



## 2020 State Legislative Priority Positions

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### FUNDING

Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the **Base Student Allocation (BSA)** by five percent and discontinue the policy of rolling back the Required Local Effort rate.

Ensure that any changes to the District Cost Differential take into account cost differences integral to educational institutions' operations reflecting such costs as average teacher salaries, health insurance for employees, property insurance per FTE, housing, and transportation costs per FTE.

Fund select student programs beyond the 1.0 FTE cap or 25 hours a week such as dual enrollment or virtual classes outside the traditional school day and year.

Extend authorization of locally-voted levies for operating purposes from 4 to 10 years.

### SCHOOL SECURITY

Fully fund the cost of the requirement of a School Resource Officer (SRO) or School Safety Officer (SSO) at each public school, mental health services for students to facilitate the hiring additional school counselors, social workers, and psychologists, as well as provide funding for safety infrastructure needs.

Amend the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Act to:

- Mandate the use of a uniform emergency communication system across all public schools and all law enforcement agencies within each county for the purpose of critical incident response;
- Ensure alignment of the coding of incidents between the Florida Department of Education's School Environment Safety Incident Report (SESIR) and Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) systems;
- Facilitate the requirement of charter schools reporting their SESIR incident data independently of school districts;
- Expand the pool of allowable options to meet the requirement of a safe schools officer at every school by adding certified law enforcement officers as qualifying under the guardian program; allowing school districts to re-employ retired police officers after one month of retirement without penalty to their pension; extending the DROP period to eight years for law enforcement officers serving as a school resource officers; and expanding the entities that offer and certify guardian program to include accredited law enforcement agencies; and
- Support legislation that ensures school districts are notified when a student is released from any statewide Baker Act receiving facility and of any felony arrest or formal charges of adult students.

### SCHOOL READINESS

Support state funding for a high-quality, full-day Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program that provides a minimum of 990 hours for all eligible students and replace the current VPK assessment with a developmentally appropriate on-going assessment tool to timely measure children's progress and development, to inform the teachers and parents, and to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

### TEACHER/PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

Implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships and loan forgiveness programs to encourage and attract talented students to enter the field of education. Allow school districts to re-employ teachers, other instructional personnel, and substitute teachers after one month of retirement without penalty to the employee's pension.