

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Tuesday, October 04, 2011 10:00:04 AM  
**To:** Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; Tart, Suzanne; Colle, Hope; Lee, Laurie; Walt Griffin <walt\_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us>; Evan Lefsky <elefsky@cfl.rr.com>  
**Subject:** FW: 10/04/11 Education Round-Up

---

FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,  
Educational Policy Analyst,  
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:** Higgins, Deborah  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2011 9:23 AM  
**Subject:** 10/04/11 Education Round-Up

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[Let States Reform Education. Don't Let Them Set a Low Bar: View](#)  
(Bloomberg News © 10/04/2011)

By the Editors - Oct 2, 2011 In issuing waivers to states under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aka No Child Left Behind), releasing them from a 2014 deadline for achieving 100 percent proficiency on standardized reading and math exams, President Barack Obama rightly chastised Congress for its failure to bring the law's decade-old requirements up to date. Unfortunately, neither the...

---

[Stun guns in schools? Flagler school board votes tonight](#)  
(Central Florida News 13 © 10/04/2011)

PALM COAST – They've been out of Flagler County schools since 2007, but now, the School Board may allow school resource deputies to carry stun guns on campus once again. Officers have not carried stun guns on school property since an incident four years ago at Flagler Palm Coast High School, where a deputy used one on a special needs student. ...

---

### [Brevard Community College's president to retire](#)

(Central Florida News 13 © 10/04/2011)

BREVARD COUNTY – Dr. James A. Drake, president of Brevard Community College, will step down this month, after five years as head of the school. Drake, 67, told the chair of the BCC Board of Trustees that his age, and the fact that he's spent 40 years as a college administrator and professor, contributed to his decision. Drake became int...

---

### [Academie Students Finish 500 Hours of Reading](#)

(Dunedin Patch.com © 10/04/2011)

Academie Da Vinci Charter School students celebrate 500 hours in a reading incentive program that will help buy food for villages in need around the world. The Dunedin Rotary Club is awarding the school \$500, on Oct. 4, that they will in turn use to buy an animal(s) for hungry people in villages and countries to be chosen later by the student council. Academie Da Vinci students fini...

---

### [Pilot Aims to Ready High Schoolers for Community College in 2 Years](#)

(Education Week © 10/04/2011)

Twenty-one high schools in four states are working this fall to restructure their academic programs into "lower division" and "upper division" courses that are aimed at readying all students for community college by the end of their sophomore year. Students who pass a series of exams, at that point, could leave high school and enroll—without remedial courses—in a two-year college, or stay in hi...

---

### [Florida Morning: School construction money dries up; candidates raising coin](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/04/2011)

By: Matt Dixon (matt.dixon@jacksonville.com, @Mdixon55) Florida Morning appears every weekday. Subscribe via e-mail. PECO PLUMMETS: Citing insufficient tax revenue and previous debt, economists on Monday said the state will have no money available to sell new bonds for school construction next year. A panel of state economists, meeting to tweak estimates made earlier this yea...

---

### [Brevard schools start keeping score on stipends](#)

(Florida Today © 10/04/2011)

Brevard Public Schools distributes millions of dollars each year in coaching and activity supplements. Now, in the wake of a scandal regarding where some of that money went last year at Viera High, district officials are paying closer attention to who is getting those dollars. District leaders have changed their human resources procedures to better monitor the extra pay. "We're trying to buil...

---

### [Guest column: SW Florida schools not up to standard](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 10/04/2011)

As a leading industrial biotechnology company, Algenol needs to recruit and retain top-tier technical talent. High academic and technical achievements are musts for our staff, as are dedication and drive. We want effective problem solvers who can work and communicate in a team environment. We face challenges to find local talent, or to relocate the kind of people that we need to advance our bus...

---

### [Schools can train. but for what?](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 10/04/2011)

Training tomorrow's workers is a little like trying to hit a fast-moving target with a broken arrow. That's the burden Southwest Florida schools and colleges face as they prepare tomorrow's workforce. In some cases, the organizations charged with matching the supply of workers to the jobs in demand aren't even allowed to take aim until the last possible second. Education takes time...

