

**2016 Legislative Agenda
Lakeland Board of Education**

Waiver from Utilization of TNReady data for Teacher and Principal Evaluations for the 2015-2016 School Year.

The Lakeland Board of Education supports legislation to allow LEAs to waive the inclusion of TNReady data for the purposes of Teacher and Principal Evaluations for the 2015-2016 school year.

Supports - SB2242/HB1453

Local Control of Schools

Lakeland Board of Education believes that local boards of education are the best equipped and informed to make decisions to address the needs and challenges of their local schools. Lakeland Board of Education opposes any efforts to diminish or impede upon this local control.

Maintenance of Effort Penalties

Lakeland Board of Education believes that the responsibility and accountability for funding schools should be connected. Rather than the state withholding BEP funds if a local budget is not timely adopted, Lakeland Board of Education supports legislative changes to shift the penalty to the funding body whereby the state would withhold local sales tax dollars.

Publicly Funded Vouchers

Lakeland Board of Education opposes any expansion of the special education voucher program as well as any new legislation that would divert money intended for public education to private schools.

Opposes – SB99/HB1049

Minimum Instructional Time

Lakeland Board of Education supports legislation to provide an option to school districts to meet instructional requirements through a minimum number of instructional days or a minimum number of instructional hours.

SB1652/HB1498

Fees for Inspection of Records

Lakeland Board of Education believes that the public's ability to inspect records must be weighed with the burden on staff to comply with open records requests and supports legislation to allow for reasonable fees when LEAs must create numerous documents and/or expend several man hours in order to comply with a request for inspection.

Supports – SB328

Appointed Director of Schools

Lakeland Board of Education supports the idea that the Director of Schools remains a position appointed by the local Board of Education rather than an elected position.

Opposes – SB1606/HB1986

Employment of Retired Teachers

Lakeland Board of Education supports SB1664 to allow retired teachers to accept employment as a teacher without loss or suspension of retirement benefits.

Supports – SB1664/HB1744

Private K-12 Institutions must implement handgun carry permit policy

Requires the chief administrative officer of a private K-12 school or private college to implement a handgun carry policy that either permits or prohibits a person who has a handgun carry permit from carrying on the grounds or buildings of a private K-12 school or private college. Requires the school to make available and known the handgun carry rules to the students attending the school, the parents or guardians of those students, and the faculty and staff of the school.

SB1559/HB1644

Officer carrying firearm on school grounds – notice

Lakeland Board of Education supports legislation that allows off duty officers to carry weapons on school grounds.

SB1787

LEAs to provide students with certain periods of physical activity

State Summary – As introduced, requires LEAs to provide students with certain periods of physical activity depending on grade level; deletes an obsolete reporting requirement.

Position? - SB1983/HB2148

Governor's Three Star Physical Education and Literacy Program

State Summary – As introduced, creates the “Governor’s Three Star Physical Education and Literacy Program.”

Position? - SB2001/HB1852

Length of school term

Requires the state board of education to promulgate rules permitting the length of the school term to be calculated by instructional hours as well as the current number of instructional days.

Supports? - SB1652/HB1498

Accessing of student records

Requires LEAs to maintain official records concerning who accesses student educational records or personally identifiable information and when and why the access occurs. Requires a second factor authentication for access of electronic records. Also requires email notification of a student’s parent or guardian of access of the student’s records.

Position? - SB1568/HB2077

Changes certain requirements for voluntary pre-k programs

Requires an LEA as part of its application for funding and approval of one or more pre-K programs to include (1) a plan for ensuring coordination between voluntary pre-K classrooms and elementary schools within the LEA, with the goal of ensuring that elementary grade instruction builds upon pre-K classroom experiences; (2) a plan for engaging parents and families of voluntary pre-K students throughout the school year; and (3) a plan for delivering relevant and meaningful professional development to voluntary pre-K teachers, specific to ensuring a high quality pre-K experience. Requires LEAs that receive pre-K program approval to utilize the pre-K/kindergarten growth portfolio model approved by the state board of education in the evaluation of pre-K and kindergarten teachers. Requires the office of early learning within the department of education to approve a kindergarten entry screener that LEAs shall administer to all students entering kindergarten beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, to provide educators with baseline information about where their

students are when the students enter kindergarten and to provide usable data concerning how well students have been prepared in their preschool experience.

Opposes - SB1899/HB1485

Prohibits inclusion of religious doctrine in school curriculums

Prohibits the state board of education from including religious doctrine in the curriculum standards for any grade prior to grade ten. Orders the state board to provide curriculum standards relative to teaching religion in the context of history or geography, for grades ten through twelve. Prohibits one religion from being emphasized over another religion in those selected grades and forbids the teaching of any religious doctrine.

Opposes? - SB1439/HB1418

Policy on use of religion in curriculum and instructional materials

State Summary – As introduced, requires each local school board to adopt a policy on the use of religion in curriculum and instructional materials; requires each LEA to create a syllabus to be made public for grades six through twelve on social studies, science, math, and English language arts courses.

Opposes? - SB2186/HB1905

Requires test questions to be made available to parents and teachers

Requires the department of education to provide at least 70 percent of the actual test questions for the TNReady tests and end-of-course examinations after the tests have been administered and scored to the student, the student's teacher, and the student's parent and/or guardian. Specifies that the report must include the answer options and the student's answers. Requires the department to make the reports available to the LEA no less than 60 days after the last test is administered.

Supports – SB2241/HB1452