

General Information

This report contains pertinent information presented and discussed during the fifth interim committee week of the 2019 legislative session. Both the House and Senate held meetings in both chambers, which consisted of presentations and legislative bills that were heard in committee meetings.

House

House Education Committee

During the House Education Committee meeting, the House received a presentation from the following districts and agencies below:

Jenny Gibson - Linkh, Executive Director representing Orange County Public Schools

- The Evans High School Community Presentation

Amy Ellis, Director of Center for Community Schools representing the University of Central Florida

- The Evans High School Community Presentation

Reginald Singh, University of Florida Freshman representing Orange County Public School

- The Evans High School Community Presentation

Cory Oliver, Principal representing Somerset Academy Jefferson County

- Presentation and update on Somerset Academy Jefferson County

Doug Rodriguez, Turnaround Consultant representing Somerset Academy Jefferson County

- Presentation and update on Somerset Academy Jefferson County

Melissa Ramsey, Executive Director of Bureau of School Improvement representing the Department of Education

- Presentation and update on Schools of Hope

To view the [Community Partnership School \(Evans High School\)](#), please click the highlighted web link.

To view the [presentation and update on Somerset Academy Jefferson County](#), please click the highlighted web link.

To view the presentation by [the Department of Education on implementation of Schools of Hope Traditional Public Schools Grant Program](#), please click the highlighted web link.

House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee Committee

The committee heard a presentation on Career and Technical Education by Dr. James R. Stone III. Dr. Stone serves as the Director of the National Research Center for Career & Technical Education.

To view the [“Charting a Course for Florida: Ensuing Students’ Preparation for the Future”](#) presentation by Dr. James R. Stone, please click the highlighted web link.

HB 401 by Rep. DiCeglie related to Mastery-based Education

The bill does the following:

Renames the Competency-Based Education Pilot Program as the Mastery-Based Education Pilot Program.

Allows any school district in the state to submit an application to the DOE to participate in the program.

Authorizes participating districts to approve and use an alternative interpretation of letter grades using rigorous scoring rubrics to measure student success in grades 6-12.

Districts must continue to use a four-point scale for calculating a student's grade-point average.

Allows participating districts to determine and award one full credit toward high school graduation based on the student's mastery of core content and skills without meeting the current minimum requirement of 135 or 120 hours of instruction.

Requires participating districts to amend their student progression plans to conform to the alternative awarding of credit.

Revises requirements for the statewide articulation agreement to provide fair and equitable access for students who graduate with a standard high school diploma and have earned high school credit through a mastery-based education program.

The bill passed the House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee favorably.

[House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

The subcommittee held a meeting this week, which consisted of presentations and members project appropriation bills.

The subcommittee received a presentation on the following:

[Presentation on the status of Safe Schools Appropriations in SB 7026](#)

- Suzanne Pridgeon, Interim Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Operations under the Florida Department of Education

[Presentation on the results of review of the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool](#)

- Sylvia Ifft, Operations Management Consultant II of the Office of Safe Schools under the Florida Department of Education

To view each presentation, please click the highlighted web link.

[HB 2171 by Rep. Burton related to Community Partnership Schools](#)

The bill provides an appropriation for the fiscal year 2019-20 for the amount of \$5,873,100.00 nonrecurring from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to fund the Community Partnership Schools.

The bill passed the House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee favorably.

[House Appropriations Committee](#)

The committee was given a presentation on the debt, bonding and reserves and other factors influencing bond rating by Ben Watkins, Director of the Division of Bond Finance.

To view the presentation on "[Debt, Bonding and Reserves and other Factors Influencing Bond](#)," please click the highlighted web link.

Senate

Senate Education Committee

SB 7030 by Senate Education Committee related to School and Security.

The bill builds upon the school safety and security foundation established in SB 7026 (2018) by addressing the school safety and security recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, and strengthening accountability and compliance oversight authority.

Specifically, the bill:

Improves school security measures by:

- proves school security measures by:
- Establishing a workgroup to review campus hardening policies and recommend a prioritized list of strategies for implementation and related policy and funding enhancements;
- Prioritizing the use of the school security risk assessment tool;
- Expanding the personnel who may serve as a school district's school safety specialist to include certain law enforcement officers employed by the sheriff's office; and
- Expanding school district options and eligibility for participation in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program

Enhances student safety by:

- Requiring improved school safety incident reporting;
- Promoting the FortifyFL mobile suspicious activity reporting tool;
- Expediting services for students with mental or behavioral disorders;
- Requiring active assailant response policies;
- Establishing a standardizing behavioral threat assessment instrument; and
- Establishing a workgroup to make recommendations regarding the development of a statewide threat assessment database.

Provides school districts with greater flexibility to improve school safety by authorizing the transfer of additional categorical funds within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) towards school safety expenditures.

The bill remains in the Senate Education Committee.

The next interim committee meetings will be held on the week of February 18th.

I hope you find the information above helpful. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (407) 317-3200 ext. 2002966 or Eileen Fernandez, Associate General Counsel at (407) 317-3411 ext. 2002945.