



Florida House of Representatives
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**NEW LAWSUIT DEMANDS ADEQUATE FUNDING
AND REAL PROGRESS FOR FLORIDA EDUCATION**

TALLAHASSEE – Florida House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) issued the following statement in response to today’s filing of a lawsuit in the Second Judicial Circuit Court in Leon County that calls on the State of Florida to revamp and adequately finance the state’s public school system:

“For too long, children have suffered and Florida’s economy has lagged due to Republican policymakers’ refusal to provide a competitive, high-quality public education system.

“Florida House Democrats are hopeful that this new lawsuit will allow the courts to intervene to require the Republican leadership in the Legislature to do what it should have been doing all along---adequately funding Florida’s schools as the state constitution requires.

“The evidence is striking. The so-called education reforms of Republican administrations have failed. Florida has low graduation rates and unremarkable test scores. Republican legislators also have repeatedly shirked their responsibilities and shamefully avoided political realities by shifting most of the burden of funding the state school system onto local property owners and school districts.

“Not only are Florida schools inadequately funded, but the state’s school accountability system is in need of serious repair. It’s high time for Florida’s education accountability system to be updated so that it no longer focuses so much on how students perform on a single-day’s standardized test. Hopefully, this lawsuit will help us achieve the necessary changes for Florida to truly have the world-class education system that our children deserve.”