

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Human Resources and Employee Relations

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- District 3 – Tim Weisheyer – Chair
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Chief Human Resources Officer
Tammy Cope-Otterson

Director of Government & Labor Relations
District Chief Negotiator
John Boyd

2014-15

Legislative Priorities for Osceola Schools

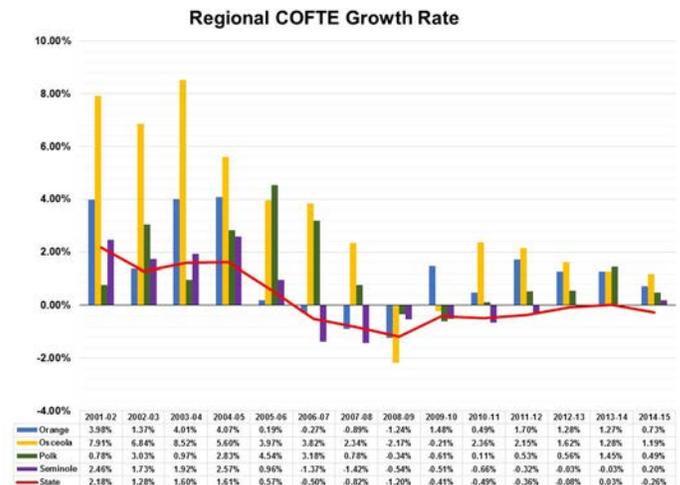
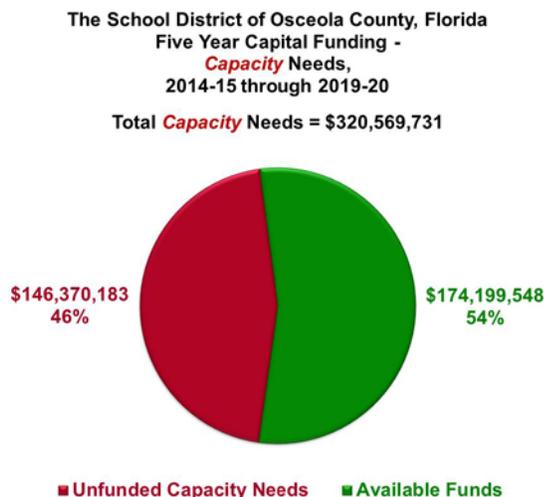
Priority Issues

1. Osceola's Capital Funds

Issue: *Osceola capital revenues funds have not kept pace with student enrollment. In fact, since 2008-09, Osceola's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds meant to renovate existing schools have sharply declined. As of December 20, 2014, actual student enrollment is 59,508 students, and for 2018-19, projected student enrollment will be 68,429 students, which reflects a 15% increase in only four (4) years. Without additional capital funding for new student stations, Osceola schools are projected to be 104% over capacity in the 2015-16 school year. This percentage would be higher, but relocatables have been added in the current 2014-15 school year.*

Recommendation(s):

- Amend Section 1013.738, Florida Statutes -- *High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program* to ensure that Osceola students receive their fair share of funding due to increased residential construction in Osceola County and the resulting demands upon our public schools.
- Amend Section 1013.64(1), Florida Statutes, to add subsection (i) "Public Education Capital Outlay funding will be distributed to all public schools, including charter schools and non-charter schools, based on the proportional facilities need as set forth in Section 1002.33(18), Florida Statutes.



Other Issues

1. Sustained Accountability Reform that Supports Osceola's Student Achievement Goals

Issue: *Osceola schools face significant challenges with the state's current timeline for accountability reforms and need additional time to implement these reforms with fidelity and fulfill Osceola's commitment to improving student achievement.*

Recommendation(s):

- Implement the recommendations of the Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition (CFPSBC), the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS), and the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA).
 - Section 1012.3401, Florida Statutes -- *Requirements for measuring student performance in instructional personnel and school administrator performance evaluations; performance evaluation of personnel for purposes of performance salary schedule*
 - Section 1012.341, Florida Statutes -- *Exemption from performance evaluation system and compensation and salary schedule requirements*

2. State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) Flexibility

Issue: *Osceola must construct school buildings following more stringent and costly regulations than charter schools. Greater flexibility will permit Osceola to construct adequate school buildings in order to meet the needs of increasing student enrollment districtwide.*

Recommendation(s):

- Pass House Bill 181 -- *Educational Facilities* as sponsored by Representative Bileca.
- Amend the appropriate state regulations to provide school districts with options and flexibility similar to what charter schools have, such as:
 - Changes to the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) Space and Size Chart requirements that would permit smaller classrooms and more flexibility regarding required support spaces

3. Osceola's Operating Funds

Issue: *Osceola particularly has limited staff and resources to meet the state's increasing number of unfunded mandates.*

Recommendation(s):

- Establish a long-term plan to make Florida's public education system world-class with adequate and stable funding for hiring and retaining high quality educators.