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**Sent time:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:26:15 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: Education Roundup 2-03-12

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FYI – have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Mongiovi, Jamie  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:25 AM  
**Subject:** Education Roundup 2-03-12

## Florida Department of Education



### [Okaloosa teachers union files complaint against district](#) (Destin Log © 02/03/2012)

The Okaloosa County Education Association has filed an unfair labor practice complaint against the Okaloosa County School District and School Board. Attorneys for OCEA filed the complaint late last week with the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission over language it claims was added at the last minute to the motion approved by the School Board to resolve the impasse over teacher pay. ...

### [4 county schools in state top 100](#) (Fernandina Beach News Leader © 02/03/2012)

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Department of Education on Monday released a numerical ranking of the state's 3,078 public and charter schools, grouped by elementary, middle, high and combination schools. This ranking, coupled with the district rankings, makes it easier for parents and taxpayers to view information about Florida's education system. Two Nassau County schools - Hilliard Middle Senior High ...

[Florida's top educator says much to celebrate in education of black men](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/03/2012)

Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson will be the keynote speaker at the 4th Annual Urban Education Symposium: Reclaiming Black Males for Jacksonville's Future. The event is from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Main Library Saturday. The Jacksonville Community Engagement Group, an informal organization of about 80 corporate, elected and education leaders looking to improve the education of bla...

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[Georgia schools chief powers may return after being taken by legislature](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/03/2012)

ATLANTA - Legislation is moving through the General Assembly that would repeal nearly three-dozen education laws, many enacted during the stormy tenure of ex-Superintendent of Schools Linda Schrenko. Others were outdated or never implemented. The list of things to nix came from a commission appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal that looked at ways to give more flexibility to local school districts...

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[Volusia schools looking at ways to combat bullying](#)

(Fort Pierce Hometown News © 02/03/2012)

By Patrick McCallister For Hometown News VOLUSIA COUNTY - Schoolyard bullying has been going on since there have been schoolyards. Now, however, emerging technologies have given bullies power that extends well beyond the borders of the school. "I think cyber bullying is a huge issue," said Cindy Fisher, Volusia County Schools' coordinator for student discipline and records. "I think it ...

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[Improved programs at career academies better prepare students](#)

(Jacksonville Business Journal © 02/03/2012)

Culinary students at the Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology take food safety and restaurant industry courses to better prepare them for the workforce. Jacksonville's two technical schools have drastically improved their FCAT scores, which is good news for businesses that hire these high school graduates. A. Philip Randolph Academies went from an F in the 2009-...

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[Charter School Districts Could Help in Polk. Give Control to Cities](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/03/2012)

So much for anti-education Gov. Rick Scott's claims that he is "doing more with less" by steering as many students as possible toward the FCAT-exempt Florida Virtual School, while simultaneously looking for any and all loopholes to undo the voter-mandated class-size initiative so denigrated by his predecessor. The newly released "ranking" of all 67 school districts based solely on FCA...

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[College Tuition: Florida Must Find Funding](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/03/2012)

In his State of the Union address on the night of Jan. 24, President Barack Obama presented a forceful case for keeping a college education affordable for all Americans. If only Florida's lawmakers would do the same. Wednesday, the Appropriates Committee of state House of Representatives approved a spending plan that includes an 8 percent tuition increase for higher education. Senate ...

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[Past complaint against teacher accused of abusing 23 children revealed](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 02/03/2012)

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors declined to file attempted fondling charges 18 years ago against an elementary school teacher now suspected of taking bondage-style photographs of children in his class, saying that they didn't have enough evidence. The investigation came after a 10-year-old girl claimed elementary school teacher Mark Berndt reached ...

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#### [Orange Park adds one more to athletic scholarships](#)

(Orange Park Clay Today © 02/03/2012)

Orange Park softball pitcher Chelsey Bardroff signed her athletic scholarship to St. Johns River Community College Thursday afternoon....

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#### [Lottery money dwindles for high-performing schools](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/03/2012)

A special lottery fund created to reward schools for boosting grades has been cut to the point that the state Department of Education wasn't sure there would be enough to go around this year. The \$119 million fund, known as the state's school recognition program, rewards schools with lottery money that have improved a letter grade or kept an A on the state's A-through-F ranking. But since 2006 ...

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#### [Tensions high over superintendent search](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 02/03/2012)

At least one person who showed up to speak during Wednesday night's school board meeting never got to air her views on the search for the new superintendent. School board member Jenny Prior Brown Jan Porter, a Palm Beach Gardens mom and a regular of the school board meetings, was escorted out of the board room Wednesday evening after she allegedly told a school board member that if the boa...

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#### [Escambia school employee wins state award](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 02/03/2012)

An Escambia County School District employee will receive a state physical education award next week. Roxanne Baker, a specialist for physical education, health, wellness driver education and athletics, will receive the Peter Everett Honor Award through the Florida Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance and Sports. She will be recognized Feb. 9 at an awards session in Orl...

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#### [February is Black History Month](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 02/03/2012)

TALLAHASSEE ? In celebration of Black History Month, the Florida Department of Education's Just Read Florida! Office today released a recommended reading list which showcases a broad selection of African-American authors and their literary compositions. Students and families across the state are encouraged to explore these selections during Black History Month and throughout the year to gain a ...

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#### [Friday's letters: FCAT numbers don't tell whole story](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/03/2012)

Florida FCAT scores Numbers don't tell whole story I see some glaring issues with the rankings of K-12 public schools in Florida. First, methodology. The rankings are based only on Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test scores, which are a small sliver of the educational pie. If we want to rank schools, we should develop a formula that helps paint a complete picture of what happens in the ...

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[Haridopolos plots and pouts](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/03/2012)

This is probably the predictable result when you have a Florida Senate presided over by a petulant crybaby angry over not getting his way. Senate President Mike Haridopolos, R-The Blue Boy of Apalachee Parkway, got his pantaloons in a wad because one of his minions had the audacity to commit Tallahassee's most egregious of mortal sins — an act of actual governance. And for that, fellow...

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[Teen hit, killed by car adds to alarming trend](#)

(Tampa Bay News 9 © 02/03/2012)

ORANGE CITY – After a 16-year-old boy was hit by a car and killed Thursday, Volusia County's superintendent and sheriff said they want people to do more to keep students safe as they walk to school. Brandon Vera was walking University High School, when he was hit Thursday morning. The 10th-grader was one of two students hit Thursday. The othe...

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Have a lovely weekend!

Jamie C. Mongiovi

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