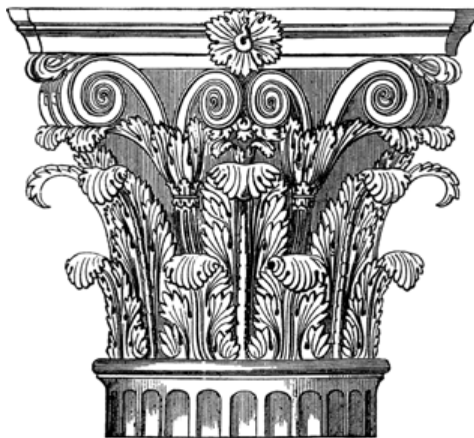




## SDOC Legislative Priorities Since 2013-14



**Prepared by:**

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***Every Child ... Every Chance ... Every Day***

**District Mission Statement:** *"Inspiring all learners to reach their highest potential as responsible, productive citizens"*

**District Vision Statement:** *"The School District of Osceola County will work in partnership with families and the community to ensure all learners develop the essential knowledge and skills to strengthen our thriving community."*

**Prepared by:** John Boyd, Director of Government & Labor Relations, Department of Human Resources

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**2013-14 Legislative Priorities  
for Osceola Schools**

***Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting  
November 01, 2013***



**Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools**  
*Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting*  
*November 01, 2013*

**At-A-Glance Overview**

**Priority Issues**

- 1. Osceola’s English Language Learners and the Elementary and Florida’s Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver**
- 2. Osceola’s Capital Funds**
- 3. Osceola’s Workforce Education Funds**

**Other Issues**

- 1. Teacher Salaries and Benefits Allocation*
- 2. Common Core State Standards Implementation*
- 3. Dual Enrollment*
- 4. Teacher Evaluation*
- 5. Computer-Based Testing*
- 6. Local Instructional Improvement System*

**Priority Issues Executive Summary**

**1. Osceola’s English Language Learners (ELL) and Florida’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver**

**Issue:** *Osceola schools and teachers are held accountable for ELL students who have received only one year of instruction in an English setting and who may not have received any ESOL services.*

**Recommendation(s):**

- Ensure that ELL students are served for at least two (2) years in ESOL programs before their performance is included in the calculation of school and district grades or teacher evaluations.
- Amend state and federal laws and regulations to require that the formula for determining the total number of years in ESOL services uses the date the student enters the ESOL program in the Florida, as the appropriate start date, not the date the student entered a school in the United States.
- Amend Florida State Board Rules 6A-1.09981 to return to its 2010-11 language, which states: “ELLs in their second year were included in Reading and Mathematics learning gains but not included in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science performance components.”

**2. 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 October, 2013, actual student enrollment is 57,453 students, and for 2015-16, projected student enrollment will be 61,288 students, which reflects a 7% increase in only three years. Without additional capital funding for new student stations, Osceola schools are projected to be 108.55% over capacity in the next 2014-15 school year.*

**Recommendation(s):**

- Enact legislation to enforce the collection of sales tax on Internet sales transactions and earmark the revenues for public education construction.
- 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.”

**3. Osceola’s Workforce Education Funds**

**Issue:** *Osceola’s Workforce Education funds were historically underfunded. The new state formula ensures equity in funding that benefits Osceola’s students and should be used for future years.*

**Recommendation(s):**

- Ensure the Florida Department of Education uses the appropriate funding formula to calculate Osceola’s Workforce Education funds.
- Maintain or increase the current funding level for Osceola’s Workforce Education funds.

## **Priority #1**

### **Osceola's English Language Learners (ELL) and Florida's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver**

#### **Issue**

***Osceola schools and teachers are held accountable for ELL students who have received only one year of instruction in an English setting and who may not have received any ESOL services.***

Per Florida's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver from the United States Department of Education, State Board Rule 6A-6.09022 states that the number of years in English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) starts on the date the student enters a school anywhere in the United States (DEUSS), regardless of whether or not the student leaves the United States and does not return for several years.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

- **Ensure that ELL students are served for at least two (2) years in ESOL programs before their performance is included in the calculation of school and district grades or teacher evaluations.**
- **Amend state and federal laws and regulations to require that the formula for determining the total number of years in ESOL services uses the date the student enters the ESOL program in the Florida, as the appropriate start date, not the date the student entered a school in the United States.**
- **Amend Florida State Board Rules 6A-1.09981 to return to its 2010-11 language, which states: "ELLs in their second year were included in Reading and Mathematics learning gains but not included in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science performance components."**

#### **Current Law(s) or Regulation(s)**

- Florida Administrative Code, State Board Rules 6A-6.09022 and 6A-1.09981
- Florida's ESEA Flexibility Waiver from the United States Department of Education

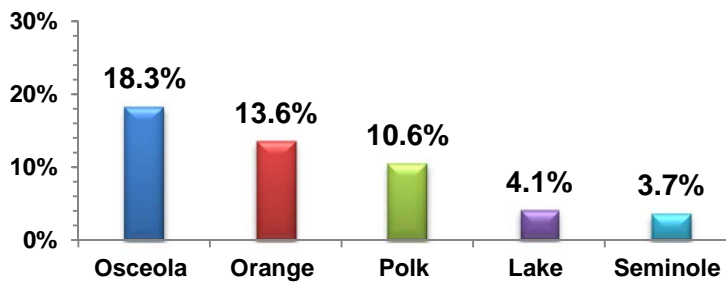
#### **Background**

- Osceola's English Language Learners represent **28%** of its total student population.
- Osceola students represent over **109** countries and speak more than **101** languages.
- Osceola ranks **2<sup>nd</sup>** out of 67 school districts in the percentage of ELLs (LY).
- Florida's ESEA Flexibility Waiver application submitted to the US Department of Education on January 31, 2012, requires ELLs to be part of a school district's accountability system, after only **one year** of instruction in an English setting.
- Osceola has an increasing number of students with interrupted or no formal education in their native language. These variances affect the student's ability to develop conversational and academic language proficiency in English successfully. Research indicates that it takes ELLs from three (3) to five (5) years to develop conversational fluency in English and from four (4) to seven (7) years to develop academic proficiency in reading and writing.

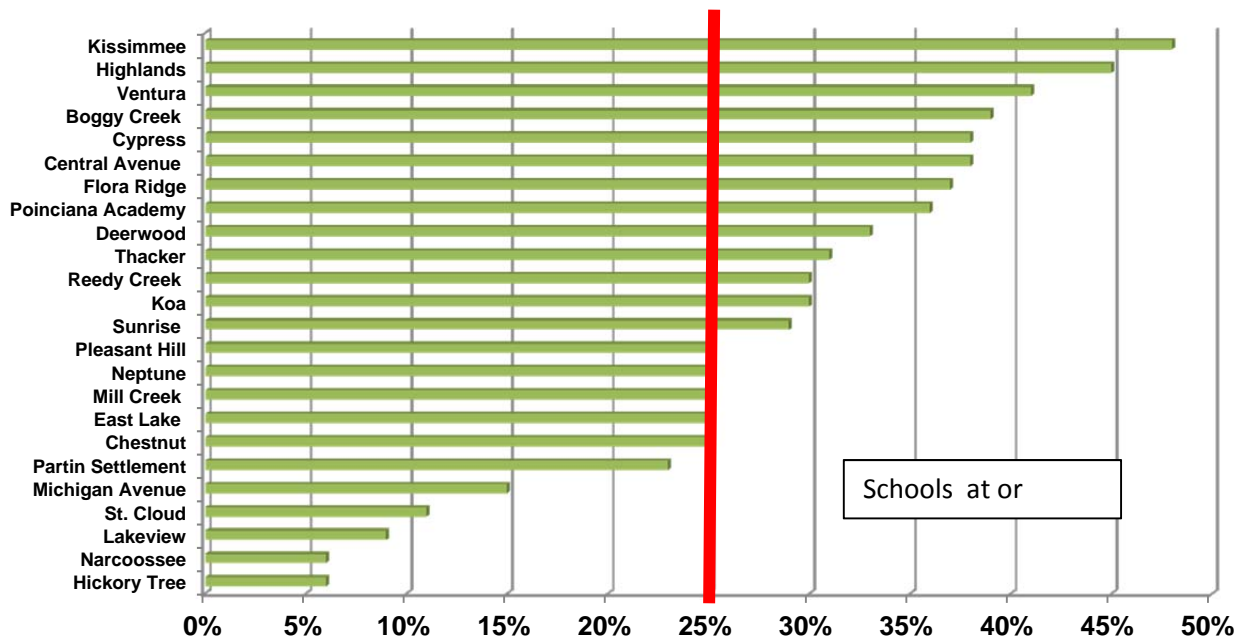
- In 2010-11, ELLs in their second year of ESOL services counted in School Accountability Grades Reading and Mathematics Learning Gains measures only.
  - *The date used to determine the student's years of ESOL services was the first date the student entered a Florida ESOL program.*
- In 2011-12, ELLs in their second year of ESOL services counted in all School Accountability Grades components (e.g., both Performance and Learning Gains components).
  - *The date used to determine the student's years of ESOL services was the first date the student entered a Florida ESOL program or the first date the student entered any school in the United States.*
- In 2012-13, ELLs in their second year of ESOL services counted in all School Accountability Grades components (e.g., both Performance and Learning Gains components).
  - *The date used to determine the student's years of ESOL services was the first date the student entered any school in the United States only.*

