Office of the Superintendent
Board Meeting of November 18, 2026

November 12, 2026

Office of the Chief of Staff
Dr. Eric Acosta, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: **ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2027 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS**

COMMITTEE: **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

ALIGNMENT: **OPERATIONAL IMPACT**

INDICATOR:
(If Strategic Impact) **N/A**

DECISION MATRIX:
(If Strategic Impact) **N/A**

DECISION MATRIX JUSTIFICATION:
(If Strategic Impact)

N/A

REVISED
E-202

As in previous years, the Board has actively advocated policy changes through the state and federal legislative process by formulating a legislative agenda. The development of both programs is based on issues raised by Board Members throughout the year, as well as by the solicitation of proposals from stakeholders including District staff, municipal and county governments, and employee and citizen groups. The proposed 2027 State Legislative Program and the 2027 Federal Legislative Program have been streamlined to include priority action items and policy items that provide direction to the Board's legislative team, which is comprised of staff and legislative consultants.

The recommended priorities address academic enhancements, funding, capital funding accountability and assessment reform, governance, teachers and personnel, and school and student safety. The proposed 2027 State Legislative Program is organized in four sections: Priorities; Additional Issues; Policy Statements; and Project Requests. The state legislative session is scheduled to commence on Tuesday, March 2, 2027, and conclude on Friday, April 30, 2027. The only must pass issue for the Florida Legislature is the state's budget for 2027-2028.

At the federal level, the 120th United States Congress will begin its first congressional session on January 3, 2027, and will conclude on January 3, 2029. The proposed 2027 Federal Legislative Program continues to urge Congress to protect and increase the federal investment in public education, entitlement funds, public education infrastructure, including energy efficiency, safety, connectivity, and early childhood and workforce education, and fully fund the cost of implementing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

It is anticipated and understood that both the proposed State and Federal Legislative programs may be amended by the School Board in the coming months and potentially throughout the sessions to address evolving issues, policy positions, and/or emerging priorities. Staff will provide the Board with regular updates regarding legislative policy issues and the progress of its priorities. Staff, as well as our legislative consultants stand ready to assist the Board in coordinating meetings with legislators and their staff, executive office or administration officials, and/or visits to Tallahassee or Washington, DC.

The State and Federal Programs are attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B".

RECOMMENDED:

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

1. adopt the proposed 2027 State and Federal Legislative programs; and

2. authorize the Superintendent to use District resources and to advocate in the best interest of the District on issues at the state and federal levels that may have academic, fiscal, local control, and/or governance impact on operations of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, but does not have major policy implications, provided such issues are reported to the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2027 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

The Florida Legislature should establish a five-year strategic plan to restore, stabilize, and increase funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to achieve at least the national average in per pupil expenditures to provide the highest quality education and to enable all of our students to be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

2027 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

Expand funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program sufficient to cover the cost of a full-day Prekindergarten program for all students.

Expand VPK to include program options for three-year old students.

FUNDING

Redefine cost factors within the FEFP beyond the comparative wage factor to include factors which disproportionately impact high-cost counties such as housing, transportation, health, and property insurance cost, which ultimately raise educational institutions operational costs.

Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) commensurate with the rate of inflation and cost-of-living increases, but no less than 5 percent new funding, and maintain the full calculation of the Required Local Effort (RLE).

Modernize the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and ensure transparency by creating a separate "district" for scholarships or creating a Family Empowerment Scholarship categorical.

Ensure that the full cost of increases expected for the Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES) is accounted for during budget development and that the FTE associated with that projection remains transparent.

Eliminate compression within the FEFP formula.

Increase funding levels and expand allowable expenditures for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, Career & Technical Education (CTE), and Dual Enrollment (DE) through the Academic Acceleration Options Supplement. REVISED

Establish a categorical fund for school innovation investments which includes emerging instructional technologies.

