

Making Your Voice Heard: A Stakeholder's Guide

Presented by Duval County Council PTA (DCCPTA) – part of the nation's oldest grassroots advocacy organization for education

2015 DCPS Legislative Priorities (supported by DCCPTA)

1. **SCHOOL GRADES MORATORIUM:** School grades should not be issued during the transition to new standards and assessment. Explanation: Although school grades will not carry sanctions in 2014-15, they provide stakeholders with a signal of academic health. The new assessments should be administered and the proficiency rates should be released by district, school, and at the teacher level. Use 2014-15 to establish a baseline as was done prior to school grades being issued through FCAT and adding EOCs to school grades. Accurate comparisons cannot be made due to the inability to properly calculate learning gains.
2. **TEACHER EVALUATIONS (VAM – VALUE ADDED MODEL) AND STUDENT RETENTION:** Teacher VAM) and student retention should be suspended during the transition and baseline year. Explanation: Due to the recent change in standards and assessments, teacher evaluations (VAM) and student retention should be held harmless for 2014-15 to allow for a baseline year and proper field testing.
3. **LOWEST 300 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:** Provide adequate and categorical funding for the required additional hour of instruction, without reducing funding in other areas, along with a process to remove a school from the list that recognizes growth or eliminate the requirement altogether. Explanation: During the 2014 Session, the Legislature increased the number of schools from 100 to 300 lowest performing elementary schools without providing additional funding for the additional schools. This increased the number of schools in Duval from 11 to 39 at a cost of approximately \$8 million.
4. **STATE FUNDING TO DEVELOP STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS FOR NON-CORE SUBJECT AREAS:** It is critical to develop consistent and quality statewide assessments for non-core subject areas to ensure all educators are held accountable and are evaluated fairly, consistently, and reliably statewide. For Duval, this equates to 650+ assessments at a cost of \$3.9 million.

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Call, email, write and/or visit your state representative. Let them know that you are a concerned parent and voter. Share with them how you feel about the above DCPS Legislative Agenda Items or other issues.
2. Sign up for CapWiz and legislative alerts through Florida PTA. This will allow you to keep up on the latest legislative issues throughout the upcoming session.
 - a. Go to <http://www.floridapta.org/advocacy/advocacy/capwiz-legislative-alerts> to receive legislative alerts and contact your elected officials with a few quick clicks.
 3. Share the information that you learn with others – teachers, parents, family members, etc. Use email, Facebook, Twitter, etc. We are doing the most important job of advocating for our children and the more we are heard, the better!!

Where to start



when advocating for your child, your school, your neighborhood and all children in Duval County

Making your voice heard is an important part of advocating for public education. If you have a problem or issue that needs to be resolved you should bring it forward seeking a positive solution. One voice can sow the seeds for needed change!!

Where can I find information about important decision makers and other stakeholders?

1. Principal – All emails for principals are listed on schoolfactsjax.org
2. PTA – Information about Local, District, State, and National PTA can be found on DCCPTA.org
3. School Advisory Council (SAC) – Information about SAC committees can be found on individual school websites, under the “About Us” tab.
4. District and School Board Members – Information found at duvalschools.org, or <http://iadvocateforkids.org/PTA/contact-the-decision-makers/school-board/>
5. Florida Legislative Delegation – Information can be found at <http://www.coj.net/departments/duval-legislative-delegation.aspx> and at DCCPTA.org <http://iadvocateforkids.org/PTA/contact-the-decision-makers/state>