

The Foundation for Florida's Future 2024 agenda will protect the state's school accountability system, improve the nation-leading school choice programs, expand teacher apprenticeship opportunities and minimize social media's harmful effects on students.

Student Success

- **Maintain third-grade literacy promotion requirements.** Ensure students can read to learn by protecting Florida's longstanding and proven policy requiring students to demonstrate grade-level literacy proficiency prior to being promoted to the fourth grade.
- **Maintain high school exit exam requirements.** Retain the value of the high school diploma by ensuring students pass tenth-grade ELA and Algebra I end-of-course assessments as a condition of graduation.
- **Maintain funding and facility parity for public charter schools.** Ensure maximum access to school and classroom facilities and funding sources for charter schools.
- **Improve Florida's teacher certification exams.** Ensure Florida's new teacher certification exams, which were rated as "weak" by the National Council on Teacher Quality, cover all five core components of reading instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.
- **Improve support for underserved students.** Create a funding weight for low-income students in the Florida Education Finance Program to support their educational needs.

Education Opportunity

Private School Choice

- **Expand education opportunity for students with unique abilities.** Remove the funding cap on Family Empowerment Scholarships for Students with Unique Abilities.
- **Improve pathways to evaluation and access of services.** Fund an alternate pathway through the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System for home education and private school students needing evaluations and a matrix of services.
- **Improve family access to school choice.** Shorten the timeline to distribute funding to Scholarship Funding Organizations and remove the requirement that Scholarship Funding Organizations expend Florida Tax Credit funds prior to state funds being disbursed.
- **Expand course options for scholarship students.** Allow scholarship students to participate in virtual courses offered by private schools.
- **Eliminate financial barriers to school choice.** Expand eligibility for the existing \$750 transportation scholarship to include all scholarship students.

Public School Choice

- **Reduce unfair regulatory burdens for charter schools.** Expand appeal authority for charter schools in zoning disputes to allow charter management organizations and charter membership associations to intervene on behalf of a charter school.
 - **Eliminate funding barriers for charter schools.** Accelerate timelines for sharing of local capital outlay dollars between districts and charter schools.
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- **Expand school choice options in underserved communities.** Fund the Schools of Hope program to continue attracting quality charter school operators to open schools in high need areas of the state.
- **Strengthen high-quality public school choice options.** Allow local operating funding to flow to college and university-sponsored charter schools.

Teacher and School-Level Success

- **Increase the teacher pipeline.** Expand the pool of teacher apprentices by aligning GPA requirements (2.5 or higher) to professional certificates and allowing apprentice candidates who are enrolled in a postsecondary institution at the time of application to participate.
- **Improve teacher quality.** Expand the pool of mentor teachers by reducing the experience requirement from 7 years to 5 years.
- **Improve school and district-level operations.** Preclude certain collective bargaining issues from interfering with school and district-level decision-making processes and actions.
- **Reward and incentivize success.** Increase district and teacher bonuses when students who qualify for free/reduced-price meals and students with disabilities complete advanced coursework (early college-dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, Advanced Placement, Industry-Certified Career and Professional Academy Program).
- **Increase early literacy rates.** Fund reading coaches for every elementary school to support high-quality literacy instruction.

Education to Workforce

- **Reimagine high school with relevant experiential learning.** Establish a grant program to provide work-based learning, internship and apprenticeship opportunities to students through the creation of public-private partnerships between a healthcare system provider and public schools, including lab schools, charter schools and traditional public schools.
- **Improve transparency of data for career and technical education success.** Improve usability of the Education Meets Opportunity Platform to provide policymakers and employers with important information about the performance of career training programs and other workforce development data.

Student Mental Health

- **Protect the mental health of students.** Limit the ability of a student under the age of 16 to establish social media accounts without express consent of a parent or guardian.
- **Support parents.** Require age verification of any individual seeking to establish a social media account in the state of Florida.
- **Eliminate classroom distraction and increase learning.** Strengthen the existing ban on cell phone use during the school day.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- **Evaluate the risks and opportunities for AI in education.** Establish a statewide, education-focused task force to examine the potential impacts of generative AI on education. Provide
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recommendations for mitigating potential risks and identifying responsible opportunities for students, teachers and school systems to make use of the technology.

- **Expand classroom supports for teachers.** Fund training opportunities and supports for teachers to use high quality, education-focused generative AI tools to reduce workload, to support planning and development of lesson plans and to better personalize education.