**Supporting Data**

**Percentage of English Language Learners (LY)**



**Osceola County's Elementary Schools Percentage of ESOL Students (LY)**



**Brief Anecdote**

Yan was born in Puerto Rico. He entered Kindergarten and qualified for the ESOL Program in 2009. Yan withdrew and left for Puerto Rico in 2010. He transferred back as a Grade 3 student in 2012.

Criteria to Consider	Current Legislation	If Revert to Prior Legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Date Entered United States School (DEUSS)</b></li> </ul>	8/24/2009	NA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Date of Entry to ESOL Program</b></li> </ul>	8/24/2009	8/24/2009 – 2/01/2010 (re-entered 8/21/2012)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Actual Time in ESOL Program</b></li> </ul>	6 months (8/24/2009-2/01/2010)  1 year (8/21/12-6/6/13)	6 months (8/24/2009-2/01/2010)  1 year (8/21/12-6/6/13)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Years of Instruction in ESOL According to Legislative Language</b></li> </ul>	4 years	Less than 2 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Do FCAT Scores Count in the School's Accountability Grade?</b></li> </ul>	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Does the child meet Good Cause Exemption for 3rd grade retention?</b></li> </ul>	No, although the child has only been actually in the ESOL program for one (1) year and six (6) months, new Legislation has us begin counting the years in ESOL as the U.S. date of entry which is four (4) years. He does not qualify for Good Cause Exemption #1 for "Limited English Proficient Students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages program."	Yes, he qualifies for Good Cause Exemption #1: "Limited English Proficient Students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages program."

**Reference(s)/ Resource(s)**

- Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) School Grades Technical Assistance Paper, 2012-13
- FLDOE Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) Technical Assistance Paper, 2012-2013
- FLDOE Survey 2 Data, as of 12/14/2012
- Hakuta, K., Butler, G.Y., & Witt, D. (2000). *How long does it take English learners to attain proficiency?* University of California, Linguistic Minority Research Institute. Policy Report 2000-1.

**Contact Information**

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  - Work Phone: 407-870-4848

## **Priority #2**

### **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 October, 2013, actual student enrollment is 57,453 students, and for 2015-16, projected student enrollment will be 61,288 students, which reflects a 7% increase in only three years. Without additional capital funding for new student stations, Osceola schools are projected to be 108.55% over capacity in the next 2014-15 school year.
  - **2013-14 through 2016-17 New "Capacity" Capital Needed = \$220-230 Million**
  - **2014-15 through 2018-19 New Student Stations Needed = 10,941**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

- **Enact legislation to enforce the collection of sales tax on Internet sales transactions and earmark the revenues for public education construction.**
- **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."**

#### **Current Law(s) or Regulation(s)**

- Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes
- Section 1013.64, Florida Statutes
- General Appropriations Act

#### **Background**

- Osceola's capital projects fund reports the revenue and expenditures for construction and renovations of school buildings and grounds. Funds are accounted for by source and year of appropriation.
- Public Education Capital Outlay funds (PECO) are one source of state revenue for Capital Projects. PECO funds are derived from utility taxes throughout the state and are allocated by the Legislature each year. PECO funds provide for maintenance and renovation of existing facilities and health and safety needs. In 2013-14, the Florida Legislature allocated all PECO funds for charter schools.
- Capital Outlay and Debt Service revenues are derived from motor vehicle license tag fees. Osceola's School Board also generates capital revenue by levying capital outlay taxes. By law, this tax millage is limited to 1.5 mills and is currently set at the maximum.
- Osceola also receives impact fees charged against new residential construction.
- Osceola receives a portion of the one-cent infrastructure sales tax levied by the county. The excess of these revenues are transferred in from the debt service fund after payment of the sales tax bonds. Based on an inter-local agreement the District receives 25% of the revenue generated through 2025.
- The majority of funds must be expended on Capital Outlay Projects in accordance with State Board of Education Regulations, which require recommendation of a school plant survey that must be conducted at least every five years.

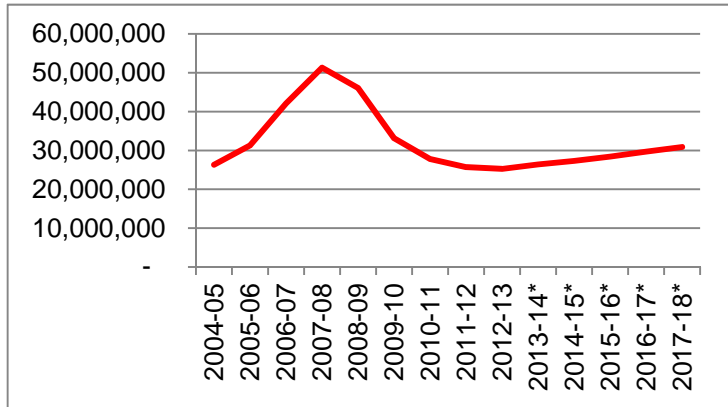


**Supporting Data**

**Osceola's Capital Revenue History and Projections, 2013-14**

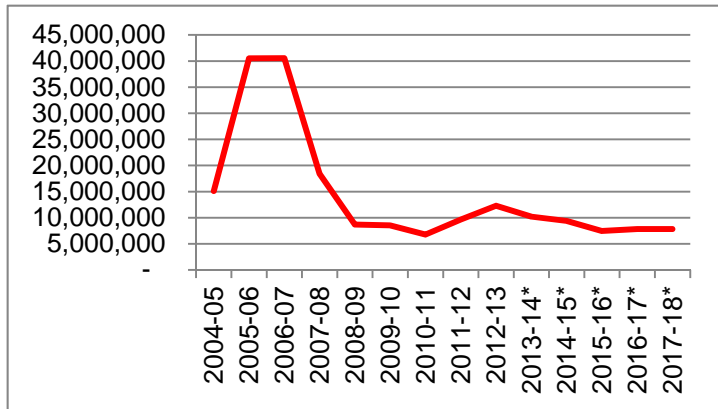
**Capital Outlay Tax**

2004-05	26,321,324	-
2005-06	31,289,374	18.9%
2006-07	42,088,335	34.5%
2007-08	51,335,368	22.0%
2008-09	46,092,399	-10.2%
2009-10	33,142,748	-28.1%
2010-11	27,783,883	-16.2%
2011-12	25,707,956	-7.5%
2012-13	25,257,230	-1.8%
2013-14*	26,391,225	4.5%
2014-15*	27,314,918	3.5%
2015-16*	28,407,514	4.0%
2016-17*	29,685,852	4.5%
2017-18*	30,873,287	4.0%



