

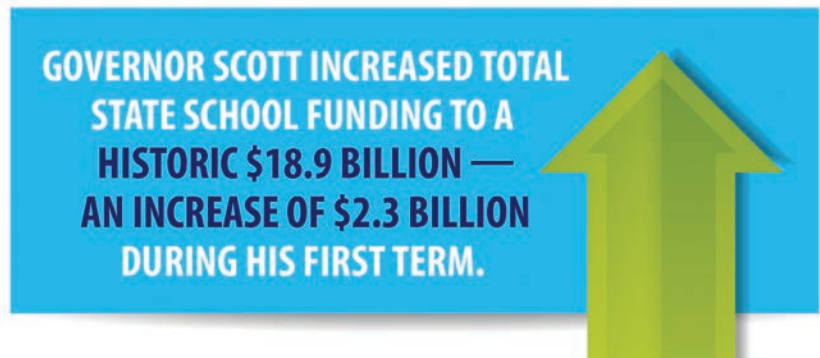
LET'S KEEP FLORIDA LEARNING









RICK SCOTT

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The fundamental goal of Florida's K-12 education system is to prepare our students for future success in college and careers. Prioritizing investments in education and achieving measurable results for students and teachers are critical to the future of Florida. Every Floridian wants the same three things: for government not to increase the cost of living, the opportunity to get a job, and the opportunity to get a good education.



Governor Scott's vision to improve K-12 public education in Florida focuses on the following six goals:

-  Be #1 in the nation for rewarding and recognizing great teachers
-  Be #1 in the nation for student performance by expecting all of our students to perform at, or above grade level in math and reading
-  Be #1 in the nation for high school graduation rates
-  Be #1 in the nation for students earning industry certifications
-  Be #1 in the nation for quality school choice options
-  Be #1 in the nation for the number of high school students that earn college credit while enrolled in high school

★ Continue to champion historic and strategic education funding investments

Governor Scott made education a top priority during his first term. This year's \$18.9 billion budget for public schools represents an all-time high level of funding that no other Governor achieved. Governor Scott also championed and secured the first-ever funds dedicated specifically for teacher pay raises in 2013. His prioritization of education will continue during his second term by championing an all-time high per pupil funding level of \$7,176, a \$239 per student increase over this year's budget. By contrast, Charlie Crist cut total state school funding by \$1.4 billion when he was Governor. Governor Scott inherited a mess from Charlie Crist, but by focusing on fixing Florida's economy and providing a good education, he has achieved historic funding and results for our public schools.

Governor Scott's top education priority in his second term is securing historic state funding and per student funding levels for Florida's public schools.

This would equate to a total of \$19.6 billion, which means \$7,176 per student - a \$239 per student increase over this school year and a \$50 increase over the 2007-08 per student funding level, prior to Governor Crist's cuts. Florida's economy is recovering at a pace and level that will permit this type of historic investment.

IN ADDITION, GOVERNOR SCOTT WILL PROPOSE TO:

- Double down on Florida's investment in digital learning initiatives for school districts from \$40 million to \$80 million
- Increase school safety by \$10 million to over \$74 million
- Increase funds for the Just Read, Florida! Office to create a competitive and innovative research based reading grant program (\$5 million)
- Create a Math Counts Initiative (\$10 million) to further ensure struggling math students are successful



★ Continue to support our teachers and students as they transition to the new Florida standards

Governor Scott will continue to protect Florida from the federal government's overreach in education policy by opposing federal intrusion and maintaining local control of our classrooms by rejecting a top-down, Washington, D.C. management of Florida schools. Federal intrusion in Florida's state student assessment was eliminated when Governor Scott demanded Florida withdraw from PARCC. Governor Scott signed legislation to:



Rick Scott is the first and only Florida Governor to champion and secure funds specifically for teacher pay raises to the tune of \$480 million.

- Provide each district school board the final responsibility for all instructional materials adopted by the district and utilized in the classroom
- Require that school boards hold a public hearing to receive public comment on recommended instructional materials
- Eliminate all references to the term "Common Core" standards in Florida law
- Prohibit school districts and schools from using a student's social security number to enroll in school to maintain the privacy of students and their families
- Eliminate the collection of biometric information by our schools and school districts

Governor Scott will continue to champion local control of Florida's education system during his second term.

He believes all Floridians are best served by preserving state and local control over our public education system. He will create an independent Florida Standards review committee with at least eleven members, including the Commissioner of Education, legislators, members of the public, teachers, superintendents, school board members and higher education representatives. The members will reflect the diverse views and opinions that Floridians have regarding education in Florida today. The committee, at a minimum, will review further deregulation opportunities for the school system, instructional material review processes used by school boards, identify strategies to increase parental involvement and review the implementation of the Florida Standards and the Florida Standards Assessment.

