

**Florida Legislative Update**  
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**March 11, 2004**

The 2004 Legislative session opened on Tuesday, March 2. Education is one of the main issues, with legislative focus centered upon four (4) main areas:

1. Universal Pre-K
  - Where to locate Pre-K (Department of Education or Workforce Innovation)
  - Level of state funding
  - Length of Pre-K funded day
  - Training and certification of preschool workers and centers
2. Class Size Reduction
  - Leave the law as it is currently worded
  - Repeal the law (very little support to do this)
  - Limit class size reduction to K-3 or K-5
3. Middle school reform
  - Implement a major middle school reading program
  - Require schools to develop an AIP for all students below level in reading
  - Fund and implement a major study of middle school education
4. BEST Bill (from last years legislation)
  - Career ladder implementation
  - Funding not in Governor's proposed budget for career ladder

Other items of interest that are addressed in multiple bills include:

- Obesity - required physical education, fitness, modification of vending machines to healthier offerings
- Unclaimed lottery prize money (with unclaimed dollars to education)
- Repeal of the 18 credit graduation option
- Constitutional amendment controls

The Education Budget for 2004-2005 highlights include:

- State Board of Education submitted its budget to the Governor
- Governor has submitted his budget to Legislature – however, this budget has areas of disagreement with the SBE budget
- The Legislature has great worry over the cost of new required programs
  - Universal Pre-K - \$262 million plus
  - Class size reduction - \$976 million

- Desire to put more money in career ladder for salaries – \$400 million

Other education budget issues facing the Legislature include:

- Increased cost in connection with Bright Futures \$259 million
- Student FTE growth was funded, but growth rate may exceed projections as it did this year
- Increase of reading dollars to \$84 million
- Teacher professional development budgeted at \$130 million

The following is a brief summary of the education bills we are following this year. Please note that it does not include a position on this legislation. For more information and analysis, or to track the progress of this legislation, you can go to the website [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us) (click on House or Senate for bills).

### **Senate bills of interest**

- SB 116 (Clary) creates an advisory council called Harnessing the Power of Education Technology Advisory Council
- SB 122 (Fasano) authorizes the DOE to pilot a program to allow selected school districts to purchase used instructional materials
- SB 154 (Saunders) requires background checks for Charter School employees, non-instructional district employees and contractors
- SB 166 (Geller) limits the number of noninstructional employees a school district may employ. DOE will establish the ratios.
- SB 174 (Clary) unclaimed lottery monies shall be distributed to public school K-20 based upon a pro rata share of enrollment
- SB 184 (Lynn) allows students to possess electronic phone pagers on school grounds. (School Boards must adopt rules regarding possession)
- SB 190 (Posey) unclaimed lottery dollars to kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools, technical centers and community colleges. (based upon pro rata share of enrollment dollars shall be expended at the discretion of the institutions administration.)
- SB 210 (Wasserman Shultz) expands KidCare program to include parents or guardians of eligible children
- SB 240 (Atwater) a bill providing for the purchase of retirement credit for nonqualified service
- SJR 242 (Cowin) proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to require class size reduction in only PreK-3. Also requires a high quality Pre-K opportunity for all 4 year olds by 2005.
- SB 254 (Bennett) sets a date for the expiration of the Manatee County pilot for compulsory attendance until age 18. Expiration June 30, 2005 unless school board requests and Legislature extends.
- SB 256 (Lynn and Bennett) repeals provisions allowing accelerated high school graduation options.

