

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

## THE NORTH EAST FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM

### RURAL RENAISSANCE

- Pass the Rural Renaissance Proposal from 2025 as drafted in SB 110 including:
  - Grant funding for districts;
  - Increase to Regional Consortia organizations;
  - Changes to Special Facilities Programs and local tax requirements;
  - Teacher recruitment incentives; and,
  - Policy updates to consortia governing statutes.

#### ➤ PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

- Recognize that rampant inflation is eroding the value of public education funding by providing an increase to the BSA to maintain the current level of quality for students.
- Fully fund all State mandates with State general revenue funding.
- Double the commitment to instructional personnel salaries funding and maintain the local flexibility to address the salary schedule where needed.
- Fund at the State or FDOE level the cost of cybersecurity insurance for all school districts.
- Continue funding for school safety needs including the School Guardian Program and school hardening grants.
- Cover costs of all mandated services by public schools for students not counted toward district FTE either through a direct grant, a charge to the students educational savings account, or requiring the scholarship receiving private school to provide the service.
- Fund all mandated FRS rate increases.
- Keep full funding of CTE and Advanced Course Completion Allocation.

#### ➤ CAPITAL OUTLAY

- Include all FTEs in all capital outlay formulas including UPK and CTE students.
- Reinstate state funding of PECO for traditional public-school maintenance.

*\*Bolded items are priority requests*

#### ➤ PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT EQUALIZATION

- Fund traditional school districts and charter schools the same as Choice Scholarship Program students where regular education students each receive the average UFTE funding and all ESE students get the actual funding.
- Continue deregulation of the public schools to match the freedom enjoyed by Choice Scholarship Programs.

#### ➤ TRUANCY & ATTENDANCE

- Support changes to attendance definitions that unify attempts to engage families in reducing absences prior to truancy escalation.
- Streamline truancy processes to simplify documentation, reduce procedural delays, and coordinate sanctions such that truancy is either avoided or seriously addressed.

#### ➤ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

- In addition to specific budget requests, funding should be included in the FSDB operations line item to continue to provide competitive teacher and staff compensation.

#### ➤ VIRTUAL EDUCATION

- Allow District Virtual Schools and District FLVS franchises to report all course completions for funding the same as Florida Virtual School is allowed.

# THE NORTH EAST FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM

For 50 years, the North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC) has united school districts through collaboration, innovation, and shared services. Planned and organized by area school boards during the 1975–1976 academic year, NEFEC was founded as a regional, non-profit educational service agency to provide cooperative programs and support for its member districts.

From the beginning, NEFEC has been non-regulatory, non-taxing, and voluntary, allowing it to remain flexible and responsive to the needs of its members. NEFEC’s mission is to help member districts cooperatively meet their educational goals and objectives by providing programs and services the individual districts would not be able to provide as effectively or as economically acting alone.

NEFEC’s objectives include:

- Facilitating cooperative planning and communication
- Sharing ideas, resources, and best practices
- Expanding programs through pooled funds and personnel
- Promoting cost efficiency through collaboration
- Securing state and federal grants to enhance educational opportunities

The superintendents of NEFEC’s fifteen member districts serve as its Board of Directors, setting policy, approving budgets, and guiding program development. Their leadership and commitment remain NEFEC’s greatest strength.

As we celebrate five decades of partnership and progress, NEFEC honors its proud legacy and looks forward to empowering districts, educators, and students for the next 50 years and beyond.



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