

Capital Office for Administrative & Legislative Services

May 18, 2017

TO: All FACCS Administrators
From: Dr. Howard G. Burke, FACCS Executive Director
RE: Final 2017 Legislative Capital Update

As indicated in the previous Capital Update the Florida Legislative Session officially concluded for regular legislative action on Friday May 5, 2017, however the Legislature, due to failure to pass the budget, went into recess until Monday afternoon, May 8th and then passed the state budget.

The \$82.4 billion budget for the year beginning July 1 passed the House on a 98-14 vote, and the Senate on a 34-4 vote. When combined with other legislation approved by language (amendment) and not bill number on Monday, the House and Senate approved about \$83.1 billion in spending.

The budget package includes a modest increase in per-student spending, a small increase in the per pupil amount for those participating in the VPK Program; an expanded Gardiner Scholarship Program enlarging the categories of special needs services available; an expansion of the cap on the Corporate Tax Scholarship Programs; designated September as "American Founders' Month," expanded religious liberty in public education as to expression, etc. along with several other education initiatives that relate more specifically to public middle schools. The balance of areas impacting the private sector regarding athletic participation options remains as provided previously.

Additionally, the House's "schools of hope" Charter school proposal dropped to \$140 million from \$200 million. This measure is aimed at charter schools with a track record of helping academically struggling students to open branches near traditional district schools that continually do poorly on State report cards.

Traditional public schools would also be able to request up to \$2,000 a student from the fund to help with programs like "wraparound services," including health care and after-school programs that might address students' needs outside the classroom which was a priority of the Senate.

The "Best and Brightest" teacher bonus program will expand over the next three school years before tightening eligibility. Every teacher rated "effective" on his or her evaluation would get \$800; those rated "highly effective" would earn \$1,200.

The package approved in the appropriations budget bill of 278 pages would also do away with the Algebra II end-of-course exam, make it optional for school districts to use a state measurement of student learning in teacher evaluations and a study using college-entrance exams will replace some state high school tests .

The new budget increases the Bright Futures merit scholarship program to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees for the top-performing students, known as "academic scholars." It also extends the scholarships to summer classes and provides \$300 per semester for textbooks. Need-based aid will increase by more than \$126 million, with the bulk of it going toward "Florida student assistance grants."

The related budget bill also contained major policy changes for the state universities and colleges. It will require universities to offer block tuition, where students pay a flat fee per semester rather than a credit-hour charge, by the fall of 2018. It will create a 13-member Board of Community Colleges to oversee the state college system, which is now under the Board of Education. The legislation also caps enrollment for students pursuing four-year degrees at state colleges to no more than 15 percent of the total enrollment at each school.

The following is a listing of the outcomes of all legislation being monitored for Christian and private school impact. Please note as indicated above some of the individual bills showing “Failed” in the below listing were added by amendment to the final budget package and therefore did ultimately become approved.

As to additional outcomes we were successful at stopping the Step-Up-for Students from becoming an approved FDOE recognized Professional Development provider which down the road could have become a mandated part of accessing students into various student receiving schools. Additionally the QRIS star rating program for secular use at the early childhood level was also eliminated from the final budget. To all that rendered their assistance in communicating with your elected House and Senate members we give a hearty **“Thank You!”**

1. FL H 15

SIGNING DEADLINE

May 29, 2017

11 days remaining

Author: [Sullivan \(R\)](#)

Title: Educational Options

Disposition: To Governor

Summary: Relates to educational options; revises student eligibility criteria for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; requires the Department of Education to provide a letter of denial to participate in the program to a specified entity within a certain period; requires the department to provide a letter of acceptance or denial of specified actions related to a tax credit to a specified entity and include that entity on certain letters and correspondence.

2. FL H 31

Author: [Jones S \(D\)](#)

Title: Background Screening

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to background screening; prohibits employers from excluding applicant from initial interview for employment under certain conditions; provides applicability; provides exceptions.

3. FL H 67

Author: [Smith \(D\)](#)

Title: Public School Recess

Disposition: **The language of the bill did make it into budget language and was approved as part of the 278 page Education Budget Package.**

Summary: Relates to public school recess; requires district school board to provide K-5 students with minimum number of minutes of free-play recess each week and minimum number of consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day.

4. FL H 79

Author: [Harrell \(R\)](#)

Title: Reading Instruction Strategies and Education

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to education; revises duties of Just Read, State Office relating to reading instruction, training, and research; revises data and monitoring requirements for school improvement plans and early warning systems; revises parent notification requirements relating to students with reading deficiencies; revises requirements and standards for teacher training and professional

certificates and endorsements; requires Office of Early Learning to identify guidelines for reading instruction strategies.

