

FEN Enrolled Bills, 5.3.25

HB 85 - Hazardous Walking Conditions, by Kendall.

- The bill expands the criteria for identifying hazardous walking conditions for public elementary school students who use walkways parallel to the road to walk to and from school.
- The bill adds that a walkway is also considered hazardous if it is along a limited access facility, as defined in s. 334.03(12), F.S.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 248 - Student Participation in Interscholastic and Intrascholastic Extracurricular Sports by Simon.

The bill expands eligibility and revises participation criteria for home education and private school students in interscholastic extracurricular activities. It amends the criteria and provisions for student participation in extracurricular activities and sports.

- Designates that activities or sports must meet the requirements specified in s. 1006.205(3)(a).
- Allows home education students to participate in public or private school extracurricular activities if they meet specified conditions, including residency, behavior standards, and academic progress.
- Permits home education students to join any public school interscholastic athletic team in their residence school district, provided all listed requirements are met.
- Facilitates participation of private school students in sports at public or member private schools if their schools do not offer the sport, regardless of FHSA membership.
- Requires decision and information transparency with appeals in public K-12 athletics by posting decisions online in a searchable format compliant with specified statutes.

Effective Date: 7/1/2025

HB 259 - Special Observances - Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day, by Gerwig.

HB 259 designates August 21 of each year as "Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day" to increase awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and potential overdoses.

- The bill encourages the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Families, local governments, public schools, and other agencies to sponsor events to promote awareness of fentanyl's dangers, community resources for drug prevention, and substance use and abuse generally.
- The bill is not expected to impact state or local government revenues and expenditures.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

SB 296 - Middle School and High School Start Times, by Bradley.

- The bill allows school districts and charter schools to meet the statutory requirement that by July 1, 2026, the instructional day at all district and charter middle schools may not start before 8 a.m. and high schools may not start before 8:30 a.m. by submitting a report to the Department of Education by June 1, 2026, that includes specific information.
- Some school districts will likely avoid a significant negative fiscal impact by not having to implement the school start time requirements beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

Effective Date: 7/1/2025

SB 356 - Holocaust Remembrance Day, by Berman.

SB 356 establishes Holocaust Remembrance Day. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires the Governor to annually proclaim January 27th as “Holocaust Remembrance Day.”
- Permits the day to be suitably observed in public schools, the Capitol, and elsewhere as designated by the Governor.
- Permits instruction to be delivered on the designated day on the harmful impacts of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism as well as the positive impacts of the Jewish community on humanity.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

CS/CS/ HB 443 – Education, by Snyder, Rizo.

- The bill explicitly defines charter schools as public facilities for concurrency purposes. This means local governments must consider charter schools when reviewing development applications to ensure adequate public school capacity is available to support new residential growth, aligning with state concurrency requirements. This prevents local governments from imposing extra building or land use restrictions on charter schools beyond what applies to public schools
- Lab schools (university-affiliated schools) are authorized to use discretionary capital funds on real property, construction, and related expenses, provided these expenditures do not exceed independently appraised values.
- The bill prohibits charter school sponsors from imposing earlier reporting or audit deadlines on charter schools than those the sponsors themselves follow, reducing administrative burdens. It also allows charter schools to adopt their own codes of student conduct, as long as these meet minimum district standards charter schools that are not under improvement or corrective action plans may exceed existing enrollment caps if their facilities can accommodate the growth
- High-performing charter schools are authorized to assume the charter of another school within the same district, facilitating expansion or takeover of underperforming schools
- Full-time students enrolled in virtual instruction programs may participate in interscholastic athletics at public schools in their district or at private schools through agreements, provided they meet specified eligibility criteria

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 447 - Disability History and Awareness Instruction, by Salzman.

The bill, to be known as the Evin B. Hartsell Act, requires that school districts that elect to provide instruction on disability history and awareness during the first two weeks of October for Disability History and Awareness Weeks.

- For kindergarten through grade 3:
 - Conversations on bullying.
 - Such conversations may address what students should do if they are being bullied, what they should do if they see someone being bullied, why bullying is not the victim's fault, what different types of bullying look like, the possibility that a friend could be a bully, or the school's antibullying policy.
 - Activities to teach about physical disabilities.
- For grades 4 through 6:
 - Information about autism spectrum disorder.
- For grades 7 through 9:
 - Information about hearing impairments.
- For grades 10 through 12:
 - Information on different types of learning and intellectual disabilities.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025.

