

Duval County Public Schools

2012-13 Legislative Agenda and Recommendations

October 13, 2011



Priority Legislative Items for 2012-13

No. 1	Class Size Amendment F.S. 1003.03	FLDOE/Legislative Action	Financial Impact
	Challenge	It is not feasible to require school districts to pay a penalty for failure to comply with class size requirements when funding has been reduced \$1,000 per student or 16% over the last five years.	
	Background	Class size limits were first introduced in 2002 when Amendment 9 was approved by Florida voters - 52% were in favor. The amendment to the State Constitution required that the class sizes be limited by Fall 2010. High school classes would have been limited to 25 students; fourth through eighth grades to 22 students; and pre-kindergarten through third grade to 18 students. The Florida Department of Education estimated in early 2010 that 2,769 schools statewide still would not be able to comply. According to the Department of Education 33% of pre-kindergarten classes didn't meet the cap in Fall 2009. Additionally, 30% of middle schools and 38% of high schools didn't meet the requirement that same year.	
	Recommendations	<p>In an environment of continual revenue reductions and to avoid additional revenue reductions for school districts, explore other ways of having accountability without a monetary penalty. Especially where districts such as Duval Public Schools have expended all prior year and committed all current year class size funding and supplemented with general funds to comply with class size requirements.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Amend section 1003.03(4)(a) to read “) If the department determines that the average number of students per school for a grade group assigned to any individual class exceeds the class size maximum, as required in subsection (1), based upon the October student membership survey, the department shall:.. “ (This is the current criteria for charter schools).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Delete sections 1003.03(4)(a) 3 and 4 and replace with “The maximum per school reduction shall not exceed \$2000 when the district school boards have expended all class size funding from the all prior years and committed all class size funding in the current year to meet class size.”...</p>	\$5 Million – The net estimated cost of the class size penalty to the district.

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No.	Instructional Materials F.S. 1006.40(2)	FLDOE/Legislative Action	Financial Impact
2	Challenge	State mandate to purchase new textbooks is too restrictive.	<p>\$4 Million – The cost the district would save by not purchasing mandatory textbooks.</p>
	Background	The FLDOE mandates districts to purchase new instructional materials within a 2-year timeframe based on the current 6-year adoption cycle. Currently, the new adoption process in place has been changed by moving from a committee of 9 members that represents experts across higher education, districts and the public to two higher education professors only.	
	Recommendations	<p>Amend section 1006.40(1) to read “Each district school board must purchase current instructional materials to provide each student with a major tool of instruction in core courses of the subject areas of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, reading, and literature for kindergarten through grade 12. Such purchase must be made within the first 4 years 2-years after the effective date of the adoption cycle.”</p> <p align="center">And</p> <p>Amend section 1006.40(4) to read “The funds described in subsection (3) which district school boards may use to purchase materials not on the state-adopted list shall be used for the purchase of instructional materials or other items having intellectual <u>content that are aligned to the State standards and shall be used instead of State-adopted core materials described in section 1004.40(1)</u> which assist in the instruction of a subject or course. These items may be available in bound, unbound, kit, or package form and may consist of hard backed or soft backed textbooks, electronic content, replacements for items which were part of previously purchased instructional materials, consumables, learning laboratories, manipulative, electronic media, computer courseware or software, and other commonly accepted instructional tools as prescribed by district school board rule.”</p>	

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No. 3	Opportunity Scholarship Program F. S. 1002.38	FLDOE/Legislative Action	Financial Impact
	Challenge	The Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) is extremely disruptive given the short timeline, affects a greater number of schools and students, adds significant unfunded costs and is not effective in increasing student achievement.	
	Background	<p>The State funds the district approximately \$18M or 51% of the district’s required transportation expense.</p> <p>OSP adds additional unfunded transportation costs for the district. This was \$1.5M for 2010-11 and \$2.7M for 2011-12 due to mileage costs associated with extra or extended routes. At the same time, the District cut transportation routes for other students in Choice programs due to budget shortfalls. The new legislative language expanded the number of eligible schools under OSP from 6 to 27 schools and a candidate pool of potential transfers from 6,720 to 17,855 students. For 2010-11, 636 students were reassigned and over 1,000 reassigned for 2011-12. The State provides school grade data so late that the OSP process cannot be properly completed in a 2-3 week timeframe. Parents do not have adequate time to consider and make decisions. Nor can school and district staff contact, confirm, schedule and enroll hundreds of transfers prior to school opening. This includes an extra cost of double staffing schools. This process undermines the neighborhood school concept.</p>	<p>\$2.7 Million – The estimated additional cost to provide student transportation services to comply with Florida Statute. The district has an extensive transportation network for magnet, ESOL and other programs that prohibiting funding from Title 1.</p>
	Recommendations	<p>Provide 1 year extension to transfer decision implementation as follows: Amend section 1002.38(2)(a) to read “A public school student’s parent may request and receive an opportunity scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend a public school. <u>If the district receives the designated school grade from FLDOE after May 1, the opportunity scholarship option will be delayed 12 months and</u> in accordance with the provisions of this section if:...” And Revise criteria to 2010-11 standards for eligibility as follows: Amend section 1002.38(2)(a)(1) to read “By assigned school attendance area or by special assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a public school that has been designated as performance grade category “D” or “F” <u>in 2 school years in a four-year period of such low performance</u> and that is in one of the two lowest-performing categories pursuant to s. 1008.34 <u>1008.33</u>, and the student’s attendance occurred during a school year in which such designation was in effect;”... And Do not provide transportation for students leaving their neighborhood school. Amend section 1002.38(3)2(e) to “If the parent chooses to request that the student be enrolled in a higher-performing public school in the school district, transportation costs to the higher-performing public school shall be the responsibility of the <u>parent</u> school district. The district may utilize state categorical transportation funds or state appropriated public school choice incentive funds for this purpose”....</p>	

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No. 4	Differentiated Accountability F.S. 1008.33	FLDOE/Legislative Action	Financial Impact
	Challenge	The lack of local control and flexibility as well as the duplication of services within the DA Model requires additional time and funding and limits district's ability to focus on the priority needs of our students.	
	Background	<p>To streamline the federal requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) with the State of Florida accountability system, a tiered approach to interventions for schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), entitled the Differentiated Accountability Model (DA) was established. All districts are required to adhere to stipulations within the DA model. The Florida model focuses support progressively and increases requirements as school grades and percent of AYP met declines.</p> <p>The DA model causes duplicate layers of service and requirements through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Establishment of regional offices; (2) Additional 17 coaches reporting to FLDOE regional office; (3) Rigid instructional and professional development requirements; (4) Excessive assessment and reporting; (5) Confusing and unreasonable criteria to enter and exit Intervene status; (6) Not parallel to federal criteria of SIG (School Improvement Grant); (7) Charter schools funding for coaches without district input; (8) District highly experienced coaches are recruited away to establish FLDOE region offices; 	<p>\$1.9 Million. Additional funding for the district.</p>
	Recommendations	<p>Establish local control over accountability requirements and funding to schools by reducing the number of required reading, mathematics and science coaches employed by the FLDOE DA Regional offices by 80% of the allocated budget. This will enable the district to provide targeted support and better alignment of resources to meet student needs.</p> <p>Amend section 1008.33(4)(a) to read " Intervention and support strategies shall be applied to schools based upon the school categorization pursuant to paragraph (3)(b). <u>The school district shall</u> Department of Education apply the most intense intervention strategies to the lowest-performing schools. For all but the lowest category and "F" schools in the second lowest category, All intervention and support strategies shall be administered solely by the districts and the schools.</p>	