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**Sent time:** Monday, November 28, 2011 10:15:34 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: 11-24-11 through 11-28-11 Education Round Up

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FYI – have a great week! ☺

Sincerely,

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**From:** Etters, Cheryl  
**Sent:** Monday, November 28, 2011 2:11 PM  
**Subject:** 11-24-11 through 11-28-11 Education Round Up

## Department of Education News Clips

November 28, 2011



[Duval County School Board stalls on 'priority one' for robust review](#)  
(Florida Times-Union © 11/28/2011)

It's all about Stanton and Paxon. Duval County School Board members nodded their heads in agreement when a board member suggested Tuesday the rancor over a magnet neighborhood preference policy was really about parents' desires to get their children into Stanton College Preparatory School and Paxon School for Advanced Studies. After a series of public meetings and months of anticipation, the S...

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[FSCJ program helps high school students get diploma, college credit](#)  
(Florida Times-Union © 11/28/2011)

An aspiring Army Ranger, 17-year-old Monte Rist knows how easily he might have become a statistic. Dropping out of Ed White High School last December, Rist realized he had to do something to avoid the dead end of being a dropout. "I knew I needed some form of education. ... If I wasn't here, I'd probably be flipping burgers at McDonald's for the rest of my life," Rist said. Rist is among 94 high sch...

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[The other student loan problem: too little debt](#)

(Ft. Myers-WINK (CBS) © 11/28/2011)

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) - Jesse Yeh uses the University of California-Berkeley library instead of buying textbooks. He scrounges for free food at campus events and occasionally skips meals. He's stopped exercising and sleeps five to six hours per night so he can take 21 credits - a course load so heavy he had to get special permission from a dean. The only thing he won't do: take o...

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[Florida Colleges Set Lofty Long-term Goals](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/28/2011)

TAMPA | In the next 13 years, the state university system should increase the number of degrees it awards by almost 70 percent, have at least five of its 11 universities ranked in the top 50 nationally, and grow its adult-student enrollment and online courses. Those are just some of the goals outlined in the new strategic plan for the Florida Board ...

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[Legislators want Commissioner of Education to be elected position](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/28/2011)

Two legislators have filed a proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution that would return the appointed post of commissioner of education to an elected one. The commissioner and the Department of Education have been directly under direction of the governor's office since 2003. State Rep. Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, and Sen. Joe Negron, R-Stuart,...

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[Teachers wear bracelets to raise awareness about new evaluation criteria](#)

(Northwest Florida Daily News © 11/28/2011)

Some educators in Okaloosa County are sporting a new accessory to raise awareness about changing teacher evaluation systems. For the last month or so, the Okaloosa County Education Association has been passing out red rubber bracelets with a complex mathematical formula on them. That formula is part of what will be used to determine how much a teacher gets paid beginning in the 2012-13 school year...

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[School boards coalition gives unified voice](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/28/2011)

Seven years ago, a group of Central Florida school boards formed a coalition in hopes of creating a unified voice to fight for education and influence state lawmakers. The Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition has since expanded to include 10 school districts and nearly 850,000 students — about one-third of the state's public school...

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[Editorial: An early start being cut short](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/28/2011)

It is a paradox of public education that by the time some children get to grade school it is already too late to begin to educate them. Indeed the more we learn about the development of the human brain, the more apparent it is that early childhood education is crucial to instilling lifelong learning habits. "Brain connections develop especial...

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### [Nonprofit programs in Palm Beach County fight bullying with books](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/28/2011)

As the Palm Beach County School District tries to reduce incidents of students bullying each other in county schools, two nonprofits have teamed up to also take on the mission of trying to tackle bullying — by reading to children. The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County last month kicked off the second year of its Turning Bullies into Buddies program at 10 sites that serve children, suc...

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### [Black student study in Pinellas won't happen after all](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/28/2011)

After a long, slow demise, a proposed and some said promising research study into low black student achievement in Pinellas County is finally being taken off life support. Interim Pinellas superintendent John Stewart said recently that he's "not going to breathe any life into it," but also said whether it was totally dead depended on the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Flori...