5. FL H 127

Author: [Plasencia \(R\)](#)

Title: Public School Attendance Policies

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to public school attendance policies; authorizes a parent to request and be granted permission for a student's absence from school for treatment of autism spectrum disorder by a licensed health care practitioner or certified behavior analyst; requires each district school board to adopt an attendance policy authorizing a student's absence for treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

6. FL H 155

Author: [Mariano \(R\)](#)

Title: Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to Florida bright futures scholarship program; removes condition under which student may use Bright Futures Scholarship Program award for summer term enrollment if funds are available.

7. FL H 233

Author: [Edwards \(D\)](#)

Title: Students With Disabilities in Public Schools

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to students with disabilities in public schools; relates to the use, prevention, and reduction of restraint and seclusion on students with disabilities; provides requirements for the use of physical restraint; prohibits specified physical restraint techniques; provides requirements for the use of seclusion and time-out; provides for student-centered followup; provides requirements for documenting, reporting, and monitoring the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

8. FL H 253

Author: [Duran \(D\)](#)

Title: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to State bright futures scholarship program; revises criteria for renewal of State Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards to include minimum number of volunteer service work hours; provides applicability; specifies requirements for eligible volunteer service work; prohibits use of hours earned from certain work to satisfy requirement; requires written and signed documentation of earned volunteer service work hours.

9. FL H 265

Author: [Porter \(R\)](#)

Title: Computer Coding Instruction

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to computer coding instruction; requires the Articulation Coordinating Committee to develop recommendations related to computer science instruction; provides requirements for such recommendations; requires the committee to report its findings and recommendations to

the Board of Governors of the State University System, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature by a specified date; provides for future expiration of certain committee duties.

10. FL H 303

Author: Daniels (D)

Title: Religious Expression in Public Schools

Disposition: To Governor

Summary: Relates to religious expression in public schools; prohibits penalty or reward for a student's religious expression in coursework, artwork, or other specified assignments; authorizes a student to wear jewelry displaying religious messages or symbols; authorizes a student to organize prayer groups, religious clubs, and other religious gatherings; authorizes religious groups to have equal access to school facilities.

11. FL H 319

Author: Berman (D)

Title: Discrimination in Labor and Employment

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to discrimination in labor and employment; creates Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act; revises provisions prohibiting discrimination on basis of sex to include discrimination on basis of gender identity; prohibits employer from providing less favorable employment opportunities to employees based on sex or gender identity; provides exceptions; specifies civil penalties; revises applicability; prohibits employer from taking certain employment actions against employees.

12. FL H 489

Author: Smith (D)

Title: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Disposition: **The basic language of the bill did make it into budget language and was approved as part of the 278 page Education Budget Package.**

Summary: Relates to State bright futures scholarship program; removes condition under which student may use State Bright Futures Scholarship Program award for summer term enrollment; requires Legislature to appropriate additional funds necessary for use of award for summer term enrollment; revises initial eligibility criteria relating to test scores and corresponding percentile ranks for certain awards under program.

13. FL H 499

Author: Williams (D)

Title: School Attendance

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to school attendance; provides that compulsory school attendance laws apply to children ages 6 to 18 years; requires parental notification of forfeiture of benefits received from state financial assistance program upon request for termination of school enrollment; requires students to attend school until age of 18 years.

14. FL H 525

Author: Silvers (D)

Title: High School Graduation Requirements

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to high school graduation requirements; authorizes student to use credit earned upon completion of apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program to satisfy specified high school graduation requirements.

15. FL H 549

Author: [Fine \(R\)](#)

Title: Student Assessments

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to student assessments; requires that Commissioner of Education periodically publish on Department of Education website any assessment administered or adopted during previous school year.

16. FL H 553

Author: [Alexander \(D\)](#)

Title: Criminal History Records

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to criminal history records in applications for public employment and admission to public postsecondary educational institutions; prohibits public employer from inquiring into or considering applicants criminal history on initial employment application unless required to do so by law.

17. FL H 623

Author: [Diamond \(D\)](#)

Title: Prohibited Discrimination

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to prohibited discrimination; provides that sexual orientation and gender identity are impermissible grounds for discrimination in public lodging establishments and public food service establishments.

18. FL H 1109

SIGNING DEADLINE

May 29, 2017

11 days remaining

Author: [Antone \(D\)](#)

Title: Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Disposition: To Governor

Summary: Relates to private school student participation in extracurricular activities; revises eligibility requirements for certain private school students to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports at specified public schools.

19. FL H 1155

Author: [Henry \(D\)](#)

Title: Child Safety

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to child safety; requires district school boards, nonpublic schools, or specified child care facilities to adopt specified policies; requires person to present picture identification before retrieving a student from such school or facility under certain circumstances; requires district school boards to provide policies to Department of Education.

