

## **Lakeland School System 2017 Legislative Agenda**

### **Local Control of Schools**

We believe that local BOEs are best equipped and informed to make decisions that address the needs and challenges of their local schools. In keeping with that principle, we support the following:

- The appointment of—rather than the election of—a Superintendent/Director of Schools. **SB340 oppose**
- The right to choose between the TDOE TCAP test **or** the ACT/SAT Suite of Tests for end-of-year assessments, not to exceed eight (8) hours in length per academic year. **HB262 support SB204/HB263 support**
- Growth model – Does not give flexibility to the district. **SB250/HB67 oppose**
- PE/physical activity - Amending Public Chapter 669 to allow for flexibility in its application. Teachers need to be empowered to determine the best way to achieve the required physical activity with the least amount of disruption to the school day.
- The amendment of state law allowing local governments through their local public utilities to decide how essential services should be offered and how to meet critical infrastructure needs. **SB126 support**
- The amendment of the law relative to the advertisement for bids and the sale of surplus property so that a school district can use alternative methods other than written news publications for announcements.
- Retired teachers – Allows LEA's choice in what teachers are in the classroom. **SB156/HB166 support**

### **Funding**

- **Publicly Funded Vouchers**  
We oppose the use of public funds being diverted to any educational organization that is not required to adhere to the same accountability and reporting standards that are required of public schools. **SB395 SB380/HB336**
- **Funding of RTI2 Positions**  
We support an amendment to the BEP formula that includes funding for Response to Instruction and Intervention positions within school districts. We oppose transferring funds from another budget line item to fund this initiative.
- **Fund Balance Surplus**  
We urge the General Assembly to amend the law to enable a local education agency to unilaterally spend any dollars in the fund balance in excess of 3% of the budgeted annual operating expenses.
- **Funding for Advanced Placement Tests**  
We urge the General Assembly to provide funding for Advanced Placement test fees for all students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses.
- **Authorizer Fee for Charter Schools**  
We urge the General Assembly to change state law to enable local BOEs to retain a percentage of funds from charter schools to cover the costs of being an effective authorizer. **SB263/HB267 Support**
- **Money for Teacher for classroom instruction**  
**SB401** – support, State needs to fund with new money, not take away from other funds to pay for this.

### **Modify Public Chapter 680**

We support the modification of Public Chapter 680 to allow the Department of Education to work with stakeholders in developing an accountability system that meets the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act without stigmatizing schools and students.