

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:22:40 PM  
**To:** Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; Tart, Suzanne; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope; Walt Griffin <walt\_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us>; Evan Lefsky <elefsky@cfl.rr.com>  
**Subject:** FW: 10/08/11 through 10/10/11 Education Round-Up

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FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Higgins, Deborah  
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2011 11:17 AM  
**Subject:** 10/08/11 through 10/10/11 Education Round-Up

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**[Florida's open government laws are not optional](#)**  
(Bradenton Herald © 10/10/2011)

Public employees hold same rights as citizens Some members of the Board of Trustees of State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota may need to brush up on the state's Government in the Sunshine Laws. Florida's open meetings and open records laws cannot be sidestepped by elected and appointed officials who want to avoid the public eye in conducting government business. A citizen's right to...

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**[To Taser or not to Taser . . .](#)**  
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/10/2011)

. . . that is the question: Whether it is better to receive the blows of a disturbed person, and to suffer without any recourse for unfortunate situations, or to take arms against the disruptions of violence. I'm sure Shakespeare would forgive me on infringing on his famous "to be or not to be" soliloquy. As I told the Flagler County School Board, I think it would better to allow the police of...

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### [Flexibility on Tutoring Pleases Districts, Worries Industry](#)

(Education Week © 10/10/2011)

\$800 million in set-asides may be freed by waivers By Michele McNeil The U.S. Department of Education's plan to grant states broad flexibility under the No Child Left Behind Act will free up as much as \$800 million in money school districts now must set aside for tutoring students, but may mark a significant financial blow to an education industry that has grown up around serving low-per...

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### [Details Emerge on Senate ESEA Discussions](#)

(Education Week.K12 Politics Blog © 10/10/2011)

U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, is putting the finishing touches on a bill to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002. He has been negotiating on the proposal with Sen. Michael B. Enzi, R-Wy, the top GOP lawmaker on the committee, for months. The draft legislative language isn't scheduled to be released until n...

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### [Coalition of Ed. Reform Groups Releases Teacher Evaluation Ideas](#)

(Education Week/Politics K-12 © 10/10/2011)

Now that the Senate is getting close to consideration of a bill to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, groups are beginning to release their ideas on key aspects of the law, including teacher quality. One recent effort? A letter from a group of civil rights and education redesign groups, including Democrats for Education Reform, the Education Trust, and the National Council of...

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### [State, federal financial aid take hits from weak economy](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 10/10/2011)

Bright Futures Timeline Erin Jester, Alligator Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments As Florida lawmakers try to rein in state spending in a financial atmosphere still showing signs of a recession, high school students applying for Bright Futures may find it more difficult to earn the scholarship than past graduating classes. The Florida State Legislature, in the wake of ongoing d...

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### [Polk County School Board to Consider Creating New Charter Schools](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/10/2011)

BARTOW | The Polk County School District is one step closer to entering the charter school business with hopes of curtailing the number of students who drop out. The Charter Review Committee — a group comprising primarily district administrators, as well as a charter school director and a community representative — has unanimously recomm...

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### [Charter school in Coconut Grove draws controversy](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/10/2011)

Late last month, Miami-Dade school district officials scolded the Academy of Arts & Minds charter school for charging fees to students to attend basic classes — in violation of state law. But when the school's governing board met the next day, the fee issue was not mentioned. And when a parent began reading from the district's warning letter to the school, two board members walked out. The t...

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#### [Collier, Lee college students may get cell call about that delinquent school loan - POLL](#)

(Naples Daily News © 10/10/2011)

President Obama recently asked Congress to allow private debt collectors to call consumers' cell phones given that many debtors — and especially students — now rely on cell phones instead of landline phones. Poll Should debt collectors be able to call cell phones? Yes No Ye...

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#### [IN-STATE TUITION FOR IMMIGRANTS FACES LONG ODDS](#)

(News Service of Florida © 10/10/2011)

By LILLY ROCKWELL THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE.....When Texas Gov. Rick Perry defended his state's policy on offering in-state tuition to illegal immigrants at a debate in Orlando, it highlighted the stark differences between the immigration policies of Texas and Florida, where a similar proposal has failed year after year. Both states have legislatures dominated...

