

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Monday, February 06, 2012 6:17:51 PM  
**To:** Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope; Walt Griffin <walt\_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Education Roundup 2-04-12 through 2-06-12

---

FYI – have a great evening... ☺

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,  
Deputy Director,  
Just Read, Florida! Office  
Florida Department of Education  
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 501  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 245-0503  
(850) 245-5105 (Fax)  
[www.justreadflorida.com](http://www.justreadflorida.com)



---

**From:** Mongiovi, Jamie  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 8:22 AM  
**Subject:** Education Roundup 2-04-12 through 2-06-12

Florida Department of Education  
News Clips  
February 4-6, 2012



---

**[Lead found in paint at school district building](#)**  
(Florida Today © 02/06/2012)

The roof is being replaced on a Brevard Public Schools maintenance building after being damaged months ago by a water leak that also damaged lead-based paint on the ceiling. The paint, exposed after ceiling tiles were removed, began flaking and falling to the ground. In October, an outside company determined that the paint contained lead above the acceptable threshold set by the U.S. Department o...

---

**[When Black Men Succeed](#)**  
(Inside Higher Education © 02/06/2012)

The litany of bad news about the status of black men in higher education is by now familiar. They make up barely 4 percent of all undergraduate students, the same

proportion as in 1976. They come into college less prepared than their peers for the rigors of college-level academic work. Their completion rates are the lowest of all major racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. Shaun R. Harper is t...

---

#### [My Word: Teacher-training reviews well in hand](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/06/2012)

All citizens have a stake in ensuring best processes for the preparation of teachers. Research has shown the teacher in the classroom is, along with parents, the key to student achievement. A guest column on Jan. 10 by John Winn asserting the value of a review of teacher-preparation programs by the National Council on Teacher Quality misses the mark. That the teacher-quality council feels compelle...

---

#### [iPads trickling into all levels of Manatee classrooms](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 02/05/2012)

[chawes@bradenton.com](mailto:chawes@bradenton.com) MANATEE – At several local high schools, teenagers are using Apple iPads to study Shakespeare and practice geometry. Seventh-graders at one middle school are studying astronomy and following tweets about NASA with iPads. And at G.D. Rogers Garden Elementary School, kids who haven't even entered kindergarten are experimenting with iPads to learn about animals an...

---

#### [Parents, school leaders to meet as concerns for student safety increase](#)

(Central Florida News 13 © 02/05/2012)

ORANGE CITY – Since the beginning of the school year, 17 students have been hit by vehicles in Volusia County. It's an alarming statistic that has the University High School Advisory Council parent-group ready to make a difference. The group will host a Community Safety Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m., in the University High School aud...

---

#### [They do important stuff in Tallahassee](#)

(Citrus County Chronicle © 02/05/2012)

Many people who live in Citrus County are not from here. And they are not from Florida. Gerry Mulligan Because of that, it's very difficult for most folks to really care about what goes on in Tallahassee, the state capital. Many Snowbirds still pay attention to New York, Boston, Albany, Chicago and Philadelphia, but they'd have a hard time finding Tallahassee on a map. H...

---

#### [Good to great: Citrus County schools maintain high level of excellence](#)

(Citrus County Chronicle © 02/05/2012)

Recently, the governor's office released a list of Florida public school districts and individual schools by ranking as determined by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Pat Deutschman While I am not a big fan of FCAT being used to judge such things as the quality of schools and compare districts regardless of the students they serve, we are pleased nonetheless to see that...

---

#### [You can learn a lot from. about kids at a science fair](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/05/2012)

BRUNSWICK, GA. | If there's one valid criticism of public schools, it's that they teach to the tests. If you want to see some kids whose ability to think is tested, go to a science fair. Sure, there are sometimes flavor-of-the-month experiments. A few years ago, science fairs had a lot of students trying to levitate on pieces of plywood converted to hovercraft. But if you want to s...

---

[Editorial: Circular logic](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 02/05/2012)

Florida has a horribly discriminatory double standard on tuition: If you are a U.S.-born citizen and a Florida resident — but if your parents were illegal immigrants — you are not entitled to in-state university and college tuition rates. Why? Well, we suppose the best explanation was offered by our own state Sen. Steve Oelrich, when the...