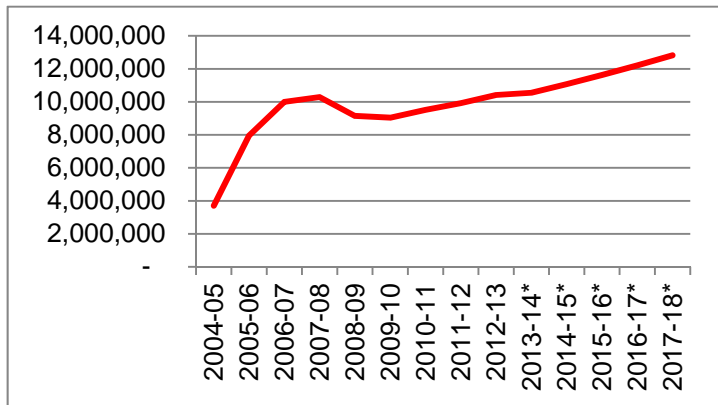
**Impact Fees**

2004-05	15,102,364	-
2005-06	40,493,821	168.1%
2006-07	40,535,828	0.1%
2007-08	18,428,721	-54.5%
2008-09	8,680,988	-52.9%
2009-10	8,523,234	-1.8%
2010-11	6,768,300	-20.6%
2011-12	9,651,482	42.6%
2012-13	12,286,659	27.3%
2013-14*	10,200,000	-17.0%
2014-15*	9,384,000	-8.0%
2015-16*	7,458,273	-20.5%
2016-17*	7,831,187	5.0%
2017-18*	7,831,187	0.0%



**Sales Tax**

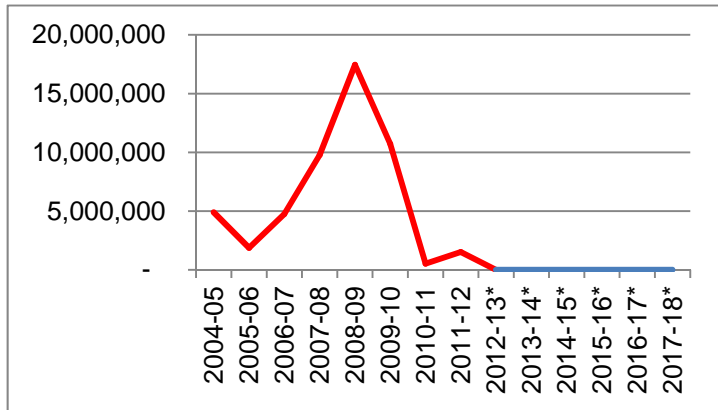
2004-05	3,704,309	-
2005-06	7,948,681	114.6%
2006-07	9,998,541	25.8%
2007-08	10,292,844	2.9%
2008-09	9,143,244	-11.2%
2009-10	9,035,938	-1.2%
2010-11	9,511,482	5.3%
2011-12	9,925,207	4.3%
2012-13	10,416,923	5.0%
2013-14*	10,548,720	1.3%
2014-15*	11,076,156	5.0%
2015-16*	11,629,964	5.0%
2016-17*	12,211,462	5.0%
2017-18*	12,822,035	5.0%





**PECO**

2004-05	4,891,830	-
2005-06	1,875,100	-61.7%
2006-07	4,749,977	153.3%
2007-08	9,776,617	105.8%
2008-09	17,453,825	78.5%
2009-10	10,719,386	-38.6%
2010-11	527,713	-95.1%
2011-12	1,515,743	187.2%
2012-13*	-	-100.0%
2013-14*	-	0.0%
2014-15*	-	0.0%
2015-16*	-	0.0%
2016-17*	-	0.0%
2017-18*	-	0.0%



**Reference(s)/ Resource(s)**

- *The School District of Osceola County Budget, 2013-14*
- *Capacity Capital Needs for the School District of Osceola County*

**Contact Information**

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  - E-Mail: wellscl@osceola.k12.fl.us
- Todd Seis, Chief Business & Finance Officer
  - Phone: 407-870-4823
  - E-Mail: seist@osceola.k12.fl.us

**Priority #3**  
**Osceola’s Workforce Education Funds**

**Issue**

- Osceola’s Workforce Education funds were historically underfunded, but the new state formula ensures equity in funding that benefits Osceola’s students and should be used for future years.

**Recommendation(s)**

- Ensure the Florida Department of Education uses the appropriate funding formula to calculate Osceola’s Workforce Education funds.
- Maintain or increase the current funding level for Osceola’s Workforce Education funds.

**Current Law(s) or Regulation(s)**

- General Appropriations Act

**Background**

- Operating funds for Osceola’s career and adult education programs are provided in two basic categories: Workforce Development Fund (98.7% of total operating funds) and Performance-Based Incentive Fund.
- Allocations to school districts are made annually in the General Appropriations Act.
- Florida’s total operating funds appropriations for 2012-13 are \$374,475,1991, comprising \$369,488,374 in Workforce Development Funds and \$4,986,825 in Performance-Based Incentive Funds. This represented the same overall level of funding used in both the previous year Workforce Development Fund and the Performance-Based Incentive Fund.
- Osceola’s overall level of funding used in both the previous year Workforce Development Fund and the Performance-Based Incentive Fund increased.
- Osceola’s 2013-14 allocation included Targeted Career & Technical Education Funds, but no Performance-Based Incentive Funds.

**Supporting Data**

Year	Workforce Development Fund	Targeted Career & Technical Education Fund	Performance Incentive Fund	Total Allocation	Difference from Prior Year
2008-09	\$ 4,566,436.00	N/A	\$ 82,049.00	\$ 4,648,485.00	N/A
2009-10	\$ 4,486,783.00	N/A	\$ 88,876.00	\$ 4,575,659.00	\$ (72,826.00)
2010-11	\$ 4,429,367.00	N/A	\$ 92,169.00	\$ 4,521,536.00	\$ (54,123.00)
2011-12	\$ 5,793,707.00	N/A	\$ 98,086.00	\$ 5,891,793.00	\$ 1,370,257.00
2012-13	\$ 5,914,419.00	N/A	\$ 98,923.00	\$ 6,013,342.00	\$ 121,549.00
2013-14	\$ 5,672,466.00	\$ 532,969.00	\$ -	\$ 6,205,435.00	\$ 192,093.00

**Reference(s)/ Resource(s)**

- Florida Department of Education District Workforce Education Appropriations

**Contact Information**

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  - Phone: 407-518-4580
  - E-Mail: pinkstob@osceola.k12.fl.us

## **Other Issues**

### **1. TEACHER SALARIES AND BENEFITS ALLOCATION**

#### **Issue**

- **If the Florida Legislature reduces Osceola's Teacher Salaries and Benefits Allocation below the amount for the 2013-14 school year, then Osceola may need to reduce salaries to match available funding in order to avoid financial hardship.**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

- Maintain or increase the current funding levels for Osceola's Teacher Salaries and Benefits Allocation.

#### **Current Law(s) or Regulation(s)**

- General Appropriations Act

#### **Background**

#### **The purpose of the 2013-14 Teacher Salary allocation per the Florida Department of Education:**

The fundamental goal of our K-12 system is to prepare our students for future success in college and careers. Governor Rick Scott worked hard with the Legislature to provide an increase of more than \$1 billion in the state education budget, including \$480 million to provide a much deserved teacher pay raise for our public school teachers.

#### **The District's approach used to allocate the funds, as authorized by the Florida Legislature:**

- Per the conforming bill language, the District has chosen to distribute the funds equitably among all classifications of employee groups.
- The method was determined through the normal bargaining process, with final authorization by local school boards before submitting the plan to the FLDOE.

#### **The District's distribution method:**

- The funds **shall be** added to the employee's base salary.
- The amount may be tied to performance.
- The District's portion of the FRS and FICA benefits shall be deducted from the approved allocation before distribution to the employee.

#### **If the Florida Legislature does NOT appropriate the same level of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding in future years . . .**

#### **The effect on local school districts will be that:**

- Most local school districts would have to use their available fund balances to offset the funding shortfall.
- Local school districts must maintain the 3% minimum fund balance threshold that Florida law requires.
- Local school districts that fall below the 3% minimum fund balance threshold would be in a state of financial emergency, as defined in Florida law.

