



# Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition 2015 Legislative Priorities



## Article IX of the Florida Constitution states:

*"The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida."*  
The 10 districts of this Coalition represent over **900,000** Florida students and their families.

### STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✎ In order to ensure a quality implementation of the changes to the state student assessment and accountability system, the legislature must amend the law to:
  - Allow for proper field-testing and test development in Florida to be conducted;
  - Suspend the issuance of school letter grades until performance data have been deemed reliable;
  - Allow additional testing and calculation flexibility for students with disabilities and students who speak limited English;
  - Use multiple years of a new exam as a baseline for generating school grades and teacher evaluations;
  - Modify grading of ESE centers to a rating system where scores stay with the center;
  - Develop a quality, educationally sound implementation timeline for End of Course (EOC) exams and direct appropriate funding for district development.
- ✎ Protect taxpayer dollars by ensuring all schools receiving state funds adhere to the same accountability measures as traditional public schools.
- ✎ Amend current statute to eliminate any requirement for a standard charter contract and replace with a model template.

### INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

- ✎ Restore the .5 Local Capital Improvement (LCI) millage previously shifted to Required Local Effort (RLE) and replace operating funds with state dollars.
- ✎ Develop a statutory distribution formula for Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds that annually allocates a percentage of funding to school districts for ongoing maintenance of facilities.
- ✎ Restore the per-student funding adopted in the 2007 regular Legislative Session level, along with any categorical funding levels not previously restored.
- ✎ Provide adequate funding for infrastructure, technology and digital content to meet the 2015 state mandate for digital instructional materials.
- ✎ Provide funding for legislatively mandated End of Course (EOC) exams.
- ✎ Create a distribution formula within the Reading categorical to fully fund the requirement for one extra hour of reading in the 300 lowest performing schools and allow local flexibility in scheduling of the additional hour of instruction.
- ✎ Provide additional funding for the operation of early learning programs, including funding for summer programs and other quality learning initiatives.