



**March 5, 2018**

**TO: All FACCS Administrators**

**FROM: Dr. Howard G. Burke, FACCS Executive Director**

**RE: Capital Update on HB 7055 and “Strike All Amendment 831300”**

**This afternoon the Senate took up a considerably amended version of Scholarship Accountability legislation (comprising approximately 50 separate House and Senate Bills) and passed a single HB 7055 Education Committee Substitute with a “Strike All Amendment” #831300 (available on the FACCS web site).**

*The bill in its present form **deleted all of the objectionable language** in relation to teacher qualifications & post-secondary degree credentials, modified proposed intrusive employment practices, eliminated enhanced curricular mandates, ceased to require unacceptable significant financial and employee documentation that would cause an unquestioned loss of privacy for both a Christian school and their staff due to public Sunshine Law requirements with the FDOE under the ‘Freedom of Information Act.’ Further there is an elimination of accelerated professional development expectations not in keeping with current policy; deletion of a host of repetitive verbiage tailored to each of the various scholarships combined covered in the 184 page Bill; not to mention the ultimate loss of considerable school autonomy.*

**Additionally on Lines 3511-3514** correction was made by *deleting current statutory language* which will now prohibit tuition reimbursement to be made by the Christian or private school offering **Dual Enrollment** to desiring students when signing articulation agreements with public colleges and universities. Thus, there is a long due return to policies that were available equitably for private school students with the public sector

---

sacrificed by FDOE Technical Assistance Paper's and subsequent selective college practices.

Other elements in the Bill:

- Creates a stable funding source for students with special needs, currently on a waiting list for the Gardiner Scholarship Program, through a credit for commercial lease taxes.
- Authorizes Learning Coalitions to refuse to contract with VPK or School Readiness providers that have been cited for a Class I Health and Safety violation.
- Establishment of a Reading Scholarship ensuring that interventions for struggling readers are delivered by qualified teachers.
- Enhanced reasonable background screening expectation procedures for "owner/operator, principal and superintendents.
- Combination of financial expectations (\$250,000) for CPA review purposes
- Instruction in CPR for students beginning at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Additional investigative options and audit of new or existing school participants that may be suspected of fraud activity; providing actions and appeals process.
- Establishes Schools of Hope options & accountability expectations for qualified students
- Provides for means of student assessments and available alternatives for students in Grades 3 and above.
- Provides for general information on faculty, curriculum offered, etc. to inquiring parents & departmental inquiry.
- Requires parents and students to be in compliance with all written school policies and procedures
- Eliminates nepotism and illegitimate transfer of schools to specified groups.
- Funding formulas for each specified scholarship are outlined with allocations.

The Bill will now move back to the House for concurrence. There is a potential it may be further amended but the safeguards provided **at this date** are anticipated to be retained in any final engrossed version of the legislation. A complete summary of legislative action will be provided at the close of the 2018 Legislative Session...at *sine-die* on Friday.

***THE ABOVE IS A CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FACCS PARTICIPANT AND ACCREDITED SCHOOLS. THIS COMMUNICATION MAY NOT BE DUPLICATED, FORWARDED, OR OTHERWISE DISTRIBUTED TO ANY OTHER PARTY OR PERSONS THAN THE INTENDED RECIPIENT INDICATED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE FACCS TALLAHASSEE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.***

---