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**Sent time:** Monday, October 17, 2011 2:31:15 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: 10-15-11 through 10-17-11 Education Round Up

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FYI – have a great week!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Etters, Cheryl  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2011 9:47 AM  
**Subject:** 10-15-11 through 10-17-11 Education Round Up

## Florida Department of Education News Clips

October 15 – 17, 2011



**[Florida Students Face Higher Costs amid 'Bright Futures' Cuts](#)**  
(Florida A&M Famuan © 10/17/2011)

With a decrease in funding to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, prospective college students may have to pay higher costs to attend college. For the eighth consecutive time in Florida Lottery history, the organization has transferred more than \$1 billion to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, according to the Florida Lottery website. EETF was designed to supplement the needs of...

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**[Guest opinion: Schools can be community hubs, places of learning](#)**  
(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/17/2011)

To the Lee County Community: Charged with the responsibility to effectively prepare all students to become productive citizens, schools, families and the community must work collaboratively to support personal and social development as well as academic achievement and college and career readiness. During these difficult financial times, it is more important than ever to efficiently and effectively...

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### [Has a liberal arts education lost its value in a high-tech world?](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/17/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott certainly created a furor last week with his comment that the State of Florida doesn't need any more anthropology majors. But behind his somewhat disparaging take on the worth of one discipline lurk some legitimate public policy questions: Has a traditional liberal arts education lost its value in an increasingly high-tech economy? Should Florida's colleges and uni...

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### [Is higher education fit for the global urban era?](#)

(Inside Higher Education © 10/17/2011)

Our era of 'global urbanization' – one where the majority of the world's population now lives in 'urban' areas – raises some interesting opportunities and challenges for higher education systems and institutions. This issue came to mind today when Roger Keil (Professor and Director, The City Institute at York University) tweeted a link to this story ('How Cities Grow: Dispersion, not Densificatio...

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### [Florida a dream state in teaching students about civil rights, report shows](#)

(Naples Daily News © 10/17/2011)

Released by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the report paints a bleak picture of the state of civil rights education, calling it "dismal" and stating that there is "tremendous" room for improvement in most states. Florida got one of just three A grades for its curriculum standards related to the movement. Alabama and New York also received an A. NAPLES — As the nation came together Sunday ...

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### [Collier, Lee schools lag on No Child Left Behind goals; state seeks waiver](#)

(Naples Daily News © 10/17/2011)

NAPLES \_ Flexibility has been the mantra for school districts across the state this year. A little more of it finally may make its way into Florida schools. After President Barack Obama's recent announcement to grant states a reprieve from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the Florida Department of Education promptly announced it would apply for the waiver. If granted, a heavy weight would ...

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### [Free-school-lunch program soars as more area families struggle](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/17/2011)

The number of students receiving free or reduced-price lunches in Central Florida public schools is skyrocketing as the state stumbles through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. On any weekday, as many as 222,000 students in the five-county region may be standing in line at school to receive lunch for free or a few cents because their families are struggling. In Osceol...

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### [High schools getting tougher on boundary jumpers from middle schools](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/17/2011)

Several of Palm Beach County's larger high schools are taking a harder look at their incoming classes of ninth-graders to see whether the students were entitled to go to the middle schools they attended. Some parents fake where their children live to get them into a more desirable school, using documents such as falsified lease agreements, school officials said. Known as boundary jumpers, ...

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[Budget cuts will keep Palm Beach County schools from giving out flu shots](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/17/2011)

The in-school flu shots that protected nearly 15,000 Palm Beach County elementary school students from the illness last year - and thousands of others in previous years - won't be given this school year. They have fallen victim to budget cuts. Local health officials said a roughly \$200,000 hole left by an absence of grant money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention meant they couldn't...

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[Caregivers Tackle Bullying in Schools, Community](#)

(Pinellas Beaches Patch.com © 10/17/2011)

Bullying has grabbed national attention recently, especially in light of several recent suicides of youths and young adults that are being attributed to bullying. CNN aired a special series on bullying last week. Many adults have a hard time wrapping their heads around the enormity of the problem. I recall some teasing and a few kids who were briefly targeted by bullies when I was growing u...

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[Former principal makes pretrial deal with prosecutors](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/17/2011)

A former elementary school principal, arrested earlier this year on theft charges involving school property, has reached a deal with the Palm Beach County State Attorney's office instead of going to trial. Priscilla Maloney, 50, signed a pretrial intervention agreement Thursday that could keep her from being prosecuted. The one-time leader of Plumosa Elementary in Delray Beach must serve probati...

