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**Sent time:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:24:37 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: Education Roundup 3-12-12

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FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Mongiovi, Jamie  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:33 AM  
**Subject:** Education Roundup 3-12-12

Florida Department of Education  
News Clips  
March 10-12, 2012



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**[Brevard school board members to vote on calendar option](#)**  
(Florida Today © 03/12/2012)

Brevard School Board members are expected to vote on a calendar option for next school year during Tuesday's meeting. Those seeking to speak out can do so during the public comment section of the meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Educational Services Facility in Viera. An early start option would start school Aug. 8, end the first semester Dec. 19 and the second semester May 22. A later st...

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**[Students fear loan rate hike](#)**  
(Ft. Myers News-Press © 03/12/2012)

Unless Congress intervenes, college will get costlier for millions of low- and middle-income student loan recipients starting next fall. The fixed interest rate on Stafford federal subsidized loans, held by almost 8 million undergraduates, is set to double July 1, a few months before start of the next school year. University of Florida freshman Griffin Plattner, a Fort Myers High School graduate,...

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[University of Florida ranks as top spirited school, InsideCollege says](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 03/12/2012)

Matt Boles, Alligator Contributing Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments InsideCollege recently ranked UF as one of the 24 most spirited schools in the country. The college guide published two lists of "Colleges with Plenty of Campus Spirit" on its website. UF made "The Most Spirited" list, and a second list named 52 schools with "Lots of Spirit." The schools were not ...

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[Doubling Down on Degrees](#)

(Inside Higher Education © 03/12/2012)

Four years after first introducing performance-based funding for public colleges in the state, Indiana's Higher Education Commission is upping the ante. Indiana's public colleges and universities will now be asked to double the number of degrees they award, cut costs, improve on-time graduation rates, use assessments to track learning, and create a common general education curriculum jus...

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[Editorial: Make public schools in Florida accountable, but do so in a way that will help them improve](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 03/12/2012)

Parents, taxpayers and lawmakers agree the public schools in Florida should be held accountable for the academic success or failure of their students. The question is how to do so in an accurate, fair way. A case in point is the recent decision by the state Board of Education to change the method of grading public schools. Certainly there have been too many A and B schools under the state gradin...

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[Charter school backers find little support in Tallahassee](#)

(Miami Herald © 03/12/2012)

The charter school lobby came to Tallahassee this year with an ambitious agenda: Win a share of school districts' construction dollars. Create a separate high school sports association. Empower parents to demand charter-school conversions. But they fell short on almost all counts. The defeats came as a stinging surprise for the charter movement, which had enjoyed a string of victories in pre...

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[After years of getting what they want, Charter Schools have tough Legislative session](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 03/12/2012)

March 12, 2012 - 12:37am After years of getting what they want, Charter Schools have tough Legislative session McClatchy News Service TALLAHASSEE — The charter school lobby came to Tallahassee with an ambitious agenda: Win a share of school districts' construction dollars. Create a separate high school sports association. Empower parents to demand charter-school conversions. But they fell shor...

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[9-year-old taped to chair at a public school in DC](#)

(St. Petersburg: WTSP (Ch. 10) © 03/12/2012)

WASHINGTON, DC (WUSA) — The mother of a vision-impaired nine-year-old student at the Friendship Public Charter School on 19th Street, NE says the school has fired a teacher there after that teacher taped the boy to a chair on March 7th. "I don't think this should happen to anyone's child, ever," Terik Washington told 9News Now. "His rights were violated. It's against the law. It should never, ...

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### [Waive to the top](#)

(Apalachicola Times © 03/11/2012)

Key points in this Outlook: \* The Obama administration's new waiver program offers states an enticing deal to escape the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, but at the risk of creating federal education policy chaos down the road. \* While greater state flexibility sounds appealing, the Obama administration's attempt to legislate from the executive branch r...

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### [State budget has flaws, but focuses on priorities](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 03/11/2012)

Politicians know you can't please all of the people all of the time – especially the 19 million people of the Sunshine State. But Florida lawmakers did a reasonably good job of balancing competing interests in the \$70 billion budget approved Friday. The budget, however, is far from ideal. It makes cuts to higher education and restricts hospitals' revenue streams. Those cuts are bound to cause...