**The effect on the School District of Osceola County** will be that:

- In future years, in order to continue the same level of salary base funding (as the current 2013-14 school year), the District must receive a *minimum per weighted full-time-equivalent student (WFTE) funding* of:
  - \$161.48 from the FEFP Teacher Salary Allocation appropriation,
  - Plus \$3,699.02 from the Base Funding Allocation,
  - For a combined total of **\$3,860.50** per WFTE funding.
- ***If the Florida Legislature reduces its appropriations to a lesser amount than those listed above:***
  - The District will need to prorate the original salary increase to match available funding in order to avoid further financial hardship;
  - The District's fund balance will have to be offset until the 6% Board limit is met; and
  - Any further offsets would have to be in the form of salary and discretionary spending reductions.

**Supporting Data**

- 2013-14 Teacher Salaries and Benefits Allocation = \$10,061,583.00

**Reference(s)/ Resource(s)**

- *The School District of Osceola County Budget, 2013-14*

**Contact Information**

- Todd Seis, Chief Business & Finance Officer
  - Phone: 407-870-4823
  - E-Mail: seist@osceola.k12.fl.us

**2. COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS**

- The Florida Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Mathematics in 2010.
- The District began professional development, training, and support on the CCSS for administrators and teachers the following year.
- The District continues to provide ongoing professional development, training, and support on the CCSS for administrators and teachers.
- The District began implementation of the CCSS for Kindergarten students in the 2011-2012 school year, Grade 1 students in the 2012-13 school year, and Grade 2 in the 2013-14 school year.
- The District plans to implement the CCSS for all remaining grade levels in the 2014-15 school year.

### 3. DUAL ENROLLMENT

#### Prior Year Program Cost

- The District and Valencia State College agreed to equally share in the cost of the instructor for each approved dual enrollment (DE) credit course.
  - Valencia paid one-half of the instructor cost for courses taught by a District instructor.
  - District paid one-half of the instructor cost for courses taught by a Valencia instructor.
  - *The net cost to District to provide instructors for DE courses for Osceola students was \$0.00.*
- Valencia selected the textbooks used in the DE courses, and the District paid for and retained ownership of the materials.
  - The total cost of instructional materials was \$268,932.
- *Actual prior year cost of DE program to District for the 2012-13 school year was \$268,932.*

#### Current 2013-14 School Year Program Costs

- Valencia DE courses offered on District property and taught by District instructors now cost **tuition** of \$25 per student, excluding summer terms in which no tuition is charged.
- Total cost per three credit hour course is \$215.94 (e.g., \$71.98 per credit hour).
- Total projected number of DE courses is 3,100 (based on 2012-13 actual enrollment).
- Total projected cost for courses offered on:
  - Valencia campus = **\$669,500**
  - District property using District instructors = **\$ 2,500**
- Total projected cost of instructional materials = **\$270,000**  
**\$942,000**
- *Total projected cost of DE program to District for the 2013-14 school year is now \$942,000.*

#### 4. TEACHER EVALUATION

- Amend Sections 1012.34 (3)(a)(1) and 1012.34 (8), Florida Statutes, to remove the so-called "trigger" language which elevates the weight of student growth to 100% of the teacher's evaluation and conflicts with the weight of 50% established in Section 1012.34 (3)(a)(1), Florida Statutes, of the same law.

**NOTE:** Original statutory language is in italics. Strikethroughs are recommended deletions. Underlines are recommended additions.

1. Performance of students.— ~~At least 50~~ Fifty percent of a performance evaluation must be based upon data and indicators of student learning growth assessed annually by statewide assessments or, for subjects and grade levels not measured by statewide assessments, by school district assessments as provided in s. 1008.22(8).

...  
~~Specifically, the rules shall establish a student learning growth standard that if not met will result in the employee receiving an unsatisfactory performance evaluation rating. In like manner, the rules shall establish a student learning growth standard that must be met in order for an employee to receive a highly effective rating and a student learning growth standard that must be met in order for an employee to receive an effective rating.~~

Amend Section 1012.34 (3)(e), Florida Statutes, to remove the sunset dates and to permit school districts to continue to use measurable learning targets for teachers who do not receive an individual Value Added Model (VAM) score and whose students do not take statewide assessments (e.g., Grades Kindergarten through 03, Grades 11 and 12, courses for which no End of Course Exam exists, such as all social studies courses except Grade 7 Civics and high school US History; all science courses except high school biology; all mathematics courses except high school Algebra I and high school geometry; all Grade 11 and 12 English/ Language Arts courses; all elective courses; and all other courses).

(e) *For classroom teachers of courses for which the district has not implemented appropriate assessments under s. 1008.22(8) or for which the school district has not adopted an equally appropriate measure of student learning growth under paragraphs (b)-(d), student learning growth must be measured by the growth in learning of the classroom teacher's students on statewide assessments, or, for courses in which enrolled students do not take the statewide assessments, measurable learning targets must be established based upon the goals of the school improvement plan and approved by the school principal. A district school superintendent may assign to instructional personnel in an instructional team the student learning growth of the instructional team's students on statewide assessments. ~~This paragraph expires July 1, 2015.~~*

- Amend Section 1008.22 (8)(b), Florida Statutes, to extend the deadline for development of tests used for teacher evaluation purposes for one additional year, the 2015-2016 school year, and empower FDOE no cost extension waiver from US ED

*Beginning with the ~~2014-2015~~ 2015-2016 school year, each school district shall administer for each course offered in the district a student assessment that measures mastery of the content, as described in the state-adopted course description, at the necessary level of rigor for the course.*

## **5. LOCAL INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (LIIS)**

- Amend Section 1006.281 to extend the deadline for local instructional improvement systems one additional year.

**NOTE:** Original statutory language is in italics. Strikethroughs are recommended deletions. Underlines are recommended additions.

*By June 30, ~~2014~~ 2015, a school district's local instructional improvement system shall comply with minimum standards published by the Department of Education. The system must allow for a single, authenticated sign-on and include the following functionality*

## **6. COMPUTER-BASED TESTING**

- Section 1008.22, FS, requires all statewide end-of-course assessments to be administered online beginning 2014-15. FDOE plans to expand online testing for statewide assessments as a cost-savings at the state level.
  - No funds exist to provide an adequate number of new school computers or to retrofit existing school computers to meet these new requirements and testing specifications.
  - Schools that moved computers from labs to the classrooms for students and teachers to use must now move the same computers back into labs for testing centers.
  - For test security, teachers and students cannot use computers configured for statewide computer-based testing. Essentially, computers are removed from classroom instruction.

# APPENDIX



**Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools**  
***Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting***  
***November 01, 2013***



## The School District of Osceola County, Florida

Staff is in the process of compiling an all inclusive capital (capacity and non-capacity) projects needs report for the District. This extensive and detailed report will compare capital needs versus available and projected funding. Staff is currently analyzing the final draft of the DDP Projections and Build-Out Report, evaluating Maintenance and Facilities assessments, replacement facilities, technology, transportation, adjusting preliminary redistricting plans, and other factors that could impact our future needs. As we finalize the capital projects needs report, we anticipate adjustments to the information requested based on priorities such as curriculum needs, new legislation, building codes, facility and site limitations, and the opening of new charter schools.

**1. "How much funding do we need for new capacity, capital projects over the next 3 years? "**

School Year	*New "Capacity" Capital Needs
2013/2014 - 2016/2017	\$220M-\$230M

\* Capital funding reflected in the 2013/2014-2016/2017 school years allows for the planning, design, and construction of student stations to become available during the 2014/2015-2018/2019 school years. Funding was calculated utilizing the 2011 DOE Cost of Construction Report with a 3% inflation factor per year as well as comparison with past construction projects within the District.