---

[Education Rankings, Politicians Cheating Polk County Children](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/05/2012)

The state's rankings are not fair to school districts. These rankings are based on the standardized test scores of the students. It is common knowledge that standardized test scores are greatly influenced by the amount of education the parents have and the economic level of the child's home environment. Polk County is a large, somewhat rural county with a number of lower-income working fa...

---

[USF Polytechnic campus board member resigns](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/05/2012)

Mark Kaylor has resigned from the University of South Florida Polytechnic Campus Board, saying a landmark opportunity for a 12th state university is being "dismantled." Kaylor is a local lawyer who has been a strong supporter of independence for the campus. He sent different letters to USF President Judy Genshaft and to the USF Poly committee chair of the State University System Board of ...

---

[Florida's simpleton rankings](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/05/2012)

Any way you slice and dice the numbers, Florida's new way of ranking its 67 school districts — based solely on FCAT results, a one-shot test — tells parents and taxpayers absolutely nothing about the quality of their public schools, be they traditional schools or charters. Gov. Rick Scott and Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson say they aren't trying to "stigma..."

---

[Editorial: Safe on the bus](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 02/05/2012)

It has been a month since a Marion County school bus bound for Liberty Middle School erupted into a melee that left a 13-year-old brutally beaten and seven students facing felony battery charges. The incident, caught on a bus camera, has justifiably outraged the community and raised questions about how safe our school buses are and whether school district policies are adequate. ...

---

[Beth Kassab: How did formerly A-rated Nap Ford school fall to F?](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/05/2012)

Last week Florida released its harshest evaluation yet of public schools: a ranking from the cream of the crop to the rock-bottom worst. No excuses. Just the bare-naked numbers. And that's the way it should be. It's the best way we have to measure whether a school is actually doing its job and teaching our children. For the lowest-performing schools, this first-of-its-kind ranking for Florida ...

---

[Palm Beach County school district mulls cutting back on after-school buses](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 02/05/2012)

The high cost of carrying students on buses has Palm Beach County School District transportation officials and board members pondering some possible changes, such as cutting back on after-school activity buses and charging some parents to send their kids on buses to magnet schools. At a board workshop on transportation last week, School Board Member Jenny Prior Brown suggested looking into chargi...

---

#### [Adults take the stage in some Pasco student productions](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/05/2012)

Pasco County's high school musical season has students playing 1940s gangsters and transforming from princes into beasts. They dance with rival gang members and sing to giant alien monster plants. "I do drama because it's part of my life," said Mitchell High School sophomore Emily Munger, an ensemble member for her school's production of Beauty and the Beast. "You get to act something so differen...

---

#### [Students tutoring peers for test day](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 02/05/2012)

WESLEY CHAPEL – Jennifer Sherwood felt unsure that she was the right person for the job when she learned Wiregrass Ranch High wanted high-performing students to provide tutoring to seniors who are at risk of not graduating. "I thought, 'Why me? There are so many better people to do it,'" said Sherwood, 18, a senior who plans to study chemical engineering and nuclear physics in ...

---

#### [LA school reeling from arrest of 2nd teacher](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 02/05/2012)

LOS ANGELES - A bizarre case at an inner-city elementary school where a teacher was charged with taking bondage-style photographs of children has expanded with the arrest of a second teacher suspected of fondling two girls in his classroom. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Capt. Mike Parker said Martin B. Springer, 49, was arrested Friday. The announcement sent further shock waves through the...

---

#### [STEM director passionate about improving education](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 02/05/2012)

WINTER HAVEN - It's often interesting to find out how and why certain individuals end up where they are today. Roderic Brame, Ph.D., is one such local individual. He has been the program director of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Education for the Science and Geosciences Division at the University of South Florida Polytechnic for two years. "I am so passionate about impr...

---

#### [FCAT rankings do not reflect quality of schools](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 02/05/2012)

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test is to serve as an indicator of students' efficiency in reading, math, science and writing. It can, however, reflect a more accurate showing of the socio-economic level of a community. It does NOT necessarily reflect upon quality of school administrators and/or teachers in a specific school district. Why universities' and colleges' departments of ...

---

#### [OURVOICE It's time for our schools to produce](#)

(Clermont South Lake Press © 02/04/2012)

NO MORE EXCUSES: It's time to convert those promises into concrete results. No matter how you look at recent scores from the 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, results do not bode well for Lake County schools. Florida has 67 school districts. Lake County tied with Escambia and Marion counties for 44th place with 510 points. That earns the district a "B" grade. It received the same gr...