Continue to invest in teacher and instructional personnel compensation improvement by providing sufficient funding to the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) to ensure salary increases beyond the prior fiscal year amount for all teachers and instructional personnel.

Increase the Safe Schools categorical allocation by at least $40 million to narrow the funding gap associated with the mandate to staff one "safe school officer" per school and ensure sustainable funding for school districts.

Increase the mental health allocation to expand services to students and facilitate the hiring of additional school counselors, social workers, and/or psychologists; or to implement other effective mental health strategies.

Increase the Transportation categorical to reflect the increased state required operational and capital costs.

Amend Rule 6A-1.0998271(6)(c)1.b to indicate that districts may charge a Hope Operator for additional incremental costs for safety and transportation resulting directly from use of these services by the Hope operator if the allocations provided to the district are insufficient to cover the total cost of the services.

Amend Rule 6A-1.0998271(6)(c)1 to include that districts must be reimbursed by a Hope Operator for costs resulting directly from custodial services and utilities during the initial, build out year.

Increase per pupil funding for all students with exceptionalities (Gifted/SWDs) to account for both student population growth and inflationary costs related to services/programs.

Support funding to enhance community resources and post-secondary opportunities such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities including those on the Autism Spectrum who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment.

Provide funding for Dual Enrollment courses or virtual classes outside the traditional school day, above the 1.0 FTE or 25 hours/week.

Establish a disaster recovery fund for Florida Public School Districts to ensure the recovery and restoration of educational facilities in the aftermath of any hurricane or other catastrophic event, covering losses both above and below any collectible property insurance limits.

Provide state funding to support the implementation requirements of state board rules related to AI and internet safety including AI literacy, teacher professional development, approved instructional tools, cybersecurity and student privacy safeguards, and evaluation of student outcomes.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Request flexibility on the use of Impact Fees for school additions/renovations to better respond to the needs of the community.

Expand eligible uses of capital funds as indicated in F.S. 1011.71 to allow payments for recurring physical plant costs related to safety and security personnel.

Establish that when distributing 1.5 mill capital outlay funds to charter schools, the total discretionary millage revenue available for distribution shall be shared based on demonstrated need as recommended by Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA).

Include Pre-K and Post-secondary/CTE FTE membership counts in the methodology calculation of eligible students for capital outlay funds (October v. February FTE) for purposes of calculation and distribution of capital outlay funds.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM

Amend F.S. 1008.34(3)(c)(1) by removing the requirement for the State Board of Education to automatically annually adjust the school grading scale (Escalator clause).

Amend application and admission requirements for Dual Enrollment and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education to prior conditions.

Authorize school districts to exempt Students with Disabilities who have a Full-Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) of 75 or below from the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) requirements after one unsuccessful attempt.

GOVERNANCE

Ensure School Board control of Board-owned property and allow greater flexibility when repurposing School Board property.

Authorize school districts to manage the design, construction, permitting, and inspection of workforce housing, educational villages and buildings constructed on district owned property.

Allow school districts to follow the Florida Building Code and allow for an exemption from State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) for construction and renovation, provided life-safety and fire codes are met.

Amend F.S. 1002.71(3)(c) to allow school districts to report student enrollment of VPK students on a bi-annual basis.

Support the streamlining of statutory and State Administrative Code requirements in order to enhance the efficiency of public-school operations.

Align Rule 6A-1.0998271(1)(f) which defines "excess seats" using capital outlay full-time equivalent (COFTE) with F.S. 1002.333(7)(d) which uses "instructional or program use" as the standard for usage of facility space.

Amend Rule 6A-1.0998271(6)(b)1.a to remove administrative space and storage space, including student lockers, and add to Rule 6A-1.0998271(6)(b)2 to be shared proportionately based on total full-time equivalent student enrollment.

Amend Rule 6A-1.0998271(6)(b)1.b to allow for an existing school to consolidate operations and provide a Hope Operator with contiguous space within 60 calendar days of the end of the prior school year.

