

FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC

203 South Monroe Street ~ Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 850/414-2578 ~ Fax: 850/414-2585

www.fsba.org

EDUCATION FAST FACTS – 2011-2012

- Florida has the 4th largest public school system in the country, serving more than 2,663,700 students in the 2011-2012 school year – an increase of 21,232 students from the 2010-2011 school year.
- After a decade in which Florida's student population grew by more than 40,000 students per year, enrollment growth dropped dramatically and began to grow at a slower rate. As a result, Florida's enrollment has increased by an average of about 5,000 students each year over the past 5 years.
- The statewide average teacher salary for all degree levels in 2010-2011 was approximately \$45,723. This represents a decrease of \$973 under the average teacher salary for 2009-2010. The average benefits package is valued at about 25% of salary. Florida ranks 38th among the 50 states in average teacher salary and is about \$8,400 below the national average.
- Florida has more than 324,683 full-time public school employees, including 192,464 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 2011-2012 basic operating budget for K-12 public education – as provided through the Florida Education Finance Program – is nearly \$16.6 billion. This provides an average of about \$6,225 per student. Florida ranks 36th among the 50 states in per pupil operating expenditures and is more than \$1,213 below the national average.
- Based on 2011-2012 appropriations, this year Florida will spend approximately \$92,200,000 each school day to operate its public schools.
- The Lottery provided more than \$1.3 billion to the Education Enhancement Trust Fund in 2010 - 2011 with more than \$569 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 44%.
- According to the 2011 FCAT results, 1,600 schools received a performance grade of A – 86 more than 2010; 663 schools received a B – 19 more than 2010; 516 schools received a C – 34 fewer than 2010; 140 schools received a D – 10 fewer than 2010; and 34 schools received an F – 16 fewer than 2010. Of those schools receiving a performance grade, 94.1% received an A, B, or C.
- There are more than 4,200 public schools in Florida. Florida ranks 20th among the 50 states in average student-to-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 about \$21 million, a middle school costs about \$34 million, and a high school costs about \$75 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, 26 are appointed by their school board and 41 are elected by their community.