

FASA's Central Regional Coalition/TBAC and FASA Propose Florida 2012 Legislative Session Platform

Florida has been divided by FASA into four (4) Regions with each region having its own Regional Director and 16 to 18 school districts included within its boundaries. During a telephone conference on September 5, 2011, HASA, as a member of the 18 member districts in FASA's Central Florida Regional Coalition/TBAC, has suggested the following legislative priorities for FASA's 2012 legislative platform:

1. Establish adequate funding for K-12, adequate funding for career and technical education, stop underfunded or unfunded mandates.
2. Charter schools should be held to the same standards as public schools; the state needs to conduct oversights and monitoring of charters; benefits for high performing charters should also apply to high performing public schools.
3. Protect retirement benefits such as DROP, Health Insurance Supplement, COLA, sick leave subsidy etc.
4. Review the impact that FCAT has on Bright Futures Scholarships.

The other three Regional Coalitions have also submitted their legislative priorities for FASA to fight for what administrators think is important. All Florida Administrators are finally starting to speak with one united voice.

Florida Association of School Administrators Proposed 2012 Legislative Platform

Florida's public school administrators strongly support measures that allow school districts and schools to focus on their core mission: EDUCATING FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SAFE AND EFFECTIVE CLASSROOMS. To achieve this goal, we ask Florida's legislative leaders to consider the following recommendations:

1. Protect and maintain the benefits of the Florida Retirement System:
 - Protect employees from any increase in their contribution rate to FRS beyond the current 3%.
 - Protect DROP as an option for current employees.
 - Protect the Health Insurance Subsidy and COLA for our retirees living on fixed incomes
2. Increase and Stabilize Revenue and School District Budgets:
 - Ensure non-recurring federal EduJobs funding, used to balance school district budgets the past two years, is replaced with recurring state funds.
 - Retain the Equity and Integrity of the FEFP and restore funding to 2005-06 levels.
 - Invest in education by earmarking a specific percentage of economic growth to education as the state's economy recovers and grows.
 - Support a joint resolution to participate in the Streamlined Sales Tax Project, allowing for Internet and Catalog sales taxes to be collected according to law.
 - Restore weighted funding above high school basic for our Certified Career and Professional Academy students.
 - Professional growth and training should be funded by the state for all public education personnel.
 - Funding beyond current FEFP levels is essential to long term stabilization and success of Merit Pay.
 - Restore PECO maintenance funding to public schools to ensure our students safety.
3. Deregulate our Schools and School districts:
 - Return local control of school start dates, school board organizational dates, and terminal leave pay to local school boards.
 - Repeal all unfunded and underfunded state programs and regulations.
 - Traditional public schools should receive the same flexibility as charter schools.
 - Repeal Differentiated accountability and allow Florida's Successful A+ Plan to be used as the measure of school success.
4. Hold Charter Schools to the same standards as public schools.
5. Minimize the impact of FCAT outcomes to student scholarships.
6. Remove class size penalties.