



Legislative Delegation

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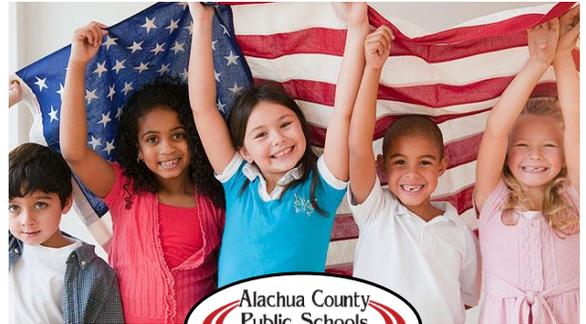
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2019 Legislative Program



"The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education . . ."

Florida Constitution, Article 9, Section 1



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Nearly fifty years ago, Florida's citizens voted to enshrine the concept of Home Rule in the state's Constitution. They understood that the best government is that which is closest to the people it represents. Since at least 1983, it has been recognized that only general law and state constitutional law may limit a School Board's exercise of Home Rule power.

In keeping with this important element of Florida's Constitution, the School Board of Alachua County requests that lawmakers halt and reverse the trend of using general law to restrict the power of local School Boards to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve and the citizens who elected them. They also request that lawmakers provide for a 'high quality system of free public schools' as called for in Article 9, Section 1 of the Constitution by taking the following steps

- Restore the authority of elected school boards to levy, by a simple majority vote, up to 2.0 mills for capital purposes, and maintain the authority of school districts to determine the use of local capital outlay millage revenues.
- Hold the current Required Local Effort (RLE) constant in order to allow school funding to benefit from increasing property values rather than imposing the roll-back rate

- Fully fund the recurring costs of maintaining and enhancing school safety, including the costs of at least one law enforcement officer for each school, the expansion of mental health services at schools and the 'hardening' of school facilities
- Halt the further privatization of public education through such means as the corporate tax credit scholarships and end the use of public funds to support voucher programs that are not held to the same educational and accountability standards as public schools.
- Repeal those portions of HB 7069 which infringe on the authority of school boards to make decisions in the best interests of their communities, including the appropriate expenditure of 1.5 mill revenues and Title 1 funds.
- Support district authority over teacher evaluations and pay for performance, including removing VAM (value-added modeling) from teacher evaluations, particularly for teachers of disadvantaged students.

Did you know...?

- The owner of a home valued at \$125,000 twenty years ago is paying \$4 less in school property taxes this year than in 1998-99, despite adding \$62,000 in taxable value.