THE COALITION FOR QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

C4QPE



2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

1. Public School Funding

* Increase the Base Student Allocation and State Categorical Programs by at least 5% annually so that Florida achieves a ranking of at least #20 nationwide in PreK-12 educational funding by 2025.
* Prohibit any new unfunded mandates for public schools.
* Eliminate all taxpayer funding of private K-12 schools.
* Until taxpayer funding of private schools has ended, expand the Hope Scholarship Program to include an option for car buyers to designate their sales tax portion to go to public school funding.
* Cease all legislative reductions of Florida’s future revenues until Florida’s allocation to public school funding reaches the nationwide average.
* Encourage the Florida Department of Education to apply for any and all federal funding available to support PreK-12 public schools.

1. Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators

* Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) until Florida ranks at least #20 in national average teacher and educational support personnel salaries by 2025.
* Return to Professional Services Contracts to provide employee security.
* Continue new employee open enrollment in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System.

1. Charter Schools

*(Charter schools are public schools, receiving public funds, both state and local.)*

* Improve oversight of charter schools by the elected county school board.
* Deny petitions for new, renewed, or materially revised charter schools operated or managed by for-profit companies.
* Limit approval of new charter applications to those that address specific academic or space needs not met by the local school district.
* Require that a charter school, if closed, return all remaining public funds, and materials and capital investments purchased with taxpayer funds.
* Clarify state law concerning charter school governance to assure equal application of requirements and consequences if those requirements are not met or are violated.
* Require Hope Charter Schools to accept and transport any students previously enrolled in the school(s) they replaced.

1. Accountability for all education funding

* Hold all schools that receive state funding to the same standards and testing as public schools.
* Hold all schools that receive state and/or federal funding to the anti-discrimination standards that apply to K-12 regular public schools.
* Make fully transparent all direct and indirect state funding of private schools.
* Direct the Florida Department of Education to develop and fund alternative strategies for local school districts to support students recovering from learning losses resulting from COVID-19 related disruptions to education.

1. Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

* Fund full day programs for three year olds in high need areas.
* Fully fund the quality initiatives already in process as a result of HB 419 so that they become operational sufficient to positively impact the lives of young children.
* Increase state funding of PreK to enable local districts to serve more students—an essential response to the high number of child care center closures across Florida.

6. Support one topic/one bill requirement for the Legislature.