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### [University Presidents Respond to Scott With Document Dump](#)

(Sunshine State News © 11/28/2011)

Frank Brogan and Gov. Rick Scott | Credit: Gage Skidmore - FlickrPublic university leaders, through thousands of pages of answers that include backup academic studies and appendixes, have replied to Gov. Rick Scott's request to outline what the schools are doing to ensure graduates meet the need of Florida employers. The presidents of the state's 11 public universities were given until last wee...

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### [Five myths about student loans Commentary](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 11/28/2011)

Here are five popular myths about student loans: 1. Forgiving student loan debt would help stimulate the economy. People who want all student loan debt forgiven argue that getting rid of monthly loan payments would lead to increased consumer spending, thereby providing a quick boost to the struggling U.S. economy. However, only about 40 percent of all outstanding student loan debt is actively ...

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### [Black Colleges Survival Hinges On Unity, Collaboration, Panelists Say](#)

(University Business © 11/28/2011)

If historically black colleges are going to survive, they're going to have to step up their collaboration, not only with schools and communities but also with one another, a panel of educators and policymakers said Friday in New Orleans. Three of the four speakers emphasized the importance of working with high schools and community colleges to prepare students academically and to ease the transiti...

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### [Big expansion, big questions for Teach for America](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 11/27/2011)

AP Education Writer In a distressed neighborhood north of Miami's gleaming downtown, a group of enthusiastic but inexperienced instructors from Teach for America is trying to make progress where more veteran teachers have had difficulty: raising students' reading and math scores. "These are the lowest performing schools, so we need the strongest performing teachers," said Julian Davenport, ...

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### [Amid tight budgets, classes in humanities defended](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 11/27/2011)

Associated Press HARTFORD, Conn. — Like many humanities advocates, Abbey Drane was disheartened but not surprised when Florida's governor recently said its tax dollars should bolster science and high-tech studies, not "educate more people who can't get jobs in anthropology." Drane, a 21-year-old anthropology major at the University

of Massachusetts-Amherst, has ...

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#### [Edison State College safest campus in Florida](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/27/2011)

Edison State College freshman Shakerrah Walls often studies on campus after dark. She's never encountered any shady characters hiding behind the bushes or other uncomfortable situations. "I feel very safe here," said Walls, an 18-year-old psychology major from Lehigh Acres. She has every reason to feel that way. Last week, Edison State was named as the 10th safest college campus in America and...

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#### [Editorial: Petty politics](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/27/2011)

There is an old saying in higher education circles: "The politics are so vicious because the stakes are so small." These days that comes uncomfortably close to describing Alachua County's School Board. Once again the School Board majority has denied Eileen Roy — the longest continuously serving board member — a leadership p...

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#### [Sebastian River High School junior selected Sunshine State Scholar](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 11/27/2011)

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY —Caroline Colbert, a junior at Sebastian River High School, has been selected as the 2011-2012 Indian River County Sunshine State Scholar and Travis Moody, a junior at Vero Beach High School, has been selected as the alternate. The Sunshine State Scholars Program began in 1997 through the efforts of a group of Florida educators with experience in school districts, the Department...

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#### [Ind. school takeover creates headaches for parents](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 11/27/2011)

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's takeover of five troubled public schools is creating headaches for some parents who are eager to see the curriculum plans of the private companies that were chosen to oversee the schools. The state's contract with Florida-based Charter Schools USA, for example, will likely be approved and released next spring, meaning details about its planned curriculum next year...

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#### [Palm Beach school employees report 'toxic brew' of stress, want causes targeted](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/27/2011)

Updated: 4:04 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011 Posted: 3:58 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011 Workplace stress has become a "toxic brew" for Palm Beach County School District employees, according to the major unions representing them in contract negotiations with the district. The unions cite factors ranging from the lack of raises and m...

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#### [Florida's universities say they've passed the performance test](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/27/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott had a lot of questions about the state's 11 universities. Now he has received answers that rival "War and Peace," in their size. Scott asked the schools 17 questions ranging from how productive faculty members are to how well students are prepared for the workforce when they leave. The University of Florida turned in a 750-page report while Florida State University submitted a 38...

