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**Subject:** Fw: 10-25-11 Education Round-Up

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FYI... Have a great evening!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Higgins, Deborah  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 09:57 AM  
**Subject:** 10-25-11 Education Round-Up

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[DSC given 30 days to respond to state audit](#)  
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/25/2011)

READ THE AUDIT: Preliminary and Tentative Findings for Daytona State College DAYTONA BEACH – Daytona State College has the official copy of a state audit critical of some practices that need to be corrected. The college has about 30 days to provide a written response to the concerns by the Auditor General's Office. The college received the document Friday and released i...

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[Educators Answer Questions About the Flipped Classroom](#)  
(Education Next © 10/25/2011)

By Bill Tucker 10/24/2011 0 Comments | Print | NO PDF | Share I've received a number of questions and comments on my recent Education Next article, The Flipped Classroom. Most gratifying have been the rich exchanges in comment threads and on twitter (#flipclass), primarily from educators explaining their experiences, challenges, and discoveries from "flipping" their classrooms. Here are t...

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[A good week for charter schools](#)  
(FL Times-Union/PolitiJax Blog © 10/25/2011)

It's shaping up to be a good week for charter schools in Florida. On Tuesday, Florida's top education official, Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson, will be in Amelia Island for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers 2011 Leadership Conference. There he will be joined by Indiana and New Mexico's top education officials "to discuss how charter school authorizing...

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[Big crowd attends Monday's prayer circle at Clay Hill Elementary](#)  
(Florida Times-Union © 10/25/2011)

About a 150 people prayed Monday morning around the flagpole of a Clay County elementary school, where the principal distributed a controversial memo in which he quoted an article that said the First Amendment was only for Christians. But those praying Monday at Clay Hill Elementary disagreed with the principal's newsletter. "No, no," said Pastor Ron Baker of Russell Baptist Church in Green Co...

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#### [Brevard schools consider closure proposals](#)

(Florida Today © 10/25/2011)

Brevard School Board members are considering scenarios in which they would close Sea Park Elementary in Satellite Beach, Riverview Elementary in Titusville and Clearlake Middle in Cocoa, among a handful of proposals that could take effect next school year as the district seeks to address underutilized schools and reduce costs. Community meetings will be held in November to gather public input on ...

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#### [Failure not an option for Imagine charter](#)

(Florida Today © 10/25/2011)

WEST MELBOURNE — Art lessons have been replaced, at least temporarily, with intensive reading and math classes. A new math curriculum has been introduced, and the school day extended a half-hour. And in some classrooms at Imagine Schools in West Melbourne, even desks have been rearranged in groups, which is supposed to help younger students learn. One of Brevard's original charter schools is un...

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#### [County schools face \\$575,000 fine for exceeding class-size limits](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/25/2011)

The Alachua County public school district faces more than \$575,000 in fines for failing to meet the state-mandated class-size cap, according to data released Monday by the state Department of Education. Assistant Superintendent Sandy Hollinger said in response that the district knew it would be over the cap but now must analyze the state data to k...

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#### [Graham: Let Board Decide on USF Poly](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/25/2011)

LAKELAND — After following the ongoing push to make the University of South Florida Polytechnic Florida's 12th state university, former Gov. Bob Graham said Monday politics has no place in the university decision-making process. Enlarge Former Gov. Bob Graham...

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#### [Science matters](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/25/2011)

Gov. Scott doesn't have to skewer anthropologists to bolster his argument that Florida's university system needs to produce more graduates with the kinds of degrees that employers wielding well-paying jobs want most. The governor is definitely on the right track. He's also likely to meet like-minded academics on the same route. Cooperation, therefore, should be the watchword as this high-stakes...

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#### [Collier, Lee districts short of school nurses, mirroring Florida's low ranking among states](#)

(Naples Daily News © 10/25/2011)

NAPLES — Beth Wipf treats students who walk through her office doors pale and shivering with a high fever. She treats diabetic students with low blood sugar. She treats students having asthma attacks. And when she's not treating students, she's training clinical assistants and school administrators to step in for her when she can't be there. Wipf is a registered nurse employed by Lee Coun...

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[Little Named Interim Superintendent for Escambia \(Ala.\) Schools](#)

(North Escambia.com © 10/25/2011)

October 25, 2011 An interim superintendent has been named for the Escambia County (Ala.) Schools. Randall Little, an assistant superintendent, was approved as interim superintendent on a 4-3 vote by the Escambia County School Board. He will take over the superintendent's job from Billy Hines upon his December 1 retirement until a permanent replacement is named. The board has up to...

