



# 2019 Legislative Platform

## School District of Palm Beach County

### Student Learning

Continue state funding for the **Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative** (PAPPI) annual salary supplements, which provide funding to PBSB pilot programs at the following schools: Lakeshore Middle, Lincoln Elementary, and Orchard View Elementary.



### Safety and Mental Health



Establish a dedicated revenue stream for continued implementation of safety and mental health reforms mandated by the **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act** (SB 7026). This will help ensure every student is guaranteed a safe learning environment for the foreseeable future.

### Finance

Maintain the current **Required Local Effort** (RLE) local school tax rate to help fund a meaningful increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA)<sup>1</sup>. In the alternative, include any increase in the taxable value of real property that has resulted from a sale in the marketplace.

Request additional funding in the **Base Student Allocation** (BSA), which will benefit all school districts, rather than the current practice of diverting funds through a compression mechanism aimed at bringing certain school districts up to the state average.



### Facilities

Replace the **cost per student station caps** with a cost per square foot formula (including a regional multiplier) to allow for smaller, neighborhood-based schools instead of mega-schools constructed for economy of scale.

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<sup>1</sup> For the past three years, the state has rolled back the RLE, effectively reducing annual PBSB operating revenue by \$178 million for the next fiscal year and beyond. The “roll back rate” has removed over \$1.7 billion dollars statewide in annual general revenue that could have benefited Florida’s children.

Revise the Educational Plant Survey (EPS) process to **partition large districts into smaller geographic areas for the purposes of new school construction approval**. This will ensure local communities are maintained for families in large urban districts and that schools can be built where they are needed.

Allow districts to be **exempt from the requirement of seeking approval for construction** by the submission of an Educational Plant Survey (EPS) if the District is using taxpayer-approved referendum funds and/or Local Capital Outlay Millage (1.50 mills) for the purpose of financing construction of educational, auxiliary, or ancillary facilities.

### Teacher Pay, Recruitment and Retention



Increase **teacher salaries** in a meaningful and sustainable manner that provides a livable wage commensurate with the role and responsibilities of this critical profession.

Redirect the \$233 million **Best and Brightest Scholarship Program** funds to BSA or dedicated teacher salary categorical within the FEFP for salary increases.

Allow school districts to **re-employ retired teachers, administrators, and other critical instructional support personnel** after one month of retirement without FRS pension penalty.

Revise current teacher certification assessments or allow for **alternative teacher certification options** to increase the number of eligible teacher candidates. In addition, repeal additional certification barriers for already qualified teachers, such as the **reading endorsement requirement** for those who teach reading remediation.

### Charter Schools

Allow districts **greater school board contractual oversight** of local charter schools.

Provide for **equitable rules/regulations for charters and district schools**, particularly for rules pertaining to construction and teacher certification requirements.

Oppose resolutions or legislation seeking to reduce or eliminate the **local authority of school boards** to authorize new charter schools.



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Acknowledgements to documents consulted from the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and the Florida School Finance Officers Association.

See also District's Issues of Concern 2019 accompanying document.