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**Sent time:** Wednesday, November 16, 2011 6:33:09 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: 11/16/11 Education Round-Up

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FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Higgins, Deborah  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2011 10:06 AM  
**Subject:** 11/16/11 Education Round-Up

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**[11 states seek relief from No Child Left Behind](#)**  
(Associated Press © 11/16/2011)

Posted on Tue, Nov. 15, 2011 11 states seek relief from No Child Left Behind The Associated Press The Education Department says Tuesday that 11 states have sought a waiver around unpopular proficiency requirements in the No Child Left Behind education law. Monday was the deadline for the first round of applications, but a majority of states are expected to apply in future rounds. Pre...

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**[School App Keeps Parents in Loop](#)**  
(Education Week/Digital Directions Blog © 11/16/2011)

By Kim Archer, Tulsa World, Okla. (MCT) Imagine checking your child's school grades and lunch menu, and then emailing the principal with a quick tap—all from a dedicated application on your smartphone. Even better, the app is free. School districts across Oklahoma are snapping up the free apps, while many across the country and Canada are inquiring about getting a mobile applicatio...

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### [KIPP Charter Network Receives \\$25.5 Million From Walton Family Foundation](#)

(Education Week/District Dossier © 11/16/2011)

By Christina Samuels on November 15, 2011 9:22 AM | 5 Recommendations The Walton Family Foundation is announcing its plans today to donate \$25.5 million to the Knowledge is Power Program, or KIPP, charter network. The Bentonville, Arkansas-based foundation, created by Wal-Mart founders Sam and Helen Walton, has been a longtime supporter of KIPP schools. But this award is the foundation's lar...

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### [A new FCAT will cause some confusion](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/16/2011)

There's a popular saying these days, "We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go." That could be attached to the accountability movement in public education in Florida. Not so long ago, schools did not have grades. And there was nothing to prevent grade inflation on a student level, either. Then came Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. He led the march to provide accountability and transparency in ...

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### [Danger: Legislature is in session](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/16/2011)

Spinning around the news dial ... click. The most dangerous time for Floridians — when the Legislature is in session — is upon us earlier than usual. That's because the legislative redistricting exercise that comes every 10 years will have the session kick off in January instead of the spring. So enjoy the holidays and then hold on. Click. Past Legislatures have already screwed up Florida's proper...

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### [Ex-Endeavour principal accused of DUI, resisting arrest](#)

(Florida Today © 11/16/2011)

A former principal of Endeavour Elementary faces multiple charges after being accused of DUI Saturday in Cocoa Beach. Betsy Butler, 43, of Cape Canaveral faces a third-degree felony charge of resisting arrest with violence in addition to driving under the influence, a second-degree misdemeanor. She also is charged with resisting arrest without violence, a first-degree misdemeanor. She was releas...

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### [State university system leader: Wait until 2013 for major changes](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 11/16/2011)

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE - The head of Florida's state university system said Tuesday he wants to wait a full year before taking up major changes to how the state universities are funded. A push to tie the performance of state universities — such as their graduation and job placement rates — to their funding was ignited earlier this year by Gov. Rick Scott, who wants to make changes to highe...

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### [College results under review](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/16/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott has spent the past six weeks hinting at higher education reform, highlighting his intention to turn around Florida's state universities. FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw, however, doesn't see a system in need of an overhaul, only fine-tuning. Scott gave 11 state university presidents until Tuesday to present data showing they're doing a good job. Presidents were asked how they trac...

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### [Congress wants fries back in school lunch](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/16/2011)

Congress wants pizza and french fries to stay in school lunch lines and is fighting the Obama administration's efforts to take such foods out of schools. The final version of a spending bill would unravel school lunch standards the Agriculture Department proposed earlier this year. These include limiting the use of potatoes on the lunch line, putting new restrictions on sodium and boosting the us...