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[Teacher who 'swatted' two boys is on unpaid leave](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/27/2011)

BROOKSVILLE — One boy pushed, the second boy punched, and the teacher swatted both of their bottoms without thinking about it. That is how Pine Grove Elementary School teacher Vicki Laster later recounted an Oct. 12 incident on the playground that has earned her a formal letter of reprimand from superintendent Bryan Blavatt, according to district investigation documents. Laster, 50, has a...

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[Rising tuition, Occupy spark new campus activism](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 11/27/2011)

TAMPA – Dani Leppo planned to keep her head down, study and finish as fast as possible when she transferred from St. Petersburg College to the University of South Florida this year. But as she crossed campus one day, she saw a group of people holding signs saying tuition was going up 15 percent. An activist was born. "We can barely pay our bills," Leppo said, "and here they are..."

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[School-bus ads could help raise cash](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/26/2011)

School buses could become rolling billboards that help pay for education under a proposal to the Legislature. State Rep. Irv Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, proposes changing state law to give school districts the option of selling advertising on school buses to help raise money. There are 22,000 school buses in Florida, and Slosberg estimates that through advertising they could raise \$100 milli...

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[Nonprofits fight bullying with books](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/26/2011)

Updated: 8:58 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 Posted: 8:54 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 As the Palm Beach County School District tries to reduce incidents of students bullying each other in county schools, two nonprofits have teamed up to also take on the mission of trying to tackle bullying - by reading to children. The Literacy Coalition of Palm B...

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[Hernando schools can't afford buses to day care](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/26/2011)

The public shouldn't be surprised by the Hernando School District's attempts to scrimp and save, and the practice of providing courtesy transportation to clients of for-profit businesses is the latest spending to be scrutinized. In this case, however, the clients are school children and the businesses are day care centers. The district provides bus transportation between schools and the centers e...

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[Board rejects 4 charter school applications](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/26/2011)

LAND O' LAKES - The Pasco County School Board has rejected applications from four charter schools that had hoped to open in August. A fifth charter school applicant — Abacus Math, Science and Technology Academy — withdrew its application prior to the Tuesday evening board meeting, but Superintendent Heather Fiorentino and her staff had recommended that application be denied as well. The applic...

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[Close call](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/26/2011)

On Wednesday, the 1st District Court of Appeal refused to dismiss a lawsuit that argues that the level of funding for public education falls short of the provision in the state constitution that requires Florida to have a "uniform, efficient, safe, secure and high quality system of free public schools." The court ruling allowing the suit to continue was joined by only eight of 15 judges on the app...

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#### [Hazing scandal leaves a dark cloud over FAMU](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/25/2011)

2 cents The Florida A&M band is the only college band in America that dwarfs the football team — to the point where FAMU football coaches understand that they're going to have to swallow a few delay-of-game penalties to start the second half of home games because the band played past its allotted time. That's why shutting down the Marching 100 while an incident that resulted in the death of dr...

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#### [Editorial: The special challenges, opportunities with charter schools](#)

(Marco Island News © 11/25/2011)

The fundamental idea behind charter schools in Florida is innovation — while still being under the umbrella of public school systems. Local school boards remain accountable. Collier County is poised to double its number of charter schools from three to six, though Collier still would lag the charter movement statewide and regionally, with 459 and 26 in Lee County respectively. A Collier County ...

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#### [High standards help student excel](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/25/2011)

Florida's teachers and students have accomplished a great deal over the past decade. These education efforts are a product of the commitment from parents, mentors, counselors, teachers and countless others who take the time to develop students' potential. Our job as policymakers is to help students learn to meet or exceed the expectations we have for them. To provide that road map, w...

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#### [Number of Palm Beach County students in school without permanent homes on rise](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/25/2011)

It was as if they all had figured out his secret - that somehow the discussion was about him, about his family. He could sense the eyes of every other kid in the room on him. Every time his history teacher said "homeless," he'd sink lower, finally putting his head on his desk. "I felt like they were talking about me," said Austin, 16. During the summer, Au...