---

#### [Guest column: Lee curriculum goals are comprehensive](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/04/2011)

There is no more important goal for a school district than to prepare students for the next chapter in their lives. That is the mission of our district, and we want to ensure our students can compete not only locally, but also nationally and globally. Our schools and staff work to prepare students for success in the 21st century, knowledge-based economy. Part of that focuses on Science, Technol...

---

#### [Universities face cuts to repair funds](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/04/2011)

TALLAHASSEE - State university officials said they will have to go to a bare-bones wish list of mainly repair and maintenance over shiny new classrooms after a panel of state economists slashed estimates for available school construction money for 2012. Educators will have to slash \$267 million next year, which would leave them with about \$113 million in new cash for building for the fiscal yea...

---

#### [Colleges shift focus to cyber, digital fields](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/04/2011)

These days, college students aren't pursuing degrees to broaden their horizons or expand their intellect. They want jobs. And not just any job, but good-paying jobs with a future. Students rely on colleges to offer programs in high-demand fields that aren't just hiring now, but down the road. In the past two years, the bulk of new majors introduced by Southwest Florida's 11 accredited ...

---

#### [Wilson Bradshaw: Students must stay globally competitive](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/04/2011)

Children entering elementary school today are joining at an early age our increasingly connected world in which most countries' physical boundaries no longer serve to keep some things in and other things out. High-speed Internet, 24-hour news coverage from all points of the globe, email, electronic books, and social media are shaping the way young people look at the world and its possibilities,...

---

#### [Community found 'right person' for schools superintendent: Tom Scott](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/04/2011)

What are the accomplishments that you are most proud of this past year? Tom Scott From the standpoint of the School Board it is the collective work we as a board did to find a new superintendent. While the decision was the board's to make we made a concerted effort to involve all of the community in the process. That collaboration was critical in finding the right person for the job, Dr. Burk...

---

#### [More students defaulting on loans during recession](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 10/04/2011)

Emily Morrow, Alligator Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments As tuition increases, scholarship programs slip away and the unemployment rate hovers around 9 percent, the overall rate of students defaulting on their college loans has increased at the highest rate in two decades. The most recent results, released in September by the U.S. Department of Education, reflect an increase ...

---

### [Miami Teachers Get Race to Top Merit Pay](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/04/2011)

MIAMI BEACH | With laughter, tears and embraces, Miami-Dade County public school teachers were called on to a stage Monday and presented with checks of up to \$25,000 in one of the nation's first merit pay programs under Race to the Top. Fifth-grade teacher Kristine Christie said she was "in shock" after being one of 12 teachers to accept the top pri...

---

### [After Ruling, Hispanics Flee an Alabama Town](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/04/2011)

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. — The vanishing began Wednesday night, the most frightened families packing up their cars as soon as they heard the news. Enlarge | William Gaspar, 9; Eric Badillo, 11; Angel Garcia, 10; and Elias G...

---

### [A waiver not a cop out](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/04/2011)

The No Child Left Behind Act set a high goal when Congress passed it in 2002: All children in public schools will leave their grade proficient in the basics — reading and math. So why would President Obama want to give states a way out of having to follow the law? Unfortunately, this well-intentioned law, which garnered bipartisan support, also made few exceptions for children with learning ...

---

### [Miami-Dade recognizes top teachers with big checks](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/04/2011)

Fifth-grade teacher Louineze Mertil did not know why she was called to Miami Beach Senior High School on Monday afternoon. She soon found out: to pick up a \$4,000 check for her students' work at Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary. Mertil was among 120 top-ranked teachers who received big checks — some large enough to buy a new car — in a surprise ceremony, wrapping up the Miami-Dade school distr...

---

### [Editorial: Congress needs to act on No Child Left Behind](#)

(MN Star Tribune © 10/04/2011)

A few hundred Minnesota school districts are facing a dilemma: Do they ignore federal No Child Left Behind requirements, knowing that those rules will likely be changed by Congress or set aside by administrative waivers? Or should they follow the letter of the current law? Scores of districts are in this position. The recently released annual adequate yearly progress (AYP) report revealed that...