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#### [This state-of-the-art classroom makes physics fun](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/10/2011)

The students in Rob McCall's honors physics class pay scant attention to their teacher as they chat, scribble and even mark up windows with crayon. McCall doesn't mind. His students are tackling problems on projectile motion, calculating, for example, the maximum height of a golf ball in flight in a way meant to give them a deeper understanding of the subject. Working in small groups, th...

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#### [Merit-pay puzzle: How do you grade art, theater teachers?](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/10/2011)

A 15-hour workday is not uncommon for Vince Santo when he's directing the busy East Ridge High School theater program. Sets must be painted, parents enlisted, brightly colored costumes pieced together and acting skills honed. But at the end of the year, Santo's own performance will be measured in a way much different from the one used to evaluate him in the past. Because of Florida's cont...

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#### [Students who speak 145 languages pose diverse challenge for Palm Beach County schools](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/10/2011)

Updated: 10:17 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011 Posted: 9:52 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011 "De hond heeft mijn huiswerk opgegeten." That means "the dog ate my homework" to the 21 Palm Beach County School District students who speak Dutch as their primary language. "Tabestan madreseh tatil ast." That means "school's out for ...

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#### [Schools receive checks for cutting back on energy use](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/10/2011)

Thirty-four schools are getting checks from the Palm Beach County School District for turning off their lights. The district last week announced it has given more than \$40,000 in cash awards in the first round of the Energy Conservation Incentive Program. That program, created this year, gives schools that reduce their electricity bills by at least 5 percent vs. the previous year about 15 percent...

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### [Writing off cursive writing](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 10/10/2011)

Connor Brown, 8, can write his name and the entire alphabet in cursive. But the third-grader won't spend nearly as much time learning the swirly script in school as students might have 10 or 20 years ago. In a world in which children are basically born tech-savvy, the emphasis on teaching cursive in schools is dwindling. Connor, who attends Jim Allen Elementary School in Cantonment, said he is ...

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### [Area providers welcome state toughening up on pre-K](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 10/10/2011)

By the time most students leave pre-kindergarten at Miss Kathy's Early Learning Center, they know how to write their names, count to 20 and recognize the letters of the alphabet. Owner and teacher Kathy Sherwin is not worried about the tougher state standards her center now faces — her students get consistently high scores on the readiness tests they take after entering kindergarten. Last mon...

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### [In defense of single-gender education](#)

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

ORLANDO - Make no mistake, Leonard Sax told educators from as far away as Iceland and Argentina: Single-gender education is under attack. And it's not likely to stop with last month's article in the journal Science, which asserted all-boy and all-girl instruction has not been proven effective and will lead to stereotyping. Expect more such attacks,...

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### [Editorial: Indian River County School District should stop borrowing money to finance construction of new schools, other buildings](#)

(Scripps News © 10/10/2011)

The Indian River County School Board recently gave unanimous approval to the district's five-year capital improvement plan. One of the projects slated for construction is a new facility to replace Osceola Magnet School. The district already has \$6.5 million for the \$20 million project. However, to finance the remaining \$13.5 million, school officials plan to do what they've done, quite libera...

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### [Florida must do its part to lower high student default rates](#)

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

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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### [Scott wants to take pension savings from local counties](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 10/10/2011)

October 9, 2011 - 11:20pm Scott wants to take pension savings from local counties The Florida Sun-Sentinel 'Recapture' move would mean cuts to county, schools, sheriff The counties, cities, sheriff's offices and school boards that saved millions this year because of state pension changes will not be rolling in that newfound money next year, if Gov. Rick Scott has his way. Scott says...

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### [Cash-strapped New College sets \\$60 million target](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 10/10/2011)

By ZAC ANDERSON Copyright 2011 . All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. October 9, 2011 - 11:18pm Cash-strapped New College sets \$60 million target Associated Press SARASOTA — The “B” grade came as a shock to college senior Casey Morell. This is New College, after all, Florida’s highly selective and unconventional liberal arts h...

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### [Two Pinellas educators among those taking on new teacher evaluation law](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/10/2011)

Brandt Robinson was an “activist” long before he understood the meaning of the word. As a boy, he and his brother watched their mother write letters to elected officials and the local newspaper supporting equality. As a teen, Robinson attended rallies supporting civil rights. And as a college student, he wrote to then Yitzhak Rabin about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Robinson still has the l...

