



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Kathleen Passidomo
SUBJECT: HB 1 Implementation – Cutting Red Tape for Public Schools
DATE: August 24, 2023

As you are aware, earlier this year we passed historic education legislation, sponsored by Senator Simon, that offers an education savings account for every K-12 student, while cutting the red tape that all too often hinders our traditional, neighborhood public schools.

In a show of good faith, incorporating recommendations from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, led by former Senator Bill Montford, the bill took the first step towards reducing onerous and excessive regulations on public schools with several immediate revisions to Florida's Education Code. For example, the bill reduces hurdles to a 5-year temporary teacher certificate for anyone with a bachelor's degree and for those with three years of effective or highly effective service. The bill repeals the requirement that a student take one online course in order to graduate from high school, which is not currently required in private schools. The bill also offers districts flexibility in facility costs for new construction, and offers student transportation flexibility to improve efficiency, while maintaining student safety.

To reduce additional regulation on public schools, the next step in implementing HB 1 is for the State Board of Education to review the entirety of the Florida Early Learning-20 Education Code for potential repeals and revisions to be considered during the 2024 Legislative Session. HB 1 requires the Board to consider input from teachers, superintendents, administrators, school boards, public and private postsecondary institutions, home educators, and other entities, and that process is ongoing.

Should your constituents be interested in offering input, I strongly encourage you to share with them the [online survey](#) the Department of Education is utilizing to compile ideas. Additionally, over the interim, our in-house education team, led by Senior Policy Advisor Kathy Mizereck, has been reviewing the school code in its entirety in order to offer options and ideas to Senators as we prepare for the upcoming session.

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As we provide more options for parents to choose the education environment best suited to their children's individual learning needs, I know we all share the goal of ensuring the traditional, neighborhood public schools that have served our communities and families for generations remain a great option for students.

Should you have any questions on this ongoing project, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kathy Mizereck, Tim Elwell, Matt Bouck, or to me directly.