



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CONTACT:

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Broward County Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie
President, Florida Association of District School Superintendents

FORTY SEVEN CENTS WILL NOT COVER PUBLIC EDUCATION OPERATIONAL COSTS – SUPERINTENDENTS CALL ON GOVERNOR SCOTT TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION TO INCREASE STUDENT FUNDING

Tallahassee, FL – Florida superintendents and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) are calling on Governor Rick Scott to call a Special Session of the Florida Legislature to address the critical issue of insufficient operational funding for Florida public schools. The budget passed by the Florida Legislature reflects only a 47 cents (.01 percent) increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) portion of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) – which is used to pay for new inflationary costs for operating schools such as the state-required increase in retirement contributions, increased costs in utilities, property insurance, fuel for buses, and health care for employees.

“Forty-seven cents to fund public education is not only insufficient, it is an affront to our students, teachers, administrators and Florida communities as a whole,” states FADSS President and Broward County Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie. “The budget approved during the 2018 Legislative Session will force Florida school districts to cut their operational budgets – cuts that will impact our schools, our communities and the children we serve,” adds Runcie.

While superintendents are grateful for the funding increases for school safety and mental health services for students, unfortunately funding appropriated for the day-to-day operating costs for schools is inadequate. School districts will be hard pressed to sufficiently meet the educational needs of students with a BSA increase of only 47 cents. In contrast, the BSA funding recommended by Governor Scott was an increase to the BSA of \$152 per student – which superintendents fully supported.

Florida superintendents urge Governor Scott to call the Legislature back into a Special Session to address the operational funding inequities by increasing the BSA to a realistic amount based on the true operational costs associated with running a school district. Additionally, superintendents ask parents, students, teachers, community leaders and Florida citizens to call on their local legislative leaders to do the right thing and sufficiently fund public education.

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The mission of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents is to assist and support superintendents in providing leadership to ensure that every student in Florida acquires the skills, knowledge and attitude to be contributing members of our democratic society through leadership development programs focused on student achievement, building relationships with business and governmental leaders, and communication and networking services.