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### [Making high school campuses safer](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/10/2011)

There is no way of knowing whether having security cameras at Tampa’s Chamberlain High School could have prevented last week’s reported rape of a 16-year-old girl. Still, Hillsborough County school officials need to review the incident and their security to determine whether more campuses need cameras or other extra security. Tampa police said the girl was returning to class from her locker w...

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### [STEM challenge: Does Florida really want to be competitive?](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/10/2011)

They are, perhaps, the two most often repeated laments among Florida businesses and enlightened educators. 1. Florida’s economy and educational system is not competitive on the demanding global stage. 2. Too few Florida students are learning enough 21st century skills in “STEM” — the acronym for science, technology, engineering and math — with sufficient rigor and hands-on experience to handle th...

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### [Editorial: Growth of Florida Atlantic University on the Treasure Coast encouraging sign for education, research and economy](#)

(Stuart News © 10/10/2011)

Although Florida Atlantic University has had a presence on the Treasure Coast since 1974 and expanded that presence in 1995 when it formed a partnership with Indian River State College for a joint campus in Port St. Lucie, the school became a much more important part of the educational and economic future of the Treasure Coast when the world-renowned Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute became a ...

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### [What’s a teacher worth?](#)

(Citrus County Chronicle © 10/09/2011)

By Greg BiancoDAVE SIGLERLongtime Inverness Middle School teacher Greg Bianco gives a presentation on ocean life to a group of Forest Ridge Elementary School pre-kindergarteners May 2, 2003.Buy this photoDAVE SIGLERBianco shows students Shenise Emanuel, left, and Aaron Molinero, center, an octopus on May 2, 2003, during a presentation on ocean life at Forest Ridge Elementary School.Buy this photo ...

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### [Guest opinion: Parents as partners equals school success for the family](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/09/2011)

I have been an educator in the School District of Lee County for 26 years and I have learned that there is no topic in education on which there is greater agreement than the

need for parental involvement. According to my new friend, Grandma Yolanda, we need to also help our grandparents who have returned to the parenting role and support them in this transition into parenting. A renewed focus on ...

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#### [Fewer "exceptional" students in need?](#)

(Hernando Today © 10/09/2011)

BROOKSVILLE The number of special needs students being enrolled into Exceptional Student Education programs is steadily decreasing — both in the county and statewide. But one state spokesman said it's not that there are fewer children with needs. Instead, they're being shuffled into different programs. Since the fall of 2007, the number of ESE students in Hernando County has decreased from 3,4...

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#### [Schools short on money may be left in disrepair](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 10/09/2011)

Marion County taxpayers are paying the entire bill for major maintenance projects throughout the School District now that the state is no longer delivering Public Education Capital Outlay money. The district is getting 48 percent less funding for its major maintenance projects than it did four years ago, and now it is struggling to properly mainta...

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#### [Arts are vital tool in quality education](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 10/09/2011)

I am writing this on behalf of the dedicated music educators of the Marion County school district, several of whom I know personally and respect a great deal. To better acquaint you with our organization, the Florida Elementary Music Educators Association, which is a component of the larger bodies known as Florida Music Educators Association (Tallah...

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#### [Hernando County rolls out new teacher evaluation system](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/09/2011)

BROOKSVILLE — Jason Galitsky started his lesson about the future of teacher evaluations with a question about the past. "How did we use to do evaluations?" Galitsky, a teacher support specialist, asked a half dozen Moton Elementary School fourth-grade teachers gathered in the school's data lab last week. Elane Rogers didn't hesitate. "It was a dog and pony show," she said. It's an oft-u...

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#### [Hillsborough educators see encouraging signs at single-gender schools](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/09/2011)

ORLANDO — Make no mistake, Leonard Sax told educators from as far away as Iceland and Argentina: Single-gender education is under attack. And it's not likely to stop with last month's article in the journal Science, which asserted all-boy and all-girl instruction has not been proved effective and will lead to stereotyping. Expect more such attacks, said Sax, chairman of the National Associ...

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#### [Facebook policies tricky in the workplace](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/09/2011)

WASHINGTON - In the age of instant tweets and impulsive Facebook posts, companies are still figuring out how to limit what their employees say. Confusion about what workers can or can't post on social media has led to a surge of National Labor Relations Board complaints — most within the past year. "Employers are struggling to figure out what the right policies are and what they should do when..."

