



2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

SCHOOL BOARD OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Objective

Advocate for policies that provide an equitable, high-quality, and accessible education for all district students.

Priorities

- Support investments in school personnel by increasing Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding to allow districts flexibility to maintain minimum salary levels, address the impacts of salary compression, and reward experienced employees who demonstrate a sustained level of effectiveness.
- Support changes to existing Florida Retirement System (FRS) reemployment limitations for retirees to allow districts to address the vacancy crisis by rehiring certified teachers and staff immediately.
- Support innovative grow-your-own (GYO) programs that provide opportunities for existing school staff to become certified school teachers.
- Increase FEFP transportation categorical funding to fully cover the rising cost of transporting students.
- Support efforts to enhance safety and security measures that allow districts to adjust to local community needs and/or crises.
- Support an approach to accountability that rewards student growth and fosters collaboration between students, teachers, and parents.
- Support direct funding for workforce education and career pathways for K–12 and post-secondary students.
- Maintain the Required Local Effort (RLE) rate to allow for growth to pay for enhancements to the FEFP.
- Support a transparent system that accounts for growth in Florida Empowerment Scholarships and a funding process that more accurately aligns to a district's FEFP allocations to ensure parity in categorical funding.

Principles

- Ensure local and state revenue streams provide sufficient operating funds for the delivery of Pre-K–12 public education and fully fund all state regulations and mandates.
- Provide sufficient resources to keep students safe, enhance student resiliency, support social and emotional health, and ensure a positive school climate.
- Ensure state education initiatives are collaboratively developed with local school districts.
- Protect local control of school district operations and school board policy decisions made under the authority of the Constitution of the State of Florida.
- Ensure the same accountability system for all educational entities directly or indirectly receiving state tax dollars.
- Pursue effective dates for major state educational proposals that allow adequate time for data analysis and implementation.
- Provide adequate funds for workforce education through career and technical education, industry certifications, and credentials.