20. FL H 1391

Author: [Eisnaugle \(R\)](#)
Title: Education
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to home education; revises the content requirements of a notice of enrollment of a student in a home education program; provides that the notice constitutes prima facie evidence of certain information; requires the district school superintendent to immediately register a home education program upon receipt of the notice; provides that registration of a home education program is a ministerial act by the district school superintendent. **This bill contained the language that would have resolved the dual enrollment issue. The bill made it through the House and to Senate Appropriations. It died after being scheduled but not taken up when the Senate Sponsor failed to follow through on his pledge to get the bill passed this session.**

21. FL H 6015

Author: [Massullo \(R\)](#)
Title: High School Graduation Requirements
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to high school graduation requirements; Removes requirement that student participating in interscholastic sport pass competency test on personal fitness to satisfy physical education credit requirement for high school graduation.

22. FL S 244

Author: [Clemens \(D\)](#)
Title: Criminal History Records
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to criminal history records in applications for public employment and admission to public postsecondary educational institutions; prohibits a public employer from inquiring into or considering an applicants criminal history on an initial employment application unless required to do so by law.

23. FL S 392

Author: [Hukill \(R\)](#)
Title: High School Graduation Requirements
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to high school graduation requirements; revises the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include financial literacy; revises the required credits for a standard high school diploma to include one-half credit of instruction in personal financial literacy and money management and seven and one-half, rather than eight, credits in electives.

24. FL S 468

Author: [Stargel \(R\)](#)
Title: Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to voluntary prekindergarten education; requires the Just Read, Florida Office to provide teachers, reading coaches, and principals in prekindergarten through grade 3 with specified training; requires voluntary prekindergarten providers to provide parents with pre and post assessment results within a specified timeframe.

25. FL S 540

Author: [Campbell \(D\)](#)

Title: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to Florida bright futures scholarship program; revises the criteria for renewal of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards to include a minimum number of volunteer service work hours.

26. **FL S 656**

Author: [Bean \(R\)](#)
Title: Education Improvement Plan
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to education; requires certain schools to include specific information in the school's improvement plan; requires certain schools to implement an early warning system for students who meet specific criteria; requires certain school personnel to monitor data from the early warning system and perform certain duties when a student exhibits specified indicators.

27. **FL S 666**

Author: [Clemens \(D\)](#)
Title: Prohibited Discrimination
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to prohibited discrimination; creates the Florida Competitive Workforce Act; adds sexual orientation and gender identity as impermissible grounds for discrimination in public lodging establishments and public food service establishments; provides an exception for constitutionally protected free exercise of religion.

28. **FL S 692**

Author: [Baxley \(R\)](#)
Title: Student Eligibility for K12 Virtual Instruction
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to student eligibility for K-12 virtual instruction; revises eligibility requirements for specified students to receive part-time instruction at the State Virtual School; authorizes all students, including home education and private school students, to participate in specified virtual instruction options.

29. **FL S 902**

Author: [Simmons \(R\)](#)
Title: Gardiner Scholarship Program
Disposition: **The language of the bill did make it into budget language and was approved as part of the 278 page Education Budget Package. See prior comments on expanded categories.**

30. **FL S 906**

Author: [Steube \(R\)](#)
Title: Student Assessments
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to student assessments; requires that the Commissioner of Education periodically publish on the department of Education's website any assessment administered or adopted during the previous school year.

31. **FL S 946**

Author: [Stewart \(D\)](#)

Title: Child Care Facilities
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to child care facilities; revises the definition of the term child care facility to exclude facilities offering programs for children which are owned and operated by a county or municipal government under certain circumstances.

32. **FL S 964**

Author: [Montford \(D\)](#)
Title: Education Accountability
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to education accountability; requires an application and charter for a high school charter school to require the administration of a specified assessment for graduation purposes; revises the requirements for a standard high school diploma; revises the grades in which the statewide, standardized Reading assessment must be administered.

33. **FL S 1026**

Author: [Farmer \(D\)](#)
Title: High School Graduation Requirements
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to high school graduation requirements; requires students to earn one-half credit in health education, independent of the physical education credit requirements, for high school graduation.

34. **FL S 1128**

Author: [Farmer \(D\)](#)
Title: Public School Attendance Policies
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to public school attendance policies; authorizes a parent to request and be granted permission for a student's absence from school for treatment of autism spectrum disorder by a licensed health care practitioner.

35. **FL S 1214**

Author: [Bracy \(D\)](#)
Title: Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to the voluntary prekindergarten education program.

36. **FL S 1296**

Author: [Torres \(D\)](#)
Title: Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to State bright futures scholarship program; cites this act as the Restore Our Bright Futures Act; removes a condition under which a student is authorized to use a State Bright Futures Scholarship Program award for summer term enrollment if funds are available.

37. **FL S 1302**

Author: [Gibson A \(D\)](#)
Title: Private School Student Participation in Extracurricular

Disposition: Companion sent to Governor

Summary: Relates to private school student participation in extracurricular activities; revises the eligibility requirements for certain private school students to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports at specified public schools.