- SB 264 (Lynn) district school board employees who are members of the Legislature must take unpaid leave for the time away from employment
- SB 268 (Geller) amends procedures for coordinating the efforts of local planning agencies and school districts toward planning school growth.
- SB 270 (Lynn) unclaimed lottery money would be deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. Money would be given to K-20 institutions based upon a pro rata enrollment data of last year's enrollment
- SB 294 (Bennett) a bill requiring that the flag of the United States be displayed in each classroom
- SB 300 (Clary) deletes a restriction on which employees or public schools may receive annual payments for their accumulated sick leave
- SB 308 (Margolis) directs the DOE to determine the number of public schools that have eliminated physical education. Requires elementary schools to incorporate daily physical education in their curriculum. Also requires that nutrition questions be included on the Gr. 10 FCAT
- SB 310 (Bennett) eliminates district cost differentials for the purpose of allocating funds to school districts. Also eliminates the use of the Florida Price Level Index.
- SB 320 (Lynn) clarifies the previous unclaimed lottery bills in that unclaimed instant prize monies would remain with the lottery
- CS for SB 354 (Constantine) The "Middle Grades Reform Act" – 10 pages – a must read
- CSSB 362 (Committee on Education) a bill requiring the charter of a charter school to contain information concerning the salary or salary range of each position in the charter school; requiring the charter of a charter to contain information concerning the employment of certain relatives
- SB 364 (Constantine) address early graduation options – program begins with 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2004-2005 students may change options – requires a 3.0 GPA for standard diploma in this program – 2.5 GPA for career prep program
- SB 426 (Goeller) requires that the assessment of social studies skills be included in any comprehensive student progression plan
- SB 430 (Margolis) educators must be able to demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes a hate crime
- SB 450 (Margolis) a bill creating the Nutrition Education Trust Fund within the Department of Education; requiring that the moneys in the trust fund be used to advance public school students' knowledge of nutrition
- SB 456 (Bennett) a bill authorizing counties to use a portion of surtax revenues for certain operational purposes under certain circumstances
- SB 458 (Bennett) a bill which provides that a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative may not be placed on the ballot until at least 1 year has passed since verification certificates were submitted to the Secretary of State and OPPAGA has evaluated the financial and social costs likely to result from the passage of the amendment and has disseminated those findings to the public
- SB 470 (Campbell) requires all school districts to implement an indoor air quality program for educational facilities. Requires reports, inspections and evaluations

- SB 484 (Lynn) requires each school district board to adopt a policy prohibiting a high school senior who commits a felony during their senior year, from attending graduation ceremonies or activities
- SB 500 (Campbell) prohibits stopping or parking a vehicle in a school zone to load or unload passengers, except in designated areas
- SB 508 (Wise) Jobs for Florida Graduates Act. Revised to delete governance by DOE
- SB 546 (Bennett) a bill which authorizes district school tax revenues to be used for insurance premiums
- SB 556 (Dawson) a bill revising guidelines governing district school board duties relating to emergency management and emergency preparedness
- SB 584 (Fasano) a bill revising credit requirements for the accelerated high school graduation career preparatory program
- SB 612 (Fasano) a bill requiring that the flag of the United States be displayed in each classroom
- SB 614 (Lynn) a bill deleting a limitation on the purchase of retirement credit for certain service in nonpublic schools
- SB 628 (Wise) a bill that provides for the transfer of a percentage of unclaimed lottery prize moneys into the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund
- CSSB 1158 (Geller/Bullard) a bill requiring certain personnel in an alternative school that operates under contract with a district school system to file a set of fingerprints
- SB 1186 (Miller) amends the requirements for high school graduation by prescribing a formula for computing each students GPA. The formula includes results from the Gr. 10 FCAT and Gr. 10 NRT as well as course work grades
- SB 1212 (Wise) continues the provision which allows school district to use their 2-mill money to purchase school buses through contract with private providers
- SB 1218 (Aronberg) defines and prohibits improper use of social security numbers
- SB 1258 (Carlton) place holder
- SB 1262 (Carlton) place holder
- SB 1264 (Carlton) place holder
- SB 1296 (Aronberg) a bill requiring both instructional and noninstructional personnel of charter schools to file fingerprints with the school board of the district within which the charter school is located
- SB 1302 (Cowin) a bill relating to student report cards prohibiting schools from using a student's grades for conduct and behavior or for attendance in calculating the student's grade for academic performance
- SB 1304 (Cowin) a bill relating to student recipients of scholarships from eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations
- SB 1326 (Campbell) requires employers to grant leave time for a school conference or activity to parents and guardians under specified conditions
- SB 1330 (Lynn) requires the state of residence of Florida residential ESE students to pay for exceptional student education that is provided in Florida

