

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



December 10, 2023

HCPS Government Affairs

2024 Legislative Session

Interim Committee Week 6

The legislature concluded their sixth interim committee week on Friday. With one committee week remaining before the start of regular session in January, lawmakers began hearing bills and continued to hear presentations on implementation updates. Most notably, the Governor released his budget recommendations for fiscal year 2024-2025 on Tuesday. Details on the proposed education budget can be found below. Once session begins in January, lawmakers will craft the state's final spending plan that goes into effect on July 1, 2024.

Legislators will return to Tallahassee next week for the final interim committee week. Session convenes on Tuesday, January 9. Details from the week are below and attached is a list of bills we are tracking.

Governor's Budget Recommendation 2024-25

On Tuesday, Governor DeSantis released details of his Focus on Florida's Future [budget](#) with recommendations for fiscal year 2024-2025. Florida law requires the Governor to submit a budget proposal at least 30 days before the scheduled legislative session.

A summary of the Governor's proposed education budget is available [here](#) and below are a few highlights from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP):

- BSA: \$5,247.02 (increase of \$107.29 or 2.09%)
- Total Unweighted FTE: \$8,842 per student (increase of \$175 or 2.01%)
- Teacher Salaries: Increase of \$200 million, for a total of \$1.2 billion for pay increases to teachers and other instructional personnel
- Mental Health: Increase of \$20 million, for a total of \$180 million
- Student Transportation: Increase of \$20 million, for a total of \$556 million
- Safe Schools: Increase of \$40 million, for a total of \$290 million

Remember, the Governor's budget proposal is a recommendation. It is the Legislature that writes the budget, and the Governor signs it into law.

House

On Wednesday, the House Pre K-12 Education Appropriations Subcommittee met. They heard a presentation on charter schools, and another on FTE add-on weight data for programs like IB, AP, and AICE along with small district weights that add up to almost \$400 million within the FEFP. The presentation detailed how the funding mechanism works and gave insight to the state's struggle to obtain data related to teacher bonuses with the weighted programs. From the data they were able to collect, they found that about 5% of funds are allocated to teacher bonuses. Staff recommended that districts be required to provide detailed data on how add-on weight funding is used by districts, including specifically how much is used for teacher bonuses and what the costs are to implement and continue to administer the weighted programs. [Committee Packet](#)

Thursday, the House Education Quality Subcommittee met and heard a presentation from the Helios Education Foundation on chronic absenteeism post-pandemic. [Committee Packet](#)

Senate

On Tuesday, the Senate Postsecondary Education Committee met regarding career and technical education programs throughout the state. OPPAGA found that the Tampa Bay area, Hillsborough County specifically, offers the most, first credential programs of any area in the state included in a statewide articulation agreement. They also found that the number of students who obtain a first credential (i.e. AA degree) that enroll in or complete a second credential (i.e. BA degree) are staggeringly low, at 8.1 and 5 percent, respectively. [Committee Packet](#)

The Education Appropriations Committee met on Wednesday, where they were presented with an overview of the Governor's recommended budget in education. Full details from the presentation can be found in the [committee packet](#).

This Week

Senate Fiscal Policy Committee will meet on December 12 at 9:30 a.m. to hear the three Senate education deregulation bills ([SB 7000](#), [SB 7002](#), [SB 7004](#)).

House Education and Employment Committee on December 13 at 1:30 p.m. will have a presentation by the Department of Education with a panel discussion about scholarship programs and the implementation of HB 1 (2023 session).

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on December 13 at 1:30 p.m. will have a presentation on the Governor's recommend budget and an update on the implementation of fiscal year 2023-24 changes to the FEFP.

Below you can access all meeting calendars for the House and Senate.

- House [schedule](#) of meetings
- Senate [schedule](#) of meetings

Contact Us

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