

# Parent Coffee Talk

## Florida Legislative Session Update


2021 Legislative Session: March 2 – April 30

- ▶ We will be recording this information to share with parents not here today.
- ▶ If you have questions as we go, please post them in the chat.

# Best ways to stay updated:

- School District website – Government Affairs  
<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/governmentaffairs>
- Alliance for Public Schools – Take Action  
<https://all4schools.org/advocacy/>
- Hillsborough County PTA Advocacy on FB –  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HCCPTAAdvocacy>
- Florida PTA Legislative Alerts – <https://floridapta.org/>
- Sign up for Bill Tracking on Florida Senate and/or Florida House websites – <https://www.flsenate.gov/>  
<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

# Florida State Legislature: Basics of Bills & Laws

- Senate bills are designated “SB” and are **even** numbered. House bills are designated “HB” and are **odd** numbered.
  - After a bill has been introduced and assigned a number, it is referred to one or more Committees, which have jurisdiction over the issue.
  - A bill must have a “matching” (identical or companion) bill in the other house to move forward for passage.
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# Appropriations, Implementing, and Conforming bills

The general appropriations bill (aka General Appropriations Act or GAA) authorizes the spending of public money for specific uses, including salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state.

- ▶ The implementing bill contains provisions necessary to effect the general appropriations bill. These bills are effective for one fiscal year only.
- ▶ A conforming bill is a bill that amends the Florida Statutes to provide for specific changes in the general appropriations bill.

# GOVERNOR'S ACTION

If the Governor receives the bill during the 60 day Legislative Session, he or she has 7 days from the date the bill is presented to act on the piece of legislation.

If the Governor receives the bill after the conclusion of the Legislative Session, he or she has 15 days to act.

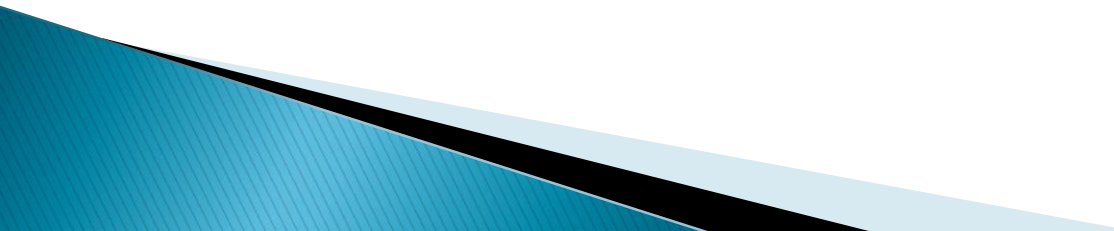


# GOVERNOR'S OPTIONS

- SIGN = Bill becomes law
- VETO = Returns to the house of origin. An “Override” of a veto can be made with a 2/3 vote (**super majority**).
- NOT ACT = Becomes law without his signature.

A bill can become law without the Governor's signature if the Governor takes no action within 15 days after receiving the bill upon conclusion of the Legislative Session.

# 2021 Bills Impacting Education

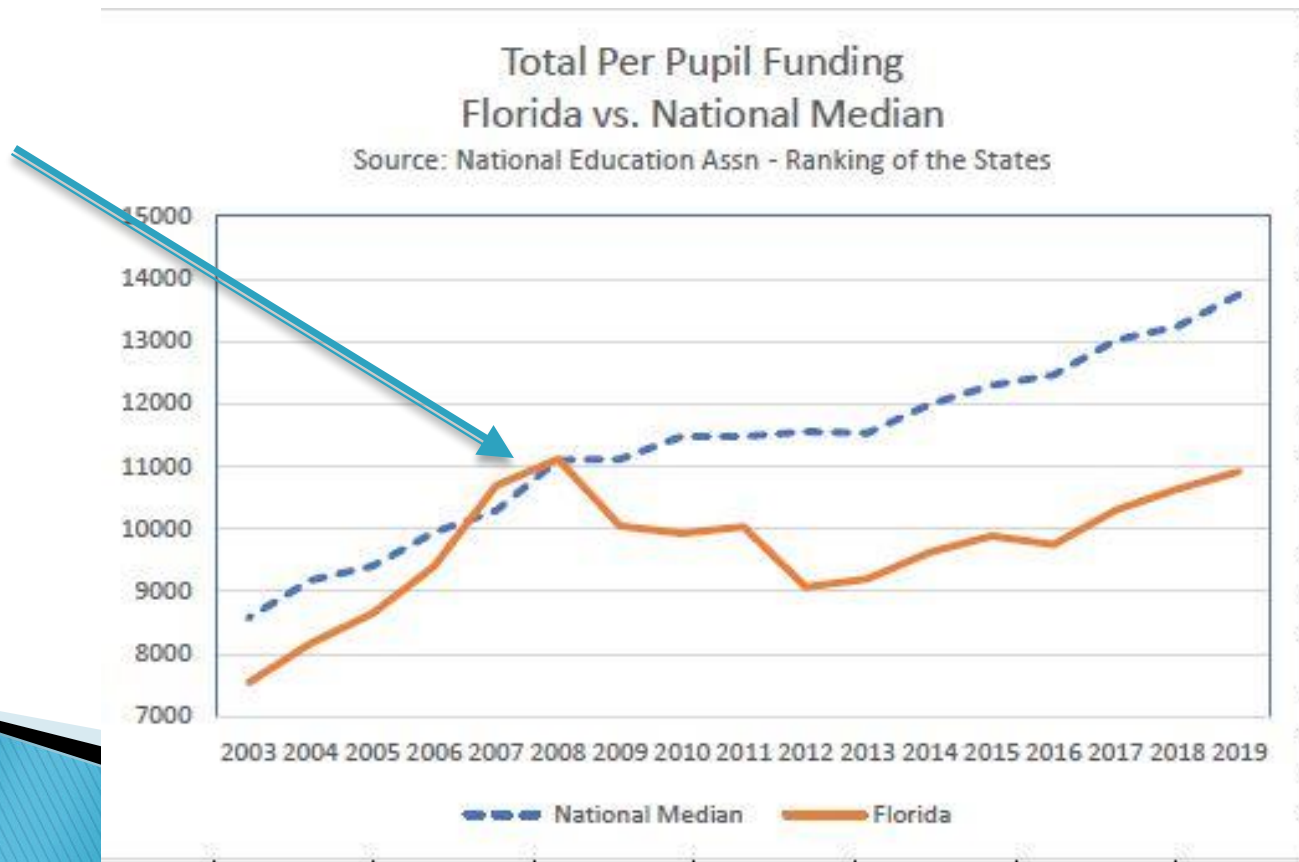
- ▶ General Appropriations Act
  - ▶ SB 86 – Bright Futures
  - ▶ SB 1728 – Grandparents College Tuition Bill
  - ▶ SB 48 – Universal Voucher Bill
  - ▶ SB 886 – State Testing Hold Harmless Bill
  - ▶ HB 7035 – School Safety
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# Funding for Education

