

**DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

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**FUNDING:**

- 1) **LOWEST 300 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:** Provide adequate and categorical funding for the required additional hour of instruction, without reducing funding in other areas, along with a process to remove a school from the list that recognizes growth or eliminate the requirement altogether.

***Explanation:*** During the 2014 Session, the Legislature increased the number of schools from 100 to 300 lowest performing elementary schools without providing additional funding for the additional schools. This increased the number of schools in Duval from 11 to 39 at a cost of approximately \$8 million. The recommendation is to provide additional funding to support this initiative as well as to create a process to remove schools from the list, if their reading proficiency improves or they receive a grade of A-C.

- 2) **FLEXIBILITY ON MILLAGE RATE:** The Legislature should provide flexibility to districts to restore the millage by 0.25.

***Explanation:*** The district currently requires approximately \$10 million for open “safety to life” code requirements. In addition, over 60% of our schools are over 50 years old, which creates challenges with basic maintenance and facility upgrades.

- 3) **INCREASED FUNDING FOR TECHNOLOGY/CAPITAL:** Provide adequate funding for technology needs, without reducing funding in other educational areas.

***Explanation:*** With assessments shifting from paper based testing to computer based testing; there is a great need to upgrade technology in all schools in order to comply with mandates set forth by the FLDOE.

- 4) **INCREASED FUNDING FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT:** If the Legislature does not repeal the requirement that mandates school districts to pay tuition for dual enrollment offered on the college campus, it should increase funding for dual enrollment, without reducing funding in other areas.

***Explanation:*** Due to the change in tuition requirements for Dual Enrollment, the district has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last two years as compared to no cost during the 2012-13 school year to maintain and increase accelerated options.

**ACCOUNTABILITY REFORM:**

- 1) **SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADE AND GRADUATION RATE:** Charter schools should not be included in a district’s grade or graduation rate.

***Explanation:*** Currently charter schools are included when calculating a district’s grade and graduation rate. However, the school district has limited control over charter schools within its district. If charter schools continue to be allowed to operate with limited oversight from the school district, they should not be included when calculating the school district grade, data or overall graduation rate.

- 2) **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS:** Opportunity Scholarships should not be granted to rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders if their neighborhood high school is graded a “C” or higher regardless of the status of the middle school they are leaving. The same should apply to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders entering middle school.

**FACILITIES:**

- 1) **FACILITIES:** Revise facility usage to be defined by not only enrollment, but related educational services that take place at the school site, including Pre-K, art, music, and Head Start classes.