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2022 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



School Board Members

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More than 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. The Board also requests 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:

- Hold the Required Local Effort (RLE) constant and increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to fund pay increases for teachers and staff and address rising costs, higher Florida Retirement System contributions and other critical items.
- Increase funding for mental health services to support such vital resources as counselors, psychologists, social workers, etc.
- Support the authority of school boards to make decisions in the best interests of their communities, including the appropriate expenditure of revenues and the evaluation of teachers.

Did you know...?

The owner of an Alachua County home valued at \$125,000 in 1998 will pay \$11 less in school property taxes this year than they did then, despite the fact that the taxable value of that home has increased by more than \$76,000.