HB 531 - Public Education of Background Screening Requirements, by Hunschosky.

The Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) is a single statewide screening program, administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), which retains fingerprint data to streamline repeated background screenings and allow the results of criminal history checks of persons acting as covered care providers to be shared among specified agencies.

- Beginning January 1, 2026, current law will allow AHCA to share the results of criminal history checks with qualified entities. These are businesses or organizations that provide care or care placement services for children or vulnerable adults, such as a youth athletics teams under an independent sanctioning authority.
- A qualified entity participating in the Clearinghouse must register and maintain the employment or affiliation status of all persons included in the Clearinghouse.
- The bill requires AHCA, in consultation with the specified agencies, to develop and maintain a publicly available webpage that provides care provider background screening education and awareness. The webpage may be part of the Clearinghouse.
- Under the bill, the education awareness resources available on the webpage must be written in nontechnical and accessible language, tailored to the qualified entities.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 549 - Gulf of America, by Porras.

The bill requires each state agency to update its geographic materials to reflect the new federal designation of the "Gulf of Mexico" as the "Gulf of America."

- Any instructional materials and library media center collections adopted or acquired by district school boards and charter school governing boards on or after July 1, 2025, must reflect the new designation.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025. Signed by the Governor.

HB 597 - Diabetes Management in Schools, by Smith.

The bill expands diabetes management in public schools by authorizing school districts or public schools to acquire and maintain a supply of undesignated glucagon for use on students with diabetes experiencing hypoglycemic emergencies.

- School districts or public schools are authorized to obtain the glucagon through a prescription from a county health department or authorized healthcare practitioner, or through arrangements with manufacturers or suppliers.
- The bill outlines storage, maintenance, and administration requirements for the acquired glucagon and provides immunity to the school district and its employees, along with the glucagon supplier, so long as any injury is not the result of gross negligence or deliberate misconduct.
- A participating school must make available undesignated glucagon that is able to be administered as ordered in a student's diabetes medical management plan or health care practitioner's orders.
- A school nurse or trained school personnel must administer glucagon to the student only if the school nurse or trained personnel has completed the training and believes that the student is experiencing a hypoglycemic emergency. After the undesignated glucagon has been administered to a student, an employee of the school must immediately call for emergency assistance, notify a school nurse, and notify the student's parent, guardian, or emergency contact
- Public schools that choose to act under the authority granted by the bill may incur costs associated with implementing provisions of the bill

Effective Date: 7/1/2025, Signed by the Governor.

HB 875 - Educator Preparation, by Rizo

The bill modernizes teacher preparation programs and certification requirements by introducing new pathways, updating core curricula, and revising mentor and clinical experience standards.

- Removes existing uniform core curricula requirements in s. 1004.04 and transfers and updates these requirements by creating s. 1012.551, which establishes new core principles, standards, and content for state-approved teacher preparation programs.
- Changes “field experience” to “clinical experience” and clarifies that supervising personnel must meet established clinical educator requirements, ensuring consistency and higher standards for preservice teacher training.
- Amends performance and approval criteria for teacher preparation programs, including tracking candidate readiness through new exam requirements and strengthening evidence-based reading instruction standards in early literacy areas.
- Creates s. 1004.0982 to reduce required internship hours for qualified full-time teachers seeking school counseling credentials and sets flexible guidelines for such students’ internship requirements.
- Revises rules for postsecondary educator preparation institutes in s. 1004.85 by incorporating the new uniform core curricula and requiring competency-based demonstration under the updated clinical experience model.
- Enables hiring of part-time, non-degreed teachers of fine and performing arts by establishing qualification standards under s. 1012.39.
- Establishes the Coaching for Educator Readiness and Teaching Certification (CERT) Program as an alternative route for holders of state-issued temporary certificates to earn professional certification via on-the-job mentorship and competency-based evaluation.
- Updates s. 1012.555 to require mentor teachers in apprenticeship programs to meet clinical educator standards, removing older experience and evaluation-based requirements.
- Revises educator certification in s. 1012.56 by phasing out certain professional learning certification and competency programs, substituting a new exam, and clarifying general knowledge and professional preparation requirements, including reading endorsement competencies for specific coverage areas.
- Adjusts renewal of professional certificates under s. 1012.585 to align with the modified standards for clinical educator training and updated professional learning guidelines.
- Revises professional development requirements in s. 1012.98 to emphasize reading science-based training, high-impact instructional strategies, and new mentor support criteria.
- Creates the Florida Institute for Teaching Excellence at Miami Dade College under s. 1012.981 to develop and deliver evidence-based teacher preparation and professional learning programs, including high-quality clinical experience models.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 969 - Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes, by Cassel.