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#### [State university system leader: Wait until 2013 for major changes](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/16/2011)

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE - The head of Florida's state university system said Tuesday he wants to wait a full year before taking up major changes to how the state universities are funded. A push to tie the performance of state universities ? such as their graduation and job placement rates ? to their funding was ignited earlier this year by Gov. Rick Scott, who wants to make changes to higher edu...

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#### [After new law, adult education enrollment drops](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/16/2011)

In the four months since Florida began charging tuition for adult education programs, enrollment has dropped dramatically, prompting concern from some lawmakers that the Legislature may have gone too far. Since requiring not only tuition, but also documentation to determine residency, enrollment in adult education classes offered at colleges has dropped 45 percent and enrollment offered through s...

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#### [Push is on to get students excited about science](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/16/2011)

By the time Halley's comet is visible from Earth in 2061, all Americans should be science-literate, according to leading science educators. University of Florida education researchers hope to shift the learning curve toward the sciences by implementing a new curriculum to help middle school students in rural districts learn science and math using \$5 million from the National Science Foundation...

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#### [Florida loan defaults unacceptably high](#)

(Highlands Today © 11/16/2011)

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel on state student loan debt: At Orlando's Centura Institute, a private health-care career college, 26 percent of students whose loans came due in 2009 had defaulted by the end of 2010, according to recent federal statistics. That means one in four face financial ruin â?? wrecked credit, docked wages and no more aid if they go back to school. The statistics on loan defaults a...

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#### [School district should drop Facebook policy](#)

(Highlands Today © 11/16/2011)

In an attempt to do the right thing, the Highlands County School District did exactly the wrong thing with its attempt to write some kind of policy policing teachers interacting with students using social media such as Facebook. It's a faulty idea and one the district needs to scrap. The district worked for a long time, putting together a policy regarding teachers "friending" students on Facebook....

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#### [Board Approves Lofty Plans for State's Universities](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/16/2011)

LAKELAND | The board in charge of Florida's universities on Tuesday released a new plan that aims to boost the number of students receiving degrees, raise the bar for faculty, expand high-demand programs and aggressively go after the money to pay for it. "The Strategic Planning Committee worked on an aggressive timetable to produce the document by year-end," said Kelly Layman, a spokeswoman fo...

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### [Balanced Budget Needed Each Year](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/16/2011)

By JEFF ATWATER Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 12:44 a.m. The U.S. Constitution begins "We the People." We are responsible for electing our representatives, we must hold them accountable for following the Constitution and, when necessary, we must act to protect our country and our children's opportunity for success. Our country is at a breaking point. For far too long we hav...

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### [Coconut Grove charter school gets reprieve](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/16/2011)

The Miami-Dade School Board won't close the troubled Academy of Arts & Minds charter school — for now. District officials threatened to close Arts & Minds earlier this month after the school failed to deliver some special-education services. The school was also criticized for charging parents illegal fees. School district spokesman John Schuster said Arts & Minds had come into complian...

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### [National teachers union takes over Broward chapter](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/16/2011)

The power of the Broward Teachers Union no longer rests in the hands of President Pat Santeramo. Instead, an administrator appointed by the national union will take over for the next six months. Following a tense, three-hour meeting late Tuesday, the union's executive board voted to accept an offer from the American Federation of Teachers to have an administrator step in, as Santeramo deals with tw...

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### [New \\$30M fund to help Florida charter schools](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/16/2011)

The state has established a \$30 million fund to entice successful charter school operators to open new schools or expand existing ones to serve 15,000 more low-income children statewide. Charter School Growth Fund and Florida Department of Education officials said only successful charter schools serving low-income students, and which have the capaci...

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### [Hungry, poor — Fern Creek still defies the odds](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/16/2011)

Patrick Galatowitsch knew someone had to speak on behalf of his students. Most are so poor they can't afford their own lunch. Many are homeless. So with a room full of corporate and political bigwigs, the principal of Fern Creek Elementary School climbed onto the stage of his school's aging auditorium Monday afternoon and told the crowd something they all needed to hear: Thank you. That's right...