**2. "How many new student stations by grades will that money represent?"**

School Year	New Elementary Student Stations	New Middle Student Stations	New High Student Stations
2014/2015 - 2018/2019	2,441	2,200	6,300

\* 2 elementary schools, 2 elementary classroom wing additions, 1.5 middle schools, 2 high schools, and 2 high school classroom wing additions

**3. "What is the current enrollment for this year and the next 5 years?"**

School Year	*Enrollment
2013/2014	57,453 - actual
2014/2015	58,951 - projected
2015/2016	61,288 - projected
2016/2017	63,816 - projected
2017/2018	66,304 - projected
2018/2019	68,429 - projected

\* Enrollment excludes Pre-K and incoming Out-of-District for 2014/2015-2018/2019

## The School District of Osceola County, Florida

### 4. "Without the funding what is the projected % our schools will be over capacity by?"

School Year	*Capacity without New Student Stations and Capital Funding
2014/2015	108.55%
2015/2016	112.85%
2016/2017	117.50%
2017/2018	122.09%
2018/2019	126.00%

\* Capacity excludes relocatables and Pre-K students

Please keep in mind, many factors are taken into consideration when projecting the construction costs, student stations, enrollment, and capacity figures referenced in the above charts. A few of the factors are as follows:

- **Capital funding referenced is for "new capacity". No consideration for non-capacity, Capital projects included in the above data.** (Applies to 1 and 2 above)
- **Impact of new charter schools** (Applies to 1, 2, 3, and 4 above)
- **Implementation of new programs** (Applies to 1 and 2 above)
- **Space reconfiguration of our current facilities** (Applies to 1, 2, 3, and 4 above)
- **Pre-K students currently housed in K-12 student stations** (Applies to 1, 2, 3, and 4 above)
- **Incoming out-of-district students** (Applies to 1, 2, 3, and 4 above)
- **Relocatables** (Applies to 1, 2, and 4 above)
- **Site limitations** (Applies to 1 and 2 above)
- **Impact of redistricting** (Applies to 1 and 2 above)
- **Impact of out-of-zones** (Applies to 1 and 2 above)

## Additional Information Requested by the Osceola Legislative Delegation

### SREF VERSUS FLORIDA BUILDING CODE

- **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

### **Comparison of Traditional versus Charter School Construction**

The estimation of the square footage cost of traditional public schools versus charter schools is complex. Charter schools can choose to meet State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) but per Section 1002.33(18), Florida Statutes, charter schools can also opt out of using SREF. This summary focuses on SREF constructed schools in comparison to non-SREF constructed schools.

Our District's research has determined that meeting SREF standards can equate to approximately a 30-40% cost difference between the two code paths regarding cost to construct.

Some significant differences in cost are:

- ✓ the differences in required construction type;
- ✓ the need to provide energy management measures and lightning protection; and
- ✓ the flexibility for charter schools to forego or postpone the construction of media centers, gymnasiums, cafeterias and kitchens, physical education facilities, and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) facilities.

Further, charter schools are not required to:

- ✓ follow the SREF Space and Size Chart for any of their spaces;
- ✓ use safe school design strategies; or
- ✓ consider Life Cycle Cost Guidelines in development of their educational specifications.

SREF standards are in place to insure traditional public schools are constructed to meet a 50-year building life expectancy. Long-term energy costs, maintainability, serviceability, and the needs of ESE students are considered in the required design. These standards are a safeguard for the appropriate expenditure of tax dollars to insure longevity and versatility of traditional public school construction.

Our District's position is that the perceived savings of non-SREF construction may likely be negated over the life of the building yielding no long-term savings to local school districts. However, in order to save money, our District recommends that the current SREF Space and Size Chart requirements be amended to permit local school districts to construct smaller classrooms and have more flexibility regarding required support spaces.

Charter schools constructed without meeting SREF standards have not been in existence long enough to substantiate any claims regarding the effect of the less expensive, non-SREF construction practices. In addition, the costs of the long-term consequences of the non-SREF design are unknown.



**COLLABORATION BETWEEN CHARTER SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ON LOCATIONS OF NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS IN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF NEED**

- Amend Section 1002.33(18)(a), Florida Statutes, to provide the opportunity for charter schools to collaborate with school districts in opening charter schools in geographic areas that have been identified as areas of need and to provide relief to overcrowded schools by adding student stations and assisting with capital needs.

**NOTE:** Original statutory language is in italics. Strikethroughs are recommended deletions. Underlines are recommended additions.

(18) *FACILITIES.—*

(a) *A startup charter school shall utilize facilities which comply with the Florida Building Code pursuant to chapter 553 except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. Charter Schools shall collaborate with School Districts in opening charter schools in areas the School District has identified as areas of need. This collaboration will provide relief to overcrowded schools, provide student stations, and assist with capital needs. Conversion charter schools shall utilize facilities that comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities provided that the school district and the charter school have entered into a mutual management plan for the reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management plan shall contain a provision by which the district school board agrees to maintain charter school facilities in the same manner as its other public schools within the district. Charter schools, with the exception of conversion charter schools, are not required to comply, but may choose to comply, with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37. The local governing authority shall not adopt or impose any local building requirements or site-development restrictions, such as parking and site-size criteria, that are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code. Beginning July 1, 2011, a local governing authority must treat charter schools equitably in comparison to similar requirements, restrictions, and processes imposed upon public schools that are not charter schools. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority.*

# 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  
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Superintendent of Schools  
Melba Luciano

Chief Human Resources Officer  
Tammy Cope-Otterson

Director of Government & Labor Relations  
District Chief Negotiator  
John Boyd

## 2014-15 Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

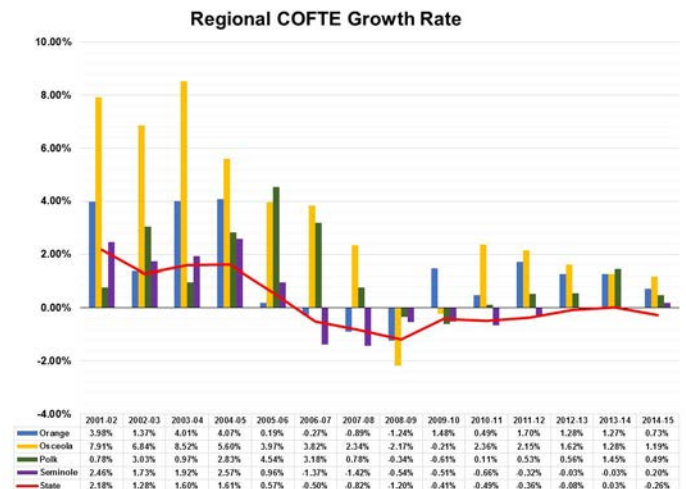
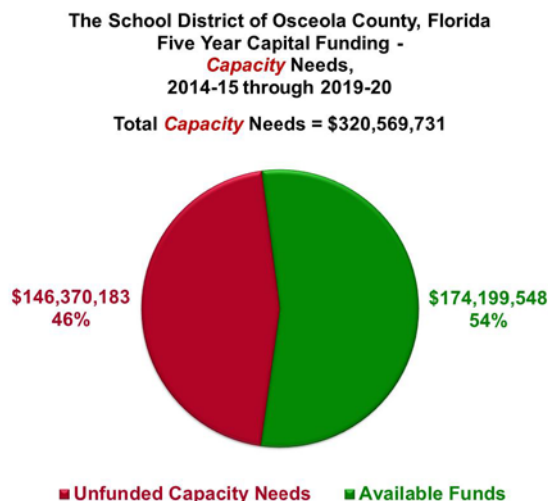
### Priority Issues

#### 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 December 20, 2014, actual student enrollment is 59,508 students, and for 2018-19, projected student enrollment will be 68,429 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 104% over capacity in the 2015-16 school year. This percentage would be higher, but relocatables have been added in the current 2014-15 school year.*

#### 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.



## Other Issues

### 1. Sustained Accountability Reform that Supports Osceola's Student Achievement Goals

**Issue:** *Osceola schools face significant challenges with the state's current timeline for accountability reforms and need additional time to implement these reforms with fidelity and fulfill Osceola's commitment to improving student achievement.*

**Recommendation(s):**

- Implement the recommendations of the Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition (CFPSBC), the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS), and the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA).
  - Section 1012.3401, Florida Statutes -- *Requirements for measuring student performance in instructional personnel and school administrator performance evaluations; performance evaluation of personnel for purposes of performance salary schedule*
  - Section 1012.341, Florida Statutes -- *Exemption from performance evaluation system and compensation and salary schedule requirements*

