Please include any pertinent data - news articles, research, statistics, etc. - that might explain and/or support the proposal.)*

Workforce Development Programs have not been funded at the levels prior to September 12, 2004.

**PROPOSAL IS SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL  
EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 18, 2004.**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Dr. Rudolph F. Crew  
*Name*

Superintendent of Schools  
*Position*

**APPROVED BY:** Ms. Betsy H. Kaplan  
*School Board Member*

Miami-Dade County  
*School District*

**Platform Proposals must be submitted to the FSBA office by August 6, 2004. Proposals may be faxed to 850/414-2585 or mailed to 203 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 or emailed to [melton@fsba.org](mailto:melton@fsba.org).**

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**2005 FSBA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PROPOSAL**  
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**PROPOSAL:** *(Please word the proposal as it should appear in the FSBA Platform.)*

**SAFE SCHOOLS** - Increase Safe Schools Program Funding.

**RATIONALE:** *(Please describe the purpose and desired effect of the proposal. Please include any pertinent data - news articles, research, statistics, etc. - that might explain and/or support the proposal.)*

The Florida Legislature has funded safe schools at \$75.5 million statewide for several years. The effect of providing level funding is a reduction in per student funding due to escalating costs.

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**PRE-KINDERGARTEN** – Legislation implementing universal pre-kindergarten must have standards, have student/teacher ratios, and certified teachers.

**RATIONALE:** *(Please describe the purpose and desired effect of the proposal. Please include any pertinent data - news articles, research, statistics, etc. - that might explain and/or support the proposal.)*

Floridians demanded a quality educational universal pre-kindergarten program. The intent of pre-kindergarten is to ensure children have the necessary skills to perform well in kindergarten.

A constitutional amendment mandating that a voluntary universal pre-kindergarten program be made available to all four-year-olds by school year 2005-2006 was passed overwhelmingly by Floridians in 2002. The 2004 Legislature passed House Bill 821 implementing the program, however, the Governor vetoed the bill because it fell well short of Floridians' expectations. Floridians in 2002 voted for a quality educational program. In order to have a quality educational program that ensures children are ready to enter kindergarten, the program must have standards, be outcome driven, have student/teacher ratios and certified teachers in the classrooms.

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**PERFORMANCE BASED BUDGETING/FUNDING** - The FEFP concept of equity must be preserved. The creation of a Performance Incentive Fund would be more appropriately funded from **new** General Revenue funds.

**RATIONALE:** *(Please describe the purpose and desired effect of the proposal. Please include any pertinent data - news articles, research, statistics, etc. - that might explain and/or support the proposal.)*

The 2003 Florida Legislature passed House Bill 915 amending Florida Statutes 1008.31 to include K-12 public schools program in performance based funding beginning in 2004-2005. This provision, however, was delayed during the 2004 Legislative Session for implementation in the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Distributing funds based on performance has the potential of further disequalizing funding and eroding the FEFP. The FEFP was created by the 1973 Florida Legislature and provides equal educational opportunity to all students regardless of educational needs and/or where the student resides in Florida. The courts have upheld the FEFP as an equitable funding formula.

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Amend Section 1003.415, Florida Statute known as the "Middle School Grades Reform Act" eliminating the requirement a middle school personalized success plan as well as the already required individual student academic improvement plan. Additionally, strengthening the middle school curricula making it relevant, focusing on literacy, technological literacy, and career development.

**RATIONALE:** *(Please describe the purpose and desired effect of the proposal. Please include any pertinent data - news articles, research, statistics, etc. - that might explain and/or support the proposal.)*

While the intent of the "Middle School Grades Reform Act" is laudable, it will place an unnecessary level of paperwork on schools. The intent of the middle school personalized success plan should be incorporated into the existing "academic improvement plan" for low performing students.

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Increase weights for secondary technical education programs.

**RATIONALE:** *(Please describe the purpose and desired effect of the proposal. Please include any pertinent data - news articles, research, statistics, etc. - that might explain and/or support the proposal.)*

The weights to offer secondary technical programs have decreased and the cost to operate programs has increased.

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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Monitor the recommendations of the study made by the Florida Department of Education related to the status of physical education in public schools and recommend a programmatic phase-in due to fiscal concerns related to mandatory K-8 physical education.

**RATIONALE:** *(Please describe the purpose and desired effect of the proposal. Please include any pertinent data - news articles, research, statistics, etc. - that might explain and/or support the proposal.)*

Senate Bill 354 passed during the 2004 Legislative Session requiring the Florida Department of Education to determine the status of physical education instruction in public schools and develop detailed recommendations for changes to physical education programs by February 1, 2005.

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