

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Board Member

SUBJECT: OUTCOMES OF THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO

STRATEGIC PLAN: ESTABLISH GREATER ALLIANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE BODIES

As Executive Director for the Florida School Board Association (FSBA), it is my responsibility and duty to report legislative outcomes and priorities at the State level that impact Education to our local School Board. The entire FSBA 2007 Legislative Session Summary can be found in the FSBA website: <http://www.fsba.org/educlegis/2007sessionssummary.pdf>.

Below are some highlights of "The Conference Report on SB2800 - 2007-2008 General Appropriations Act":

- Program Cost factor for 2007-2008
 - K-3 Basic 1.048 (an increase from the previous year)
 - 4-8 Basic 1.000 (constant)
 - 9-12 Basic 1.066 (a decrease from the previous year)
 - Programs for Exceptional Students both Support level 4 & 5, 3.625 & 5.062 (a decrease from previous year)
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages 1.200 (a 6% decrease from previous year)
 - Programs for Grades 9-12 Career Education (a decrease from previous year)
- Supplemental Academic Instruction, a 4% increase
- Specific Appropriations, a 4.6% increase in Reading
- Student Transportation, a 2.2% increase
- Florida Teachers Lead Program, a 6.7% increase
- DCD Transition Supplement (\$13,005,362 to Miami-Dade County)

Some of the line item **veto**es with local educational impact include:

- Automated External Defibrillator Grant Program(one per school) \$1,500,000
- Increase of workforce education non-resident and resident tuition by 5%
- Teacher's down payment assistance pilot program \$1,000,000

Below are some highlights of the "2007 Legislative Session Summary, Part II: Education Legislation:" with **Board Policy implications:**

- HB55- Domestic Violence/Employees. Creates: s. 741.313, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill allows an employee to take up to three working days of leave with or without pay if he/she or a family or household member has been the victim of domestic violence.

- SB 461- High School Athletics/Drug Testing. Amends: s.1006.20, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill requires the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) to facilitate a one-year program during 2007-2008 wherein students are subject to a random testing for the use of anabolic steroids. Monies have been provided to cover the cost for approximately 400 students statewide.
- HB 511- High Performing School Districts/2 mill levy. Amends: ss. 200.065, 1011.71, 1011.73, F.S. Creates: s. 1003.621, F.S. Effective: Upon becoming law
 - This bill establishes criteria by which a school district may be designated as an academically high performing school district. The district must earn a grade of "A" for 2 consecutive years beginning with 2004-2005 school year, must have no school that earns a grade of "F", must comply with class size requirements and must have no material weaknesses or noncompliance noted in the annual financial audit.
- HB 529- Statewide Cable Television and Video Service Franchises. Creates: s. 501.2079, Chapter 610, F.S. Amends: ss. 202.11, 202.24, 337.401, 337.4061, 350.81, 364.051, 364.10, 364.163, 364.385, F.S. Repeals: ss. 166.046, 364.164, F.S. Effective: Upon becoming law
 - This bill addresses issues relating to the transfer from county and municipal governments to the Department of State of authority to negotiate cable and video service franchises. Of interest to school boards, the bill addresses several issues relating to public, educational, and government (PEG) access channels.
- HB 699- Preference in Public Employment of Veterans. Amends: ss. 110.2135, F.S. Repeals: s. 295.101, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill addresses the current statutory requirement that state and local governments, including school boards, must grant employment preferences in the hiring and retention of certain veterans and the spouse, widow, or widower of certain veterans who are Florida residents. The bill will extend the eligibility for employments preference throughout an eligible person's state or local government career.
- HB 803- Adoption Benefits. Creates: s. 409.1663, F.S., Repeals: ss. 110.152, 110.15201, 215.32(2)(c)5, 373.6065, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill expands the categories of state employees who are eligible to receive adoption benefits upon adopting a special needs child or a child who is not a special needs child but whose permanent custody has been awarded to the state. This benefit is for full-time and part-time employees of a state university, community college, or school district beginning with the 2008 open enrollment period for adoption benefits to be funded in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
- HB 967- Physical Education. Amends: ss. 1001.11, 1003.01, 1003.455, F.S. Effective: Upon becoming law
 - This bill requires each district school board to provide 150 minutes of physical education each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5. In addition, each district school board is encouraged to provide 225 minutes of physical education each week for students in grades 6-8.
- SB 988- High Risk Offenders. Amends: ss. 322.141, 322.212, 775.21, 943.0435, 944.607, 1012.465, F.S. Creates: ss. 1012.467, 1012.468, 1012.321, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill amends Jessica Lunsford Act provisions that require background checks for contractors on school grounds.
- SB 1046- Education Pre-K-12 Appropriations. Amends: ss. 551.106, 1003.03, 1011.62, F.S., Repeals: s. 1011.71(5)(b), F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill amends several statutes to conform with the 2007-2008 General Appropriations Act: Slot Machine Tax Revenue, Team Teaching, Exceptional Student Education, Juvenile Justice Education Programs, and Sparsity Supplement.
- HB 1161- High School to Business Career Enhancement Act. Creates: s. 1003.496, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill creates the High School to Business Career Enhancement Act. The bill authorizes each school board to adopt policies and procedures to offer high school student internships through partnerships with employers within the communities served by the school board.