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### [Editorial: Bait and switch: USF Poly Folly](#)

(Hernando Today © 03/11/2012)

In this year's session, both houses of the legislature were fooled by one of the oldest tricks in the book, the bait and switch. For more than 20 years, the University of South Florida has operated a campus in Lakeland, giving thousands of students the opportunity to earn degrees from a respected accredited university. But one senator, Budget Committee Chairman J.D. Alexander, is on a mission...

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### [State's new budget mixed bag for Treasure Coast](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 03/11/2012)

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's new \$70 billion spending blueprint slashes payments to needy patients' health-care providers, boosts public schools but slams Florida universities and pledges no new taxes while pushing counties to contribute millions more. In the latest rendition of the budget passed Friday, 2012-13 breaks down into a mixed bag for Treasure Coast state budget stakeholders. The GOP-led Leg...

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### [Confessions of a 'bad' teacher](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 03/11/2012)

NEW YORK I am a special education teacher. My students have learning disabilities ranging from autism and attention-deficit disorder to cerebral palsy and emotional disturbances. I love these kids, but they can be a handful. Almost without exception, they struggle on standardized tests, frustrate their teachers and find it hard to connect with their peers. What's more, these are high school stud...

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### [State colleges, universities see budget cuts](#)

(Tallahassee Democrat © 03/11/2012)

Lawmakers cut \$300 million from higher education statewide and continued shifting more costs onto students paying higher tuition in the just-concluded legislative session. Florida State University had \$65.8 million cut from its base operating budget. Florida A&M University was cut \$19.9 million. FSU's cut was the biggest dollar loss among the state's 11 public universities. The budget cuts ...

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### [Our Opinion: A passing grade](#)

(Tallahassee Democrat © 03/11/2012)

There's nothing like the final week of a legislative session. Bills and budgets fly around, and when the dust clears, citizens once again are left to wonder, "Wow, what just happened?" The Legislature had only two things it needed to do, and it accomplished those ... sort of. First, it had to come up with a balanced budget while facing another revenue shortfall, and it did that when the Ho...

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#### [Paul Ruscher: Let's take science seriously for a moment](#)

(Tallahassee Democrat © 03/11/2012)

Florida has made tremendous improvements in recent years in terms of the accountability of its educational system, data collection, and gains in the language and arithmetic literacy of its public school students, particularly in the early and middle grades. Adoption of the Next Generation Sunshine State Science Standards in 2008 advanced many goals that the science and education communities natio...

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#### [George Will: Laws matter little in push for education standards](#)

(Tallahassee Democrat © 03/11/2012)

Two policies of the Obama administration illustrate an axiom: As government expands, its lawfulness contracts. Consider the administration's desire to continue funding UNESCO and to develop a national curriculum for primary and secondary education. In 1994, Congress stipulated that no U.S. funds shall go to "any affiliated organization" of the U.N. "which grants full membership as a state to any ...

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#### [Public school system keeps too many poor teachers](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 03/10/2012)

Public school system keeps too many poor teachers Has the public school system become a massive politically correct institution? We hear double negatives and "you know" repeated in every sentence, colloquialisms dominate interviews by athletes, politicians, etc. This is why we need to stop spending taxpayers money to keep unqualified teachers influencing the education of American students. I ask...

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#### [Update: Montford persuasive in defeat of parent-trigger bill](#)

(Florida Capital News © 03/10/2012)

Updated at 3 p.m. The Florida Senate Friday rejected a controversial bill that would have allowed parents of students in failing schools to turn them over to private charter companies. Senators heard comments for about 45 minutes and then just more than hour of debate before voting 20-20 on the bill, which caused it to fail. Senators on both sides of the aisle who worked together against the bil...

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#### [Legislature passes bill giving Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind eminent domain](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 03/10/2012)

With just hours left in the state's 60-day legislative session, the Legislature passed a bill giving Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind eminent domain powers. The St. Augustine school is the only public education entity, which includes school districts, colleges, and universities, that does not have the power. With no debate, the Senate passed the legislation on a unanimous vote at 10 p.m...

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#### [First Coast left off education task force, but state says it wasn't a slight](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 03/10/2012)

Northeast Florida is the only part of the state not represented on a new education task for that will develop a plan to hold students with disabilities to the same academic standards as non-disabled students. The state says it was merely a scheduling issue and the area wasn't left out intentionally. Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson announced his choices for the 18 members of his Task For...

