

State Board of Education

“ Every child's future begins with a quality education, and a quality education begins with the ability to read. ”

– Governor Bush

“ Ensuring our public schools and postsecondary institutions teach our students to read, is the highest priority of the Department of Education. ”

– Commissioner Horne

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2003

Legislative Agenda

Jim Horne, Commissioner
Florida Department of Education

For additional information or questions regarding the State Board of Education's 2003 Legislative Agenda, contact Kim McDougal, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Governmental Relations at: 850-201-7171 or SunCom 213-7171.



Revise School Recognition Criteria

Modify eligibility criteria to include "other State Board of Education approved accountability measures" so all schools are eligible to be rewarded for improved student performance, e.g. small charter schools, Exceptional Student Education centers, K-2 schools, and single grade centers. Revise the current law regarding the use of funds by November 1.

Recommend Amendment 11 Implementing Language

Stipulate staggered terms for members of the Board of Governors and substantively revise law to reflect the intent of Amendment 11.

Amend the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Requirement for Participation in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Eliminate the requirement that all Bright Futures Scholarship recipients take at least five examinations. CLEP testing would be optional and free for students who wish to accelerate their education.

Align "Weighting" of Advanced Course Work

To maximize clear and consistent guidance to students seeking advanced curricula and accelerated access to higher education, the State Board of Education will align the weighting of courses for credit and admission.

Identify School Code Glitch Bill Recommendations

Work with the Legislature to identify technical changes that need to be made to the School Code Re-Write bill passed in 2002.

Ensure the Confidentiality of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

Clarify existing law to state that all student examinations and assessment instruments administered are not student records, and are therefore protected from disclosure.

Enhance Teacher Recruitment and Retention and School Administrator Preparation

Create a prestigious Florida Teaching Fellows program, develop accelerated paths to the classroom for prospective teachers, establish an optional differentiated pay framework for teachers, create a Teacher First Response Center, require educational leaders to be trained on the latest reading research, establish alternate paths for aspiring school administrators, create K-20 Leadership Training Academies, and establish performance standards for school administrators.

Promote Parental Involvement and Empowerment

Parents and guardians should be involved in all aspects of their children's educational program and service choices. Require schools to provide parents with information on what the parent should expect from the school, including opportunities for parental involvement, the Sunshine State Standards appropriate for their child, and information on how course selection will impact future progression.

Create a K-20 Accountability System Linked To Performance Funding

Align financial resources with performance expectations by implementing the recommendations of the K-20 Accountability Advisory Council, base performance funding on new K-20 accountability measures, and amend the time-frame to implement performance funding for all K-20 sectors rather than phasing in sector-by-sector. In 2003-04, collect data to establish progress and rewards. In 2004-05, implement for all sectors. Link tuition flexibility to accountability.

Strengthen Charter School Accountability

Increase charter school application standards and strengthen reading strategies and initiatives in charter schools. Create a Charter School Accountability and Funding Authority to develop an accountability system for charter schools that reflects the intent of the K-20 Accountability System and provides a mechanism for the disbursement of Public Education Capital Outlay funds. Allow postsecondary institutions to sponsor charter schools and modify the School Recognition Program eligibility criteria so charter schools can participate.

Promote Tuition Flexibility Linked to Institutional Performance, Including Student Achievement

Provide universities flexibility for all out-of-state, in-state graduate, and in-state professional degree students. Better align financial aid through state goals and student needs.

Implement Select Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Students with Disabilities

Expand options for students with disabilities to earn a high school diploma through the use of alternative assessments under certain circumstances. Clarify that students who do not have a standard diploma (i.e. certificate of completion) have access to community college upon completion of curricular and testing requirements. Clarify that students with disabilities who have not yet graduated with a standard diploma are eligible to remain in school until they earn the diploma, or up to their 22nd birthday, whichever occurs first.