

# Florida Special Education Advocacy Legislative Summit

OVERVIEW OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE  
PROCESS

FEBRUARY 23RD,  
2021

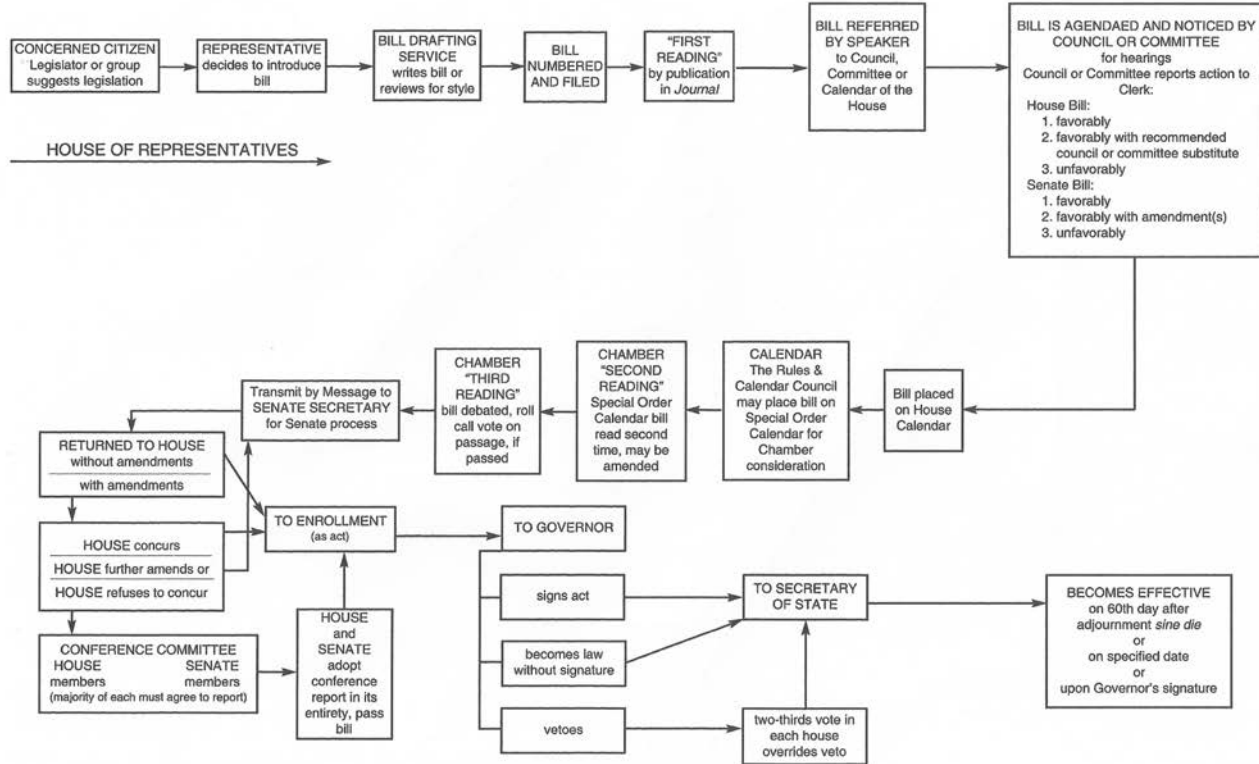
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# Overview

- How to be an Effective Advocate
  - How an Idea Becomes a Law
  - Simple Rules for Effective Advocacy
  - Suggested Strategies
  - Resources
  - Tracking Legislative Action

- Budget Process in Florida
  - Budget Process and Timelines
  - Budget Overview
  - General Public School Funding
  - ESE Priority and Selected Issues
- Questions

# How An Idea Becomes A Law



# Ten Simple Rules for Effective Advocacy

1. Identify and Target Key Decision Makers
2. Find a Legislative Champion
3. Ask for Specifically What You Want
4. Assume the Perspective of Others
5. Build and Preserve Your Credibility



