EMPOWER EDUCATORS

TEACHERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS

✓ Empowers teachers to preserve safety and order in their classrooms, by creating a presumption in law that if they are protecting students, a teachers' actions were necessary to restore safety to a classroom.

✓ Gives Florida teachers an avenue to report if they have been directed to break the law by their administration or school board.

✓ Establishes the Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program to provide a sign-on bonus to retired first responders and veterans who become full-time classroom teachers.

✓ Establishes the Teacher Apprenticeship Program as an alternative pathway for individuals to enter the teaching profession.

✓ Establishes the Dual Enrollment Educator Scholarship Program to help high school teachers obtain the graduate degrees and credentials necessary to provide dual enrollment coursework to high school students.

SB 256 | PAYCHECK PROTECTION

| Prohibits teachers’ unions from having dues deducted directly from employee paychecks. |
| Requires members to notify the costs of membership. |
| Allows state investigations into unions suspected of fraud, waste and abuse. |
| Requires any union from offering anything of value to a public official in collective bargaining negotiations – ending the practice of hidden union slush funds for school board members. |

| Mandates a union to represent at least 60% of employees – increasing from the current 50%. |

| Requires annual audits and financial disclosures for unions. |

GOVERNOR DESANTIS has approved 

$1 BILLION 
to continue to increase teacher pay in the 2023-2024 school year.

THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 

$252 MILLION 
FROM THE PRIOR YEAR.

Over the past 5 years, 

FLORIDA HAS DEVOTED 

$3.3 BILLION 
to teacher salary increases and bonuses.

HB 1537 | SUPPORTING NEW AND ASPIRING TEACHERS

- Extends temporary teaching certificates from three years to five years.
- Eliminates unnecessary bureaucratic requirements for certification.
- Creates a system-wide shift from professional development to professional learning, and requires the Department of Education to create a web-portal of available opportunities.
- Expands eligibility for temporary certification to more aspiring teachers working toward their credentials that aren’t in college settings.
- Declares September 11th to be “9/11 Heroes’ Day” to honor those who gave their lives for our freedom.
- First state in the nation to authorize the Classical Learning Test (CLT) for students as a means to earn Bright Futures Scholarships and qualify for graduation.

HB 477 reduces School Board term limits from 12 to 8 years, bringing them in line with the Governor, Cabinet, and entire Legislature.

The Legislature also passed House Joint Resolution 31, a constitutional amendment for the 2024 General Election ballot to return school boards to partisan elections.

SCHOOL BOARD REFORM

HB 379 | TAKING TIKTOK OUT OF SCHOOLS & SOCIAL MEDIA OUT OF CLASSROOMS

- Gives teachers the authority to establish classroom rules on cell phone use during instructional times.
- Requires school districts to prevent students from connecting to social media sites on district-owned computers and servers.
- Prohibits the use of TikTok on district owned devices and disallows TikTok as a means of promoting school activities.
- Requires schools to give instruction on the harmful effects of social media.