

# The School Board of Lee County

## 2010 Legislative Priorities

### **Place a Proposed Constitutional Amendment on the ballot in 2010 that would freeze Class Size Reduction Implementation at the Class Size Average instead of mandating class-by-class caps**

Implementation of the current Class Size Reduction Implementing Statutes assumes that beginning in 2010-2011 each school district will comply with class size caps in every single core subject area classroom. Given the mobility of our population and difficulties in scheduling at the middle school and high school levels, we respectfully request that the Legislature ask citizens to amend the requirements to maintain the averages instead of a class-by-class cap.

### **Provide for Appropriate Funding for Public Schools Operations as required by the Constitution**

*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.
- Safeguard the "90% Rule" for base FEFP funding to protect citizens of property-wealthy districts, such as Lee County Schools, from having to bear an unfair portion of their public school costs for the state.
- Fund 100% of the true operational costs of Class Size Reduction from state funds as required by the Constitution.
- Reject any new unfunded legislative mandates.

### **Amend Statutes to Improve Instruction and Accountability**

We respectfully request that the Legislature:

- Allow school boards to waive the Statute limiting the start of the school calendar for students by a super majority vote of the board.
- Change the school grading system to remove scores of new district students for the first year of testing until both performance scores and learning gain scores are available for these students.
- Update the system for determining graduation rates and drop-out rates to more accurately calculate the true graduation rates in Florida.

### **Assist with Classroom Space Needs**

We respectfully request that the Legislature:

- Maintain school impact fees and capital outlay property taxes for the purposes for which they were collected.
- Reject any new proposals to shift capital property taxes into operations either in the required local effort or the discretionary local effort.

For additional information, please contact:

Bob Cerra  
Cerra Consulting Group, Inc.  
(850) 222-4428  
[bobcerra@comcast.net](mailto:bobcerra@comcast.net)

John Cerra  
Cerra Consulting Group, Inc.  
(850) 222-4428  
[cerraj@comcast.net](mailto:cerraj@comcast.net)

Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Vice Chairman, District 4  
School Board Legislative Liaison  
(239) 337-8304  
[StevenKT@leeschools.net](mailto:StevenKT@leeschools.net)