- SB 1424 (Wilson) provides for the Department of Education to award AIDS education incentive grants to school districts
- SB 1440 (Sebesta) requires district school boards and county supervisors of elections jointly to provide a voter-education program for high school seniors. Prescribes the content of the educational program.
- SB 1458 (Wasserman Schultz) provides for the Florida Virtual School Board of Trustees to enter into franchise agreements with virtual schools based in this state which are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- SB 1514 (Cowin) provides, as an additional requirement for eligibility to participate in student extracurricular activities, that a student must receive a passing grade in each core course required for graduation which the student takes
- SB 1542 (Campbell) defines the term "public school member" to include employees of district charter schools and the School for the Deaf and the Blind
- SB 1544 (Haridopolos) a bill to provide educational options for dependents of Florida's veterans and active military personnel; providing that a student may attend a public school in the school district other than the one to which assigned
- SB 1556 (Wasserman Schultz) a bill relating to the Florida Retirement System that revises certain limitations on positions for which school boards, community colleges, universities, and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind may employ a member of the Florida Retirement System after a specified period of retirement. Revises the election period in the Deferred Retirement Option Program for certain employees and extends participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program to personnel in grades K-20 who receive administrative authorization.
- SB 1572 (Fasano) requires that child care personnel be trained in recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome, preventing sudden infant death syndrome, and understanding early childhood brain development
- SB 1578 (Dawson) states that a school district may not require a student to obtain a prescription for any specified controlled substance as a prerequisite to the student's attending school
- SB 1580 (Aronberg) creating the Innovation Florida Scholarships for Developing High-Tech Jobs Program; authorizing need-based scholarships for students enrolled in certified degree programs in targeted employment areas at Florida postsecondary educational institutions
- SB 1592 (Siplin) allowing a students parent or guardian and an accompanying assistant to review the questions and the student's answers to those questions on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test
- SB 1646 (Hill) requires school districts to pay only from insurance proceeds any damages awarded against the district through a legislative claims bill
- SB 1656 (Bennett) authorizes a school district to exempt itself from Department of Education educational facilities construction and funding standards and adopt alternative standards
- SB 1710 (Dockery) an act relating to insurance for construction contracts

- SB 1740 (Fasano) allows a credit against the corporate income tax to be taken for contributions made to district school board direct-support organizations or eligible academic programs to postsecondary students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- SB 1780 (Villalobos) an act requiring physical education on a full-year basis for students in grades 1 through 8 and increases physical education credit requirements and decreasing elective credit requirements for high school graduation
- SB 1794 (Atwater) requiring pelvis and upper torso restraints on school buses
- SB 1808 (Atwater) a bill relating to the Florida School Recognition Program which prescribes the division of monies if agreement is not reached
- SB 1838 (Crist) a bill authorizing district school board programs and policies to require drug testing of middle and high school students in certain circumstances
- SB 1892 (Lawson) a bill to allow normal retirement after 25 years of service and attainment of age 50
- SB 1902 (Lawson) a bill extending special death benefits to certain district school board employees who provide indirect services to students
- SB 1910 (Wilson) a bill requiring the Legislature to fund a cost-of-living increase in the General Appropriations Act for teachers who teach prekindergarten through grade 12
- SB 1912 (Wilson) a bill relating to the student assessment program for public schools; delaying the date by which the Commissioner of Education must approve the use of other available standardized tests as alternatives to the grade-10 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
- SB 1968 (Wasserman Schultz) a bill relating to child care facilities revising the development of Gold Seal Quality Care program standards
- SB 1980 (Fasano) a bill allowing children of military personnel transferred to Florida after a school year has begun to enroll in certain schools or programs in the state
- SB 1996 (Constantine) a bill providing for the superintendent's annual performance salary incentive and special qualification salary to be added to adjusted salary rate
- SB 2004 (Wilson) a bill relating to teacher salaries to provide funding for improved salaries for instructional personnel
- SB 2044 (Cowin) a bill requiring the Department of Education to develop a standard profile for each public high school
- SB 2048 (Wilson) a bill which repeals provisions mandating the retention of a student in grade 3 if the student exhibits a deficiency in reading
- SJR 2076 (Diaz de la Portilla) a joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 6 of Article VII of the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature to allow counties and municipalities to grant K-12 public school classroom teachers an additional homestead tax exemption not to exceed \$25,000 each year
- SB 2096 (Wise) a bill requiring the Food and Nutrition Management Office of the Department of Education to develop a plan for providing, in each school district,

summer food programs that serve children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches during the school year

