



The FEA remains committed to a Decade of Progress for public education — for the sake of our students, our communities and this state’s future. The pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge, but that must not deter progress for our students and Florida’s schools.

This year, educators see **5 critical priorities** essential for our students and communities.

- **Investment:** Our state should maintain and expand financial investments in public school employees and infrastructure.
  - Fully fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation to ensure that districts can continue to raise salaries for not only new teachers, but veteran teachers and other instructional personnel who invest daily in our children’s education.
  - Educational support employees – bus drivers, teacher’s aides, janitors, and cafeteria workers – also play a pivotal role in student’s learning, yet districts are facing critical shortage in these positions as well. Providing districts adequate funding will go a long way towards filling these crucial positions.
- **Multi-year teaching contracts:** Permit school districts to offer extended contracts for proven, experienced, and highly effective teachers. If teachers are allowed to earn multi-year contracts, it will create a more stable workforce, save the state money, and improve instruction — everyone wins.
- **FRS:** A strong and robust pension system is an essential element in retaining qualified educators. The people who devote their careers to our students deserve a decent retirement.
- **Accountability:** We need to re-think the goals and outcomes of the high stakes testing and accountability system we have in Florida, dropping high stakes standardized tests in favor of formative assessment and learning.
  - High stakes standardized testing disrupts students’ time for learning.
  - We need to maximize time in the classroom on direct instruction, rather than prepping and administering high stakes tests in the wake of a global pandemic. Many students fell behind with the spring disruption of learning in 2019 and are still struggling to catch up as they toiled through the 2020 school year. Let’s not take away even more instructional time for weeks and weeks of needless testing and test prep.
- **Local control:** Local school boards must be empowered to make decisions that support all students and schools in the district. From hiring to spending, local school boards, with input from parents and educators, know what’s best for the students they educate.