### 2. 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):**

- Pass House Bill 181 -- *Educational Facilities* as sponsored by Representative Bileca.
- 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

### 3. 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.



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## 2015-16 Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

### Priority Issues

#### 1. Osceola's Capital Funds

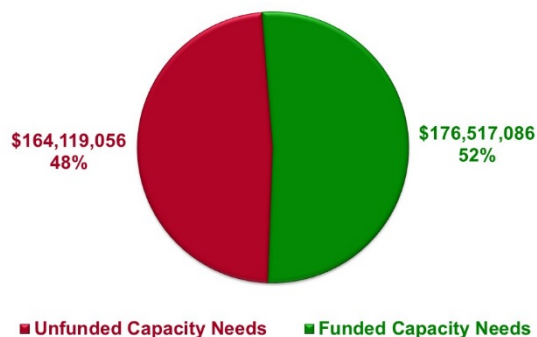
**Issue:** *Osceola capital revenues funds have not kept pace with student enrollment. In fact, since 2008-09, Osceola's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds meant to renovate existing schools have sharply declined. As of September 10, 2015, actual student enrollment is 60,469 students, and for 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):

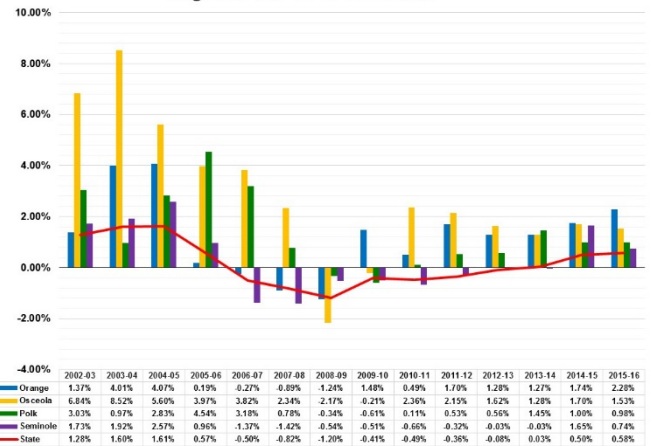
- Amend Section 1013.738, Florida Statutes -- *High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program* to ensure that Osceola students receive their fair share of funding due to increased residential construction in Osceola County and the resulting demands upon our public schools.
- Amend Section 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.



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Dr. Debra P. Pace

Chief Human Resources Officer  
Tammy Cope-Otterson

Director of Government & Labor Relations  
District Chief Negotiator  
John Boyd

## 2016-17

## Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

### 1. Osceola's Capital Funds

**Issue:** *Osceola capital revenues have not kept pace with student enrollment needs to add and maintain adequate educational facilities. In fact, since 2008-09, Osceola's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds meant to renovate existing schools have sharply declined. As of January 10, 2017, actual student enrollment is 63,031 students, and for 2020-21, projected student enrollment will be 72,495 students, which reflects a 15% increase in only five (5) years. Without additional capital funding for new student stations, Osceola schools are projected to be at 96% capacity in the 2017-18 school year. This percentage would be higher, but relocatables have been added in the current 2016-17 school year, and two (2) new charter schools have opened.*

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- Amend Section 1013.64(1), Florida Statutes – Funds for comprehensive educational plant needs; construction cost maximums for school district capital projects, 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."
- 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.

### 2. Osceola's Operating Funds

**Issue:** *Osceola has limited resources to meet the state's increasing number of unfunded mandates and serve our growing number of students and parents.*

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- Review the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) formula to ensure equitable funding by:
  - Adjusting the district cost differential (DCD) calculation, and
  - Removing the cap on Group 2 weighted full-time equivalency (WFTE) program funding.
- 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.

### **Why Does Osceola Receive Less Operational Funding?**

- Osceola is currently ranked 66<sup>th</sup> out of 67 school districts in the State in operational dollars received per student at \$6,876. This is \$328 below the state average and \$2,236 below the district receiving the most funding per student.
- Osceola's property tax values remain low while student growth in our district continues to rise. The combination of these two trends results in lower funding available per student. Osceola is currently ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the value of 1 mill, yet 40<sup>th</sup> in the value of 1 mill per student.
- The FEFP formula is designed to equalize the required local effort (RLE) portion of ad valorem tax generated by school districts throughout the state. The 0.748 mill discretionary tax is compressed to the state average for 48 school districts that generate below the average in collections. However, the nineteen school districts that generate above the state average receive \$209,551,215 more from the 0.748 mill discretionary tax, which causes further disparity in the operational funds available among school districts.
- Osceola's district cost differential (DCD) of 0.9855 results in a further reduction in funding available per student of \$65. With 12 of the 67 districts having a DCD over 1.000, an additional \$122,586,423 is being shifted from the lowest-generating 55 to the top 12 school districts.

### **3. Flexibility for State Assessment and Accountability**

**Issue:** *Florida's accountability system, which assigns school grades of "A" through "F," has been in place since 1999 for eighteen (18) years. Like the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, Osceola County supports a rigorous accountability system that is fair, ensures that decisions are made in the best interests of students, and that recognizes the complexities of serving students with diverse needs. The passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides an opportunity to develop a better accountability system that will lead to increased student performance and provide parents and the community with a more comprehensive report on student and school performance.*

#### **Recommendation(s):**

- Amend Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes – Student Assessment Program for Public Schools and Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes – School grading system; school report cards; district grade, to support home rule and local control and to permit local School Boards the following flexibility:
  - **Alternate Assessment** – Require the Florida Department of Education to:
    - approve a list of nationally recognized high school assessments (e.g., SAT or ACT) from which school districts may select in lieu of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for Grade 10 English Language Arts;
    - continue to make the FSA available for students who need a concordant score on an alternate assessment; and
    - include the student's highest score, regardless of the assessment, within Florida's Accountability System. [ESSA allows states the flexibility of selecting a nationally recognized high school assessment.]
  - **Paper/ Pencil Test Administration** – Require the Florida Department of Education to provide school districts a paper and pencil version of each state test to use until efficient and affordable technology is available that substantially reduces the amount of time that students are tested and that classroom instructional time is disrupted.





Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2017-2018

## Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting  
September 22, 2017

### Osceola's Top Priority

#### 1. Secure Capital Funds for Osceola's High Growth

**Issue:** Osceola capital revenues have not kept pace with student enrollment needs to add and maintain adequate educational facilities. Since 2000, student enrollment has almost doubled from 31,884 to 63,031. At the start of the 2017-18 school year, Osceola schools are projected to be at 96% capacity, with 4,748 students assigned to relocatables. Osceola County is projected to grow by another 18,000 students over the next ten years.

**Recommendation(s):** Include designated funds for the High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program in Section 1013.738, Florida Statutes as an allocation in the 2018-2019 Florida Education Budget.

#### ● Osceola's 1.5 Mill Capital Outlay Tax

School districts generate capital revenue by levying capital outlay taxes. By law, this tax millage is limited to 1.5 mills and is currently set at the maximum. Due to low property taxes and high student growth, Osceola faces a unique shortfall in ad valorem tax revenue generated for capital needs. Since 2007-08, Osceola's capital outlay tax generated per student has declined from \$976 down to \$549, which is a 44% reduction over the ten year period.

