



Legislative Program 2023

For the 2023 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:

Mental Health and Safety

Parents, families, students and staff deserve safe schools, and they understand the impacts of mental health on student achievement.



FSBA and ACPS support legislative efforts to:

- Increase the mental health allocation to permit additional evidence-driven mental health services to be provided to students, including those affected by Hurricane Ian.
- Increase the Safe Schools Allocation to include additional funding for school safety initiatives (including after-school activities) and school safety officers.

Workforce

Parents, families, students and staff want increased workforce career paths.

FSBA and ACPS support legislative efforts to:

- Provide funding and necessary implementing language for market value wages for high-skilled/high-wage Career Technical Education (CTE) adjunct teachers.
- Create and fund a statewide grant program for school districts to apply for start-up funds to develop programs for high-wage, in-demand jobs which include pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.
- Provide operational funding in the FEFP to support the expansion of secondary career and technical programs.

Personnel Recruitment and Retention

Florida's parents and families deserve to have the most qualified and talented staff in their schools to teach their children.

FSBA and ACPS support legislative efforts to:

- Change the term of temporary certification for candidates with a college degree from 3 years to 5 years, providing teachers additional time to complete certification requirements.
- Extend Senate Bill 896 (2022), which allowed military and veterans to apply for a 5-year temporary teaching certification with 60 credit hours to paraprofessionals and those pursuing education majors/minors with 60 hours of college credit and experience during the statewide critical teacher shortage.
- Fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) and increase the categorical eligibility to all certified instructional personnel, including experienced teachers.
- Support the elimination of any barriers for the re-employment of high-quality personnel (teachers, bus drivers, support staff) after retirement under the Florida Retirement System (FRS).
- Revise the definition of instructional personnel to include certified PreK teachers.

Funding

Florida parents and families want their children to have a world class education, which requires additional investments by the state.

FSBA and ACOS support legislative efforts to:

- Hold school districts impacted by Hurricane Ian financially harmless from loss of students and provide funding to districts who support temporarily relocated students.
- Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least 5% to help offset increased operational costs.
- Provide increased transparency, accountability and predictability of the impacts of Florida Empowerment students in the FEFP, by school district. Make certain the integrity of categorical funds is maintained. Ensure the increases expected for the FES program are included in the 2023-24 FY budget and clearly link the FTE associated with the projection.
- Expand funding to provide increased access to summer and after-school learning opportunities.
- Provide funding for full-time Prekindergarten to give every family access to a free, public, high quality, full-time program, as the current 3-hour program can be a barrier for families and children who need a full-day program.
- Increase the Student Transportation categorical funding within the FEFP to more closely reflect the actual costs of school district transportation.
- Fund cybersecurity threat mitigation services, include Security Education, Training and Awareness (SETA) programs to assist school districts in funding critically-needed cybersecurity tools and training to reduce vulnerability to cyberattacks.
- Revise the cost-per-student-station caps by adjusting the cost per student to keep pace with the increasing cost of construction and by allowing local flexibility for the use of local funding to address local needs.

Alachua County Legislative Delegation

Senator Jennifer Bradley, District 6
District Phone: (386) 719-2708
Tallahassee Phone: (850) 487-5006
bradley.jennifer.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Keith Perry, District 9
District Phone: (352) 264-4040
Tallahassee Phone: (850) 487-5009
perry.keith.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. Robert 'Chuck' Brannan, District 10
District Phone: (386) 758-0405
Chuck.Brannan@myfloridahouse.gov

Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson, District 21
District Phone: (352) 264-4001
Tallahassee Phone: (850) 717-5021
Yvonne.Hinson@myfloridahouse.gov

Rep. Charles Wesley 'Chuck' Clemons, Sr.,
District 22
District Phone: (352) 313-6542
Tallahassee Phone: (850) 717-5022
Chuck.Clemons@myfloridahouse.gov

Alachua County Public Schools

School Board Members

Tina Certain — Chair
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Committed to the success of every student!