

Florida 2.0 Digital Learning Group

Recommendations for the Florida Board of Education

Overview

- Infrastructure
- Quality Instruction
- Institutional Reform

2.0 Infrastructure

1. The State Board of Education can recommend efficiencies and spending priorities to the legislature, i.e. delay adoption cycle by a year for textbooks for additional funding/class size flexibility for digital learning/SAI (Supplemental Academic Instruction)
2. Devise an infrastructure implementation plan, i.e., minimum technology standards specific to grade levels, phase in changes, include professional development for staff.
3. Three tiered approach: State-wide contracts, policy changes, incentivize business, to provide broad-band access at home.
4. State should build a cloud (enterprise architecture) and allow districts to access it.
5. Identify and share federal/private/parental funding sources to help parents and districts develop a digital and blended learning environment.
6. Establish minimum standard for devices/capacity (adequate bandwidth)

2.0 Quality Instruction

1. Use technology in order to change Florida's testing regimen from a time and place locked system to become a system that allows for administration of high stakes assessments based upon student readiness and in which students receive remediation and reassessment only in those areas in which they haven't achieved proficiency.
2. Use the capabilities of advanced academic technology to move from a seat time model to an outcome based student-learning model.
3. Use and support research based pre-service and in-service development programs for Teachers and Administrators that integrate the most effective use of technology and digital content.
4. Radically update laws regarding the selection, development and funding of instructional materials/content to provide maximum discretion to K-12 institutions without reduction to funding.
5. Establish and support Statewide Standards which require technology enhanced classrooms & mobile devices for all teachers and students.
6. Develop clear standards for what a 21 Century Teacher should know and be able to perform including advanced academic technology.
7. The legislature should fund a pilot project wherein some of the best teachers in Florida collaborate in the development of highly enriched digital interactive content in several essential courses which are taught state-wide. The content would be owned by the State and made available to all districts. Teachers would be trained to individually enhance the core content.

2.0 Institutional Reform

1. Enable students to move forward at their pace to demonstrate content mastery including just-in-time assessments
2. Give districts, classrooms and schools more flexibility to develop their own models and loosen the reigns; reward them for that
3. Fund competency based learning
4. Address class size restrictions--modify laws to enable flexibility to achieve the competency based objectives
5. Communication with the stakeholders
6. Professional Development--pre-service and ongoing

2.0 Reform: Access Devices

- Provide incentives, such as competitive grants, to encourage school districts to implement and sustain:
 - Digital assessments.
 - A One-to-One Program.
 - Professional Development and Training.
- Develop a three-tiered approach to supporting school districts in the transition:
 - Develop a model Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy that school districts and schools can adopt.
 - Establish statewide contracts for multiple types of devices that school districts can easily access.
 - Identify the opportunity to join with other states to create a multi-state contract to further drive down the cost of access devices.
 - Recommend a statewide “digital learning tax holiday” where parents can purchase a device at the state-contracted rate, tax-free, that will be used for education.
 - Develop a program that provides funding to provide access devices for students in low income families .

2.0 Reform: Internet

- Build a cloud for K-20 education.
- Develop a statewide plan to provide adequate Internet service for all schools.
 - Establish levels of service for bandwidth in schools.
 - Identify a way to leverage Federal e-Rate funding to provide Internet service.
 - Establish a statewide contract that school districts and schools can access to reduce the cost of Internet.
 - Work with Internet Service providers to reduce cost of service.
- Develop a public-private partnership with Internet providers to provider Internet service at home for low-income students.

2.0 Reform: Digital Content

- Update the process for approving instructional materials that ensures digital content:
 - Is aligned with state academic standards
 - Is interactive
 - Is adaptive
 - Provides a rich source of data on student learning
 - Is updated annually
 - Is accessible to students with disabilities
- Develop a process for using student learning data to evaluate the effectiveness of digital content.

2.0 Reform: Teachers

- Ensure training in digital learning is integrated into the transition to Common Core State Standards for teachers.
- Develop clear expectations for what educators should know about teaching in the digital age.
- Provide incentives for professional development and training as part of any state funded transition to digital learning.

2.0 Reform: Flexibility

- Provide flexibility to schools to spur innovation:
 - Provide 95% of funding directly to schools with flexibility to budget and spend (5% to school districts for administration)
 - Allow schools that want to transition to convert to a charter school (class-size at school level)
 - Exempt blended-learning models from class-size

2.0 Reform: Competency-Based Funding

- Fund competency-based learning:
 - Define competency as grade level or above on state standardized exams.
 - Fund infrastructure and instruction separately.
 - Transition in phases by school level:
 - First year: 3rd, 6th, 9th
 - Second year: 4th, 7th, 10th
 - Third year: 5th, 8th, 11th
 - Fourth year: 12th

2.0 Reform: Funding

- Create Education Spending Accounts with flexibility to spend per-pupil funding on:
 - Access Devices
 - Internet Service at Home
 - Digital Content
 - Full-time School
 - Individual Online Courses
 - Supplemental Instruction
 - Acceleration