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[Gov. Rick Scotts Liberal Arts Masterstroke](#)

(Sunshine State News © 10/17/2011)

Posted: October 17, 2011 3:55 AM It's about time somebody had the cojones to challenge the liberal arts crowd on the veracity of degrees that aren't working in the 21st century workplace. And wouldn't you know, that somebody would be Rick Scott. Whatever you say about our governor, the man knows how to let a sacred cow out of the barn. "How many more jobs do you think there ar...

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[American history is not propaganda](#)

(Citrus County Chronicle © 10/16/2011)

By Edna Mattos and Maureen Arrigale The Citrus County Board of Education (CCBOE), unfortunately, has decided that they will not distribute the free pocket Constitutions published by the National Center for Constitutional Studies to students because, according to them, it contains advertisements for history books ... "not approved by the school district and because (they)...

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[Flagler officials to discuss school uniforms](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/16/2011)

BUNNELL – Jeans and T-shirts might soon be out for Flagler County students. The Flagler County School Board will discuss on Tuesday whether to require students to wear uniforms. Board members won't take any formal action during the workshop session, which starts at 4 p.m. at the Government Services Building, 1769 E. Moody Blvd. A regular board meeting will follow at 6 p.m. Board member John...

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[Emphasize math, science but don't dismiss all else](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/16/2011)

It's safe to say that Gov. Rick Scott won't be the keynote speaker at an anthropologists' convention. Recently, the governor angered anthropologists and anthropology majors when he said, "How many more jobs you think there is for anthropology in this state? You want to use your tax dollars to educate more people who can't get jobs in anthropology?" Scott evidently was trying to make a point ab...

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**[Editorial: PECO shrinks](#)**

(Gainesville Sun © 10/16/2011)

We can argue until the cows come home about whether there ought to be fewer anthropology majors and more engineering students in UF classrooms. But here is a point that is beyond argument: The demand for classroom seats at UF and at other Florida universities and colleges is large and growing. What isn't growing, however, is the revenue needed to pr...

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**[Ellen Gillette: Decline in cursive writing leads to destruction of English language](#)**

(Jupiter Courier © 10/16/2011)

It's not that schools are banning cursive writing, exactly. President Barack Obama is simply trying to help them ease out of the "No Child Left Behind" era by adopting national common core standards. Unfortunately, cursive is getting left behind. Debbie Kohuth, coordinator of curriculum for St. Lucie County, says Florida's state standards explicitly required a demonstration of cursive, while nation...

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**[Fla., Texas Vie for Dubious Distinction](#)**

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/16/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott often uses Texas and its economic policies as an inspirational goal for his state. For instance, Scott, who has lived in Texas and graduated from the Southern Methodist University law school in Dallas, said he wants Florida to overtake Texas as the state with the best business climate and as the nation's largest job creator. But Tex...

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**[USF Poly's Spat Can Be Overcome](#)**

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/16/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott signed off on \$35 million on May 26 for construction of the University of South Florida Polytechnic's first permanent building. That approval for the new USF Poly campus in northeast Lakeland may have inspired too much confidence among supporters. Thirty prominent Polk residents, including business leaders and several elected officia...

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**[With new members, board takes a stand](#)**

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/16/2011)

LARGO - For more than a decade, Pinellas County School Board member Linda Lerner has objected to the same grant for a Boy Scouts of America-related program. The district shouldn't endorse a group that has a policy of denying gays and lesbians, said Lerner, who has failed to persuade her colleagues to reject the funds. She made her case again Tuesda...

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**[Manatee classes too big again](#)**

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/16/2011)

Six Manatee County elementary schools each have a class with 19 children, just one student more than the limit allowed by state law. District officials say inflexible rules are the problem That has put district officials in a tight spot – they must hire six more teachers or pay a state fine. In a move that points out the hardship districts...

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### [Anthropology students speak](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/16/2011)

University of South Florida's anthropology students' respond to Gov. Rick Scott's assertions that there are no job/economic prospects for anthropology graduates in the state, and that the study of anthropology does not benefit the state: Gov. Rick Scott has stated that "we don't need anymore anthropology majors." As anthropologists who have worked v...

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### [Pasco schools grapple with class size amid budget cuts](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/16/2011)

LAND O'LAKES — Principal David Salerno spent the first weeks of school seeking ways to get Rushe Middle School in compliance with Florida's class size requirements. After losing 11 staff members over the summer to budget cuts, though, Salerno found that the 1,300-student school couldn't meet the mark. He set math classes as a priority, making sure none exceeded the state cap of 22 students ...