# Ten Simple Rules for Effective Advocacy (Cont.)

6. Honor the Staff
7. Be Prepared to Compromise
8. Never Burn Your Bridges
9. Report Your Contacts
10. Be Persistent



# Suggested Strategies

- Visit in Groups of Twos and Threes
- Make Multiple Contacts / Develop a Relationship
- Use Personal Experiences
- Thank Them for Something they Have Already Done
- Always Remain Positive
- Report Every Visit

# Budget Process and Timeline



1. State Board of Education Submits Legislative Budget Requests (September 2020)
2. Governor Issues Recommended Budget (January 2021)
3. Legislative Leadership Assigns Separate House and Senate Allocations (First Days of March)
4. Legislative Subcommittees Craft Budget Details (First two weeks of March)
5. Legislative Appropriations Committees Amend and Pass Separate Budgets (3rd Week in March)
6. Full House and Senate Floor Budgets Amended and Passed (4th week in March)
7. Legislative Leadership Agrees to Conference Allocations (First weeks in April)
8. Conference Committees Negotiate Differences (Last 3 weeks of April)
9. Final Conference Report Deadline (April 27th)
10. Conference Reports Adopted (April 30th)

# Budget Overview

- Big Picture – State Budget – All Issues
  - State Missing \$2.7 Billion in Recurring Revenues for 2021-2022 and another \$1.8 Billion for 2022-2023.
  - Federal Government has Provided Billions in Relief in the Form of Non-Recurring Aid (approximately \$4 Billion Already for State and Local Governments)
- Governor Proposes \$285.5 Million Increase for K-12 Education Funding
- House and Senate Will Start Public Budget Process in March which will Likely Begin with Huge Recurring Cuts



# General Public Schools Funding

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Governor's Recommended Budget</u>
Total Potential for Public Schools	Increased by \$285.5 Million to \$22.79 Billion (1.27% Increase)
Funds Per Student	Increased Total Funds Available Per Student by \$232.69 to \$8,019.30 (2.99% Increase)
Base Student Allocation – (This is the Figure That Most Closely Represents the True Flexible Budget Increase Available in a Normal Year)	Increased by \$132.02 to \$4,451.51 (3.06% Increase)

# ESE Priority Budget Issue

- ESE Guaranteed Allocation
  - Governor's Proposed Budget Would Decrease ESE Guaranteed Allocation to \$1,066,945,851.
    - 2.33% Decrease
    - \$25.4 Million Decrease
- House and Senate Currently Have Not Released Budget Detail to this Level

# ESE Selected Budget Issues

## ➤ ESE Special Grants

- Family Cafe: \$950,000
- Learning Through Listening: \$1,291,704
- Special Olympics: \$500,000
- Auditory-Oral Education Grant Funding: \$750,000
- Associate Centers: \$577,758

# ESE Priority Budget Issues

## ➤ Instructional Materials

- \$3.1 million Was Recommended for Digital Instructional Materials for ESE Students
- \$270,987 was Recommended for Materials for Persons who are Partially Sighted

# ESE Priority Budget Issues

- CARD Centers Funding at \$9.4 Million
- University FDLR Centers are Funded at \$2.7 Million
- Full Services Schools are Funded at \$6 Million
- Adults with Disabilities Education Funded at \$7.65 Million

# Resources

Legislature's Webpage ([www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us))

Governor's Webpage (<http://www.flgov.com/>)

Florida Department of Education's Webpage ([www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org))

Webcasts of House and Senate Committee Meetings and Floor Sessions  
(<http://www.my.floridahouse.gov/Sections/HouseCalendar/broadcast.aspx>)

State Board of Education Legislative Budget Request Documents:  
(<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19916/urlt/Greenbook.pdf>)

Governor's Recommended Budget Webpage:  
(<http://www.floridaleadsbudget.com/HomeFY22.htm>)

Online Sunshine: ([www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us))