Amend Rule 6A-1.0998271(6)(c) for the space used by a School of Hope in a district facility to be maintained as all other facilities in the district including electrical needs.

Amend F.S. 403.7033 to authorize state and local agencies to implement initiatives that reduce reliance on single-use plastics.

Include program utilization in the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) to integrate Pre-K and early learning centers, Daytime Adult Education, Training Career Centers to include Workforce Education, and essential community support initiatives.

Amend the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) to designate all classrooms within a designated ESE Center exclusively serving ESE students in the building at the approved ESE classroom ratio.

TEACHERS/PERSONNEL

Amend Rule 6A-1.0503(3)(b)(1) and (3) to reflect individuals assigned to teach out of field shall complete "3 semester hours or equivalent in-service toward appropriate certification per year" in lieu of 6 semester hours.

Amend F.S. 1004.85 to enable more relevant and aligned teacher preparation programs, better serving the needs of districts and students by ensuring better teacher preparation programs (Educator Preparation Institutes).

Amend the teacher apprenticeship program to allow eligibility based on an Associate's degree or 60 credit hours from an accredited higher education institution.

Establish a Statewide Employer-Led Healthcare Initiative to develop opportunities regarding healthcare affordability, transparency, and accountability.

Provide incentives and/or funding to facilitate the development of workforce housing on School Board property for public school personnel.

Include Pre-K certified instructional staff in the definition of "Instructional Personnel".

SCHOOL/STUDENT SAFETY/WELLNESS

Provide increased funding for safety infrastructure needs, inclusive of school campus hardening, lightning detection systems at schools with outdoor play fields, and/or facilities where no other such device exists within a one-mile radius, and alert systems.

Provide funding to school districts to upgrade and strengthen cyber security controls.

Provide funding to support at least one nurse or emergency medical technician at each school.

Amend F.S. 1003.572 to require collaboration between public and private providers and require private providers to adhere to school board policies and procedures while on school property as well as collaborate on the frequency of on-site services to prevent interruptions to instruction and ensure the safety of all students.

Amend F.S. 1003.572 to require the development of a standardized behavioral support plan which includes measurable goals, tracks student progress, and is updated based on student progress data.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

FUNDING

Minimize impact to school districts from any proposed property tax reform.

Provide funding for an optional summer school program for all students.

Provide sufficient funding necessary to cover increased costs to school districts for annual consumable materials and digital applications associated with state-adopted texts.

Provide funding to increase awareness of the impact of excessive early technology use for children at early ages (0-4 years).

Provide school districts with greater flexibility in use of Title I funds by separating the indirect cost from the 10% allowable administrative set-aside and increasing the allowable educational services set-aside to a set 10%.

Establish a dedicated annual appropriation program to provide targeted funding to school districts to cover costs for performing Child Find activities for non-public school students or allow school districts the ability to charge private schools or FES/FTC providers for said services to the extent consistent with federal law.

Explore additional state investments and flexibility for evidence-based Pre-K through 3rd grade literacy initiatives, including targeted interventions, tutoring, summer programs, teacher support, and innovative tools, with funding tied to measurable improvements in third grade reading proficiency.

TEACHER/PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

Restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) that was suspended from the Florida Retirement System (FRS) defined benefit calculation in 2011, with commensurate funding.

Implement and fund strategies such as tuition reimbursement, scholarships, and/or other incentives for talented individuals pursuing a postsecondary degree in Exceptional Student Education (ESE).

Allow school district personnel to redeem accrued leave days/time towards down-payment assistance for the purchase of a primary residence.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM

Ensure all recipients of K-12 public funding are subject to the same regulatory and accountability standards.

Provide flexibility within the State's school accountability system to hold districts or schools harmless for students who transition from voucher programs back to the district with limited academic preparedness.

Ensure that the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) test is offered in Haitian Creole and/or provide translation assistance or tools.