- SB 2144 (Carlton) a bill relating to the voluntary universal prekindergarten education program.
- SB 2164 (Geller) a bill relating to parent-child privilege
- SB 2184 (Miller) a bill creating the Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement
- SB 2374 (Posey) a bill requiring certain school boards to issue a request for information concerning school food services
- SB 2434 (Crist) a bill prohibiting the administration of the FCAT during the first week of a regular legislative session
- SB 2440 (Margolis) a bill relating to school district governance; requiring the creation of a committee in specified large school districts to review the current governing structure of the school district
- SB 2534 (Campbell) a bill providing physical education requirements for students in prekindergarten through grade 8
- SB 2550 (Webster) a bill providing a procedure for election of a district school board chair by countywide vote in a school district with single-member representation
- SB 2600 (Sebesta) a bill which includes property insurance costs within authorized purposes for school district millage levy funding
- SB 2678 (Villalobos) a bill relating to the student assessment program for public schools
- SB 2734 (Bennett) a bill providing that the Chief Information Officer of the State Technology Office be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Secretary of Management Services
- SB 2778 (Bullard) a bill revising provisions relating to mandatory retention
- SB 2788 (Wasserman Schultz) a bill providing requirements relating to the mastery of subject area knowledge which librarians/media specialists must fulfill
- SB 2834 (Wasserman Schultz) a bill which revises school performance grade categories
- SB 2882 (Committee on Education) a bill which revises various provisions governing the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program

### **House bills of interest**

- HB 7 (Brutus) requires instructional and non-instructional personnel who are hired to fill positions requiring direct contact with students in an alternative school that operates under contract with a charter school to file a complete set of fingerprints

- HB 35 (Justice) a bill which requires a private school to employ at least one teacher with a bachelor's degree in special education or a master's degree in a related field to be eligible to participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships
- HB 43 (Sorensen) a bill which authorizes small counties to use up to 50 percent of surtax revenues for operational purposes solely for salaries and benefits for teachers
- HB 47 (Richardson) requires children who enter public or private schools in the state to present evidence of having received a comprehensive vision examination
- HJR 49 (Mahon, Sansom, Sorensen) proposes an amendment to Section 5 of Article XI of the State Constitution to increase the vote required to pass an amendment to or revision of the State Constitution proposed by initiative from the majority of those electors voting on the matter in the election to three-fifths of those electors voting on the matter in the election
- HB 55 (Jordan) provides that all unclaimed prize money from lottery tickets, except instant lottery tickets, shall be deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund to be used only to provide funding for grades K-12 through the Florida Education Finance Program
- HJR 67 (Kallinger) a bill which proposes a revision of Article XI of the State Constitution to require submission of constitutional amendments proposed by the Legislature to the Attorney General at least 7 days prior to final vote by the Legislature and permits the Legislature by a 2/3 vote of the membership of each house to convene a constitutional convention
- HB 77 (Farkas) requires each district school board to ensure that only beverages meeting certain criteria are sold or distributed in schools in the school district
- HB 79 (Farkas) includes property insurance costs within authorized purposes for school district millage levies; increases from 4 to 10 years the maximum term for imposition of school district millage levies approved by voter election
- HB 81 (Henriquez) requires the comprehensive program for students progression to include assessment of performance in social studies
- HB 95 (Galvano) repeals provisions relating to accelerated high school graduation options
- HB 107 (Rich) requires each district school board to adopt and implement an indoor air quality program; requires annual reports; requires inspections and evaluations.
- HB 113 (Homan) authorizes district school board programs and policies to require drug testing of middle and high school students in certain circumstances; authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules
- HB 115 (Fiorentino) revises provisions relating to the distribution of financial awards to selected public schools
- HB 137 (Dean) revises credit requirements for the accelerated high school graduation career preparatory program
- HB 157 (Poppell) authorizes school district capital outlay millage to be used for property and casualty insurance premiums necessary to cover educational plants

of the school district; provides a restriction on the use of certain operating revenues; provides for legislative review

