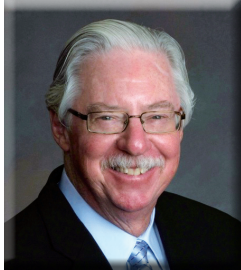




# The School Board of Lee County, Florida



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*Chairman, District 5*



Mary Fischer, M.A.  
*Vice Chairman, District 1*



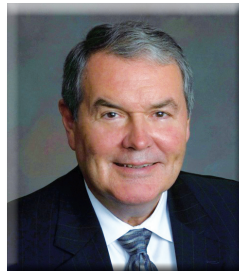
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# 2012 Legislative Priorities

## Public Schools Operations Funding

*Article IX, Section (1), Florida Constitution: “The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education . . .”*

- Establish a long-term plan to make Florida’s public education system world class including a long-range plan to provide for adequate and stable funding.
- Reject any new unfunded legislative mandates. New mandates passed during the 2011 Session have proved to be extremely expensive especially those relating to teacher evaluation systems, teacher performance pay systems, charter school administrative fees, and virtual school requirements. Unfunded mandates come at the cost of existing instructional programs and services.

## Class Size Reduction Penalties

Remove all monetary penalties relating to class size reduction. The Constitutional requirements for class sizes to be obtained have largely been implemented. Having a handful of classrooms out of compliance with about 80,000 students and a high degree of student mobility every day should not result in a huge potential penalty, as the current law contemplates. Lee County Schools was one of the largest districts in the state in 2010-2011 to fully comply with class size requirements, but we believe that the focus on class size requirements is disproportionate to its value to students.

## Teacher Performance Pay and Teacher Evaluation Systems

- Fund 100% of the costs associated with establishing new valid and reliable testing programs in every subject not covered by state accountability tests and new teacher evaluation systems.
- Allow local control to create performance pay schedules to meet local needs, promote fairness among all instructional personnel, and allow buy-in from all local stakeholders.

## Alternative Diploma Options

- Conduct a national and international study of graduation requirements and diploma options.
- Implement at least one option designed to provide a meaningful credential for those students who cannot or will not complete the new increased standards envisioned for the standard high school diploma allowing at a minimum the skills needed for students to enter the workforce, technical or career education programs, or the military.

## Efficient and Effective State Budget Reforms

Research has consistently demonstrated that reforms to support longer school days, longer school years, improved teacher quality, high quality pre-K programs, and enhanced student services are extremely efficient and effective in improving student outcomes compared to reforms such as reduced class sizes or teacher performance pay. As the state climbs out of the long-term budget hole that it has been facing, funding improvements to support increased instructional time, improve teacher quality, and enhance student services should become the priority.

## Charter School Administrative Costs

Delivering legislatively mandated services to high-quality charter schools is equally as expensive for the District as delivering mandated services to other charter schools. Providing a discount to high-quality charter schools has simply created a subsidy for those schools at the expense of students in regular public schools. Please re-establish appropriate administrative fees for all charter schools to pay the School District for the mandated services the District must provide to these schools.

## Capital Outlay Needs

- Maintain school impact fees and reinstate local capital outlay funding for the purposes that they were collected.
- Re-establish an appropriate share of state PECO dollars for non-charter public schools.