Define goals for English Language Learners (ELL) and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) subgroups based on achieving learning gains on state assessments as opposed to achieving proficiency.

Amend F.S. 1008.34 (3)(d)(1) to provide an exemption in the school grade calculation to the home schools for students assigned to an alternative school or a department of juvenile justice program for FTE Survey 2 or Survey 3, of the year in which the assessment is administered, or for students who have never attended the home school.

Amend F.S. 1008.34(3)(d)(2) to provide an exemption in the school grade calculation to the home schools for students assigned to a Hospital/Homebound program for FTE Survey 2 or Survey 3, of the year in which the assessment is administered, or for students who have never attended the home school.

ACADEMICS

Amend F.S. 1009.534(1)(e) related to the Florida Academic Scholars Award to include student eligibility for the award for those recognized by the College Board National Recognition Program – School Recognition Award.

Establish funding for the creation of a post-secondary plan for K-12 students.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Amend Castaldi analysis to allow for flexibility when analyzing redevelopment projects at a particular school site that would allow demolitions of a building 40 years or less.

SCHOOL/STUDENT SAFETY

Support full funding for required water safety and swimming instruction in all public schools.

Require charter schools to report their SESIR incident data independently of school districts.

Amend F.S. 1011.68(1)(a) to allow districts to determine the membership of students who are transported "by reason of living one and a half (1.5) miles or more from school".

Amend Rule 6A-3.003, F.A.C. to allow for public school districts to promote programs within traditional public schools on the exterior panels of a school's activity bus via vinyl wrap or adhesive film, provided that all materials, placements, and designs comply with the safety, identification, and visibility standards set forth within the rule and F.S. 1006.25.

POLICY STATEMENTS

FUNDING

Amend F.S. 1002.333(7)(d) to allow districts to recover build out costs associated with a school of hope's use of an educational facility.

Preserve voter approved tax millages by maintaining these revenues exclusively for public school districts.

Maintain the Education Enrollment Stabilization Program in an amount necessary to prevent proration as a result of enrollment increases (FES, immigration, natural disasters, demographic shifts).

Oppose the imposition of unfunded, state mandated expenditures.

Oppose any further compression of the Discretionary Millage.

Oppose legislation that increases the sovereign immunity liability limits on governmental agencies.

Maintain the current required employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing any planned increase in local employers' contribution.

Support funding for Adults with Disabilities.

Support increased funding to meet the demands for workforce skills development programs.

Ensure that school district affiliated and approved 501(c)(3) scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) are approved and are included on the state list of eligible SGOs submitted to the U.S. Treasury Department.

FACILITIES/CAPITAL FUNDING

Provide adequate school construction funding to support new and existing facilities, technology, maintenance, energy infrastructure and modernization, land acquisition, and class size reduction needs through the establishment of long-term, stable, and recurring revenue sources to fulfill the state's educational facility needs.

Oppose the deletion of impact fees unless replaced with another revenue source.

GOVERNANCE

Amend F.S. 1001.372(1) to allow school boards to omit one regular monthly meeting per calendar year.

Support constitutionally elected school boards and elected or appointed superintendents' authority to supervise all public schools.

Support district school boards maintaining governance of district technical colleges.

Oppose any changes to current requirements regarding charter conversion of traditional public schools, including conversion by municipalities or that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Establish a level playing field for traditional public schools by extending the current statutory flexibility such as categorical funding, accountability, class-size reduction compliance, and related penalties assessed on charter schools.

Support maximum flexibility and autonomy for school board operated Early Childhood and VPK Programs.

Oppose legislation that subverts district governance on constitutionally elected school boards and elected or appointed superintendents.

Oppose legislation that reduces school board authority over charter schools.

Oppose legislation that modifies the governance structure of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Oppose legislation that breaks up large school districts.

Oppose legislation that negatively impacts the salaries of school board members.