---

### [Schools take high-tech to next level in classrooms](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/04/2011)

By Walter Pacheco, Orlando Sentinel 7:07 PM EDT, October 3, 2011 Advertisement OCOEE — A 3-D volcano spurting lava leaps from the screen and hovers 5 feet above the ground. The cone splits open, exposing its magma chamber. Moments later, a dolphin appears on the screen and darts toward an audience that is wearing 3-D glasses in the dark. The skin and flesh peel off the fish, showing...

---

[Modest turnout still delivers on ideas of who should be next Palm Beach County schools superintendent](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/04/2011)

Palm Beach County's next schools superintendent should have a doctorate degree. Or at least a master's degree. He or she should have a financial background and be politically savvy. At the very least, the next superintendent should have a little common sense. About a dozen people spoke out this evening during the first of seven community input meetings to discuss what peo...

---

[Studying Sarasota's school district](#)

(Sarasota Herald Tribune © 10/04/2011)

The Sarasota County School Board will meet today with management consultants recommended by a community-based group. That group, Citizens for Academic Success in Education, has volunteered to raise private-sector funds to hire MGT of America, a national firm that consults with public-sector management. Members of CASE, largely representing business interests, think the consultant can help the S...

---

[District eyes firing driver who left boy on bus](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/04/2011)

SARASOTA COUNTY - School Superintendent Lori White wants to fire a bus driver who failed to notice for two hours that she had forgotten to drop off a 3-year-old boy last month. Driver Sandra Runck's future with the district will be decided by School Board members at a meeting on Oct 18. If the board decides to fire Runck, she wou...

---

[Schools prepare to fire bus driver](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/04/2011)

SARASOTA COUNTY - School Superintendent Lori White wants to fire a bus driver who failed to notice for two hours that she had forgotten to drop off a 3-year-old boy last month. It took her hours to realize she forgot to drop a boy off Driver Sandra Runck's future with the district will be decided by School Board members ...

---

[New school flexibility welcome in No Child Left Behind reprieve](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/04/2011)

Currently there are no comments. Be the first to comment!...

---

[Broward's schools chief to get \\$268,000 salary and perks](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/04/2011)

UPDATE: The Broward School Board will offer its new superintendent \$268,000 a year in base salary along with other perks like a \$900 car allowance and a \$500 a month expense allowance. Under the proposed contract, Robert Runcie also would receive up to \$20,000 in moving expenses. The contract is for three years. The contract is set for consideration at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, said Nadine Dre...

---

[Bonding dries up to pay for new school construction](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 10/04/2011)

By MICHAEL PELTIER and LILLY ROCKWELL Copyright 2011 . All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. October 3, 2011 - 11:24pm Bonding dries up to pay for new school construction The News Service Of Florida This year is bad, next year is worse, says panel of economists TALLAHASSEE — Citing insufficient tax revenue and previous debt, eco...

---

### [Slow Economy Puts Hit on School-Construction Funding](#)

(Sunshine State News © 10/04/2011)

Posted: October 4, 2011 3:55 AM Citing insufficient tax revenue and previous debt, economists on Monday said the state will have no money available to sell new bonds for school construction next year. A panel of state economists, meeting to tweak estimates made earlier this year, slashed estimates for available school construction money by \$267 million for 2012, leaving educator...

---

### [Vice President Biden to speak at Pasco elementary school](#)

(Tampa Bay News 9 © 10/04/2011)

LAND O' LAKES – Vice President Joe Biden will be in Pasco County Tuesday to visit with students at Oakstead Elementary School. Biden's visit is part of a plan to push the American Jobs Act. Pasco County school officials said they are very interested in hearing the plan, particularly what it can do to help their financially strapped district. ...

---

### [New sexting law eases penalties, to impact schools](#)

(Tampa Bay News 9 © 10/04/2011)

Orlando – Teens caught "sexting" will no longer face felony charges for the first offense. A new state law has eased the penalties for the crime. "We were seeing teens as young as 14 years old be branded as sex offenders for life," said State Rep. Darren Soto, D- Orlando. "And let's say they could have gone on to do something great." House ...