The bill creates new requirements for OPPAGA to evaluate school-based mental health services and submit initial and final reports by specified deadlines.

- Establishes s. 394.4575, F.S., directing OPPAGA, in coordination with key stakeholders, to evaluate and report on school district mental health services compliance and outcomes.
- Requires an initial evaluation by December 31, 2025, assessing spending plans, compliance with statutory requirements, treatment outcomes, data collection processes, and program integration in the coordinated system of care.
- Mandates a final report by December 1, 2026, reviewing ongoing compliance, performance, and outcomes of mental health services, with recommendations for improving system capacity and program integration.

- Requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Education, school district threat management coordinators, mental health coordinators, and the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, to coordinate with OPPAGA .

Effective Date: upon becoming a law

HB 1607 - Cardiac Emergencies, by Yarkosky.

The bill requires public schools to expand first aid and cardiac emergency training while mandating the development of urgent life-saving emergency plans and the placement of automated external defibrillators.

- Mandates that all school districts provide basic first aid training, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), once in middle school and once in high school.
- Requires instruction to include hands-on CPR skills and the use of an automated external defibrillator.
- Creates a requirement for each public school to develop a plan for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) that integrates with local emergency responder protocols.
- Requires every public school, including charter schools, to have at least one operational automated external defibrillator on school grounds and to train appropriate staff in first aid, CPR, and defibrillator use.
- Provides liability protection for school employees and volunteers who use a defibrillator under existing Good Samaritan laws.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1105 - Education - by Kincart Jonsson

- Transfers and redesignates the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
- Local Government Sales Surtax. If a school district receives surtax revenues through an interlocal agreement, that agreement must require the district to share those revenues with eligible charter schools. The allocation must be based on the charter school's proportionate share of the total school district enrollment and must be used by charter schools for allowable uses under state law.
- Clarifies trespass laws on school property: It defines "school" and "school bus" for trespass purposes and allows for immediate arrest and prosecution of unauthorized persons on school buses if proper notice is given.

Revises charter school laws including:

- Updates the process for converting public schools to charter status, including requirements for demonstrating support from teachers and parents.
- Creates the option for municipalities to establish "job engine charter schools" to attract job-producing entities, with specific requirements for annual reporting, career education, exceptional student services, and security.
- Requires that job engine charter schools accept responsibility for their debts and allows certain enrollment preferences.
- Mandates that school districts annually provide charter schools with detailed information about shared revenues from local taxes, including estimates and allocation methods.

It eases facility construction rules for private schools.

Course and assessment requirements:

- Completion of 2 years of marching band shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education or the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

High School Diploma

- The high school certificate of completion is eliminated.
- The department shall develop a document detailing options available to a student who fails to earn a standard diploma under this paragraph. The department will also develop, for approval by the State Board of Education, multiple additional equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses or a series of courses that satisfy high school credit.

Student Cell Phone Restriction:

- Total ban for grades K–8:
 - The amendment expands Florida’s previous rule (which only banned cell phone use during instructional time) to a complete prohibition on student cell phone use anywhere on campus for all students in kindergarten through 8th grade.
 - This means K–8 students cannot use their phones at any time during the school day, not just in class.
- Classroom rules for grades 9–12:
 - For high school students (grades 9–12), the amendment gives teachers explicit authority to set classroom rules of conduct that may include designating an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time.
 - This allows teachers to require students to put their phones in a specific place while class is in session.
- Pilot program for high schools: The amendment also enables a pilot program in six school districts to test a broader cellphone ban for grades 9–12, in partnership with the Department of Education.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

[HB 1237 - Human Trafficking Awareness](#), by Booth.