Amend F.S. 218.391 to reinstate the Chief Financial Officer as a voting member within the committee composition for selection of external auditors.

Support legislation that strengthens public accountability and transparency within Florida's Utility Rate-Setting process, protects school districts from disproportionate utility rate increases, and promotes utility programs, incentives, and funding mechanisms that support energy efficiency.

ACADEMICS

Amend F.S. 1002.333(1)(c) to exempt schools earning an "A" or "B" pursuant to F.S. 1008.34 in most recent school year from identification as a persistently low-performing school.

Provide a one-year lead time on the implementation of new state academic requirements for school districts.

STUDENT SAFETY/WELLNESS

Support legislation that increases penalties for firing a gun within 1,000 feet of a school and that establishes penalties for the unsupervised possession of a firearm by a minor.

Support legislation and state funding to increase awareness of opioid drug use and its impact.

Support funding to provide training for students, parents, teachers, school administrators, counseling staff, and volunteers to learn how to recognize behaviors that lead to bullying and harassment.

Support legislation to ensure that the sale of low-THC edibles is precluded within 1,000 feet of a school.

Amend F.S. 1002.222 to include "a school district may use biometric information for the purpose of secure authentication and access control to educational systems, devices, or facilities."

PROJECT REQUESTS

Secure supplemental funding for Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer, Classical Education, and SpaceHUBs at Booker T. Washington, Hialeah Miami-Lakes, and Center for International Education (CIE).

Secure continued supplemental funding for District's Visual and Performing Arts.

Provide funding to expand the annual Cuban American Studies Institute established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Provide funding for the annual African American Studies Institute established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Secure funding to each public high school that currently offers or plans to offer Early Childhood Education, to support the establishment of an Early Childhood Lab.

Secure funding for College and Career Advising Expansion pilot program.

Secure supplemental funding for the establishment of community hubs to deliver educational and family support, resources, and services in Miami-Dade County.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2027 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT: *Provide the highest quality education so that all of our students are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens*.

FEDERAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Support federal Maintenance of Equity requirements, increase funding and flexibility to meet impacts of immigration, inflation, and critical unmet needs, and exempt K-12 and workforce education from any budget cuts. *

Protect and increase the federal investment in public education to:

- Fully fund the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and avoid provisions that would divert substantial federal resources into competitive grant programs;
- Increase the federal investment in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to the guaranteed level of 40% of the costs to meet special education mandates and fully fund the government's promised share of ESEA;
- Increase federal entitlement funding to school districts through Title I appropriations for interventions and extended learning opportunities, Title II for supporting effective instruction through recruitment and retention, Title III for supplementary instructional support for English Language Learners (ELLs), Title IV for student support and academic enhancement via STEM, arts, and technology, and Title IX for education for homeless children and youth;
- Oppose efforts to reduce federal categorical allocations through block grant consolidation;
- Oppose changes to Census practices that count all children residing in the county to be served by its public school system. *

Oppose formula changes or the creation of newly funded programs that dilute or divert funding from high-need public schools, including public portability or any other private school choice programs that lack the same level of academic and fiscal accountability by which local school districts are governed.

Support the eligibility of public school districts which manage charter schools to apply for federal charter school funding.

Support increased funding to provide opportunities to expand public community schools and school magnet choices to students and parents, and support current magnet choice programs in school districts, including funding for transportation.

Expand available K-12 federal educational tax credits to students attending accredited Pre-K programs to cover qualifying expenses that are not included within allotted state funding.

Support legislation that appropriates supplemental funding for school security and student safety to provide for:

* - Indicates School Board priority item.