---

### [Superintendent reverses course, provides proposed magnet school changes](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/04/2011)

BROOKSVILLE - Information on proposed changes to magnet schools is available online after all — just hours after the district superintendent said the public and board members would have to wait until Tuesday. One proposal calls for basing no more than 40 percent of a magnet school's admissions on proximity to the magnet schools rather than lottery and portfolio applications — making them "partia...

---

### [What if the NFL Played by Teachers' Rules?](#)

(Wall Stgreet Journal © 10/04/2011)

By FRAN TARKENTON Imagine the National Football League in an alternate reality. Each player's salary is based on how long he's been in the league. It's about tenure, not talent. The same scale is used for every player, no matter whether he's an All-Pro quarterback or the last man on the roster. For every year a player's been in this NFL, he gets a bump in pay. The only difference between To...

---

### [Lee County disability aid center gets set to reopen](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 10/03/2011)

A Broward County organization will take over independent living services for people in the area with mental and physical disabilities. The Center for Independent Living of Southwest Florida abruptly shut this summer amid allegations of fiscal mismanagement. The Center for Independent Living of Broward County plans to open a center in south Fort Myers in November, said Karen Dickerhoof, its exe...

---

**Have a terrific day! Please see the article below.**



**Tallahassee Democrat**

**NSF money crucial for Mag Lab**

**'If (the grant) doesn't happen, we shut down. It's that simple'**

**5:57 AM, Oct. 4, 2011**

**By Doug Blackburn Democrat senior writer**

It may be almost a year before administrators and scientists at the National Magnetic High Field Laboratory at Florida State University learn their fate.

FSU has applied to the National Science Foundation for a five-year, \$200-million renewal grant, which is crucial to the 22-year-old Mag Lab's existence.

Kirby Kemper, vice president of research at FSU, acknowledges that in an uncertain economy there are no guarantees — even for a one-of-a-kind research facility that brings scientists from around the world to Tallahassee.

"If (the grant) doesn't happen, we shut down. It's that simple," Kemper said.

It's difficult to image FSU or Tallahassee without the Mag Lab, a consortium involving University of Florida and Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory that employs about 400 locally.

More than 1,100 scientists from around the globe are expected to come to the Mag Lab this year to do research and conduct experiments. It is the cornerstone of FSU's growing research campus at Innovation Park.

"It's the only national lab at a university in the Southeast," Kemper said. "It's also a crown jewel for United States science.

"In addition to the researchers who come here because of the Mag Lab, we bring another 2,000 here for conferences. We populate the Residence Inn on Gaines Street. (The Mag Lab) is a huge economic driver for the community."

National Science Foundation grants account for about 80 percent of the Mag Lab's funding. Greg Boebinger, director of the Mag Lab, expects an initial site visit from NSF scientists in December or January.

FSU's grant application will be reviewed by other scientists, who will comment on the value and quality of the research being done at the facility.

The National Science Board, which recommends funding to the National Science Foundation, may not make a determination until its May 2012 meeting. NSF funded more than \$6.8 billion in projects in fiscal year 2011.

Boebinger is proud of the work that's been done at the Mag Lab during the past five years. In addition to world records with magnets, there have been significant advances in super-conductivity as a result of research at the Mag Lab. He also points to the lab's advanced magnetic resonance imaging machines and the cutting-edge work done with them.

"We're making MRI go high definition, about 10 times what you get at a doctor's office," Boebinger said.

If FSU receives less than the \$40 million per year it is requesting, Boebinger and his staff will have to decide what to eliminate.

"We are making a case for every penny of the \$200 million, and scientists and the user community are backing us 200 percent," he said.

The Mag Lab is about more than high-tech research. It's also a host to K-12 students almost every weekday, introducing them to the marvels of science. Its researchers also are engaged in educational outreach at school districts across the region, reaching an estimated 10,000 students annually.

"The Mag Lab is also an intellectual driver," Kemper said. "If we don't get the grant, it's a big deal. It would hurt the country, not just us."