

ACPS Legislative Program

2024

For the 2024 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

- ▶ Increase mental health funding to permit additional evidence-driven mental health services to be provided to students.
- ▶ Increase the Safe Schools Allocation to include additional funding for school safety initiatives (including after-school activities and school safety officers).

Workforce

- ▶ Provide funding and necessary implementing language for market-value wages for high-skilled/high-wage Career Technical Education (CTE) adjunct teachers.
- ▶ Provide operational funding in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to support the expansion of secondary career and technical programs.

Accountability/Deregulation

- ▶ Provide greater instructional, capital, financial and administrative flexibility for public schools.
- ▶ Streamline the accountability system.
- ▶ Hold private schools receiving public dollars to the same accountability/transparency standards as public schools, including instructional standards.
- ▶ Ensure that clear and consistent guidelines for implementing state law are provided to school districts.

Funding

- ▶ Increase the Base Student Allocation by at least 5% to help offset increased operational costs.
- ▶ 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.

Funding cont'd

- ▶ Increase Student Transportation categorical funding within the FEFP to more closely reflect the actual costs of school district transportation.
- ▶ Fund cybersecurity threat mitigation services, including Security Education, Training and Awareness (SETA) programs to assist school districts in funding critically-needed cybersecurity tools and training to reduce vulnerability to cyberattacks.

Insurance/Liability

- ▶ Annually fund the first \$25 million of any Florida school district's losses due to a named hurricane, providing net savings to state taxpayers by significantly reducing district's premium coverage costs.
- ▶ Maintain the current sovereign immunity limits.
- ▶ Redefine 'commercial motor vehicles' to exclude buses as it relates to PIP (personal injury protection) benefits; exclude school buses from the PIP benefit requirements due to sovereign immunity status.

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