- School district and local law enforcement partnerships that ensure that schools have well-trained and equipped police personnel to protect children while in schools;
- School infrastructure and campus hardening needs that improve school health and safety such as alert devices, security cameras, and lightning detection; and
- Mental health services for students with training of teachers and support personnel such as psychologists, school social workers, counselors, school nurses, and/or emergency medical personnel. *

Support funding for the expansion of Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) programs. Support funding from the federal government to enhance community resources and postsecondary opportunities, such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities, including those on the Autism spectrum, who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment. *

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT)

Protect the authority of local educational agencies (LEAs) under ESSA to exercise local control over the use of allocated entitlement funding, including Title I, without further federal or state restrictions. *

Monitor the impacts of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA), and support legislative or regulatory modifications that provide adequate flexibility, guidance and support for local implementation and measures of progress for students and schools.

Support elimination of or alternatives to the use of State Per Pupil Expenditure (SPPE) in current or new federal allocation formulas, based on analysis by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES 2019-016) showing that Florida has among the lowest U.S. Title I allocations per formula-eligible child in multiple grant categories.

Revise the Title III distribution formula to allocate funds based on the number of immigrant students and not limit those funds to entities that have experienced "significant" increases in immigrant students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Support federal funding to develop, expand, and enhance quality voluntary preschool programs while ensuring the adoption of developmentally appropriate early education standards that are aligned with state K-12 academic standards. *

Support the reauthorization, expansion, and full funding of Head Start and Early Head Start programs, while advocating for regulatory frameworks that preserve foundational federal Head Start Program Performance Standards, comprehensive health and child development services, and key early learning benchmarks essential to ensuring school readiness.

Support legislation that encourages states to develop and expand effective, innovative preschool delivery models that promote high-quality childhood education programs and ensure school readiness.

* - Indicates School Board priority item.

IMMIGRATION IMPACT

Direct federal resources to high-impact school districts to offset the operational and instructional costs of serving newcomer and unaccompanied students, including automatic funding ceiling waivers during enrollment surges.

Maintain baseline formulas for Targeted Assistance and Immigrant Education allocations to ensure aid reaches districts and counties with significant refugee populations.

Ensure funding formulas account for late-arriving students without placing extra administrative or verification burdens on school staff.

Support programs that promote English language acquisition, technical skills, and college or military readiness pathways for immigrant youth who completed their K–12 education in local schools.

SCHOOL NUTRITION

Support the reauthorization of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act to:

- Provide dedicated federal funding to cover mandatory training and professional development costs for school food service personnel;
- Reduce administrative and operational burdens on school district nutrition programs;
- Preserve broad access to universal and free school meals by opposing higher thresholds or added administrative restrictions on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and direct certification; and
- Revise federal meal guidelines to provide greater menu autonomy, helping reduce food waste and easing procurement costs.

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MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Oppose policy revisions to Medicaid that would cap federal support without regard to the actual number of eligible children or would limit the increase of health service costs below the medical inflation rate. *

Oppose any policy revisions that restrict or reduce school-based reimbursement for administration expenditures and certain transportation costs for services provided to low-income children with disabilities.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Support continued and expanded investment in competitive programs that enable school

* - Indicates School Board priority item.

districts to modernize aging facilities, reduce energy and operating costs, improve indoor environmental quality, and implement energy-efficiency, HVAC and energy management systems.*

Support supplemental allocations for large school districts with high levels of free- and reduced-price lunch participants to implement "green" sustainable projects, including upgrading technology infrastructure, replacing school buses or maintenance vehicles to improve operational efficiency and to reduce the carbon footprint, and extending the useful life of existing schoolbuildings.

Support funding allocations to assist school districts in implementing sustainability measures including use of alternative energy sources such as solar, and the acquisition of electric buses and fleet vehicles, as well as necessary infrastructure to support their use.

Strengthen disaster recovery support for school districts by clarifying and expediting FEMA Public Assistance, ensuring access to pre-disaster mitigation grants, prioritizing schools in FEMA realignment, and reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Establish a disaster recovery fund for Florida public schools to restore facilities after disasters, covering losses above and below property insurance limits.