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### [Parental trigger bill fails in the Senate](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 03/10/2012)

The Senate defeated a bill that would have let parents decide what to do with their children's failing schools on a tie vote Friday, the latest and perhaps final victory for a dissident faction of the GOP caucus as the curtain came down on the 2012 legislative session. Eight Republicans – most of them reliable members of the maverick group – joined with all 12 Senate Democrats to kill the measu...

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### [Bill expanding Fla. virtual learning goes to Scott](#)

(Miami Herald © 03/10/2012)

A bill that expands online learning opportunities to Florida's elementary school-age children is going to Gov. Rick Scott. The bill (HB 7063) received final passage Friday in the Senate on a 36-3 roll call. It passed in the House on Tuesday. The Florida Virtual School would be allowed to expand part-time course offerings to children in kindergarten through third grade. The bill also removes a require...

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### [State universities power jobs](#)

(Miami Herald © 03/10/2012)

As highlighted in your Feb. 27 story South Florida's colleges provide an economic jolt to the region, the State University System of 11 public institutions — Florida International University among them — is a "patent-producing juggernaut." The story behind the story here is that we also learned recently the State University System is the highest producer and sec...

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### [Parental 'trigger' bill dies in Fla. Senate](#)

(Naples Daily News © 03/10/2012)

Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Wellington, left, is comforted by Sen. Garrett Richter, R-Naples, after her sponsored bill on parental triggering failed during senate session on Friday, March 9, 2012, in Tallahassee, Fla. (AP Photo/Steve Cannon) TALLAHASSEE — A bill that would have let parents trigger turnaround plans for failing public schools th...

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### [Promote charter schools, but don't stack the deck](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 03/10/2012)

Joseph Heller famously wrote in Catch-22 that "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they aren't after you." It's a wonder Florida's traditional public school officials haven't had that stamped on T-shirts. They've been looking over their shoulders recently for charter schools' feverish advance. Last year, lawmakers tightened traditional public schools' accountability, but loosened the shackl...

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### [9 Investigates: Firing bad teachers](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 03/10/2012)

CENTRAL FLORIDA — Why is it so difficult to fire bad teachers? WFTV found at least one superintendent and teacher who said the termination process needs to be updated. Cydney Abrahms' tirade against an autistic student at Winter Springs High School was recorded on video, but it didn't get her fired. Michelle McGhee, a third-grade teacher in Seminole County, brought a loaded handgun t...

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[Joan Bogle honored as senior volunteer](#)

(Osceola News-Gazette © 03/10/2012)

Photo/Osceola County School District Joan Bogle, center, was honored at a recent Osceola County School Board meeting with a certificate from the Department of Education designating her as one the 15 Outstanding School Volunteers in the state. School Board Chairman Cindy Hartig, left, and Superintendent Terry Andrews, right, presented her with the award. By Fallan Patterson Staff Writer Joan Bogle...

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[GOP leaders suffer defeat as 'parent trigger' schools bill dies in tie vote in Florida Senate](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 03/10/2012)

A split Senate shot down the so-called "parent trigger" schools bill on a 20-20 vote Friday in a final-day defeat for Senate GOP leaders, including Senate President Mike Haridopolos. It's at least the second high-profile measure backed by Haridopolos and his leadership team that was defeated by a coalition of Democrats and Republicans, who stopped a prison privatization measure earlier th...

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[Legislature passes \\$70 billion budget: due back Wednesday to redo Senate redistricting maps](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 03/10/2012)

Florida lawmakers finished the 2012 session at midnight Friday amid last-minute deal-making and the sobering news that they must return to the Capitol Wednesday to redraw proposed Senate district boundaries. The House and Senate both adjourned sine die at midnight exactly, ending the regular session of the Legislature after they approved a \$70 billion state budget and overhauled the state's...

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[Vermin problems at Panther Run Elementary School not over yet](#)

(WPTV NBC 5 Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach © 03/10/2012)

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla. - Parents and teachers at Panther Run Elementary, near Wellington, are feeling better about the school's most recent uninvited guests. "As far as I know, it's cleaned up," one parent, who didn't want to be identified, said. But according to a recent health inspection report, the campus was still crawling with rodents as of March 5, 2012. That's when county health...

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