The bill implements a requirement for human trafficking awareness training for certain Florida public school personnel.

- Requires the Department of Education to identify a free training curriculum on human trafficking awareness by December 1, 2025.
- Specifies minimum curriculum content, including definitions, guidance on identifying victims, and reporting protocols.
- Authorizes in-person or online training for applicable school employees.
- Mandates that all public school instructional, administrative, and educational support personnel complete and acknowledge the training.
- Adds charter schools to the list of entities required to comply with human trafficking awareness training requirements.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

[HB 1255 – Education](#), by Trabulsy.

- Expands the Auditor General’s duties to include annual financial audits of school boards in counties with populations under 150,000 and operational audits of state entities every three years.
- Allows career service recruitment to use apprenticeship programs and permits certain hires without open competition for apprentices completing these programs.
- Updates council membership and terms for children’s services funding and revises reporting and responsibilities for education and government bodies.
- Clarifies procedures for publishing apprenticeship program reports and broadens the definition of “public employer.”
- Public schools may purchase FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonists from wholesale distributors or enter agreements with distributors or manufacturers.

- Requires parent approval before schools can administer corporal punishment.
- Prohibits local authorities from imposing conditions on charter schools unless those conditions apply equally to all public schools in their jurisdiction.
- Intensive reading interventions must be delivered by instructional staff with a micro-credential or reading certification/endorsement, using evidence-based strategies from the Just Read, Florida! office; staff with micro-credentials must be supervised by certified reading personnel.
- **Concerning screening standards: Persons who apply for certification or employment are governed by the law and rules in effect at the time of application for issuance of the initial certificate or employment, provided that continuity of certificates or employment is maintained.**
- Amends school readiness laws to expand eligibility and increase department responsibilities and reporting.
- Removes the Florida School for Competitive Academics from multiple statutes, reducing its oversight and duties.

The bills also revises school district advisory councils and reclassifies critical teacher shortage areas as high-demand needs.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 1374 - School District Reporting Requirements, by Yarborough.

- Authorizes public and scholarship-participating private schools to screen volunteers using the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse or request national criminal history checks from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
- Requires district school boards to adopt policies for temporarily removing instructional staff within 24 hours of arrest for felony or specified misdemeanor offenses, based on notifications from law enforcement or employee self-reporting.
- Expands law enforcement's duty to notify school officials of employee arrests to include offenses listed in Level 2 background screening standards, with reports due within 48 hours.
- Broadens self-reporting requirements for school personnel, clarifying that self-reports are not admissions of guilt and cannot be used against employees in any legal or administrative proceedings.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025

SB 1470 - School Safety, by Burgess

- Expands the school guardian program to include child care facilities, requiring them or their security agencies to cover training and screening costs; sheriffs may waive some fees except for initial school security guard training.
- Authorizes sheriffs to certify and train security guards employed by agencies, mandates annual weapons inspections and qualifications, and enforces stricter reporting requirements.
- Allows child care facilities to partner with law enforcement or security agencies to assign safe-school officers and adopt guardian program rules, with all associated costs borne by the facility.
- Requires a statewide behavioral threat management process and a Florida-specific threat assessment tool, mandates digital threat assessment reporting, and clarifies data handling protocols.
- Establishes locked campus access point standards, defines permissible unlocked zones and doors, permits temporary door locks during active assailant events, and requires classrooms to mark safe areas.
- Mandates a centralized panic alert system connected statewide, integrating digital maps to improve law enforcement response, and requires confirmation that each school's alert system links to this infrastructure.

- Directs the Office of Safe Schools to form a workgroup to recommend the creation of a Florida Institute of School Safety.

Effective Date: 7/1/2025

SB 1514 - Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools, by Smith.

- Requires K–8 public schools to provide anaphylaxis training and maintain emergency plans for allergic reactions.
- Mandates training enough staff to recognize and respond to anaphylaxis, including administering epinephrine.
- Ensures each student’s emergency action plan is effective and accessible during all school activities.
- Directs the State Board of Education, with the Department of Health, to adopt rules by October 1, 2025.

Effective Date: 7/1/2025