38. **FL S 1314**

Author: [Grimsley \(R\)](#)

Title: Educational Options

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to educational options; specifies the Department of Education's duty to approve or deny an application for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program within a specified time; specifies the department's duties regarding the carryforward tax credit; requires an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization to allow certain dependent children to apply for a scholarship at any time; revises parent and student responsibilities for program participation.

39. **FL S 1362**

Author: [Broxson \(R\)](#)

Title: K-12 Education

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to K-12 education; removes a requirement that the Department of Education compare certain charter school student performance data to certain traditional public schools; authorizes certain entities to apply to the State Board of Education for designation as a High-Impact Charter Network.

40. **FL S 1418**

Author: [Flores \(R\)](#)

Title: Disabled Students Seclusion and Restraint

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to the seclusion and restraint of students with disabilities in public schools.

41. **FL S 1464**

Author: [Hutson \(R\)](#)

Title: Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to Florida bright futures scholarship program.

42. **FL S 1556**

Author: [Lee T \(R\)](#)

Title: Home Education Program

Disposition: Failed

Summary: Relates to education; prohibits a district school board from requiring any additional information or verification from a home education program parent under certain circumstances; provides an exception for certain children from the age verification requirements for school attendance. **This was the potential companion bill to solve the dual enrollment issue. However Senator Lee, while promising to correct the discriminatory practice of schools being charged by some postsecondary institutions failed to follow through at the last minute and the House companion was not substituted for the Senate Bill as it was not revenue neutral.**

43. **FL S 1572**

Author: Bean (R)
Title: Education Savings Account Program
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to the education savings account program.

44. FL S 1648

Author: Torres (D)
Title: School Bus Safety
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to school bus safety.

45. FL S 1708

Author: Campbell (D)
Title: School Attendance
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to school attendance; provides that compulsory school attendance laws apply to children ages 6 to 18 years; requires parental notice of forfeiture of benefits received from a state financial assistance program upon a request for termination of school enrollment; requires students to attend school until the age of 18 years.

46. FL S 1714

Author: Rouson (D)
Title: Early Learning
Disposition: Failed
Summary: Relates to Early learning; revises provisions relating to removal of a provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or receive certain funding under certain circumstances; requires each coalition to establish child eligibility criteria based on local community needs for participation in the school readiness program.

There was no change in state statute as to Religious Exemption F.S. 402.316. However, unrelated to the 2017 Legislative Session, The Office of Child Care Regulation has sent the following communication to 373 currently “religious exempt” ministries regarding changes by Rule and Policy at the Department when completing the final stages of required documentation for satisfying Religious Exemption requirements. Their communication did contain an error that FACCS clarified and that relates to the certificate which is either a “Member or Accreditation” certificate that is forwarded as part of the process from the qualified exempting association.

“The Office of Child Care Regulation would like to inform you of changes to the department's religious exemption home webpage <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/religious-exemption>. The process for submission of annual statement for operation of a Religious Exempt Child Care Facility will be temporarily impacted by these changes. At this time, the program will be required to complete a paper application when submitting your application for a renewal of your religious exemption from licensure. To access the annual statement, please visit the web page link listed on the website.

*****Reminder Notice Concerning Background Screening Requirements: Please be advised that due to federal and state law changes, the background screening process changed and now requires the review of additional components to determine an individual's background screening clearance. All childcare personnel that were screened prior to July 1, 2016 must be re-screened BY May 31, 2017. Child care personnel includes the owner, director, and staff members. For**

information on the new screening process please
visit: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/backgroundscreening/>"

PLEASE REMEMBER FACCS HAS EXPANDED SERVICES TO BETTER MEET A MEMEBR SCHOOL NEEDS. THE FACCS OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION IS NOW UNDER THE AUSPICES OF DR. CLIFFORD CHURCHILL, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION at: drcwc@aol.com.

THE FACCS OFFICE OF PROGRAM SERVICES IS ALSO TRANSITIONING. This Office oversees all programs of FACCS including Teacher Certification. Contact after June 1, 2017 Dr. Brent Jones at: OPS@FACCS.org.

The FACCS Capital Office handles Legislative and Administrative Services only and will not be able to answer your questions if they pertain to services received through the alternate FACCS Offices indicated above.

THE ABOVE IS A CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FACCS PARTICIPANT AND ACCREDITED SCHOOLS. THIS COMMUNICATION MAY NOT BE DUPLICATED, FORWARDED, OR OTHERWISE DISTRIBUTED TO ANY OTHER PARTY OR PERSONS THAN THE INTENDED RECIPIENT INDICATED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE FACCS TALLAHASSEE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES. If you have received this communication in error or desire to be removed from future FACCS information, please click on the "reply" button and request to be removed from future notices.