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### [Florida must attract top math teachers to middle schools](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/16/2011)

Florida's schools should prepare our children for the new economy. That doesn't just mean that our best students should have the skills necessary to pursue careers in science and engineering. It also means that those who aren't going to college should have the math skills needed to hold jobs on a modern assembly line. The New York Times reported last year that many such jobs were difficult to fi...

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### [Florida must attract top math teachers to middle schools](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/16/2011)

By Paul Cottle | Guest columnist 7:42 PM EST, November 15, 2011 Advertisement Florida's schools should prepare our children for the new economy. That doesn't just mean that our best students should have the skills necessary to pursue careers in science and engineering. It also means that those who aren't going to college should have the math skills needed to hold jobs on a mo...

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### [Mom accused of helping daughter beat up another student bonds out of jail](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 11/16/2011)

ORANGE COUNTY, Fla. — An Orange County mother accused of storming into a middle school cafeteria and helping her child beat up another student has bonded out of jail. Deputies said the fight broke out Tuesday when 29-year-old Leslie Thomas teamed up with her 12-year-old daughter at Lockhart Middle School. Both mother and daughter were arrested, and the mother was charged with battery, c...

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### [Tuition cost takes toll on adult ed](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 11/16/2011)

TALLAHASSEE ? In the four months since Florida began charging tuition for adult education programs, enrollment has dropped dramatically, prompting concern from some lawmakers that the Legislature may have gone too far. Since requiring tuition and documentation to determine residency, enrollment in adult education classes offered at colleges has dropped 45 percent and enrollment offered through so...

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### [Our View: Common sense teacher pay](#)

(Sarasota East County Observer © 11/16/2011)

The ongoing controversy over teacher merit pay is understandable. After all, teachers have been allowed to get pay raises and maintain job security each year with almost no accountability. But frustration with the inability to get rid of bad teachers and reward good teachers has led most people outside the education establishment to conclude that teachers should be held to the same sta...

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### [Panel clears state pension fund](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/16/2011)

TALLAHASSEE - A state panel concluded Monday that Florida's massive pension fund did nothing wrong when it hired a company with ties to the fund's executive director. Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater asked an advisory panel last month to look into a decision by the state to invest \$125 million with a firm that specializes in shaking up o...

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### [School shows honor veterans](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/16/2011)

McIntosh Middle School, Sarasota Military Academy and Sarasota High School recently partnered to host multiple celebrations honoring local veterans. Jill Rothenburg organized the celebration at McIntosh Middle School. Rothenburg welcomed more than 100 veterans. "I am just so proud of our veterans and our school," said Rothenburg, whose father was...

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### [Florida private universities best for higher ed](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/16/2011)

In reading Scott Travis' story about the college student "brain drain," I found the idea of Florida high school students going out of state for private higher education unsettling.

As president of Florida's first private university, I feel the best place to attend college for most of our best and brightest students is right here in Florida. Private higher education in Florida is an excellent opti...

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#### [Net price calculators add confusion to college costs](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/16/2011)

When it comes to estimating the cost of college, sticker shock may now be replaced with sticker confusion. Colleges and universities are now required to include a "net price calculator" on their web sites to help people figure out costs. Because of financial aid, most people don't actually pay full price and this is supposed to offer a more realistic estimate. Often, however, the figures aren't ...

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#### [Brogan: Wait until 2013 to make major changes to university system](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 11/16/2011)

By LILLY ROCKWELL Copyright 2011 . All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. November 16, 2011 - 12:01am Brogan: Wait until 2013 to make major changes to university system News Service of Florida TALLAHASSEE — The head of Florida's state university system said Tuesday he wants to wait a full year before taking up major changes to how the st...

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#### [Eckerd College explores idea of converting Mississippi riverboats into student dorms](#)

(St. Pete Times © 11/16/2011)

ST. PETERSBURG — Eckerd College is floating an unusual idea for student housing: Two Mississippi riverboats. The concept is still in its exploratory stages, but two cruising barges that operated along the Mississippi River for 10 years recently "became available at a very attractive price," said Bill McKenna, Eckerd's director of planning, development and construction. "Both boats would..."