Governor Scott will direct the Commissioner of Education to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation of every standardized test

that school districts are requiring their students to take – including the reason why students are required to take the test, how much time is given for the test, student promotion decisions based on test results, what grade levels and types of students take the test, when the test is given, and whether test results are provided to the teacher and/or students. The state only requires students take the Florida Standards Assessment or specific end-of-course exams for high school courses.



Governor Scott is dedicated to providing financial rewards to Florida's highest performing teachers.

Governor Scott plans to double down on the amount paid the teachers of the year selected by each school district. In addition, Governor Scott will expand the current Macy's Teacher of the Year Award Program by increasing the amount of the financial awards **from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for Florida's top teacher of the year, provide every school district teacher of the year with a \$10,000 award and increase the current \$5,000 to \$15,000 for the four finalists.**

Additionally, Governor Scott would like to provide **the school-related employee of the year in each district** (school secretary, administrative assistant, teacher's aide, custodian, bus driver, etc.) with a \$5,000 award.



FLORIDA'S TEACHERS DESERVE MORE

Governor Scott understands the value and importance of Florida's teachers.

**IN GOVERNOR SCOTT'S FIRST TERM, HE INCREASED
TEACHER PAY RAISES BY SECURING \$480 MILLION
AND IN HIS NEXT TERM, GOVERNOR SCOTT WILL:**

Increase financial awards for Florida's Macy's teacher of the year program and created new financial awards for all school district's top principle, assistant principle, and school related employee.

Create a paid residency program to train excellent STEM teachers



Paid Residency Program to Train Excellent STEM Teachers

Governor Scott will create a program to recognize the best STEM teachers by partnering with high-tech, private-sector companies that will offer highly effective STEM teachers across the state an opportunity to have meaningful, in-house experiences during the summer. With private-sector partners, companies will act as hosts for Florida's outstanding STEM teachers. The selected teachers will receive a stipend of \$10,000 from the state and participating companies will be encouraged to provide additional compensation to teachers. When these teachers return to the classroom in the fall, they will be able to share their knowledge and experiences with their students. This is a win-win program for students, teachers, and private business partners and will benefit students as they begin to prepare for long-lasting STEM careers.

★ Enhance school choice options for Florida's families

Governor Rick Scott will continue to pursue viable school choice options to provide our parents with as many educational choices as possible to truly meet the needs of their children.

Governor Scott will continue the expansion of quality school choice programs, including more options for families that have children with disabilities. Governor Scott will expand the list of disabilities that are eligible for the Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts. Governor Scott will also continue to support initiatives that strengthen traditional public schools including supporting a budget recommendation to allow private businesses and companies to receive tax credits for financial donations made to public schools. Currently, businesses can only receive a tax credit for donations made to a private school. Florida's public schools need the ability to create and strengthen their choice programs to further ensure they are meeting the educational needs of each student.

Invest \$20 million in new funds to enhance our Technical Education Centers

Governor Scott proposes creating a \$20 million rapid response start-up grant program for technical centers to further ensure they are offering career certificate programs that are directly linked to local workforce needs and demands. The mission of Florida's Workforce Education System is to help ensure Florida has the skilled workforce needed to grow and diversify its economy. For students in workforce education programs, the goal is employment in demand occupations. Florida's workforce education programs need to be aligned to the occupations with employment opportunities in current, new and emerging industries. Types of programs currently offered include: automotive service technology, cyber security, cloud virtualization, advanced manufacturing, welding and pharmacy technicians.



K-12 Public School Performance Highlights

The National Council on Teacher Quality has twice ranked Florida's teacher quality policies best in the nation.

Florida jumped from 11th to 6th in the nation for educational quality in 2013.

The percentage of Florida's Hispanic and African-American 4th and 8th grade students scoring at or above Basic in reading is significantly higher than the nation. This is also true for Florida's 4th grade Hispanic and African-American mathematics students.

Florida's graduation rate has risen by more than 5 percentage points since 2010-11, and by more than 15.4 percentage points over the past decade.

Florida has the highest graduation rate in the nation for Hispanic students.

Florida placed 5th in the nation for percentage of 2013 graduates who succeeded on AP exams.

Florida ranks 2nd in the nation for participation in AP courses.

In the past decade, the number of Florida graduates participating in AP courses has more than doubled, the number of low-income graduates taking AP has increased tenfold.

Florida's 4th grade students are among the best in the world in reading.

In 2013, Florida was the only state in the nation to narrow the achievement gap between White and African American students at both grades 4th and 8th, in both reading and mathematics.

The percentage of 4th and 8th grade students with disabilities scoring at or above Basic on NAEP is higher than that of their national peers in both reading and math. Also, Florida's grade 4th and grade 8th students with disabilities scored at or above Proficient in reading and scored higher than their national counterparts.

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