



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Kathleen Passidomo
SUBJECT: Innovation in K-12 Education
DATE: February 10, 2023

Today Senator Simon will file a comprehensive package of innovations that promote parental involvement and customized K-12 education in Florida. The legislation empowers parents to guide their children's education by providing an Education Savings Account for every student in the K-12 system. This visionary bill makes school choice a reality for every child in every family across our great state by providing parents the chance to guide how and where the funding for their children's education is spent. Universal school choice means that every school has a chance to compete for students, and their parents can decide the best fit.

Incorporating recommendations from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, the bill also takes the first step towards reducing onerous and excessive regulations on public schools. By reducing red tape that burdens our traditional public schools, these institutions, which have served our communities for generations, will have a meaningful chance to compete right alongside other school choice options.

Education Savings Account for Every K-12 Student

SB 202 expands eligibility for Florida's School Choice Scholarships to all students who are residents of Florida and eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school. Under the bill, parents will receive an education savings account to take dollars the State of Florida has appropriated for their child in the public education system and choose among a variety of options to customize their child's education.

Cutting Red Tape Hindering Public Schools

The bill makes several immediate revisions to Florida's Education Code, identified by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. For example, the bill reduces hurdles to a 5-year temporary teacher certification for anyone with a bachelor's degree and for those with two years of effective or highly effective service. The bill provides flexibility to school districts in

All Senators
February 10, 2023
Page 2

setting salary schedules. The bill repeals the requirement that a student have one online credit 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, SB 202 requires the State Board of Education to develop for adoption during the 2024 Legislative Session recommendations to repeal and revise portions of the Early Learning-20 Education Code, Title XLVIII, Florida Statutes. The Board is required to consider input from teachers, superintendents, administrators, school boards, public and private postsecondary institutions, home educators, and other entities.

I look forward to discussing this important issue further in the coming weeks.