## ▶ General Appropriations Act

- Florida has declined from 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation to 44<sup>th</sup> from 2007 to 2020 in per student funding.

2007  
23<sup>rd</sup>





# Funding for Education

- ▶ General Appropriations Act
  - Cares I, II & III Funding – 2021 GAA
  - Unfunded Mandates  
Latest: 2020 Minimum Teacher Salaries
  - District-level impacts
    - Elimination of College & Career Counselors
    - Limitation of Specials in Elementary Schools
    - 1083 staff cuts, potential school closures, etc.

With that said, district finances are complicated as well. Pandemic impacts, Cares funding, debt service, etc.

# 2021 Bills Impacting Education

## ▶ SB 86 – Bright Futures

- Current Status
  - Bill Language – List of Majors, move funding to GAA
  - House support?
- Potential Paths
  - Dies without a matching bill
  - Implementing bill (one year)
  - Conforming bill (permanent statute change)
- Action

# 2021 Bills Impacting Education

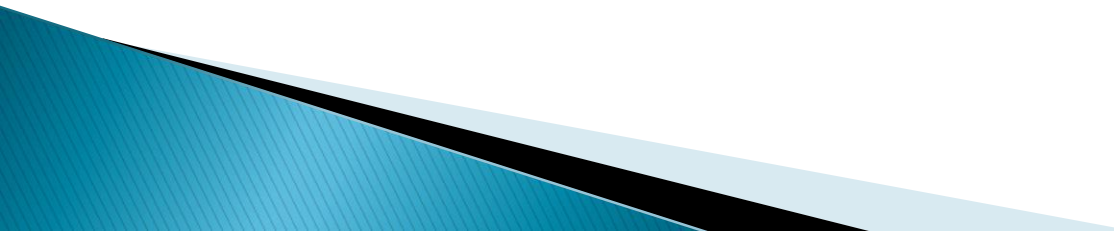
## ▶ SB 1728 – Grandparents College Tuition Bill

### ◦ Bill Language

Requiring a state university to waive the out-of-state fee for a nonresident student who meets certain requirements including if a grandparent is a resident of Florida.

Reciprocal agreement with states that have comparable law.

### ◦ Current Status



# 2021 Bills Impacting Education

## SB48/SB7052/HB7045 – Universal Vouchers

### ▶ Bill Language: Senate–150p/House–60p

Creates an Education Savings Account program for any ‘parent or guardian’ to receive a voucher (debit card) of per student funding amount (SB–95% of FEFP; HB–100% of FEFP) that can be spent on:

- Private School Tuition
- Home School Curriculum & Supplies
- Technology
- College Savings


### ▶ Current Status

- ▶ Action: Oppose any legislation that shifts funding from public schools to private individuals without oversight on how the money is spent or making sure the student receives an education.

# 2021 Bills Impacting Education

- ▶ SB 886 –State Testing Hold Harmless Bill
- ▶ Bill Language
  - Use state testing as a "barometer" of student achievement but would remove the consequences of the Florida accountability system.
    - Students – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention
    - Teachers – Evaluations
    - School grades
- ▶ Current Status:  
Education Appropriations SubCommittee – not on calendar
- ▶ Action:
  - Contact Chair of Committee and ask him to calendar this bill.
  - Contact Governor DeSantis & Education Commissioner Corcoran and ask them to file for a federal waiver and support SB 886.

# 2021 Bills Impacting Education

- ▶ HB 7035 – School Safety
  - ▶ Bill Language – Currently does not include language to reduce emergency drills as recommended by the MSD H.S. School Safety Commission.
  - ▶ Current status
  - ▶ Action: Contact Rep. Chris Latvala asking him to amend the bill to include MSD Commission recommendations. Watch for action alert to contact Senate to encourage them to enact a matching bill.
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# What you can do...

- ▶ Watch bills during Session
  - ▶ Contact legislators
  - ▶ Hold legislators accountable during Elections
  - ▶ Vote in the primary too.
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