

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Kathleen D. Sanz, Ph. D.

The legislative session was focused mainly on budget. We are pleased in some cases with the bills that did not pass. While they did not pass this session, they may reappear for next session. Which is considerably earlier next year. Special Note: Bills for the 2012 session began to be filed May 26, 2011.

The bills that most impact us are either already signed by the governor or must be signed by a designated date with the latest date June 9, 2011:

**Code of Conduct SB 228** sponsored by Siplin:

Implications: Students in violation will be banned from participating in extracurricular activities.

**Merit Pay SB 736** Titled the "Student Success Act"

Implications: Assessment of student learning in fine arts courses will need to be developed and implemented. Evaluation of fine arts teachers will be revised in the district.

**Education Accountability and Curriculum HB 1255**

Implications: Students who in the past were required to take intensive reading may be exempt If successful in previous years. An insurgence of middle school career courses may arise.

**Vouchers HB 1329** John M. McKay Scholarships

Implications: Allows for more students to leave the public school setting.

**Class Size: SB 2120** Redefines the term "core curricula courses" for the purpose of designating classes subject to the maximum class size requirements.

Implications: Allows more flexibility for classes not identified as "core"

**Digital Learning HB 7197** Mandates that every incoming ninth grade student take at least one online course prior to graduation.

Implications: The bill allows a massive expansion of the use of online education.

**Public Schools Budget** Overall funding for PreK-12 education was cut by \$1.7 billion to \$12.2 billion. The pension savings requires a 3 percent cut in the salary of every teacher and school district employee

As the budget has been so drastic this year for school districts the FMEA/FSMA office would like to know what cuts have impacted your programs. This information is very important as we talk with our legislators and as we target and/or support bills. Please email the Executive Director -- [kdsanz@flmusiced.org](mailto:kdsanz@flmusiced.org)

**Be sure to schedule visits with your legislators this summer as the session is earlier. Bills have already begun to be filed for the 2012 session. The Tallahassee office will continue to provide updates on the website.**

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