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**Who We Are:** *The Florida Coalition of School Board Members is a non-partisan individual membership organization for elected school board members. We came into existence for a number of reasons, but primarily to play a more active role in delivering a world-class education for Florida's children, while being conscientious stewards of taxpayer resources.*

*We accomplish this through relevant and cost-effective School Board Member professional development, sharing best practices, and productive relationships with grassroots organizations and lawmakers.*

## **Legislative Issues for 2017**

### **1. CORE VALUE: Fiscal Responsibility**

- a. Funding for professional development for School Board Members regarding Best Financial Management Practices for School Districts (OPPAGA, June 2002).
- b. Require districts to conduct the OPPAGA Self-Assessment for Best Financial Management Practices for School Districts, vote to accept the results in a public meeting, and post the completed Self-Assessment on the district's web site.
- c. Restructure timing and distribution of cash flows to minimize float and avoid the cost of bridge loans, specifically to cover timely payments to charter schools.

### **2. CORE VALUE: Parental Choice**

- a. Continued expansion of parental choice options:
  - i. Gardiner Scholarships – add diagnoses
  - ii. McKay Scholarships; FTC – continued support & increase award amounts
  - iii. Study transportation options to support universal public school choice.
  - iv. Require notification to families about choice options, including virtual school and \$500 transportation scholarship
- b. Capital outlay sharing – provide financial incentives for districts that share local capital outlay dollars equally among all public school students (i.e. higher capital outlay millage maximum).
- c. Protect Open Enrollment:
  - i. Make certain that students exercising choice are secured a spot through the highest grade available at their choice school (as in current statute).
  - ii. Define a statewide open enrollment period.
  - iii. Require districts to post definition of capacity and enrollment for each school each semester and before the open enrollment period.



## **Legislative Issues for 2017, cont.**

### **3. CORE VALUE: Reasonableness in Assessments and Accountability**

- a. Provide for the use of concordance scores for ACT / SAT to meet high school graduation requirements (with state funding). Allow for the use of subject area exams to meet state EOC requirements.
- b. Paper & pencil option for all districts and charters.
- c. Testing window no more than 3 weeks before the end of the academic year.
- d. As procurement process resumes, include district choice, paper options, and year-end testing window with maximum results period of 21 days.

### **4. CORE VALUE: Local Control**

- a. School Board Members visiting district property, conveyance, or any district-affiliated activity for the purpose of observing district operations should be made an individual right and responsibility (as opposed to corporate) – move from existing chapter 1001.42 to 617.221.
- b. Clearly delineate that individual School Board Members may add items to the school board meeting agenda without permission from the Superintendent, School Board Chair, or board majority.

### **5. CORE VALUE: Solution-Oriented Partnerships**

- a. Use Best & Brightest bonuses as incentives for top performing teachers to commit to teaching in high-need schools.
- b. Support materials and curriculum selection reform and quality accountability, including clarification to provisions in FS 1006.283 and attention to FS 1003.42.