



Lake County Schools

2014 Legislative Priorities

Capital Outlay

- Restore the capital outlay tax to the 2007 level of 2 mills (changed to 1.50 mills in 2009) without impacting the operating millage.
- Pass legislation that would allow each county in Florida the option of collecting school impact fees or, in the alternative, imposing an additional transaction fee/documentary stamp on real estate transactions.

Funding Considerations

- Recognize that the \$480 million set aside for teacher raises is not part of the base budget. Funding must continue by increasing the Base Student Allocation or continue the salary categorical.
- Establish a separate funding source for programs taken by students beyond the 1.0 FTE cap or 25 hours per week. Repeal the 2013 requirement that school districts pay college tuition fees and fully fund the school districts' cost to provide dual enrollment programs.
- Amend F.S. 1006.23 – Hazardous Walking Conditions to include broader criteria in the definition of hazardous walking conditions, reflecting realistic pedestrian conditions that impede safe passage to school for various students, including those in middle and high school. In addition, review F.S. 1011.68 – Funds for Student Transportation to adjust the parent responsibility zone (less than two miles) with regards to elementary, middle and high school aged students.

Accountability and Instruction Considerations

- The new statewide assessment must be timely, fair, transparent and aligned to the standards. The results should be used in accountability and teacher evaluations in a clear and fair manner and should assist teachers and parents. Consider use of the ACT and/or SAT since they are nationally recognized.
- The development of valid, reliable and legally defensible EOC assessments linked to teacher evaluation within the current timeframe is not realistic. Provide adequate time and funding for legislatively mandated End of Course exams (EOC's) to be developed and provide districts with the flexibility to utilize national assessments, the reading and/or mathematics component of the statewide assessment, performance benchmarks and other measures, in lieu of a course and grade specific examination until such time the EOC has been developed.