

2024

THE NORTH EAST FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

- Recognize that rampant inflation is eroding the value of public education funding by providing an increase to the BSA in order to maintain the current level of quality for students.
- Fully fund all State mandates with State general revenue funding.
- Fund at least 80% of actual student transportation costs within the student transportation allocation to correctly align funding with costs and to meet the new instructional start time mandate.
- Allocate Family Empowerment Scholarships funding as reductions to all allocations and categoricals and not just as a deduction from district general funds.
- Fund at the State or DOE level the cost of cybersecurity insurance for all school districts.
- Continue funding school safety needs, including the School Guardian program and school hardening grants.
- Fund all mandated FRS rate increases.

SCHOOL DISTRICT DEREGULATION PROJECT

- School Boards should be able to waive any law or rule that an un-elected charter school board is allowed to waive.

TALENT ACQUISITION CHALLENGES

- Recognize out-of-field reading teachers with certification over substitute teachers without reading endorsements or certification.
- Emphasize teacher retention efforts, including increased salaries and re-establishing benefits such as the COLA for FRS pension at some minimum level.
- Support funding for alternative pathways to obtain a professional teaching certificate, including Consortia facilitated programs, for teachers on a temporary certificate.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

- Continue to fund qualified school districts under the Special Facility Construction Account Program and restore payback provisions to allow receiving districts to maintain a small portion of local taxes for other maintenance needs.
- Provide reimbursement or enhanced funding to offset the newly required sharing of local capital funds with charter schools.

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

- Impose identical accountability measures on traditional public schools, charter schools, virtual schools, and private schools that accept vouchers.
- Promote CTE Programs through a CTE graduation track that would waive test score requirements for graduation while counting toward success for schools and districts.

REGIONAL CONSORTIA SERVICES

- Continue full funding of Regional Consortia Services as established in F.S. 1001.451.
- Continue to work with Regional Consortia to encourage and support effective processes and strategies for college and career readiness, leadership development, and technology deployment.

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.

RISK MANAGEMENT

- Restore exclusions to PIP related mandates for school buses to be the same as other public transportation.
- Fund the first \$25 million of property and casualty losses for each school district from hurricane impacts to increase the amount of property and casualty coverage available for districts and reduce overall costs to taxpayers for this coverage.

THE NORTH EAST FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM

was planned and organized by the school boards of area school districts during the 1975-1976 academic year. The Consortium is a regional, non-profit, educational service agency established to provide cooperative services to member districts. It exercises no control over its clients, is non-regulatory, and has no taxing authority. Participation in programs and services through the Consortium is completely voluntary; therefore, the Consortium is designed to be sensitive to and responsive to the needs and desires of the school districts served. The goal of NEFEC 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. The objectives of the Consortium include facilitating cooperative planning; disseminating information, concepts, and ideas among participating districts; improving and extending programs and services through the pooling of funds, personnel, and other resources; economizing through cooperatively sharing and assisting each other; and writing and securing a variety of grants and projects from both the state and federal levels.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sherrie Raulerson, Superintendent, **Baker County**
Will Hartley, Superintendent, **Bradford County**
Alex L. Carswell, Jr., Superintendent, **Columbia County**
Mike Thomas, Superintendent, **Dixie County**
LaShakia Moore, Superintendent, **Flagler County**
Tracie C. Snow, President
Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
Dr. James A. Surrency, Superintendent, **Gilchrist County**
Lee Wetherington-Zamora, Superintendent, **Hamilton County**
Robert Edwards, Superintendent, **Lafayette County**
Christopher Cowart, Superintendent, **Levy County**
Dr. Kathy K. Burns, Superintendent, **Nassau County**
Dr. Brian K. Marchman, Director
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School
Dr. Richard M. Surrency, Sr., Superintendent, **Putnam County**
Ted L. Roush, Superintendent, **Suwannee County**
Mike Ripplinger, Superintendent, **Union County**

The superintendents of the fifteen member districts serve as a Board of Directors for the Consortium. They meet as a group each month with the Consortium staff for briefings and input. They set policy, approve the budget, employ personnel, and provide direction by approving the development of programs and services provided through the Consortium. Their leadership and support are our greatest assets.



LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

STATE SENATORS

The Honorable Corey Simon	District 3
The Honorable Clay Yarborough	District 4
The Honorable Jennifer Bradley	District 6
The Honorable Travis Hutson	District 7
The Honorable Keith Perry	District 9

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Jason Shoaf	District 7
The Honorable Robert Charles "Chuck" Brannan III	District 10
The Honorable Dean Adam Black	District 15
The Honorable Cyndi Stevenson	District 18
The Honorable Bobby Payne	District 20
The Honorable Yvonne Hayes Hinson	District 21
The Honorable Charles Wesley "Chuck" Clemons, Sr.	District 22
The Honorable Paul Renner	District 19

DR. PATRICK J. WNEK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cell: (352) 221-4758

Office: (386) 329-3800

SHAY STARLING

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cell: (352) 317-0621

Office: (386) 329-3800

BOB & JOHN CERRA

CERRA CONSULTING GROUP, INC.

Cell: (850) 212-6233