

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**February 23, 2006**

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (FADSS) UPDATE – WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13, 2006**

Attached please find a copy of the legislative update prepared by Ms. Joy Frank, Legal Counsel for the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS), covering Interim Committee Week of February 13, 2006.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Associate Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Services at 305 995-2532.

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Attachment

cc: Superintendent's Cabinet  
School Board Attorney  
Dr. Magaly C. Abrahante  
Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya  
Dr. Linda D. Brown

February 17, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: District School Superintendents  
FROM: Joy Frank  
RE: Legislative Update – Week of February 13, 2006

**General Information**

The Senate held a full set of committee meetings this week, both substantive and budget. The House only had Appropriations Meetings. Next week, the House will have a full set of committee meetings, while the Senate will not meet until regular Session convenes.

**Senate Education Committee**

The committee took up for introduction SPB 7088. I have previously sent out the bill (119 pages) and a summary chart. Below is a quick summary. During the meeting, a few amendments were accepted. The first removed any reference to the opening day of school. However, this issue is not dead, but will be traveling in a separate bill sponsored by Senator Margolis (SB 306). Another amendment related to the machine scoring of the FCAT. Given the impact of this on instruction, the language was removed. The bill now has a number – SB 2048

**Summary:**

This bill is a comprehensive education package that implements secondary school reform and addresses education issues in the following areas:

**High School Reform:**

The bill requires every high school to develop redesign plans during the 2006-2007 school year to implement reform that:

- Integrates academic rigor and relevance throughout the curriculum;
- Provides support intervention and remediation strategies for struggling students;
- Provides opportunities to enhance relationships through smaller learning communities and career academies;
- Plans must address school-based professional development plans with an emphasis on enhanced instructional strategies, continuous analysis of student achievement data, and approaches to teaching that stress rigor, relevance, and reading in the content areas; Requires comprehensive career exploration program

at the middle school and development of 4-to-5-year academic and career plans for the purpose of entry into postsecondary education and the workforce; Requires students scoring below level 3 on Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) reading or math be given appropriate assistance based on student-specific areas of weakness; and.

- Increases math requirements for high school graduation to 4 credits with an emphasis on algebra.

#### **Middle School Reform:**

The bill requires middle schools to develop redesign plans during the 2006-2007 school year to implement reform. In particular, a 4-5-year academic and career plan must be developed prior to entry into 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The bill provides that emphasis be placed on career exploration and development of 4-5 year academic and career plans prior to entry into 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The bill also requires students scoring below level 3 on FCAT reading to be enrolled the following year in an intensive reading course, includes a standard grading system equal to that for high schools, and revises the Middle School Curriculum to include the following 12 academic courses:

- 3 middle school or higher level English/language arts;
- 3 middle school or higher level math courses;
- 2 middle school or higher level social studies courses;
- 2 middle school or higher level science courses;
- 1/2 course in comprehensive career exploration, to be completed by the end of grade 7;
- 1 and 1/2 elective courses.

#### **Professional Development for Teachers and Principals:**

The bill requires each secondary school to include as a part of the redesign plan professional development activities and timelines that support secondary reform. Professional development plans must be aligned to state standards and frameworks adopted by the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) and incorporate analysis of student achievement data, ongoing assessment and monitoring of student achievement, enhanced instructional strategies, enrichment of subject area expertise, and reading in the content area strategies. The bill emphasizes the principal's role as an instructional leader and ties principal leadership training directly to effective school-based professional development and classroom instruction. The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to disseminate professional development best practices.

#### **Review and Refinement of Florida's Sunshine State Standards:**

The bill requires a review of the state adopted standards to emphasize rigor and relevance and to include meaningful participation from instructional leaders, postsecondary instructors, and Florida's business community in the review and revision.

#### **Reading and Literacy:**

The bill provides for reading instruction to be funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and codifies the establishment of the Just Read, Florida! Office. The bill emphasizes support and intervention for struggling readers through integrated

and intensive reading classes, summer bridge academies, and emphasis on effective reading in the content area strategies. The bill codifies the establishment of the Florida Center for Reading Research and provides for two outreach centers to disseminate reading research and best practices for classroom instruction.

**Principal Leadership and Professional Development:**

The bill provides for principal leadership training based on model frameworks developed by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), NSDC, and the State Board of Education (SBE) and includes an annual allocation through the General Appropriations Act, contingent upon support from education leadership organizations throughout the state as well as SREB. The system must include resources to support and enhance the role of instructional leaders; provide a clearinghouse of data-supported best practices; and increase the quality of preservice and inservice training for principals, principal leadership teams and teachers.

**Other Education Issues:**

Finally, the bill provides for alternative school grading based on learning gains, revises the social studies requirements, implements Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) recommendations relating to funding for out-of-state exceptional students, and revises differentiated pay policies for instructional and administrative personnel.

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

The committee introduced two committee proposals relating to the Opportunity Scholarship Program. The first is SPB 7104 which provides a statutory scheme for implementing the Opportunity Scholarship Program that is similar to the corporate scholarship program. A bill number has not been assigned. The second proposal is a joint resolution; SPB 7106 which is now SJR 2170. The joint resolution amends the constitution, but just has “shell” language at this point.

**Appropriations Committees**

The House and Senate scheduled their respective Education Appropriations Committees. The House Education Appropriations Committee thoroughly discussed the use of the 2 mills and whether charter schools should share in such discretionary millage. No conclusions were reached, but capital outlay funding for charter schools will be an issue this session.

The Senate Education Appropriations Committee began a discussion of apprenticeship programs. Workforce education and the funding of such programs will be an issue this session.

I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 850.488.5099.