- HB 169 (Sobel) requires district school boards to prohibit the sale or serving of certain foods and beverages on school grounds; provides a list of beverages that may be permitted; provides rulemaking authority; provides applicability
- HB 185 (Quinones) authorizes certain students who are not proficient in English to take a translated version of a portion of the grade 10 FCAT
- HB 195 (Russell) authorizes the Department of Education to conduct a pilot program in specified counties to enable school districts to realize cost savings in the purchases of used instructional materials
- HB 217 (Vana) a bill which permits persons vested in the Florida Retirement Service to purchase up to 5 years of additional credits
- HB 257 (Baxley) revises annual use fee for such plates from \$5.00 to \$20.00
- HB 275 (Gottlieb) prohibits harassment, discrimination and violence in Florida schools; provides for punitive measures
- HB 289 (Robaina) requires physical education on a full-year basis for students in grades 1 through 8; requires district school boards to develop a physical education program with certain components
- HB 305 (Arza) deletes a restriction on who may receive annual payment for accumulated sick leave; revises restrictions regarding terminal pay for accumulated sick leave to certain employees; defines the term "educational support"
- HB 313 (Sullivan) revises provisions relating to corporate income tax credit scholarships; revises eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization obligations, parent obligations, and private school obligations; provides student obligations; provides restrictions regarding the provision of scholarships; specifies audit requirements; requires reports.
- HB 315 (Attkisson) authorizes a school district to exempt itself from Department of Education educational facilities construction and funding standards and adopt alternative standards; requires approval by referendum; requires an educational facilities task force to propose alternative standards; provides for public notices
- HB 341 (Kravitz) expands access to postsecondary education; prohibits the use of funds to provide financial assistance to specified foreign students; provides for the redirection of funds to provide additional need-based financial assistance to students classified as residents for tuition purposes
- HB 371 (Jordan) extends to 2004-2005 legislation to allow school districts to use 2 mill to offset school bus costs which are purchased through contracts with private providers
- HB 383 (McInvale) encourages contributions by corporations to public schools or public school programs for which tax credit shall be given
- HB 421 (Slasberg) a bill to be entitled an act relating to school buses requiring pelvic and upper torso restraints on school buses
- HB 535 (Murzin/Ambler) a bill which provides a mandatory form for public construction bonds

- HB 549 (Baker) a bill establishing the K-12 GI Bill Program to provide educational options for dependents of Florida's veterans and active military personnel
- HB 563 (Clarke) creates the Harnessing the Power of Education Technology Advisory Council
- HB 613 (Kendrick) a bill which requires supervisors of elections to verify the first 10 percent of initiative petition signatures within 30 days after submission; requires sponsors of initiative petitions to submit the required signatures to the supervisors of elections no later than 18-0 days before the next general election
- HB 649 (Holloway) a bill redefining the term "special risk member" for the purposes of the Florida Retirement System
- HB 675 (Gibson, A.) a bill which allows children of military personnel who receive military orders to transfer to Florida after a school year has begun to enroll in certain schools or programs if they were enrolled in such a school or program in the state from which transferred
- HB 685 (Ritter) a bill requiring both instructional and noninstructional personnel to charter schools to file fingerprints with the school board of the district
- HB 693 (Antone) a bill creating the Innovation Florida Scholarships for Developing High-Tech Jobs Program
- HB 703 (Richardson) a bill providing a parent's right to review questions and answers of his or her child on specified assessment tests
- HB 745 (Sansom/Kravitz) a bill which revises the calculations of the district cost differential for purposes of allocations of state funds to each school district for current operation
- HB 753 (Rich) a bill revising the formula for determining each school district's share of the annual appropriation for the Classrooms for Kids Program; providing that a percentage of the appropriation shall be used to reduce class size; providing an effective date
- HB 789 (Johnson) a bill relating to the Florida Retirement System revising the definition of "average final compensation"
- HB 795 (Bendross-Mindingall) a bill relating to teacher salaries
- HB 797 (Bendross-Mindingall) an act relating to public school student progression; revises provisions relating to mandatory retention
- HB 803 (Bendross-Mindingall) relates to requirements for high school graduation and prescribes a formula for computing each student's graduation grade point average
- HB 819 (Kosmas) a bill relating to child care facilities authorizing the Department of Children and Family Services to apply certain requirements for personnel in child care facilities
- HB 821 (Barreiro) a bill providing for establishment of the Universal Prekindergarten Education Program
- HB 839 (Ausley) a bill relating to child care facilities revising the development of Gold Seal Quality Care program standards
- HB 853 (Domino) a bill which revises requirements relating to the contents of each school district's code of student conduct