- SB 1226- Merit Award Program/School Board Employees. Amends: s. 447.403, F.S. Creates: s. 1012.225, Repeals: a portion of Chapter 2006-25, L.O.F., s. 3 of Chapter 2006-26, L.O.F., s. 1012.22(1)(c)4, F.S. Effective: except as otherwise expressly provided, upon becoming a law
 - This bill creates the Merit Award Program (MAP) for Instructional Personnel and School-Based Administrators. To be eligible for state funding for MAP, the school board must adopt a MAP plan that provides for an assessment and a merit award based on the performance of students assigned to the employee's classroom or school.
- SB 1232- Career and Professional Education. Amends: ss. 1003.491, 1003.492, 1003.493, 1011.62, F.S. Repeals: s. 1003.494, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill creates the Florida Career and Professional Education Act to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each district school board must develop, in collaboration with local workforce boards and postsecondary institutions, a strategic 5-year plan to address and meet local and regional workforce demands. The strategic plan must be completed by June 30, 2008. The plan must include provisions to have in place at least one operational career and professional academy no later than the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.
- SB 2092- Education. Amends: ss. 20.15, 145.19, 1001.10, 1001.395, 1002.33, 1003.428, 1003.51, 1003.62, 1012.225, F.S. Effective: Upon becoming a law except that the amendments to s. 1002.33(18)(d) relating to exemption from assessments for charter school facilities shall apply retroactively to July 1, 1996.
 - This bill addresses a variety of education related issues that had been the subject of separate legislation.
 - Department of Education: The bill creates the Division of Workforce Education and the Division of Finance and Operations within DOE and allows the director of each division to be designated as a Deputy Commissioner or a Chancellor.
 - School Board Member Compensation: The bill reinstates the calculation of school board member salaries into statute using the same methodology used prior to the School Code Revision of 2002.
 - Charter Schools: The bill revises terminology by replacing the term "district school board" with the more generic term "sponsor".
 - Graduation Requirements:
 - The bill amends the current graduation requirement of **one credit in fine arts** to be one credit in fine or performing arts which may include speech and debate.
 - The bill amends the graduation requirement of **one credit in physical education** to specify that participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for **two full seasons** satisfies the **one-credit requirement** in physical education if the student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or better.
 - A district school board **may not require** that the credit in physical education be taken during the **9th grade year**.
 - The bill also provides that completion of **one semester** with a grade of "C" or better in a **marching band class**, in a **physical activity class** that requires participation in **marching band activities** as an extracurricular activity, or in a **dance class** satisfies **one-half credit in physical education or one-half credit in performing arts**.
 - **Two years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps class** satisfies the **one-credit requirement in physical education** and the **one-credit requirement in performing arts**.

- The bill **revises the grade forgiveness provisions** for high school and middle school students.
 - The bill also **deletes provisions relating to credit recovery**.
 - Department of Juvenile Justice Commitment Facility School Assessments: The bill requires that an assessment of a student sent directly to a commitment facility must occur within the first 10 days of the student's commitment.
 - Merit Award Program: The bill revised the Merit Award Program to provide that MAP awards will be paid to designated outstanding instructional personnel and school-based administrators who remain employed by a Florida public school or who retired after qualifying for the award.
- SB 2512- English for Speakers of Other Languages/Educators. Creates: s. 1012.587, F.S., Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill revises in-service requirements for educators of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) from 300 hours to 60 hours except for the primary English instructor (Basic ESOL) who is an English/Language Arts teacher.
 - HB 7123- Energy / Green Schools. Amends: ss. 196.175, 212.08, 220.192, 220.193, 255.251, 255.252, 255.253, 255.254, 255.255, 287.063, 287.064, 377.803, 377.804, 377.806, 403.50663, 403.50665, 403.508, 403.509, 403.5113, 403.5115, 403.5252, 403.5271, 403.5272, 403.5317, 403.5363, 489.145 Creates: ss. 403.0874, 570.957, 570.958, 570.959, 1013.441, F.S. Effective: July 1, 2007
 - This bill addresses a variety of energy policy issues. Of interest to school boards, the bill requires that, by January 1, 2008, a minimum of 20 percent of total diesel fuel purchases for use by school districts must be biodiesel fuel (B20), subject to availability.
 - HB 7183- Administrative Procedures. Amends: ss. 120.52, 120.536, 120.54, F.S. Effective: Except as otherwise expressly provided, July 1, 2007
 - This bill defines "rulemaking authority" to mean statutory language that explicitly authorizes or requires an agency to adopt, develop, establish, or otherwise create any statement coming within the definition of rule.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. ANA RIVAS LOGAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Accept the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) 2007 Legislative Session Summary that includes Education Appropriations and Education Legislation.