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[Lake to let some students bring personal electronics to class](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/25/2011)

UMATILLA — Some personal student electronics now forbidden by district policies soon will be permitted in a handful of classes at Umatilla High School. The school will be piloting a new program that would let students bring in personal electronics to help with school work. The program, called Bring Your Own Technology, would let students in about five classes bring electronics to access the Int...

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[Manatee School Board cancels contract with Richard Milburn Academy](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/25/2011)

MANATEE COUNTY - About 70 students, including some who were previously expelled from schools and some with arrest records, will be transferred into Manatee County alternative schools after the School Board Monday night canceled the district's contract with Richard Milburn Academy charter school. In other Manatee School District news: • Problems continue to plagu...

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[USF Polytechnic report begins to make its case for independence](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/25/2011)

TAMPA — The University of South Florida Polytechnic, for the first time on Monday night, revealed its plan to split off from the main campus and become its own university. The 57-page business plan spells out financially and logistically the Lakeland branch campus' vision to become independent. It's one piece of a presentation USF Poly plans to give when the Florida Board of Governors meets...

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[John Hopkins Middle School calm, two officers added in wake of recent arrests](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/25/2011)

As a temporary, precautionary move, interim Pinellas superintendent John Stewart ordered two additional police officers to John Hopkins Middle School Monday. But he said after a morning visit that the campus was calm and parents had nothing to worry about. "As I viewed it, it probably wasn't necessary," Stewart said of the additional officers. "But if you make a mistake, it's better to be .....

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[Was this teacher selling AK-47s?](#)

(St. Petersburg: WTSP (Ch. 10) © 10/25/2011)

Inverness, Florida - Joseph Andrew Castorina was known as a popular teacher at Citrus High School in Inverness. "They loved him," said Citrus County Schools Human Resources Director Jeff Davis. "He got along great with the students." That's why it came as such a shock to the district when documents show that one of their finest was facing federal charges of illegally trafficking firearms such as...

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### [Scott Wants Universities to Outline How Students will Help Florida Economy](#)

(Sunshine State News © 10/25/2011)

Posted: October 25, 2011 3:55 AM Gov. Rick ScottGov. Rick Scott wants the presidents and trustees of Florida's 11 public universities to outline what the schools are doing to ensure graduates meet the need of employers. And the education leaders have until Nov. 15 to reply. Ava Parker, chairwoman of the Board of Governors, wrote Scott that the board would coordinate a response....

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### [Scheme costs Pinellas schools hundreds of thousands of dollars](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/25/2011)

Alan Smith Heath Jensen Paul Jensen Robert Sciarra ...

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### [Money remains for sports](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/25/2011)

SEBRING - Athletic directors, parents and a school principal spoke up in support of middle school sports at Monday's school board budget workshop. About 460 students in grades six through eight participate in school athletic, but continued budget woes had the School Board of Highlands County examining middle school sports programs for possible cost cuts. But after about a 45-minute discussion ...

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### [English learners far behind under English-only methods](#)

(The Hechinger Report © 10/25/2011)

BALDWIN PARK, Calif.–The end of the school day in Patty Sanchez's kindergarten class at Geddes Elementary School is not so different from other kindergarten classes around the state. Children gather on a rug as Sanchez holds up a storybook about a coyote and a turtle and reads out loud. What's different is that Sanchez is reading in Spanish. Nearly all of the children in the room are Hispani...

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### [STEM education gaining steam](#)

(Washington Post © 10/25/2011)

STEM education gaining steam By Robert Samuels, Published: October 24 I recently had a fascinating conversation with a curator at the National Museum of American History named Peggy Kidwell about math education and the tools that are used to enhance it. Kidwell has an unusual specialty: she collects math tools that have been used in classrooms (Sliderules! Calculators! Protractors!) over the yea...

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### [When charter schools get too picky](#)

(Washington Post/Class Struggle Blog © 10/25/2011)

By Jay Mathews The Pacific Collegiate School in Santa Cruz, Calif., is a public charter school. It must hold a random lottery when it has more applicants than vacancies. It is not supposed to be selective. Yet somehow its average SAT score has risen to the top tenth of one percent among all public schools nationally. Less than ten percent of its students are low-income, compared to 40 percent...

