C4QPE



THE COALITION FOR QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

2023

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 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 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 Pre-K-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 employment open enrollment in the defined benefit program of the Florida Retirement System.
* Expand DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Program) to 7 years.
* Establish the EDUCATOR INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP/LOAN PROGRAM which would cover tuition costs for in-state education students and reduce pay-back a percentage for each year the educator teaches at a Florida public school.

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 state educational funds

* 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.
* Reduce the number of state-required exams to not exceed the minimum required under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and provide the assessments in predominant languages of non-English speaking students.

1. Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

* Fund pilot programs of full-day VPK and programs for three-year-olds in high need areas.
* Implement legislation for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) similar to HB 1091 enacted in 2018 which currently impacts the School Readiness (SR) Program.
* Use assessment only for the purposes for which they were designed. Quality child development assessments should be used to inform instruction. They are not valid to determine program quality.
* Provide increased funding for PreK students and allow for differentiated funding for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs that employ teachers with current Florida certification.

1. Support one topic/one bill requirement for the Legislature.
2. The Legislature must support the Constitutional mandate for nonpartisan school board elections by adding “*or school board”* to Title IX, Chapter 105, Sections 105.071 and 105.09 of Florida Statute.