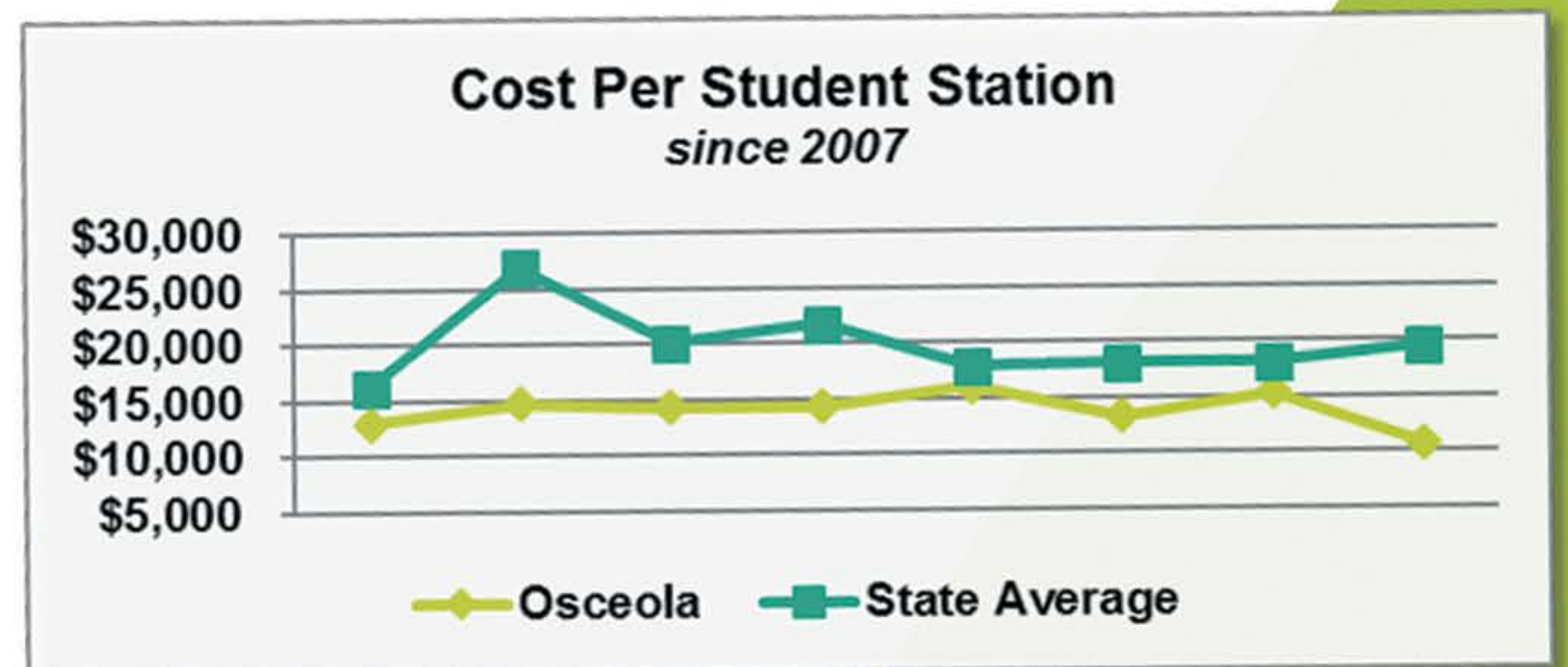
#### ● Osceola's Cost Per Student Station Versus the State Average and Maximum

Osceola maintains its record for cost-effectiveness in school construction. Since 2007, Osceola has built schools with a cost per student station that averages \$5,858 less than the state average.

#### ● Osceola's Shortfall in Capital Funding

► Osceola maximizes its available capital revenues and takes cost-saving measures wherever feasible yet still has a shortfall in capital funding. Osceola generates the maximum allowable for the 1.5 mill capital outlay tax, impact fees, infrastructure sales tax, and one-half cent school capital outlay surtax, yet our district is still falling behind due to deferred maintenance coupled with the expected continuance of high student growth.

► According to the current ten-year growth projection (2016-17 through 2025-26), Osceola has over \$300 million in unfunded capital needs, which include 1 high school, 2 middle schools, 2 K-8 combination schools, 3 elementary schools, 2 high school classroom wing additions, and land purchases. This projection includes all currently operating and proposed charter schools.



### Contact Us!

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**From Good to Great: Building a Legacy**



# 2017-2018 Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools



Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Osceola's Secondary Priorities

### 2. Protect Osceola Taxpayers' Investment in Educational Facilities

**Issue:** Osceola has leveraged capital millage revenue over the years to build schools during periods of high growth and has responsibly managed its debt service levels. In addition, Osceola has been welcoming to high-performing, quality charter schools. As a result, the implementation of House Bill 7069 in its current form will significantly impact Osceola's capital budget by:

- ▶ further reducing limited funding to maintain current facilities and build new student stations to accommodate rapid growth in enrollment;
- ▶ increasing the cost of capital due to rating agency downgrades from the lack of certainty regarding this previously committed revenue source; and
- ▶ transferring \$3 million per year to charter schools that are predominantly owned and managed by private for profit corporations.

**Recommendation(s):** Amend the original language of House Bill 7069 to cap capital transfers to charter schools to no more than five percent (5%) of the 1.5 capital outlay millage.

### 3. Reform Florida's District Cost Differential (DCD) Formula

**Issue:** As a result of the current formula used to calculate the DCD, Osceola's taxpayers have sent \$67,586,779 to wealthier districts over the past twenty years.

During 2017-18, Osceola taxpayers will lose an additional \$4,772,676 to other school districts. These tax dollars belong in Osceola County and could go to increase salaries to help with the recruitment and retention of high quality teachers, along with offering more enriching academic programs for the students of Osceola County.

#### Recommendation(s):

- ▶ Support the joint study commissioned by Senate President Joe Negron at the request of Senator Dorothy Hukill and conducted by the Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) and Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR).
- ▶ Amend Section 1011.62, Florida Statutes (FS) to apply the findings of the joint OPPAGA/ EDR study by adjusting the formula used to calculate the DCD in order to ensure that school districts with lower tax bases receive their fair share of education funding without losing funds to school districts with higher tax bases.
- ▶ 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.

### 4. Remove Barriers to Recruiting High Quality Teachers

**Issue:** Florida's teacher certification laws and regulations require teachers to pass the General Knowledge Test within the teacher's first year of employment, and far too few alternatives exist to provide Florida's educators with reasonable options to meet this requirement. Prior to the 2000-2001 school year, teachers had up to three (3) years to complete this certification requirement. At the close of the 2016-17 school year, this requirement cost Osceola sixty-(60) new teachers despite our best efforts to induct, mentor, tutor, and retain them.

#### Recommendation(s):

- **Amend Florida's certification laws and regulations to permit the following flexible revenue-neutral options:**
  - ▶ Permit an advanced degree to satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement.
  - ▶ Expand the window for completion of the General Knowledge Test requirement from one (1) to three (3) school years.
  - ▶ Require the Florida Department of Education to:
    - Determine additional concordant scores from other nationally recognized rigorous standardized tests (e.g., ACT, SAT, ASVAB, CLAST, PRAXIS, GMAT, LSAT, USMLE, etc.) to satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement; and
- **Repeal state laws that prohibit teachers from using the following to satisfy the General Knowledge requirement:**
  - ▶ GRE scores obtained prior to July 01, 2015; and
  - ▶ General Knowledge Test scores over ten (10) years old





Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2018-2019

## Legislative Priorities

### for Osceola Schools

Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting  
January 17, 2019



## Osceola's Top Priorities

### 1. Maintain Required Local Effort (RLE)

- Allow the Required Local Effort millage rate to reflect increases in property value as well as new construction, as was the historical practice prior to 2016.
- Osceola's RLE millage rate has decreased by 16.6% since this change in 2016, resulting in \$41.7 million less for Osceola County classrooms over a three-year period as a result of the rollback of the RLE.

### 2. Funding Compression Allocation

- Maintain the provisions for the Funding Compression Allocation provided in the 2018-2019 FEFP to support more equitable resources for students in districts with below average dollars per student.
- For 2018-2019, this allocation is generating an additional \$5,028,020 for Osceola students and has reduced the differential between Osceola and the State average from -4.2% to -3.7%.

### 3. Hurricane Maria Funding

- Provide additional funding necessary to plan for the uncertainty in enrollment for 2018-2019 due to the Hurricane Maria influx of students during the prior year.
- Distribute Federal funds sent to assist students impacted by Hurricane Maria to the School Districts most impacted.

## Focus Should Remain On:

### Safe Schools

- Establish clear lines of authority for safe school activities that are consistent with the responsibilities assigned to local officials.
- Provide additional funding to implement safe school initiatives, including school hardening, mental health outreach, and a law enforcement or school safety officer at each school.