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#### [Make college affordable](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/25/2011)

Soaring student debt is a problem that only Congress can answer. Until it acts, students and their families will keep falling deeper into debt. For years, state support of higher education has dropped drastically, pushing tuitions up. At the same time, most American families have seen their incomes shrink, forcing them to borrow more and more if the...

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#### [Parental demand fuels charter schools' growth in Broward](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/25/2011)

Given a choice, Broward County parents are increasingly turning to charter schools for public education. An enrollment record of nearly 30,000 students this year surely will be smashed in August, along with the possible opening of Broward's 100th charter school. This rapid growth, mirroring a national trend and pushed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott, comes as charter schools are delivering better aca...

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### [Students burdened by expanding debt](#)

(South Florida Times © 11/25/2011)

Written by CHRISTINE ARMARIO Thursday, 24 November 2011 MIAMI ? Mo Tarafa stood before students at a small, outdoor concrete auditorium at Florida International University and called for volunteers to sit in the 10 chairs before her. Each chair, she said, represented 10 percent of the wealth in the United States and 10 ...

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### [Ed H. Moore: STEM field graduates help bring new business to Florida](#)

(Stuart News © 11/25/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott's 2012 Job Creation and Economic Growth agenda includes an encouraging focus on Florida's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. Florida's higher education graduates have a huge effect on the state's business community and these programs are important to bolster a workforce that attracts new businesses to the state. We are always pleased to see a governor...

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### [Carvalho Plan Could Make All Schools Wireless](#)

(CBS 4 Miami © 11/24/2011)

MIAMI (CBSMiami.com) – Miami-Dade Superintendent Alberto Carvalho wants his schools to have wireless Internet and announced a plan Wednesday that could secure the funding needed to make his wish a reality. The plan Carvalho announced will be for the Miami-Dade community to raise \$7 million. If the community can raise the money, the federal government will match the funds on a 10-1 basis meaning ...

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### [Supreme Court Justices to Rule On School Funding Lawsuit](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/24/2011)

TALLAHASSEE | A sharply divided appellate court on Wednesday rejected a request from state officials to block a lawsuit alleging public school funding and policies fail to meet quality requirements set by the Florida Constitution. The 1st District Court of appeal, in a rare ruling by all 15 judges, also asked the Florida Supreme Court to decide if ...

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### [Ill. applies for 3rd round of Race to the Top cash](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 11/24/2011)

CHICAGO — Federal officials say Illinois has completed its application for a share of \$200 million in education funding. The U.S. Department of Education said Wednesday that Illinois is among seven states that have submitted applications in the third round of the Race to the Top program. States will split the award money based on their population. Round three of the program focuses on i...

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### [Little merit, maybe no pay](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/24/2011)

In an interview with The Palm Beach Post Editorial Board, Gov. Scott brushed aside criticism that the state's emerging teacher evaluation system is too complicated and imprecise. While gung-ho on the measuring half of the equation, he was noncommittal on the crucial second half of any merit pay plan: pay. In fact, though he ranked public education as a top priority and even offered rare praise - ...

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[Jacqueline Crighton: Race to Top grant would be great benefit to Treasure Coast children served by day care facilities](#)

(Stuart News © 11/24/2011)

As the acting chair of the board for a local nonprofit, I understand the importance of investing in the lives and experiences of our youngest children. As the manager of a local business, I understand that the returns on such investments not only benefit individual children, but the community as a whole. The Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties is a nonprofit org...

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[Anti-drug, bullying session held at Lehigh Middle School](#)

(Lehigh Acres Citizen © 11/22/2011)

Guidance Counselors Eileen Cherbini and Carmelita Hampton, along with other members of the Guidance Department at Lehigh Middle School, organized in conjunction with the School Resource Officer Tricia Aponte, the Red Ribbon Campaign to create awareness about a drug free and bullying free lifestyle. Eileen Cherbini coordinated the week's events that proved highly successful, school officials said. ...

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