

FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC

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EDUCATION FAST FACTS – 2009-2010

- Florida has the 4th largest public school system in the country, serving more than 2,620,317 students.
- After a decade in which Florida's student population showed dramatic growth that averaged about 50,000 students per year, this trend has slowed dramatically so that Florida's student population has increased by an average of about 2,145 students each year over the past 5 years.
- The statewide average teacher salary for all degree levels in 2008-2009 was approximately \$46,938. The average benefits package is valued at about 25% of salary. Florida ranks 28th among the 50 states in average teacher salary and is about \$5,500 below the national average.
- Florida has more than 350,000 full-time and part-time public school employees, including 191,000 full-time instructional staff, making Florida's public school system one of the largest employers in the state. District and school administrators make up less than 3.5% of all public school employees.
- The 2009-2010 basic operating budget for K-12 public education – as provided through the Florida Education Finance Program – is nearly \$18 billion. This provides an average of about \$6,869 per student. Florida ranks 38th among the 50 states in per pupil operating expenditures and is more than \$1,340 below the national average.
- Based on 2009-2010 appropriations, this year Florida will spend approximately \$100,000,000 each school day to operate its public schools.
- The Lottery provided nearly \$1.48 billion for Education Enhancement Trust Fund for 2008 - 2009 with more than \$659 million allocated for K-12 public school operating and capital purposes. Since 1996, the K-12 public schools share of Lottery appropriations has declined from 70% to 45%.
- As a function of 2009 FCAT results, 1,822 schools received a performance grade of A, 495 schools received a B, 420 schools received a C, 173 schools received a D, and 44 schools received an F. These scores represent improvement over 2008 school grades, with more schools receiving an A and B and fewer schools receiving a C, D, or F.
- There are more than 4,000 public schools in Florida. Even so, Florida ranks 37th among the 50 states in average student teacher ratio and 50th among the 50 states in having, by far, the largest school size for both elementary and secondary schools.
- The average cost (*not* including land purchase) to build an elementary school is \$20-30 million, a middle school costs \$30-45 million, and a high school costs \$50-70 million. It takes 2-3 years to plan, design, and construct a school.
- There are 67 school districts which match geographically to Florida's 67 counties. Each school district has an elected school board that consists of 5 to 9 members and a superintendent. Of the 67 superintendents, 25 are appointed by their school board, 42 are elected.