

**DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

**FUNDING:**

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

***Explanation:*** 60% of the district's schools are over 50 years old, which creates challenges with basic maintenance and facility upgrades, while limiting potential investment in new buildings for higher growth areas.

2) **INCREASED FUNDING FOR TECHNOLOGY/CAPITAL:** Additional state funding should be provided to enhance student access to online course work, digital educational content, and to meet the computer based testing requirements for statewide assessments. Additionally, investment in technology reduces the financial strain on capital funding for maintenance.

***Explanation:*** With assessments shifting from paper based testing to computer based testing, there is a greater need to continually upgrade technology in all schools in order to meet the learning styles of students and the workplace demand of future employees.

**ACCOUNTABILITY REFORM:**

1) **SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADE AND GRADUATION RATE:** Charter schools should be issued their own district grade. The Legislature should empower the FDOE to issue district grades and performance, providing a separate rating for charter school performance. Charter operators should receive a statewide grade and a "district charter" grade if they serve more students than the smallest district in Florida.

***Explanation:*** Currently charter schools are included when calculating a district's performance. However, the school district has limited control over charter schools within its district. Districts, and likewise larger charter operators, should be transparently accountable for their results. Blending school district and charter school and operator results blur the lines of transparency and accountability.

2) **OPEN ENROLLMENT SYSTEM/HB 7029 IMPLEMENTATION:** Districts should maintain local authority to determine school capacity as part of implementing the open enrollment provisions of HB 7029 passed during the 2016 Session. Furthermore, the state should review and determine how the various Choice programs (i.e., Opportunity Scholarships, virtual education, etc.) conflict with the new open enrollment policies that go into effect in the 2017 school year.

**Explanation:** Families have been guaranteed that they will not be displaced by a student from another district seeking enrollment under the Open Enrollment System [s.1002.31(2)(e), F.S.]. This conflicts with the provision that guarantees a student who transfers to a new school under the Open Enrollment System allowed to stay at that school until s/he completes the highest grade level at the school [s. 1002.31(2)(f), F.S.]. When school aged children move into high growth areas, space limitations may prevent children from attending their neighborhood school.

Local school districts have different policies regarding school eligibility requirements that are too diverse and contradictory for a "one size fits all" approach to state open enrollment. In addition, enrollment trends consistently change. The current strategy of allowing districts to define capacity should be maintained.

#### **FACILITIES:**

1) **FACILITIES:** Revise facility usage to be defined by both enrollment and educational services that take place at the school site, including Pre-K, art, music, ESE and Head Start classes.

**Explanation:** The Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) report does not capture classroom usage that is purely education. For example, Pre-K, ESE, and science labs are not included as used classrooms and misrepresent utilization rates.