



## OVERVIEW

The Legislature held its fourth Interim Committee Week, February 8 – 12, 2021. Most education committees did not meet. Staff presented the Governor's Legislative Budget Request in the House. Additionally, the House PreK-12 Appropriation Subcommittee received an update on Federal assistance related to the COVID-19 Pandemic for PreK-12 Education. In terms of the Federal Dollars, Florida received \$693.2 million in funding for public schools in the first CARES Act. During the presentation, the Florida Department of Education stated that only 40 percent (\$277.2 million) has been spent by the districts. Chair Fine expressed some concerns with that level of available funds. Next week, five superintendents will be testifying on the utilization of the funds.

Speaker Sprowls sent a [letter](#) to Florida Superintendents urging them to use all available State and local resources to locate the alarming number of students (over 88,000 students, about 3% of the Florida student population) that are missing and currently not enrolled in school. The Speaker also warned that the current \$700 million hold harmless provision in the emergency order for the current school year will not continue for the 2021-22 school year.

**Please find below a summary of the Senate Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week.**

### Senate Education Committee

- Did not meet

### Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

- No PreK-12 items were discussed

**Please find below a summary of the House Committee & Subcommittee hearings this past week.**

### House Education & Employment Committee

- No PreK-12 items were discussed

### Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee

- Did not meet

### Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee

- Did not meet

### House Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee

Update of Federal Assistance Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic for PreK-12 Education:

Florida has received \$693.2 million in funding for Florida's public schools in the first CARES Act. During the presentation, the Florida Department of Education stated that about 40 percent (\$277.2 million) has been spent by the districts.

Presentation on Governor's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Recommendation:

- Department of Education
- Office of Early Learning
- Board of Governors

#### Student Funding:

- **Per-student Funding: \$8,019** (\$232/3% increase per student) state-wide/**BCPS \$8,020** (\$275/3.5% increase per-student)
- **Base Student Allocation: \$4,451** (\$132/3% increase per student)
- **Safe Schools Allocation: \$180 million** (level funding)
- **Mental Health Allocation: \$10 million** increase state-wide (33.33%) for a total of **\$110 million**.
- **Teacher Salary Increase Allocation: \$10 million** increase state-wide for a total of **\$550 million**.
- **Title I School Recognition Program: \$43.5 million** (state-wide) to provide financial awards to Title I schools based on their student performance.
- **Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program: \$1 million** (recurring funding) for screening and training-related costs, as well as funding to cover a \$500 stipend for school guardians.
- **BCPS Adults with Disabilities: \$800,000** (level funding)

#### Capital Improvement

- **\$7.6 million** for maintenance of **public schools**
- **\$180 million** for maintenance of **charter schools**
- **\$42 million** in funding for **school safety grants**
- **\$6.4 million** in recurring funding for school districts to continue to implement a mobile panic alert system that can connect multiple first responder agencies.

[Committee Packet](#)

[Committee Video](#)