

## **FLORIDA SCHOOL LABOR RELATIONS SERVICE INITIAL HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET INFORMATION**

The Senate and House Education Appropriations Subcommittees each released the first phase of their respective recommended fiscal year FY 2016-2017 budgets. The Chairman's Recommended Budget from each chamber included spreadsheets displaying revenue sources used to fund the recommended appropriations for each item in their budgets. The documents also included a one page statewide summary of the Florida Education Finance Program.

Each subcommittee is also releasing parts of their recommended budget proviso language and their recommendations for implementing and conforming bills. These parts of the packages are being released as they are being completed. The next stop for each of the budget subcommittee's chairman's budget is the respective Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate. Those committees are scheduled to meet and take up the budget next week. Both the House and Senate are expected to take up and pass their initial budgets the following week. Budget conference committees will be formed and begin meeting shortly thereafter. As details are released and studied, additional reports will be provided to assist in district budget planning.

The two budgets are already very similar. Currently both the Senate and the House budgets are above the levels recommended by the Governor. The Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman, Senator Don Gaetz, has been very forthright in urging all stakeholders that it is best they "don't cash any checks" based on the allocations in these initial budget proposals.

Compared to the FY 2015-2016 Third Calculation of the FEFP, the House recommends an increase of total funds of \$601,023,017, which is an increase of 3.01%. The House funds an enrollment increase of 35,494.43 Unweighted FTE students, and increases the base FEFP funding by \$430,188,203. The House recommends a Base Student Allocation (BSA) of \$4,258.16, an increase of \$103.71 or 2.50%, and the average of the dollars for each student is recommended to be \$7,231.57, an increase of \$124.24, or about 1.75%. The House recommends increasing the Digital Classrooms Allocation by \$20 million, and provides a few workload increases for other major parts of the FEFP.

The Senate recommended an increase in total funds of \$650,591,366, an increase of 3.30%. The Senate funds the same enrollment increase, and provides a BSA of \$4,235.79, an increase of 1.98%. The average of the dollars per student is recommended to be \$7,249.23, or 2.00%. The Senate increased the base FEFP by \$362,220,102, or about 2.90%. The Senate made large increases in two of the FEFP categorical funds. The Senate increased the Supplemental Academic Instructional categorical by about \$60.9 million and the ESE Guaranteed Allocation by about \$96.4 million. The Senate did not increase the Digital Classrooms Allocation.

Both the Senate and the House continued the Federally-Connected Student Supplement for those districts that qualify for those funds.

Attached are two spreadsheets that compare the most significant elements of the statewide FEFP summaries. Both spreadsheets display the selected elements of the FEFP for the Senate and the House side by side for easy comparison. One spreadsheet then compares the House recommendations for the selected elements of the FEFP to the pre-class size reduction year of 2002-2003, the peak pre-recession funding year of 2007-2008, the legislatively selected highest funding benchmark, which is the revised Third Calculation of 2007-2008, and the Third Calculation of 2015-2016. The second spreadsheet makes the same comparisons to the Senate proposal.

There are too few details about the fiscal policies in the budgets to make meaningful projections for district level funding. As that information becomes available it will be provided.