---

### [LAKE-SUMTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE Past recalled, future projected](#)

(Clermont South Lake Press © 02/04/2012)

THERESA CAMPBELL | Staff Writer [theresacampbell@dailycommercial.com](mailto:theresacampbell@dailycommercial.com) Three past presidents of Lake-Sumter Community College reminisced about the college's half century of service and the current leader shared his vision for the future as LSCC kicked off its 50-year jubilee on Jan. 25. Each of the past presidents was praised for being instrumental in the college's growth and its ongoing commitm...

---

### [3 elementary schools win STEM bowl](#)

(Clermont South Lake Press © 02/04/2012)

Clermont MILLARD K. IVES | Staff Writer [millardives@dailycommercial.com](mailto:millardives@dailycommercial.com) By the time the rock music quieted down Jan. 27, three elementary schools had captured first-place finishes in a three-day fierce competition last week of Lake County Schools' second annual STEM Bowl. The quiz bowl-type competition at the Golden Triangle YMCA in Clermont tested students' knowledge of science, technology, e...

---

### [Parents, Volusia officials to meet about student safety](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 02/04/2012)

Timeline of Accidents Aug. 22 First day of school Aug. 24 PORT ORANGE: A Silver Sands Middle School student was hit on a bike at Dunlawton Avenue and Nova Road Sept. 2 PORT ORANGE: A Silver Sands Middle School student was hit while walking near the entrance to the school's bus loop. Sept. 7 ORANGE CITY: A University High School student was hit on a bike on the way to school. ...

---

### [School officials wary of student prayer bill](#)

(DeSoto Sun Herald © 02/04/2012)

Charlotte County School Board Chairwoman Andrea Messina and other educators said they were cautious about a bill passed by the state Senate on Wednesday that would authorize school boards to adopt a policy allowing "inspirational messages" at student events. The bill, which passed with a 31-8 vote, stated its intent to "provide students the opportunity for formal or ceremonious observance of an oc...

---

### [Locals keep donating lunch money](#)

(Florida Keys Keysnews © 02/04/2012)

Once the word got out that the Boys Girls Clubs had been left in a \$6,000 summer lunch-money lurch by the Monroe County School District, the locals came calling. "Dan, I hope you get your lunches back!" a Conch Train Tour passenger yelled to the nonprofit's executive director, Dan Dombroski, while he was out and about one day. A local radio station also offered support, then a Key West bank...

---

### [Legislating against conflicts of interest](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/04/2012)

Several bills have been filed in the Florida Legislature to prevent conflicts of interest regarding lawmakers. So far, there is little interest among the legislators in this topic. So we asked members of our Email Interactive Group for their take. Considering the lack of faith and trust in government at all levels, anything that improves the honesty and transparency of it is a good thing. But li...

---

### [Boy Killed by Car Walking to School in Volusia County](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/04/2012)

Volusia County school officials said they'll step up an awareness campaign after a 16-year-old student was hit by a car and died while walking to school. The Florida Highway Patrol said Brandon Vera was killed as he crossed a busy street near University High School. School officials said 17 Volusia County students have been struck by vehicles while walking to or from campus since the s...

---

### [Editorial: Raising tuition, cutting funding](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 02/04/2012)

In his State of the Union address last week, 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. On Wednesday, the Appropriation Committee of the state House of Representatives approved a spending plan that includes an 8 percent tuition in...

---

### [Legislature may help Seminole avoid school closings](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/04/2012)

SANFORD — A tweak in funding the state's employee retirement plan may save Seminole County enough cash that it does not have to close two elementary schools. Other school districts, as well as cities, counties, colleges and universities that take part in the Florida Retirement System, also would get a boost to their budgets for next fiscal year if the Legislature agrees to reduce the am...

---

### [Dem dispute derails education bills in Legislature](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 02/04/2012)

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Two bills to reshape Washington's education system stalled in committee Friday, missing a key deadline amid a dispute among Democratic lawmakers. Sen. Rodney Tom, D-Bellevue, said education committee chairwoman Rosemary McAuliffe, D-Bothell, refused to allow a vote on measures related to charter schools and teacher evaluations, but McAuliffe disagreed with the description...