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# 2020

## Osceola Legislative Effort (OLE) *Priorities*



## *Osceola's Primary Priorities*

**Funding Compression Allocation** – Maintain the provisions for the Funding Compression Allocation provided in the 2019-2020 FEFP to support more equitable resources for students in districts with below average dollars per student. This allocation provides \$54,190,616 to twenty-nine (29) school districts that receive less than average per student funding and reflects 25% of the differential up to state average. For 2019-20, this allocation is generating an additional \$4,712,261 for Osceola students and reduces the differential between Osceola County and the state average from -4.7% to -4.1%, or over one-half of a percentage point.

**BRIDG**— an industry-led partnership that provides Florida the catalyst to create and diversify high-tech jobs and a new industrial partner base. Previous state funding secured a 200mm semiconductor wafer line that enabled Florida to meet industry standards and enter the competitive global market more quickly than planned. Past state legislative actions attracted imec, the world's leading nano-electronics organization headquartered in Belgium, to establish its only US research and design center with BRIDG at NeoCity in Osceola County. This collaboration produced a multi-million-dollar imager system for PHOTON-X, Inc., and positioned Florida to become a global leader in technology. Secure continued funding for Bridg in order to expand its capability and attract new business and industry partners. Recommended Funding – Preserve the \$5 million recurring and an additional \$10 mil in non-recurring funds for operations.

**Postsecondary Adult Vocational Welding Technology** - The Postsecondary Adult Vocational Welding Technology program is a 1050 hour program designed to prepare students for employment in the manufacturing career field as Welders, Welder Assistants, Production Specialists, and Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers. The training includes the use of blueprints and/ or shop drawings, use of gases and/or welding processes according to diagram, blueprints or written specifications. Lab activities include various processes and techniques of oxyacetylene cutting (OFC), Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), Flux Cored Arc Welding (FCAW), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW). This program is available to both adult students and dual enrolled high school juniors and seniors. Students enrolling in the Welding Technology program would be able to complete it in one school year with a full time enrollment and two school years with a part time enrollment. This timeframe allows for a continuous stream of skilled workers entering the field and would allow for a dual enrolled student starting in their junior year to graduate high school and Osceola Technical College's Welding Technology program concurrently. Furthermore, all students would have the opportunity to earn the OSHA-10 and Certified Welder Industry certifications.

Regarding workforce viability in our workforce development region, this program prepares students for jobs listed on the 100 fastest growing occupations list with a 19.4% growth rate with over 1,000 new jobs expected by 2028. This program also articulates up to 24 credits to Valencia College's Supervision and Management Associate Degree program.

## *Osceola's Secondary Priority*

**Aquatic Weed Control** - Hydrilla, native to Africa and Southeast Asia, was introduced into Florida in the early 1950's and is now a major aquatic weed throughout most of the lakes in Osceola County. Hydrilla's aggressive growth doubles its size every day, clogs waterways, damages boats, and strands boaters. Without aquatic weed control, hydrilla will render Osceola County's lakes uninhabitable.

*Questions? Please contact:* [jnewstreet@kissimmeechamber.com](mailto:jnewstreet@kissimmeechamber.com)  
407-847-0108

**John Newstreet**  
Executive Director of the Osceola Legislative Effort





Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2020-2021 Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting

December 10, 2020

## OSCEOLA'S TOP PRIORITIES

# Osceola's Top Priorities

### 1. Funding Compression Allocation

- Maintain the provisions for the Funding Compression Allocation provided in the FEFP to support more equitable resources for students in districts with below average dollars per student.
- For 2020-2021, this allocation is generating an additional \$3,738,027 for Osceola students and has reduced the differential between Osceola and the State average from -6.6% to -6.2%.

### 2. District Cost Differential (DCD)

- Maintain the provisions for the District Cost Differential provided in the FEFP based on a three year average of the Florida Price Level Index generating 80% of the allocation rather than adopting a wage index methodology.

### 3. Hold Harmless Year for Accountability with Assessment for Actionable Student Learning Data

- Maintain the statewide academic assessment schedule in order to obtain actionable student learning data that informs ongoing instruction, interventions, and supports for student achievement.
- Suspend School and District Accountability Grades and Ratings and the Value Added Model for teacher and administrator final summative evaluation ratings for the 2020-21 school year in order to keep a laser-like focus on present year student learning without the distraction of incomplete prior year data and uncontrollable intervening variables related to the pandemic that may skew data.

**John Boyd**

Director of Government & Labor Relations

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**Sarah Graber**

Chief Business & Finance Officer

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Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2018-2019

## Legislative Priorities

### for Osceola Schools

Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting  
January 17, 2019



## Osceola's Top Priorities

### 1. Maintain Required Local Effort (RLE)

- Allow the Required Local Effort millage rate to reflect increases in property value as well as new construction, as was the historical practice prior to 2016.
- Osceola's RLE millage rate has decreased by 16.6% since this change in 2016, resulting in \$41.7 million less for Osceola County classrooms over a three-year period as a result of the rollback of the RLE.

### 2. Funding Compression Allocation

- Maintain the provisions for the Funding Compression Allocation provided in the 2018-2019 FEFP to support more equitable resources for students in districts with below average dollars per student.
- For 2018-2019, this allocation is generating an additional \$5,028,020 for Osceola students and has reduced the differential between Osceola and the State average from -4.2% to -3.7%.

### 3. Hurricane Maria Funding

- Provide additional funding necessary to plan for the uncertainty in enrollment for 2018-2019 due to the Hurricane Maria influx of students during the prior year.
- Distribute Federal funds sent to assist students impacted by Hurricane Maria to the School Districts most impacted.

## Focus Should Remain On:

### Safe Schools

- Establish clear lines of authority for safe school activities that are consistent with the responsibilities assigned to local officials.
- Provide additional funding to implement safe school initiatives, including school hardening, mental health outreach, and a law enforcement or school safety officer at each school.

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# 2020

## Osceola Legislative Effort (OLE) *Priorities*



## *Osceola's Primary Priorities*

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Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2020-2021 Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

Osceola Legislative Delegation Meeting

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## 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities for the Osceola School District

### *Legislative Priority #1:*

## FUNDING COMPRESSION ALLOCATION

- Maintain the provisions for the Funding Compression Allocation provided in the FEFP to support more equitable resources for students in districts with below average dollars per student.
- Make the Funding Compression Allocation recurring each year.
- For 2021-2022, this allocation is generating an additional \$5.3 million for Osceola students, and has reduced the differential between Osceola and the State average from - 6.0% to - 5.3%.



### *Legislative Priority #2:*

## DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIAL (DCD)

- Maintain the provisions for the District Cost Differential provided in the FEFP based on a three year average of the Florida Price Level Index generating 80% of the allocation rather than adopting a different wage index methodology.

#### **OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD:**

Terry Castillo, Chairwoman  
Julius Melendez, Vice-Chairman  
Jon Arguello  
Robert Bass  
Clarence Thacker

#### **SUPERINTENDENT:**

Dr. Debra Pace







# 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Terry Castillo,  
Chairwoman - District 1

Erika Booth,  
Vice-Chairwoman - District 5

Jon Arguello,  
District 3

Heather Kahoun,  
District 4

Julius Melendez,  
District 2

## SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Debra Pace



*Increase funding for the Base Student Allocation to provide districts flexible funds to address salary compression.*



*Maintain current level of FEFP compression funding*



*Maintain the current funding level for the Mental Health Allocation Categorical*



*Support school districts' teacher recruitment efforts by:*

- Expanding the eligibility of teacher candidates for advanced degree salary supplements within Section 1012.22(1)(c)3, Florida Statutes by removing the restriction that "A District school board may not use advanced degrees in setting a salary for instructional personnel or school administrators hired on or after July 1, 2011, unless the advanced degree is held in the individual's area of certification and is only a salary supplement."; and*
- Increasing the time permitted for teachers coming from a non-traditional career path to complete requirements from three (3) to five (5) years, and*
- Reduce costs for certification testing and certification renewal*