

FWCS PTA Founder's Day Dinner

Superintendent's Message

February 28, 2019

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Engaging Legislators

- FWCS employs a lobbyist with Bose Public Affairs – Justin Swanson
- FWCS participates in associations that lobby on behalf of public education
- Dr. Robinson and Kathy Friend meet regularly with key legislators

Engaging Legislators

- Who
 - Local legislators
 - Those in key positions
- How to Contact
 - Call State line
 - Handwritten letters
 - E-mails
 - In person (follow-up with thank you note)

Engaging Legislators

- How to Communicate
 - Be concise about concern and action requested (keep it simple)
 - Provide some background about the district or your school and how affected
 - Be respectful; remain calm
 - Give appreciation for consideration
 - Give thanks for positive votes

BILLS OF INTEREST

Education Bills

- 1,347 total bills introduced
- 71 bills assigned to Senate Committee on Education and Career Development
- 58 bills assigned to House Education Committee
- 30+ bills introduced related to school safety

SB 246 – Failed



- Operating and Capital Referendums
 - Currently may hold in primary or general election
 - This bill only allows general election
 - There is no general election every 4 years
- **FWCS Recommendation:** Continue to allow districts a choice based on their unique needs

HB 1089 – Failed



- 2017-18 – all kindergarten funded same as other grades, no matter age
- 2018-19 – any student not 5 by August 1 was not funded
- ~~• HB 1089 – allows 4 year olds to be funded, but only allows 13 years of education to be funded~~
- **Instead moved to HB 1001 – GOOD**
 - **Allows funding if 5 by Sept. 1 for 2019 and by Oct. 1 for 2020**

HB 1003 – Opposed

- State revenue deposited in Education Fund also provides funds for operations
- School districts will annually transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund
- HB 1009 passed last year provided districts with flexibility needed
- HB 1003 sets a limit of 15% transfer
- **FWCS Recommendation:** Each district is unique and should be allowed to transfer amount required

HB 1001

- School Funding Formula – NOT BAD
 - Average statewide per pupil increase
 - 2019-20 1.5%
 - 2020-21 1.7%
 - Increase for Special Ed Preschool – GOOD

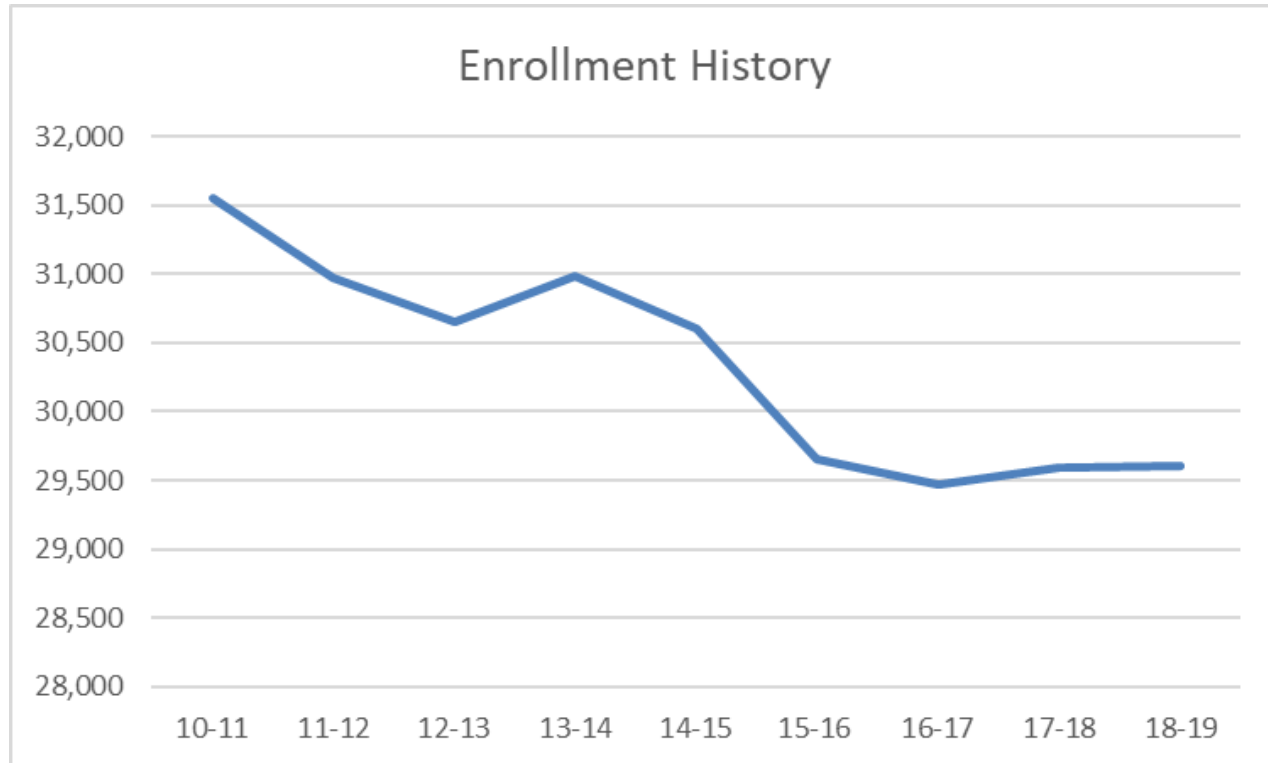
HB 1001 - Positive

- ELL (English Language Learners)
Increase – GOOD
 - 2017-18: \$14.9 million, 2018-19: \$17.4 million
 - 2019-21:
 - Governor proposed: \$14.8 million
 - *House version: \$20 million, 15% increase*

HB 1001

- Voucher Increase - Opposed
 - 2018-19: \$162.7 million
 - 2019-20: \$179.5 million, 10% increase
 - 2020-21: \$189.7 million, 6% increase
 - **FWCS Recommendation:**
 - Use increase to fund public schools (\$1 million for FWCS)
 - Require financial accountability for schools accepting vouchers
- New Charters: Increase \$11 million each year

Enrollment Pre-K to Grade 12



(1) 2011-12 Vouchers start

(2) 2013-14 Imagine Charter School closed

(3) 2015-16 FWCS transportation changes

SB 132 – Opposed

- United States Civics Test – requirement to graduate from high school
- Beginning with the 2020-21 school year
- **FWCS Recommendation:** Do not require additional testing of students

HB 1404 – Opposed

- Post-secondary outcomes impact accountability grade of high school
- The State Board shall consider at least:
 - Successful completion of at least twelve credit hours at a higher education institution and continued enrollment and status of good standing
 - Successful completion of a high wage, high demand certificate as defined by the Department of Workforce Development
 - Enlistment in, and continued service in, any branch of the armed forces
 - How to account for adverse life experiences or other unique circumstances that occur after graduation.

HB 1641

- Currently required to leave closed building available to a charter school for two years – they may purchase for \$1
- HB 1641 shortens the time to 90 days
- Requires to sell to a **non-public**/charter school for at least 50% of fair market value

Next Steps

- Board Work Session on status of legislation – March 7, 5 p.m.

Justin Swanson, Bose Public Affairs

- Last day of session by April 29