



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 **850,000** Florida students and their families.



STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY



- ❖ Support Florida PTA's legislative recommendations regarding student assessment to:
 - Allow for proper field-testing and test development in areas with similar demographics to Florida's diverse demographics;
 - Suspend the issuance of school letter grades until performance data has been deemed reliable;
 - Allow additional testing and calculation flexibility to students with disabilities and students who speak limited English;
 - Consider using multiple years of a new exam as a baseline for generating school grades and teacher evaluations.
- ❖ Provide adequate funding for infrastructure, technology and digital content to meet the 2015 state mandate for digital instructional materials.
- ❖ Modify the school grading formula to ensure schools are not penalized for parents opting students out of state mandated testing.
- ❖ Modify grading of ESE centers to a rating system where scores are assigned to other schools.
- ❖ Provide funding for legislatively mandated End of Course exams (EOC's).
- ❖ Protect taxpayer dollars by ensuring all schools receiving state funds adhere to the same accountability measures as traditional public schools.



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 base student allocation (BSA) to the adopted 2007 regular Legislative Session level.
- ❖ Restore weighted school district postsecondary workforce funding and continue to balance the formula.
- ❖ Eliminate state regulation of locally levied, voter-approved taxes.
- ❖ Support participation in the Streamlined Sales Tax and Use Agreement.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Amend current statute to eliminate any requirement for a standard charter contract and replace with a model template.

