

Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition 2014 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 (33%)** of all Florida students and their families.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❖ Require Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to provide school districts with statistically valid and reliable items for end of course exams (EOC's).
- ❖ Support a strategic phase-in of new standards and assessments that hold students and schools harmless until data is available to accurately assess student performance and re-establishes the integrity of the accountability system.
- ❖ Hold in abeyance all consequences for students and schools until the transition from FCAT to new assessments is completed and validated.
- ❖ Expand the ability for parents to waive testing of their Exceptional Student Education (ESE) child and modify grading of ESE centers to a rating system where scores are not assigned to other schools.
- ❖ Support returning to the "two-year" enrollment requirement for English Language Learners (ELL) before they are counted in the state accountability system calculation.
- ❖ Support state standards and select an assessment that allows Florida's students to be fairly compared with students in other states.
- ❖ Provide adequate funding for infrastructure, technology and digital content to meet the 2015 state mandate for digital instructional materials.

INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Repeal modifications made during 2013 session requiring districts to pay tuition for Dual Enrollment students and reducing FTE earned for students taking courses beyond a full day.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Identify a stable funding source for all school district Capital Outlay needs by restoring the 2 mill and provide equal access to all state public schools to receive PECO funds for district maintenance.
- ❖ Allow districts the flexibility of following all SREF requirements.
- ❖ Eliminate state regulation of locally levied, voter-approved taxes.
- ❖ Support participation in the Streamlined Sales Tax and Use Agreement (tax on Internet sales).

SCHOOL CHOICE AND GOVERNANCE

- ❖ Oppose out-of-state legislation that proposes any type of "parent trigger" mechanism or any legislative proposal or amendment that usurps school boards' constitutional authority.
- ❖ Protect taxpayer dollars by ensuring all schools receiving state funds adhere to the same accountability measures as traditional public schools.
- ❖ Support any further legislative initiative to reduce unnecessary requirements and regulations on schools and districts.



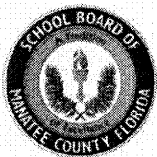
Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition 2014 Federal Priorities



ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)



- ❖ Make federal reauthorization of ESEA a top priority.
- ❖ Provide greater flexibility within ESEA to allow multiple measures of academic achievement, especially for English language learners (ELL) and exceptional education students (ESE).
- ❖ Use an English Language Learner (ELL) subgroup for Title I accountability purposes after at least a "two year" enrollment requirement, but maintain the Title III focus on Limited English Proficient (LEP) students.
- ❖ Allow for a reset date when LEP students leave and then re-enter the public school system.
- ❖ Ensure every graduate is included in the national graduation rate calculation.
- ❖ Restore federal grant funding to pre-sequestration level and increase the Federal investment in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to the Congressional assured level of 40%.



ADDITIONAL AREAS OF IMPORTANCE



- ❖ Continue funding of the Perkins Act to demonstrate the value of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and encourage better alignment with ESEA.
- ❖ Support federal government taking stronger role in the collection of taxes on the sale of items over the internet (Streamlined Sales Tax and Use Agreement). *
- ❖ Oppose any effort to reduce or eliminate:
 - E-Rate funding
 - Head Start programs and permanent funding
 - Reimbursement for Medicaid Administrative claiming

