

EMPOWER EDUCATORS



TEACHERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

- ✓ **Empowers** teachers to preserve safety and order in their classrooms, by creating a presumption in law that if they are protecting students, a teachers' actions were necessary to restore safety to a classroom.
- ✓ **Gives** Florida teachers an avenue to report if they have been directed to break the law by their administration or school board.
- ✓ **Establishes** the Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program to provide a sign-on bonus to retired first responders and veterans who become full-time classroom teachers.
- ✓ **Establishes** the Teacher Apprenticeship Program as an alternative pathway for individuals to enter the teaching profession.
- ✓ **Establishes** the Dual Enrollment Educator Scholarship Program to help high school teachers obtain the graduate degrees and credentials necessary to provide dual enrollment coursework to high school students.

SB 256 | PAYCHECK PROTECTION

Prohibits teachers' unions from having dues deducted directly from employee paychecks.

Mandates a union to represent at least 60% of employees - increasing from the current 50%.

Requires unions to notify members of the costs of membership.

Allows state investigations into unions suspected of fraud, waste and abuse.

Requires annual audits and financial disclosures for unions.

Prohibits any union from offering anything of value to a public official in collective bargaining negotiations - ending the practice of hidden union slush funds for school board members.

HB 1537 | SUPPORTING NEW AND ASPIRING TEACHERS

- **Extends** temporary teaching certificates from three years to five years.
- **Eliminates** unnecessary bureaucratic requirements for certification.
- **Creates** a system-wide shift from professional development to professional learning, and requires the Department of Education to create a web-portal of available opportunities.
- **Expands** eligibility for temporary certification to more aspiring teachers working toward their credentials that aren't in college settings.
- **Declares** September 11th to be "9/11 Heroes' Day" to honor those who gave their lives for our freedom.
- **First state in the nation** to authorize the Classical Learning Test (CLT) for students as a means to earn Bright Futures Scholarships and qualify for graduation

SCHOOL BOARD REFORM

HB 477 reduces School Board term limits from 12 to 8 years, bringing them in line with the Governor, Cabinet, and entire Legislature.

The Legislature also passed **House Joint Resolution 31**, a constitutional amendment for the 2024 General Election ballot to return school boards to partisan elections.

HB 379 | TAKING TIKTOK OUT OF SCHOOLS & SOCIAL MEDIA OUT OF CLASSROOMS

- **Gives** teachers the authority to establish classroom rules on cell phone use during instructional times.
- **Requires** school districts to prevent students from connecting to social media sites on district-owned computers and servers.
- **Prohibits** the use of TikTok on district owned devices and disallows TikTok as a means of promoting school activities.
- **Requires** schools to give instruction on the harmful effects of social media.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS

has approved

\$1 BILLION

to continue to increase teacher pay in the 2023-2024 school year.

**THIS IS AN INCREASE OF
\$252 MILLION
FROM THE PRIOR YEAR.**

Over the past 5 years,

FLORIDA HAS DEVOTED

\$3.3 BILLION TO TEACHER SALARY INCREASES AND BONUSES.

2019-2020

\$284 MILLION

BEST AND BRIGHTEST

2020-2021

\$500 MILLION

TEACHER SALARY INCREASE ALLOCATION

2021-2022

\$550 MILLION

TEACHER SALARY INCREASE ALLOCATION

\$175 MILLION

RELIEF PAYMENT/BONUS FEDERAL FUNDING

2022-2023

\$800 MILLION

TEACHER SALARY INCREASE ALLOCATION

2023-2024

\$1.052 BILLION

TEACHER SALARY INCREASE ALLOCATION