



Issue Spotlight: School Choice

We are committed to giving parents choice in determining their child's education. Our goal is to ensure all students, no matter their background, have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential.

The following bills advance this commitment by increasing school choice and providing a quality education to all students. Please refer to bill texts and analyses for additional information on what each bill does and does not do.

School Choice – PCB PKI 19-02, Rep. Aloupis

- The bill allows Schools of Hope to open in “Florida Opportunity Zones” to provide quality educational options for students in low-income communities.
- The bill provides stability in the Schools of Hope planning process by revising the definition of “persistently low-performing schools” to include schools that have a grade below a “C” for three out of five years.
- The bill expands Schools of Hope eligible expenditures to include capital outlay until the school can qualify for charter capital outlay funding and to compensate executive and regional directors until a school reaches full enrollment.
- The bill codifies the Center for Community Schools and its community schools model and encourages participating schools to become self-sustaining.
- The bill expands the traditional public school Schools of Hope grant program to reach more students.
- The bill enhances transparency by requiring school districts to report on controlled open enrollment applications.
- The bill enhances background-screening requirements for private school personnel.
- The bill allows a student to convert a Hope Scholarship to a transportation scholarship to a public school outside the school district.
- The bill repeals the requirement for an independent evaluation of public schools with 10 or more students receiving a Hope Scholarship.

STATUS: On PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee agenda for March 19, 2019

Charter Schools – HB 1197, Rep. Fischer

- The bill authorizes state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to sponsor charter schools.
- The bill repeals present limitations on charter schools operated by an FCS institution with a teacher preparation program.



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REPRESENTATIVE DANE EAGLE, MAJORITY LEADER

- The bill provides that the board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or FCS institution is a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds and accepting responsibility for all requirements of that role.
- The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE), in collaboration with charter school sponsors and operators, to develop a sponsor evaluation framework and report results in its annual charter school application report. In addition, the bill revises charter school application reporting requirements and submission dates for both sponsors and the DOE.
- The bill establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university and FCS institution.
- The bill increases the number of eligible charter school operators, allowing for more choice options to parents.

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