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### [SAT officials to testify at NY cheating hearing](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 10/25/2011)

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. - A state Senate subcommittee is holding hearings on Long Island in the wake of an SAT cheating scandal. Kurt M. Landgraf, president and CEO of Princeton, N.J.-based Educational Testing Service, and Gaston Caperton, president of The College Board, are among those who will testify Tuesday before the Senate's higher education committ...

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[Florida Grown School Lunch](#)

(WJHG NBC News 7 Panama City © 10/25/2011)

About one in five Florida schools serves fresh fruits and vegetables grown locally. That's about to change. Starting in January every public school will have to serve Florida produce. Farmers, teachers and students were at the state capitol Monday sharing ideas about how to make school lunches healthier. Fruits and vegetables were on the lunch menu Monday at...

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[New Florida election law stirs up controversy](#)

(Daytona Beach Journal © 10/24/2011)

NEW SMYRNA BEACH – The teacher who heads up New Smyrna Beach High School's student government association could face thousands of dollars in fines. Her transgression? Helping students register to vote. Prepping 17-year-olds for the privileges and responsibilities of voting in a democracy is nothing new for civics teachers, but when Jill Ciccirelli organized a drive at the start of the school...

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[Push Is On to Add Time to School](#)

(Education Week © 10/24/2011)

By Nora Fleming About 50 6th graders at Roger Williams Middle School hiked with the Audubon Society during a class period last week, examining plant and insect species and cataloging birds from a nearby urban park. For another period, they gathered water samples aboard a boat on Narragansett Bay. Those experiences were part of their new 7th-period class, which adds an extra hour to the...

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[Who is missing from this lineup to evaluate Race to the Top?](#)

(Washington Post/The Answer Sheet Blog, Valerie Strauss © 10/24/2011)

By Valerie Strauss The U.S. Chamber of Commerce just convened a group of prominent people in the education world to take a comprehensive look at the Obama administration's Race to the Top initiative and its impact on school reform around the country. Race to the Top, the administration's chief education initiative, is a competition that required states to apply for a share of a total of about...

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Have a super day!

Please see articles below. *Deborah*



Tallahassee Democrat

Event promotes Florida-grown school lunches

12:15 AM, Oct. 25, 2011

By Ashley Ames Democrat staff writer

A Florida-shaped serving dish with tasty produce was an eye-catching display for visitors on Monday. The Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services kicked off the first-ever Florida Grown School Lunch Week on Monday, October 24, 2011 in Tallahassee.

The celebration commemorates National Farm to School Month and will showcase local growers and the healthy foods they will be providing to Florida public schools.

The event will feature culinary demonstrations by staff who work with growers and schools, displays from school districts highlighting local foods in school lunches, and school-based nutrition education activities that promote the importance of balanced nutrition for children.

The Capitol courtyard — for one day home to booths filled with brightly colored squash, peppers and citrus — looked more like a harvest festival Monday morning as the Florida Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Education kicked off the state's first Florida-Grown School Lunch Day.

The day highlighted the National Farm-to-School Network, a collection of programs that provides local food and nutrition and agriculture education to schools.

Exhibits from co-ops, farms and school districts were set up to display Florida's programs. The event — which included samples, information and lots of veggies — was less of a kickoff than a refocusing on these efforts, sparked by the designation of October as National Farm-to-School Month and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Part of the law transferred the food and nutrition programs from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture.

"We can really begin to marry up the whole farmer conversation with the school conversation," said Robin Safley, director of the Division of Food, Wellness and Nutrition at the Florida Department of Agriculture, "and really, really spend some effort getting fresh produce."

The Leon County School district buys collard greens from Marianna and serves them in all of its schools, said Cathy Reed, nutrition services director for the district. But the district recently has requested that its produce provider, Adams Produce, search for more local options.

"We specifically said look for local products, yellow squash, zucchini," Reed, who also is talking to farmers across the state, said. "We want to do as much as possible to support the local farmers."

Vonda Richardson, extension specialist with Florida A&M University, works with the New North Florida Cooperative. The co-op helps farmers in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi sell their products to local schools, including those in Gadsden and Leon counties. Buying local produce is a way to give back to the local community, she said.

"It's a way to kind of foster that relationship where kids can know where their food comes from," she added.

Safley said she wants to see a drastic increase in the number of schools that are purchasing locally grown produce — and increase the amount served in the schools.

"I also want to make sure that we are not counting one fresh fruit and vegetable a week as a Farm-to-School program," she said.

