

ACPS Legislative Program 2025

For the 2025 session of the Florida Legislature, Alachua County Public Schools (ACPS) has adopted the legislative platform proposed by the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA), which includes the following recommendations to promote student success:

1 Hurricane Relief and Community Resilience

- Hold school districts impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton financially harmless from loss of students and provide funding to districts who support temporarily relocated students.
- Provide funding to school districts to mitigate the financial impact of disaster preparedness, management and recovery for districts impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- Hold school districts impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton harmless from potential consequences due to late submission of required reporting.

2 Administrative Efficiency

- Allow districts to establish school start times based on the input from parents and families with students attending district schools.
- Support using additional concordant scores or portfolios to demonstrate proficiency in required state standards to permit students to continue progression and earn a standard high school diploma.
- Reduce unnecessary reporting in consolidated funding categories.
- Streamline and reduce reporting of required instruction.
- Eliminate teaching certification being tied to a school district to allow greater opportunities for individuals to retain their teaching certificate. Most other professions do not require a license (certificate) to be linked to an employer.

3 Attendance and Accountability

- Empower districts to address chronic absenteeism by initiating intervention processes after 10 absences. Currently districts are limited to initiating intervention processes until after 10 unexcused absences occur within a 90-day period. Amend 1003.26(1)(b) to allow school districts to initiate chronic absenteeism strategies immediately upon the 10th student absence by eliminating the 90-day period requirement.

4 School Safety and Law Enforcement Support

- In consultation with school safety officers, guardians, law enforcement and school districts support continued school safety measures with glitch bill recommendations based on the implementation of HB 1473 School Safety in the 2024-25 school year.

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5 Education Funding and Fiscal Responsibility

- Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least 5% and provide additional flexibility. An increase would help ensure school districts can address increased costs related to innovative academic strategies for low performing students, student transportation, teacher recruitment and retention, insurance, cyber security, increased cost for fingerprint clearinghouse, etc.
- Increase the mental health allocation to permit additional evidence-driven mental health services and provide up to 20% flexibility to school districts' recruitment and retention efforts for school social workers and guidance counselors.
- Increase Safe Schools Allocations to include additional funding for school safety initiatives (including after school activities) and school safety officers.
- Support funding the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (s. 1011.801, F.S.).
- Provide funding for full-time Prekindergarten to give every family access to a free, public, high-quality, fulltime program. 77% of children who successfully complete VPK demonstrate Kindergarten Readiness.
- Calculate Capital Outlay FTE for both charter and traditional public schools to include all enrolled students. Currently Prekindergarten students, Adult Education students, and Virtual Education students who participate in the classroom are not included when calculating proportional share of Charter Capital Outlay funds.



**We are committed to the success
of every student!**

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