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### [District suspends teacher contract talks](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 10/08/2011)

ataylor@bradenton.com MANATEE – Manatee County School District officials have declared an impasse in talks with representatives of the local teachers' union on a 2011-12 contract. At issue are district proposals for a 2.75 percent pay cut for teachers; and a 12 percent to 48 percent increase in health insurance premiums, depending on benefit options chosen. After about three months...

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### [County's schools prepare for most important attendance week](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/08/2011)

Alachua County schools officials are preparing for one of the most important attendance weeks of the school year, which not only will determine how much funding the district will receive from the state but also how much it could be fined for exceeding the class-size limit. The delicate balancing act involving class sizes is compounded by the numbe...

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### [Demand Better For Our Teachers](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/08/2011)

If you've been reading this column for a while, you will remember I predicted there would be a mass exodus of highly qualified, seasoned teachers from Polk County public schools if something didn't change. Well, things changed all right. They got much, much worse, and teachers are leaving as fast as they can. They are quitting teaching, they are g...

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### [Area providers welcome state toughening up on pre-K](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 10/08/2011)

By the time most students leave pre-kindergarten at Miss Kathy's Early Learning Center, they know how to write their names, count to 20 and recognize the letters of the alphabet. Owner and teacher Kathy Sherwin is not worried about the tougher state standards her center now faces ? her students get consistently high scores on the readiness tests they take after entering kindergarten. Last month,...

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### [Student borrowers have another option before defaulting on loans](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/08/2011)

The number of borrowers defaulting on federal student loans continues to rise. But even during the long and painful economic recovery, many of these defaults likely are unnecessary. The federal government has long offered leniency for borrowers in financial hardship. But two years ago it added an income-based repayment plan that caps monthly payments based on a borrower's income and family size. ...

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### [Tallahassee lawyer to head Fla. college system](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 10/08/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A Tallahassee bond lawyer is the new chancellor of the Florida College System. Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson named Randy Hanna to the post Friday. Hanna will succeed Will Holcomb, who is retiring, on Nov. 14. The system includes 28 community and state colleges. He is former chairman of the Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce and has served on several higher educati...

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### [Jail inmates facing loss of educational programs](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/08/2011)

TAMPA — Adrian Miller used to be a teen with a drug problem and a habit of landing behind bars. Now, at 34, he's a father who holds a driver's license, pays child support and dreams of starting a plant nursery. Free for nearly two years, this is his longest jail-free stint since he turned 18. All this, he says, happened because of the lessons he learned in jail through vocational training....

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[Pinellas schools chief revamps teacher training partnership with University of Florida's Lastinger Center](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/08/2011)

Interim Pinellas schools superintendent John Stewart is upending one of his predecessor's biggest projects, a 4-year-old teacher training partnership with the University of Florida that was billed as the "new Gatorade." Stewart said Friday that he and officials with UF's Lastinger Center for Learning agreed to immediately reshape the venture, which is contracted through the rest of the school yea...

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[Hire people with disabilities](#)

(Daytona Beach Journal © 10/07/2011)

Hire people with disabilities By BILL OAKLEY, Orlando October 3, 2011 12:05 AM Posted in: Letters to the Editor Tagged: disabled Each day, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida benefits from the work of people with disabilities. We rely on talented professionals, including those with disabilities, to produce results and help us fulfill our mission of helping people in Central Flori...

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[Lawmakers warn of more cuts](#)

(Florida Capital News © 10/07/2011)

Florida legislative leaders are warning that schools, health care and other programs could get cut again in 2012. The state's economy stalled over the summer and now there are dire predictions that the fragile recovery once under way will not materialize as expected. New estimates floated by the GOP-controlled Florida Legislature on Thursday suggest that state legislators may be confronted by a ...

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[Gaming the Merit Pay System](#)

(State Impact Florida © 10/07/2011)

Teacher merit pay systems need less objectivity and more accountability if they are to work, argues an economist at the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute. Rating and paying teachers based on student test scores is unlikely to improve teachers, writes Arnold Kling. It is easier to "game" the system if it is based on a simple formula, Kling wrote. A new Florida law requires school districts t...

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Have a wonderful Monday!

*Deborah*