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### [The governor likes STEM system of learning, and so do Tampa Bay area educators](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/16/2011)

TAMPA — As one class at Middleton High School studied dehydration synthesis, another took a test on computer networks while students in an engineering class designed assembly lines. "I want to see the process," said Brian Ware, 17, an engineering student. Teammate Andres Salas, 15, said, "I like to use computers." But he doesn't like programming. It remains to be seen whether these will be...

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### [Ellen Gillette: Decline in cursive writing leads to destruction of English language](#)

(Stuart News © 10/16/2011)

It's not that schools are banning cursive writing, exactly. President Barack Obama is simply trying to help them ease out of the "No Child Left Behind" era by adopting national common core standards. Unfortunately, cursive is getting left behind. Debbie Kohuth, coordinator of curriculum for St. Lucie County, says Florida's state standards explicitly required a demonstration of cursive, while nation...

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### [Teachers entitled to challenge state](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 10/16/2011)

While in Tampa last week on business, I read a rather insolent article ("Teachers union seek to nullify the public's will," Other Views, Oct. 6) penned by Steve Gunn. It has troubled me because Gunn contends that the election of Rick Scott last year by a 0.7 percentage-point margin was an overwhelming endorsement of all his policies. He goes on to suggest that Florida's court system is corrupt and...

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### [Volusia, Flagler meet state's class-size mandates deadline](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/15/2011)

The Volusia and Flagler school districts both met a critical deadline Friday for complying with state class-size mandates. District officials had to make some last-minute adjustments but were able to avoid financial penalties they would have faced if they didn't stay within the limits included in a constitutional amendment Florida voters approved in 2002 and endorsed again last year. Core acad...

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### [Student loan defaults cost taxpayers, too](#)

(Florida Keys Keysnews © 10/15/2011)

At one private health-care career college in Central Florida, 26 percent of students whose loans came due in 2009 had defaulted by the end of 2010, according to recent federal statistics. That means one in four face financial ruin – wrecked credit, docked wages and no more aid if they go back to school. A more extreme case, certainly, but not entirely out of the norm in the Sunshine State. ...

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#### [Duval schools work to educate teens about safe dating](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/15/2011)

A new state mandate for school districts to inform teens about healthy and safe dating relationships is important, educators say, but costly and it adds to a growing list of requirements taking focus away from academics. Duval County Public Schools recently adopted a teen dating violence or abuse policy to educate teens on how to recognize abuse, where to go for help and how to end abusive relat...

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#### [When should public schools be closed?](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/15/2011)

A consultant to the Duval County School Board noticed that the district has about twice as many small schools as Charlotte. Is it worth it to continue to subsidize small schools? Should they be closed? Or could they remain open in some other form, as a community center for instance? Could the school district and the city government create a partnership? The School Board is ta...

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#### [Guest opinion: Job market likes liberal arts degrees](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/15/2011)

There has been a lot of recent talk about the economic viability of university degrees in the humanities and social sciences. Why should the public fund fields of study that lack obvious market value? This would be a good question, if the assumption that a liberal arts education is a ticket to the unemployment line were true. But it is not true. There is ample evidence that the liberal arts pro...

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#### [For Children of Same-Sex Couples, a Student Aid Maze](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/15/2011)

It took five attempts for one prospective college student and her mother to fill out the 106-question federal form that would determine whether she would be eligible for financial aid. And that was not just because the form was frustratingly complicated. What tripped them up was the fact that the student had two legal mothers — and the form had room for only one. ...

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#### [Scott's talk of changing tenure has UF nervous](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/15/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott's comments this week about the state not needing more anthropology majors received the most attention, but changes to tenure that he's considering have the potential to impact faculty members across disciplines. Scott is looking at changes similar to the so-called Texas plan, a set of seven proposals championed by Texas Gov. Rick P...

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#### [Polk Schools Meet Class Size Requirement Deadline](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/15/2011)

BARTOW | Polk County School District officials said they would meet the state mandated class-size amendment and on Friday they did just that. The Department of Education deadline for school districts to be in compliance was Friday. "We're happy to have accomplished it," said Ann Tankson, associate superintendent of school-based operations. "It's be...

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### [Miami-Dade schools headquarters land may be for sale](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/15/2011)

The Miami-Dade School Board may be poised to sell its downtown Miami property — more than 10 acres of parking lots and office buildings not far from where the Genting Group is planning its mega-casino and resort. The cash-strapped school district last week issued a Request for Interest from would-be developers, the first step in selling or developing the property. Miami-Dade Superintendent Al...

