

Florida PTA

everychild:onevoice

Legislative Update April 3, 2009

The 2009 legislative session reached its midpoint this week. The education appropriations committees of both houses released their proposed budgets for education. The numbers per student are very close with the House proposing a per student allocation of \$6,890.46 and the Senate \$6,860.36. The Senate amount is the same as 2008-09, the House has built in an increase of \$30.

Both budgets rely heavily on the federal stimulus funds. As reported, Florida has to apply for a waiver to receive these funds as the state has funded education below the level required to qualify for the stimulus dollars. Florida's status is still uncertain as the US Secretary of Education has asked Florida to prove that its cuts to education since 2006 were proportional to the cuts it made to other government services.

Florida PTA urges you to continue emailing and calling your legislators to increase funding for education, find stable new revenue sources, close existing loopholes and reform the tax structure. Funding per student has steadily decreased since 2006 and we cannot let another year go by accepting the same amount.

Legislators come home every Friday. Use the opportunity to visit their district offices in groups and discuss the education budget. In addition, next week the Legislature will adjourn on Wednesday and legislators will be in the district for the rest of the week. Please organize PTA visits to your legislators' district offices and remind them to invest in children and education.

Bill Update

HB 0013 Relating to Middle School Civics Education Assessment by **McBurney**
04/02/09 Temporarily postponed by PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

HB 0157 Relating to Service Learning in the Public School System by

Kriseman

03/31/09 Placed on Calendar, on second reading

Similar

SB 450 - Relating to Service-learning Programs/Grades K-12 - by **Fasano**

01/15/09 Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations

HB 0453 Relating to Tax Credits for Contributions to Nonprofit Scholarship-funding Organizations **Weatherford**

04/02/09 Favorable with CS by Finance & Tax Council; **10 Yeas, 4 Nays**

Committee Vote count

Y Aubuchon, **N** Fitzgerald, **N** Randolph, **Y** Scionti, **N** Waldman,
Y Bogdanoff, **Y** Fresen, **Y** Sansom, **N** Thurston, **Y** Wood,
(Y) Dorworth, **Y** Grady, **Y** Schultz, **Y** Tobia, **Y** Workman

Similar

SB 1310 - Relating to Tax Credits/Nonprofit Scholarship-funding Orgs. - by **Gardiner**

04/01/09 Favorable with CS by Finance and Tax Committee; **4 Yeas, 1 Nay**;
Removed from meeting agenda - Finance and Tax, 04/02/09, 1:15 pm

Committee vote count

Bennett **-Y**, Pruitt **-Y**, Ring **-Y**, Justice **-N**, Altman **- Y**

(Please thank your representatives and senators if they voted NO on this voucher bill)

HB 0919 Relating to Revision of the Class Size Requirements for Public Schools by **Weatherford**

04/01/09 **Temporarily postponed** by Rules & Calendar Council

04/02/09 **On Council agenda** - Rules & Calendar Council, 04/06/09, 1:15 pm, 404 H

Compare

SB 1828 - Relating to Revision of Class Size Requirements/Public Schools - by **Wise**

HB 1293 Relating to High School Graduation by **Fresen**

04/03/09 Placed **on Calendar**, on second reading

[Compare](#)

SB 2654 - Relating to High School Graduation - **Altman**

04/02/09 On Committee agenda - Education Pre-K - 12 Committee, 04/07/09, 8:00 am, 301 S

HB 1377 Relating to Supplemental Educational Services by **Dorworth**

03/30/09 Favorable with CS by Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; **15 Yeas, 0 Nays**

04/03/09 Placed **on Calendar**, on second reading

[Similar](#)

SB 2538 - Relating to Supplemental Educational Services -- **Detert**

03/31/09 SENATE Now in Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations

SB 1840 Relating to Protecting Health/Surcharge on Tobacco Products by **Deutch**

03/31/09 Favorable with CS by Finance and Tax Committee; **5 Yeas, 0 Nays**; 04/01/09

Committee Substitute (C1) Text Filed; Bill to Be Discussed During the Office of the EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference; 4/03/09, 8:15 a.m., 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken)

04/02/09 On Committee agenda - Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means, 04/07/09, 1:30 pm, 412 K - If Received

[Compare](#)

HB 0011 Relating to Cigarette User Fees... **Waldman** 03/09/09

HB 0477 Relating to Cigarette Tax Revenues/Moffitt Cancer ... **Weatherford** 02/13/09

HB 0887 Relating to Health Care... **Zapata** 03/09/09

SB 0850 Relating to Cigarette Tax Revenues/Moffitt Cancer ... **Fasano** 01/30/09

Thank You