

COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

May 14, 2003

SUBJECT: MASTER PLAN

PROPOSED COUNCIL ACTION

For Information and Discussion.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The overall vision for the Plan as well as the material related to specific strategic imperatives will be reviewed and discussed.

Supporting Documentation Included:

- ❑ Draft **Creating a Highly Successful Education System for Florida**
- ❑ Summary of past litigation related to **education funding**

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CREATING A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR FLORIDA

Florida's new system of K-20 education has the potential of an unparalleled transformation and improvement of the state's education system. While much is expected of this seamless, efficient system stretching from early childhood through post-graduate studies, its ultimate test will be to bring universal respect and clear value to the Florida high school diploma. The vision for a transformed system of education contains, at its heart, this pledge to each of Florida's students.

OVERALL GOAL

“All students will graduate from high school empowered to succeed directly in the workplace or in pursuing a demanding program related to career education, an associate degree program, or a baccalaureate degree.”

Florida's current education system is far from being successful:

Three out of ten ninth graders drop out – and do not graduate from high school. (FLDOE, 2001-02 high school graduation rate of 67.9%)

Of the seven who do graduate, only four go into postsecondary education. (Tom Mortensen College Going Rate (2000) of 57.5% (57.5% of the 67.9% who go on (the seven that graduate) equals 39% (or 4 out of 7).)

Of the high school graduates who immediately pursue postsecondary education, 40 percent are not considered ready for college level coursework, and significant resources must be devoted to remediation. (Readiness for College Report, March 2002. In 2000-01, 60.5% of all degree-seeking students were ready; 93.2% of SUS starters were ready; and 34.7% of CCS starters were ready.)

For the six out of ten high school students who do not pursue postsecondary education, current opportunities for high quality career education are limited.

To change these outcomes and produce graduates who have achieved a high level of learning and personal development, the State must:

Ensure high quality instruction and programs – which result in optimal student achievement.

Provide access to higher levels of instruction – and encourage the progression of all students into the highest level desired.

Operate in a cost-effective manner – by making the most productive use of available and usually limited resources.

Achieving the overall goal will result in four clear *benefits* to Florida's education system:

Fewer students will drop out of high school -- thereby maximizing the return on the investment made in all students from pre-K through twelfth grade.

Fewer high school graduates will need remediation in reading, writing, and mathematics to attend postsecondary institutions – which will reduce the resources currently used for remediation and the number of courses and time required to attain a degree.

More students will enter and graduate from high quality career education or postsecondary programs – which will enhance their ability to compete effectively in the global, knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

The quality of the state’s leadership, workforce, and citizenry will be improved.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

To move from the current situation and provide a good return on the significant investment in education made by Florida’s taxpayers and other supporters, six *major initiatives* must be undertaken. These are required to achieve the vision and must be clearly defined and then implemented despite the considerable obstacles which will have to be overcome. These initiatives need to be supported by the leadership of various constituencies and implemented on a consistent, long-term basis:

INITIATIVE #1 – INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HIGH QUALITY

TEACHERS. The status of the teaching profession will be enhanced to ensure that students at all grade levels will have high quality academic instruction and guidance as to personal development – which will enable them to learn and develop to their full potential.

INITIATIVE #2 – PROVIDE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE EARLY LEARNING. All young students will establish a sound base for their future learning and personal development – and specifically be able to read on grade level by the end of grade three.

INITIATIVE #3 – SUPPORT HIGH QUALITY CAREER EDUCATION

PROGRAMS. The stigma of career-technical education programs will be removed and appealing and effective career education programs will be provided to enable school students who choose a career path to become productive and contributing members of the economy and society.

INITIATIVE #4 – ENSURE EFFECTIVE FUNDING. A new, more effective approach to funding which supports and reinforces achievement of the “overall goal” on a consistent, long-term basis will be developed and put in place.

INITIATIVE #5 – IMPROVE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP. High quality leadership will exist at all levels of governance and executive management within Florida’s education system.

INITIATIVE #6 – ESTABLISH A HIGHLY COORDINATED K-20 SYSTEM.

Coordination, comprehensiveness and coherence between and among each organizational level of the K-20 system will be defined and reinforced by policies and the new approach to funding. Each organizational level within the K-20 system will be accountable for achieving specifically defined results.