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### [New TV show promotes healthy habits to Okaloosa students](#)

(Northwest Florida Daily News © 10/15/2011)

FORT WALTON BEACH — Healthy habits are being reinforced to Okaloosa County students on yet another front. The school district aired the first episode of “Healthy Habits for Kids” on Wednesday. A new episode will be featured each month. “I think it’s going to be very beneficial,” said Stacie Smith, one of the district employees overseeing the show. “Anyth...

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### [ACT is now the test of choice for Florida students](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/15/2011)

More Florida high school students are taking the ACT college-entrance exam, which has overtaken the long-popular SAT as the preferred test in this state. In 2011, 66 percent of high school graduates took the ACT — up from 45 percent five years ago. Meanwhile, less than 65 percent of Florida graduates took the SAT this year. The SAT historically has been the favored exam by students in Flor...

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### [School board balks on study calling for impact fee hike](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/15/2011)

Lake County School Board wants more information on a study that suggests higher impact fees be charged to homebuilders. The school district’s impact fees have been suspended until next April, but the study is required every three years to prove the fees are reasonably tied to the costs of school growth. This year’s study suggests the fees should increase from the current \$9,324 charge for a sing...

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### [Appeals court blocks parts of Alabama immigration law](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/15/2011)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala (Reuters) - A U.S. appeals court on Friday temporarily blocked Alabama from enforcing part of its tough new immigration law but allowed some disputed portions to remain in effect. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, based in Atlanta, halted the controversial provision that permits Alabama to require public schools to determine the legal residency of child...

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### [Palm Beach County School District meets class-size limits, avoids state fine](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/15/2011)

After shuffling around students and teachers and spending upwards of \$26 million, the Palm Beach County School District has met its state-mandated limits on class sizes, Superintendent Bill Malone announced in a short email to employees today. Last year, the district wound up paying a \$4 million fine because it didn’t even come close to being in compliance, with about 20 percent of its cor...

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### [FCAT changes prompt School Board to consider hire](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 10/15/2011)

In a workshop Friday, the Escambia County School Board discussed the possibility of filling an evaluation services position that's been vacant for three years. The board could vote Tuesday to hire a director for the department to help with Race to the Top requirements, as well as to help the district accommodate tougher FCAT standards expected to be put into place this year. Malcolm Thomas was i...

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#### [Scott's education agenda hurts the economy and the state](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/15/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott wants not only to cut public funding for higher education, but to shift the remaining money away from the liberal arts, humanities, and social sciences to "degrees where people can get jobs." By this he means degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In addition, Mr. Scott faults tenure for requiring devotion to research as well as teaching. ...

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#### [Class-size success declared for Palm Beach County schools](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/15/2011)

Palm Beach County public school classrooms are in total compliance with the state's class-size limits, a year after failing badly and getting hit with a \$4 million penalty, officials announced Friday. Chief Financial Officer Michael Burke notified principals that the school district reached the goal at 11 a.m., right at an enrollment-count deadline. It still needs to be verified by the state Depa...

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#### [Half of Broward's classes have too many students](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/15/2011)

The Broward School District has failed to meet the state's class-size limits, with too many students in about half of its classes, officials announced late Friday. That's far higher than last year — when 97.8 percent of classes were below the caps — and despite the added flexibility state lawmakers gave schools to comply this year. But new Superintendent Robert Runcie emphasized the ...

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#### [When high achievers shortchanged, we all suffer](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/15/2011)

For nearly two decades, public school educators have been trying to close, or at least narrow, the race- and income-based achievement gaps in graduation rates and test scores. The movement, which became a mandate with passage of the No Child Left Behind Act during President George W. Bush's first term, has become an obsession. For several years, supporters of the act, along with some early d...

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#### [Polk schools get creative for class-size compliance](#)

(Tampa Bay News 9 © 10/15/2011)

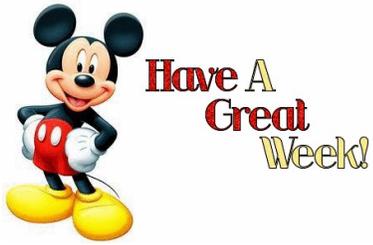
BARTOW — From Hillsborough to Polk, school districts across the Bay area are checking their numbers to make sure they make the cut for the state's class-size compliance. Dozens of school districts are working to meet the law, which mandates: \* Eighteen students per teacher of kindergarten through third grades ...

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#### [Former Lutz principal removed from new Wisconsin job](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/15/2011)

TAMPA — Milwaukee school officials have removed a new principal from her job as they investigate reports from Lutz about the financial collapse of the private school she operated here. Wendy Alexander was removed from her job today as principal of Fairview Charter School, where she supervised about 75 teachers and staff in a kindergarten-through-eighth grade program with more th...



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