

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

## Human Resources and Employee Relations

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### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

- District 1 – Jay Wheeler  
407-973-4141
- District 2 – Kelvin Soto – Vice Chair  
407-361-2462
- District 3 – Tim Weisheyer – Chair  
407-361-0235
- District 4 – Clarence Thacker  
407-361-7906
- District 5 – Ricky Booth  
407-818-9464

Superintendent of Schools  
Melba Luciano

Chief Human Resources Officer  
Tammy Cope-Otterson

Director of Government & Labor Relations  
District Chief Negotiator  
John Boyd

## 2015-16

## Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

### Priority Issues

#### 1. Osceola's Capital Funds

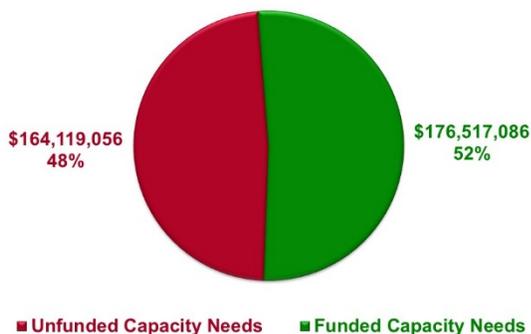
**Issue:** *Osceola capital revenues funds have not kept pace with student enrollment. In fact, since 2008-09, Osceola's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds meant to renovate existing schools have sharply declined. As of September 10, 2015, actual student enrollment is 60,469 students, and for 2019-20, projected student enrollment will be 69,662 students, which reflects a 15% increase in only four (4) years. Without additional capital funding for new student stations, Osceola schools are projected to be at 99% capacity in the 2016-17 school year. This percentage would be higher, but relocatables have been added in the current 2015-16 school year, and five (5) new charter schools have opened.*

#### Recommendation(s):

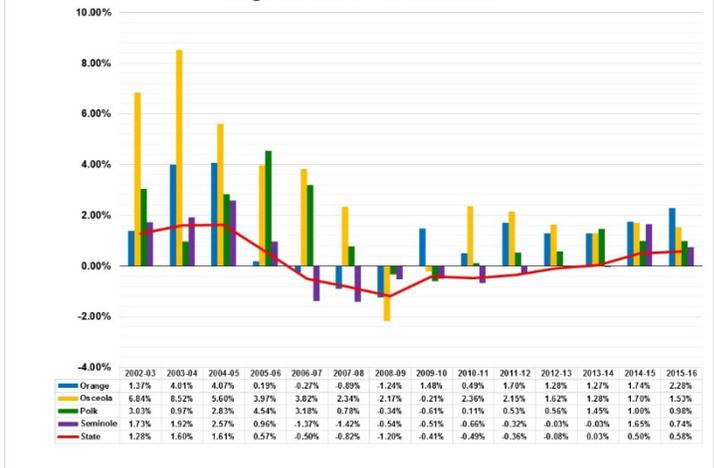
- Amend Section 1013.738, Florida Statutes -- *High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program* to ensure that Osceola students receive their fair share of funding due to increased residential construction in Osceola County and the resulting demands upon our public schools.
- Amend Section 1013.64(1), Florida Statutes, to add subsection (i) "Public Education Capital Outlay funding will be distributed to all public schools, including charter schools and non-charter schools, based on the proportional facilities need as set forth in Section 1002.33(18), Florida Statutes.

The School District of Osceola County, Florida  
 Five Year Capital Funding -  
 Capacity Needs,  
 2015-16 through 2019-20

Total Capacity Needs = \$340,636,141



Regional COFTE Growth Rate



## Other Issues

### 1. State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) Flexibility

**Issue:** *Osceola must construct school buildings following more stringent and costly regulations than charter schools. Greater flexibility will permit Osceola to construct adequate school buildings in order to meet the needs of increasing student enrollment districtwide.*

**Recommendation(s):**

- Amend the appropriate state regulations to provide school districts with options and flexibility similar to what charter schools have, such as:
  - Changes to the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) Space and Size Chart requirements that would permit smaller classrooms and more flexibility regarding required support spaces

### 2. Osceola's Operating Funds

**Issue:** *Osceola particularly has limited staff and resources to meet the state's increasing number of unfunded mandates.*

**Recommendation(s):**

- Establish a long-term plan to make Florida's public education system world-class with adequate and stable funding for hiring and retaining high quality educators.