- HB 875 (Brandenburg) a bill to allow the award of a standard high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans of the Korean War who did not complete the necessary graduation requirements
- HB 899 (Baxley) a bill which requires public libraries to provide technology that blocks or filters Internet access by adults to visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography and by minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors
- HB 901 (Baxley) a bill relating to public school educational instruction requiring implementation of new or revised reading and language arts courses; requiring a personalized middle school success plan for certain students
- HB 935 (Benson) a bill establishing the Governor's Council for a Fit Florida and requires each county health department to establish a county Council for a Fit Florida
- HB 1013 (Harper) a bill which revises requirements for district school board policies and procedures relating to emergency management and emergency preparedness; provides requirements for the number and type of emergency drills conducted by each school
- HB 1025 (Benson) authorizes district school boards to reemploy retired teachers on an annual contractual basis; deletes reemployment criteria and limitations; provides for retroactive applicability
- HB 1029 (Justice) a bill allowing the use of school board property as a public park under an agreement between a school board and a local government
- HB 1043 (Pickens) a bill which provides guidelines for determining the residency for a student who receives instruction as an exceptional student; requires the student's state of residence to pay the cost of instruction, facilities and services
- HB 1047 (Sobel) a bill which revises requirements relating to instruction in comprehensive health; provides physical education requirements for students in prekindergarten through grade 8; requires credit in personal fitness and life management skills for students selecting certain high school graduation options; increases physical education credit requirements for high school graduation and specifies criteria for satisfaction of such credit requirements
- HB 1079 (Pickens) a bill which redefines "public school member" for purposes of the system; provides retirement benefits payable to public school members; provides retroactive applicability; provides for funding of the revision of the Florida Retirement System
- HB 1095 (Garcia) a bill authorizing counties to require inspections of school buses and other vehicles transporting pupils
- HB 1115 (Greenstein) a bill which creates the "Children's Summer Nutrition Act"; requires the Food and Nutrition Management Office of the Department of Education to develop a plan for providing, in each school district, summer food programs that serve children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches during the school year
- HB 1125 (Arza) a bill which requires the creation of a committee in each school district with a K-12 student enrollment in excess of 250,000 students to review

the current governing structure of the school district; specifies areas to be evaluated; provides committee membership

- HB 1139 (Arza) a bill which provides certain rights to parents of students with reading deficiencies; requires a Reading Enhancement and Acceleration Initiative to be established in each school district; provides focus of the initiative to prevent the retention of third grade students and to provide accelerated reading instruction to students who fail to meet certain standards; specifies student and parent rights; provides for oversight and enforcement for noncompliance
- HB 1143 (Kilmer) a bill which provides for the deposit of a percentage of unclaimed lottery prize money in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund
- HB 1275 (Barreiro) a bill to prohibit school district personnel from requiring a student to take certain medication as a condition of attending school
- HB 1301 (Quinones) a bill which creates the Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement
- HB 1333 (Patterson) a bill that would require a student to receive a passing grade in each core course taken by the student that is required for high school graduation
- HB 1473 (Gardiner) a bill which provides a procedure for election of a district school board chair by countywide vote in a school district with single-member representation and an appointed district school superintendent
- HB 1579 (Fiorentino) a bill which excludes hospitalized or homebound students from participation in the McKay Scholarship program
- HB 1601 (Bullard) a bill which revises school performance grade categories; revises requirements for obtaining increased budget authority by schools; revises the method for determining school performance grades; provides for public hearings relating to the adoption of school performance grade requirements
- HB 1627 (Arza) a bill which authorizes community colleges and state universities to sponsor charter schools
- HB 1693 (Attkisson) a bill authorizing a school district to exempt itself from Department of Education educational facilities construction and funding standards and adopt alternative standards
- PCB 04-06 - a bill relating to public school food service programs which requires certain school boards to consider outsourcing of school food services; creating a cost accounting report for school food services; providing for reports to the school board and the Department of Education