---

### [Bill would raise high school dropout age](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 02/04/2012)

PHOENIX — A state legislator wants to decrease the high school dropout rate by making sure students stay in school until they're 18 years old. Rep. Daniel Patterson introduced a bill on Thursday that increases the age a student can drop out from 16 to 18 and removes the option for students to drop out after their sophomore year. Students under 18 will instead have to have earned a diplom...

---

### [Schools, others hope for money in spending plan](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 02/04/2012)

LANSING, Mich. — The budget proposal that Gov. Rick Snyder will deliver Thursday isn't expected to contain the sweeping tax changes and spending cuts that made last year's plan such a change from the past. Still, it's creating some anxious moments for school officials and local government leaders waiting to hear if the cuts they took in the current budget will be reversed. The Republican...

---

### [Foundation awarded \\$20,000 grant](#)

(Osceola News-Gazette © 02/04/2012)

Submitted Photo On hand in January for the passing of a \$20,000 check to the Education Foundation-Osceola County were, from left: Dan DeVos, chairman, Orlando Magic; Jamie Domres, program administrator for Bookmark Buddies; Kathy Carr, executive director of the Education Foundation; Linda Landman-Gonzalez, vice president of community relations and government affairs, Orlando Magic; and Alex Martin...

---

#### [Editorial: Teacher for the future](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 02/04/2012)

In the old days, students were expected to sit quietly at their desks and learn their lessons. It was how it had always been done, and it ought to be good enough forever, right? Welcome to the future. In an age when students are stimulated from an early age by an increasingly amazing array of electronic devices and visual kinetics, it's good to see "innovation" being used to describe the approach...

---

#### [Florida can't afford to keep being cheap](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/04/2012)

Gov. Rick Scott's opposition to increasing tuition at Florida's public universities and colleges reflects a lack of understanding about the poor financial state of higher education. The governor envisions education as a key to building a better Florida economy, yet he would rather be cheap and cut costs than invest to improve quality. Florida's average public university tuition of \$5,626 is far be...

---

#### [Respect Hispanics' educational aspirations](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/04/2012)

A few days before Florida's Republican primary, former Gov. Jeb Bush wrote a column suggesting ways the GOP could win the Hispanic vote in November as it seeks to control both houses of Congress and take back the White House. Bush asked Republicans to "echo the aspirations" of Hispanics. One way to do that, Bush wrote, is to "press for an overhaul of our education system.&qu...

---

#### [Florida Leads Nation as School Voucher Programs Expand](#)

(Sunshine State News © 02/04/2012)

Credit: allianceforschoolchoice.org A record 210,000 U.S. students are using public funds to attend private K-12 schools, and Florida leads the nation with more than 60,000 of them, a new study reports. Nearly all of the children participating in the voucher-style programs come from low- or middle-income families, or are students with special needs. Florida, a school-choice pioneer under Gov. Jeb...

---

#### [Black History Month Recommended Reading List Features Books for All Ages](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 02/04/2012)

Tallahassee, FL – 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 ...

---

#### [Wellington school plagued by rat infestation](#)

(WPEC News 12 Palm Beach County © 02/04/2012)

WELLINGTON, FLA. – A Wellington school is infested with rats, and parents are furious. Panther Run Elementary School officials say they have had rat problems on-and-off for the past few years. "That happened in May, then went away. It reoccurred apparently in the September and October time-frame, it went away and it re-occurred," said Nat Harrington, Palm Beach County Schools. "If we have rode...

---

[Teacher accused of making racial remarks in classroom](#)

(WPLG Channel 10 Miami © 02/04/2012)

POMPANO BEACH, Fla. - A Broward county teacher faces disciplinary action for racial remarks she made in the classroom, according to Robert Runcie, the Broward Schools Superintendent. According to an administrative complaint, Leslie Rainer, a teacher at Blanche Ely High School, engaged in inappropriate conduct by pointing a pointer in a Haitian student's face in a threatening manner...

---

[New high school football program coming](#)

(WWSB ABC Sarasota County © 02/04/2012)

SARASOTA COUNTY - Imagine School in North Port is ready for some football. Friday the school became the first charter school in the area with plans to field a football team. It would also become just the second high school football program in the county's largest city. Parents, teachers, community leaders and school officials came out to cheer, excited they say for what will beco...

---

Have a wonderful day!

Jamie C. Mongiovi

Office of Communications & Public Affairs

Florida Department of Education

[jamie.mongiovi@fldoe.org](mailto:jamie.mongiovi@fldoe.org)

(850) 245-0413