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#### [In compromise over new system, Hillsborough teacher to be evaluated by two peers](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/16/2011)

LITHIA — Newsome High School teacher Joseph Thomas was taken off suspension Tuesday in a compromise that ends the first public act of resistance against the Hillsborough County School District's Empowering Effective Teachers project. "I'm back at school tomorrow," said Thomas, who teaches social studies. The 18-year veteran had refused to meet with a peer evaluator whose background was mos...

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#### [Credibility key to Hillsborough's teacher evaluation process](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/16/2011)

The Hillsborough County school district is moving in the right direction by instituting peer review as part of its process for evaluating the performance of classroom teachers. But the district's case against a teacher who says the process is flawed should remind school officials to be open and sensible in carrying out these reforms. The district suspended Joseph Thomas after the 43-year-old high...

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#### [Growing poverty is an education problem too](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/16/2011)

New data from the U.S. Census and the Pasco School District affirm the harsh realities facing thousands of Pasco families. Over the past 10 years, there were double-digit increases in the number of people living in poverty in portions of the county. Even more eye-opening is that more than half of the children countywide now qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch each day in public school. H...

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[Legislators give Gov. Rick Scott's jobs czar an earful over incentive deals](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/16/2011)

By Michael C. Bender, Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau In Print: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 -----  
xPrintEmailPostRepublishStory Tools Comments (16) Contact the editor Email Newsletters Social Bookmarking ShareThis ADVERTISEMENT ADVERTISEMENT Politics & Campaigns Sexton Elementary students g...

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[Occupy the schools](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/16/2011)

This is American Education Week. It's when we celebrate the institution that politicians use as a target the other 51 weeks of the year. It's the week we pretend there is still respect for the same American public school system that is used as the whipping boy for every ill in society. It also is "Teach-In" time; the week when people from varying professions spend an hour or so in classrooms t...

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[Admissions 101: Are the SAT and ACT to blame for the inferiority of U.S. schools compared to those Finland, Japan, Singapore, and Shanghai?](#)

(Washington Post/ Class Struggle © 11/16/2011)

In his new book "Surpassing Shanghai" comparing U.S. schools to those in countries (and the city of Shanghai) where students outperform us on international tests, Marc S. Tucker notes that they nearly all share one approach to college admissions that is different from ours. They don't use machine-scored exams controlled by testing companies as the key to determining who is admitted to high-level...

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[Redefining the Classroom Walls for Professional Growth](#)

(Education Week © 11/15/2011)

By Megan Allen Teaching is a roller coaster, full of highs and lows. There are moments when you feel like you are on top of the world because you know you are making a difference in the life of a child. At other times, you may be tempted to crawl underneath your desk, feeling like half the teacher you should be for your students. Both the highs and lows happen to nearly all of us. I e...

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[Future Farmers Look Ahead](#)

(New York Times © 11/15/2011)

By MOTOKO RICH INDIANAPOLIS — Gamaliel Rizzo grew up in a brownstone apartment in Brooklyn and is studying to become a doctor. Still, he spent his high school years learning how to raise chinchillas, goats and alpaca and growing radishes, sunflowers and cilantro. He even worked on a dairy farm in the summer, all as a member of the Future Farmers of America. Although the nation has shifted eve...

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[Proposed FCAT changes could dramatically impact school grades](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/14/2011)

Proposed achievement levels for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test would dramatically change school grades in the state, potentially tripling the number of F schools while providing a more gradual increase in difficulty as students matriculate. The proposal would give Florida the most rigorous state exam in the country, said Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals, who...

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NAPLES — The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida calls it a "quibble" over two words: education records. But the Collier County School Board maintains it must protect students' rights to privacy under federal and state laws — or face the loss of federal education dollars. What began as a legal battle to obtain details about how school officials dealt with 10 North Naples Middle School stud...

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Have a nice day!

*Deborah*

