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**Sent time:** Tuesday, January 03, 2012 10:03:53 AM  
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**Subject:** FW: 12-30-11 Education Round Up

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FYI Happy New Year! ☺

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

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**From:** Champion-Mongioli, Jamie  
**Sent:** Friday, December 30, 2011 8:33 AM  
**Subject:** 12-30-11 Education Round Up

## Florida Department of Education

### [Florida Legislature's full plate of hot issues](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 12/30/2011)

This year's legislative session begins early because Florida lawmakers must redraw political maps for the state Senate, the state House of Representatives and the U.S. House of Representatives. That means this year's session is scheduled to conclude early, in March. A slew of problems and a massive budget shortfall await them – again. The lawmakers must have felt they had put many of the toug...

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### [From State of the Union to Pizza as a Vegetable...A Year in Review](#)

(Ed Week - Education Politics K-12 Blog © 12/30/2011)

Maybe we should call 2011 the Year of the Waive? After all, many of the big events that headlined 2011 involved the push to reauthorize ESEA, the recognition that the legislation was indeed going nowhere, and finally the acknowledgment that the accountability landscape would temporarily but significantly change as the Obama administration granted waivers under No Child Left Behind. Meanwhile, e...

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### [How to Check for Deeper Understanding and Engage All Students](#)

(Edutopia © 12/30/2011)

served as an administrator in large and small schools, and at a charter school. He was the assistant superintendent of the Natalia Independent School District where he helped bring about major improvements in student learning. Consider the following two scenarios, though fictitious. Two different teachers teaching the same learning objectives using checking for deeper understanding as their main m...

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#### [Wide gaps seen in school discipline](#)

(Englewood Sun Herald © 12/30/2011)

WASHINGTON (Washington Post) Across the Washington area, black students are suspended and expelled two to five times as often as white students, creating disparities in discipline that experts say reflect a growing national problem. An analysis by The Washington Post shows the phenomenon both in the suburbs and in the city, from the far reaches of Southern Maryland to the subdivisions of Fairfax...

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#### [NY bill would require bachelor's degrees for RNs](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 12/30/2011)

ALBANY, N.Y. New registered nurses would have to earn bachelor's degrees within 10 years to keep working in New York under a bill lawmakers are considering as part of a national push to raise educational standards for nurses, even as the health care industry faces staffing shortages. The "BSN in 10" initiative backed by nursing associations and major health policy org...

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#### [Fort Pierce saw year of progress, setbacks](#)

(Fort Pierce Hometown News © 12/30/2011)

By Dawn Krebs [dkrebs@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:dkrebs@hometownnewsol.com) FORT PIERCE - As 2011 comes to close, looking back over the past 12 months shows the residents of Fort Pierce have experienced both the good and the bad. Here is a small sampling, in no particular order, of what city residents witnessed, as 2011 becomes part of the history books. . New PAL Center opens its doors In December, the Fort Pierce Athletic Leag...

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#### [Education-Related Predictions for 2012](#)

(Huffington Post Education via The Gradebook © 12/30/2011)

I recently posted The Best (and Worst) Education News of 2011, and thought I'd take a stab at some prognostication for 2012. I think I batted close to 50 percent in last year's predictions – that can't be that much worse than those made by professional pundits. Feel free to add your own predictions in the comments section – and don't hesitate to include "wishful thinking!" Here are...

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#### [Polk School District urged to talk budget issues](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 12/30/2011)

BARTOW – The Polk County School District's internal auditor found no fraudulent or unlawful activities regarding how the district handled changes to the employee health insurance plans and other financial decisions concerning the district's budget, following an anonymous complaint filed with the Florida Department of Education in October. However, Sheila Phelps, the district's director o...

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#### [Family Wants Records About Kathleen High Football Coach in Abuse Incident](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 12/30/2011)

The family of a Kathleen High School football player has retained a Tampa-based lawyer to investigate accusations the school's head football coach, Irving Strickland, abused his authority in twisting a teen's nipple to the point of bruising. A letter delivered this week by the high school senior's lawyer to the Polk County School Board requested all available documents about the pinching,...

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[Formal charges expected to be filed against man](#)

(Miami Herald © 12/30/2011)

A man accused of killing a 9-year-old girl by bludgeoning her with a brick and then dismembering her likely won't be in court Friday when formal charges are filed against him, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor said. Michael Plumadore, 39, is expected to remain in his jail cell when the formal charges are filed, said Danielle Edenfield, the Allen County prosecutor's office chief investigator. A warra...

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[Westside Elementary holds FCAT rally](#)

(News 4 Jax © 12/30/2011)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Despite being home for the holidays, students at a Jacksonville elementary school held a FCAT rally on Thursday to prepare for the statewide test. The students who came to West Jacksonville Elementary school during the week said they wanted to. "I like coming to school. I think it's fun," said Jyree Richardson, a fifth-grader. Students in third, fourth and fifth gra...

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[We asked you: Should the state have made the FCAT harder to pass?](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 12/30/2011)

We asked you: Should the state have made the FCAT harder to pass? YES 34% NO 66% Failing test-takers signal money problems in schools Something is very wrong when students are failing in droves on a redesigned FCAT test. Scholastic exams should be designed around what has been gleaned in the past, brought to the forefront, and combined with current learned material. If students are not compr...

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[Charter school advocates look to change Miss. law](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 12/30/2011)

JACKSON, Miss. Republican control of Mississippi government could bring a new charter school law, and supporters are working on proposals. Schools that are chartered get more operational freedom in exchange for agreeing to meet certain goals. Under current Mississippi law, only schools with subpar ratings for three consecutive years can be chartered, and only at parents' request. No sch...

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[Editorial: A judicial power grab](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 12/30/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott is definitely getting a handle on this politician thing. Last week it was reported that he wants the Legislature to give him far more power to appoint judges. It should not. "When you're elected governor, people expect you to not have a limit on who you can appoint," Scott said in a radio interview. Uh, not so much governor. That kind of authority might be found in the hands of ...

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[Girl who faces stalking charge after Facebook post says deputy went too far](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 12/30/2011)

The two girls sometimes friends, sometimes not were feuding. So in late November, one girl parked in the other girl's spot at Osceola Fundamental High School. Then she suspected the other girl of keying her car. Then she went home and, without naming names, put up a couple of posts on her Facebook page, including this one: "oh so you keyed my car? well your karmas gonna be a whole...

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[Hernando teacher says punching incident transformed her](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 12/30/2011)

SPRING HILL There have been times since Sandra Hadsock started her new job teaching art at Explorer K-8 School when she's pulled an unruly student aside for a talk. "I usually take them out in the hall and say, 'How is this working for you? Do you want people to be angry back at you?' " Hadsock said in an interview this week. "I try to get them to see they're creating that response...

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**[Rick Scott: Florida's 2011 Man for All Reasons](#)**

(Sunshine State News © 12/30/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott | Credit: Gage Skidmore - Flickr Few governors have come to office facing such a crisis of confidence as Florida's Rick Scott. Scott strode into a hostile state capital in January amid two major hurdles: a Republican establishment still smarting from the licking he had given insider favorite Bill McCollum in the GOP primary, and a snarling, suspicious press corps that had neith...

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**[Career Themed Education](#)**

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 12/30/2011)

Tallahassee, FL – December 29, 2011 – Reading, writing and arithmetic. They're the staples of a childhood education. But today, "three" rs may no longer be enough "Rx means medicine..." Under a new bi...

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