## **Tallahassee Democrat**

### **Bill Cotterell: Politics, math mug state workers**

#### **Once again, nobody expects raises**

**10:39 AM, Oct. 24, 2011**

### **Bill Cotterell**

State employees are in for another rough year in the 2012 legislative session.

In other breaking news, the sun rose in the east this morning and, if forecasts are accurate, will set somewhere in the west.

For state employees and legislators, the budget math is painfully simple and the politics more than obvious. The state is facing a revenue shortage approaching \$2 billion — which Senate President Mike Haridopolos says might be an overly optimistic outlook — and the cost of employing people is going up.

The session starts early, due to legislative and congressional redistricting, so legislators will be working with fairly preliminary tax-collection numbers. Those can be revised later in the fiscal year but, to be safe, the House and Senate budget committees will want to stash a billion or so in reserve — in case things turn out even worse than the deliberately gloomy expectations they put in the budget.

Not only is there no prospect of any tax increases, but Gov. Rick Scott wants to cut even more corporate taxes, on top of the already-slumping regular tax collections. But that is what he campaigned on as a candidate last year, so no one should be surprised.

Scott also promised to shrink the size and cost of state government. He got started last session, with the 3 percent employee contribution to the Florida Retirement System and about 1,500 job eliminations, and there's no reason to believe that trend won't continue.

Never mind that Florida already ranked last among states, or tied for 50th, in its ratio of state employees to total population and per-capita cost of state personnel. Those figures, incidentally, are compiled year after year by the state's own Department of Management Services — not by some government-worker union or liberal think tank.

All over the country, there is a widespread public perception that government — national, state and local — is too big, expensive and intrusive. So never mind the facts; except for about five legislators from around here, there is no political gain to be made by defending salaries and benefits of state workers.

Scott arranged a teleconference from Brazil last week to announce the September unemployment figures. The statewide jobless rate was virtually unchanged from August, with about 977,000 people still out of work in the state, but Scott made a particular point of mentioning that total government employment has declined steadily since he took office last January.

Overall, it's down by 19,700 jobs — mostly federal and local jobs. Total government employment lost more jobs than any other sector of the economy, about 15,000 jobs, even outpacing the long-struggling construction industry. And about 3,100 of those government job losses were in state agencies, over the year.

So what about next session?

Nobody expects any pay raises. The employee share of health insurance premiums hasn't gone up lately, but a new consultant's study projects a billion-dollar bump in state costs over the next three years if nothing is done — which means, things will be done.

It's not all increases in premiums, copayments or deductibles. The Buck Consultants report recommended a "carrot and stick" approach to health care costs, such as a "carrot" of smoking cessation programs — backed by a "stick" of premium surcharges for those who continue smoking.

Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, probably the most influential member of the Senate since he'll be Senate president in the 2013-14 terms, said the lifestyle penalties might also be extended to obesity. He said employees who choose to live less healthy lives shouldn't shift part of the cost onto fellow employees, in the form of higher premiums.

The state could cap its health care expenses at a flat rate, giving employees an array of options if they want to buy more. Look for more health-savings accounts, too, as a means of giving employees an incentive to shop for cheaper insurance.

The ultra-cheap rates for elected officials and senior managers — \$30 a month for family coverage, \$8.34 for single insurance — will probably go away. This one isn't so much a financial necessity as a political embarrassment for legislators and Scott, himself, paying one-third of the premiums that Career Service employees pay.

Well, it used to be totally free for Selected Exempt, Senior Management and the elected officers. And there's a fairness factor, since about 16,000 of those SES employees used to be in Career Service, until Gov. Jeb Bush's "Service First" initiatives moved them — with free insurance being the trade-off for giving up job security, such as it is.

And then there are pensions. Scott tried for a 5-percent employee contribution to the Florida Retirement System, and got 3 percent. There's no reason he couldn't come back for the other 2 percent — state employees would howl, but they don't vote Republican anyway, and the average Florida voter would say, "Yeah, go for it!"

A more likely pension change, perhaps, would be making all new hires join the defined-contribution plan, phasing out the defined-benefit FRS system.

"I think everything has to be on the table," Haridopolos said of the pension plans. Sen. JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales, chairman of the Senate budget committee, said pretty much the same about employee health insurance.

In the budgetary parlance, being "on the table" means being changed. Being changed usually does not mean being improved.

— Contact Senior Political Writer Bill Cotterell at (850) 671-6545 or at [bcotterell@tallahassee.com](mailto:bcotterell@tallahassee.com).