



# 2020 Legislative Platform

## School District of Palm Beach County

### Student Learning and Academics

Advocate for continued use of concordant scores to meet assessment graduation requirements after the current sunset of July 1, 2020. This includes the PERT for mathematics as well as the ACT and SAT for mathematics and English Language Arts.

Increase funding for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs and support initiatives to improve the quality of VPK providers.

Allow for scheduling flexibility so that local school boards can determine the number of instructional hours required per semester.



### School Safety and Mental Health

Ensure the necessary investments in capital and operating school expenditures to allow for effective implementation of the long list of reforms included in school safety and security-related legislation (SB 7026 and SB 7030) with fidelity.



Increase the number of qualified mental health counselors in schools to get ratios closer to best practice standards.

Provide adequate funding for a properly trained safe-school officer at every school, both District-operated and charter.

### Finance

Allow the RLE to increase with economic growth rather than roll back.

Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$75 or more.

## Teacher Pay, Recruitment, and Retention

Advocate to increase teacher salaries in a meaningful and sustainable manner that provides a livable wage commensurate with the role and responsibilities of this critical profession.



Redirect Best and Brightest Scholarship Program funds to BSA or dedicated teacher salary categorical within the FEFP for salary increases.

Expand Best and Brightest Scholarship Program eligibility to include Pre-Kindergarten teachers.

Advocate for a teacher certification alternative test option or revise certification assessment to increase the number of teachers that are able to pass certification. Allow for certification reciprocity with other states.

Advocate to repeal the reading endorsement requirement for teachers that teach reading remediation and allow Districts to design their own professional development for teachers.

## Charter Schools

Provide for greater school board oversight of local charter schools, including increased ability to hold a charter school's governing board accountable for contractual obligations. This includes mandates related to school safety and security to ensure charter schools are in compliance.

Hold charter schools and private schools accepting taxpayer funded vouchers to the same standards as traditional public schools.