PERSONNEL

Implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships, loan forgiveness programs with simplified eligibility and compliance requirements, and other financial incentives to encourage and attract talented students to enter the field of education. *

Enhance resources to recruit, develop, and retain highly-qualified teachers in fragile or low-performing schools. *

Enhance programs, funding, and incentives for the development of affordable workforce housing for public school employees. *

Eliminate Internal Revenue Service restrictions which limit the reemployment of school district retirees.

TECHNOLOGY

Support increased resources with local flexibility and expand eligible expenditures to include educational linkage beyond the school campus, including student homes, for the Universal Service Fund Program (E-Rate) to provide schools, libraries, and students with affordable access to state-of-the-art networking and telecommunications technology. *

Support Open Internet legislation, policies and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations to ensure that public educational uses do not have a lower priority than paid commercial services.

Protect and strengthen the E-Rate program to preserve discounts for broadband, Wi-Fi, and internal connections.

* - Indicates School Board priority item.

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

Support increased funding to meet the demands for workforce skills development under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, and related legislation or initiatives, including programs that impact low-literacy and disadvantaged populations inclusive of students with disabilities.

Preserve and amplify the role of district-operated workforce education including foundational skills, job training programs, apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship, and Integrated Education and Training (IET). Provide direct-to-district funding or grants for the expansion of IET, pre/apprenticeship, and career or military pipelines that allow adults to earn as they learn.

Recalibrate the measures for workforce foundational skills to reflect a focus on workforce outcomes. National Reporting System (NRS) measures that focus on traditional annual grade level progress in literacy should be replaced or supplemented by evidence-based measures including: (a) a 100-hour Workforce Education Persistence measure, based on research findings that adults who achieve this mark are likely to generate positive return-on-investment (ROI) several years after exiting the programs; (b) a measure for Integrated Education and Training (IET), encouraging concurrent enrollment in foundational skills and job training when feasible and when both are required for industry certifications and employment; and (c) a measure accounting for multiple NRS completion points by students in a single year, currently not credited by NRS. Career Technical Education (CTE) completion points should be aligned to Occupational Completion Points (OCP) based on industry accreditations, rather than only aligned to the terminal completion point for job areas with escalating skills and job opportunities.

Establish and implement a secure, data-sharing process by the Department of Defense that enables State and local educational agencies to receive longitudinal, education-related data concerning military personnel.

Retain tax-advantaged status of employee and employer contributions for healthcare premiums and costs including Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) as well as Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA).

STUDENT SAFETY

Increase funding for programs that foster safe, healthy, and supportive environments to expand interventions to reduce disruptive behaviors, redress stresses of isolation and depression, and strengthen students' social, emotional, and behavioral competencies. *

Support block grant funding for the employment of full-time security officers in all public schools.

Support funding and legislation that establishes and expands programs to support increased detection and monitoring of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

* - Indicates School Board priority item.

Support legislation that prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes in misleading forms such as pens and USBs.

Support legislation that provides supplemental resources to assist school districts in deterring Internet crime and cybercrime through awareness and promotion of prevention to our students, teachers, and parents.

Support funding for the development of an awareness campaign to educate students and parents on the danger and signs of human trafficking, information concerning approaches used by traffickers, warning signs of trafficking, and behavior that should be reported.

Support juvenile justice reforms that strengthen educational outcomes.

Provide supplemental funding to create community-based networks that develop, coordinate, and provide quality education, parental training, health care, housing, youth development programs, and employment opportunities to ensure safe neighborhoods for children and their families.

Support legislation or regulations that provide for enhanced scrutiny of foreign student exchange organizers and enhanced screening of U.S. host families, including fingerprint-based criminal background checks.

CYBERSECURITY

Support all initiatives to coordinate cybersecurity efforts between federal agencies and with the K-12 community to develop, fund, and share best practices and guidelines to protect student, parent, and employee information. *

Provide funding to school districts to strengthen cybersecurity.

* - Indicates School Board priority item.