

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:40:33 PM  
**To:** Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; walt\_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope  
**Subject:** FW: 3-9-12 Education Round Up

---

FYI – have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,  
Deputy Director,  
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:** Etters, Cheryl  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:48 PM  
**Subject:** 3-9-12 Education Round Up

## Florida Department of Education News Clips

March 9, 2012



[Lipizzan Stallions, Taste of Myakka to benefit 1914 schoolhouse renovations](#)  
(Bradenton Herald © 03/09/2012)

EAST MANATEE – It may be something of a miracle that Myakka City's wooden schoolhouse dating to 1914 is still standing. The place where generations of Myakka residents learned to read, write and do arithmetic, was set for demolition in 1993. But residents – with help from the county and the state – raised the money to cut the building in half, and move it into storage on Wauchula Road ...

---

[Obama, GOP governors share many views on education](#)  
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 03/09/2012)

WASHINGTON (AP) – A funny thing is happening between President Barack Obama and many Republican governors when it comes to improving America's schools: They are mostly getting along. After Obama spoke recently to the nation's governors, Louisiana GOP Gov. Bobby Jindal publicly praised the administration's efforts on education, and Virginia Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell said there was a lot of...

---

### [Racial dispute at center of concerns over possible gun at Yulee school](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 03/09/2012)

12:15 p.m. The lock down on Yulee Middle School was lifted about noon. School officials say no gun was found, despite Facebook rumors that a student had brought a firearm onto campus. Classes are resuming on campus, but Nassau County School District Executive Director of Administrative Services Sharyl Wood said parents can pick up their children if they want. Students will be released to parents...

---

### [Live blog: Duval School Board discusses superintendent search](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 03/09/2012)

The Duval School Board will discuss the search for Ed Pratt-Dannals' replacement beginning at 9 a.m. Catch up with the latest on the search for a new superintendent at [jacksonville.com/superintendentsearch](http://jacksonville.com/superintendentsearch), and join our live blog below. Duval School Board to discuss superintendent search...

---

### [Search for Duval's next superintendent may be long process](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 03/09/2012)

The Duval County School Board Thursday hashed out a timeline for hiring a new superintendent by December in a process that will include a series of meetings to get input from the community. In an all-day session, board members set the process for involving major stakeholders — including school system employees, parents, community and civic groups, the mayor and general public — in the decision, as...

---

### [Duval teacher extols lifelong learning](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 03/09/2012)

Rebecca Jane Austin-Datta followed her passion for teaching about 4,000 miles — from England to Jacksonville — and is now inspiring a lifelong love of learning in her students. Austin-Datta teaches high school honors chemistry at Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School, which is a magnet school for the medical arts. She also teaches a sixth-grade class, "The Seven Habits of Highly E...

---

### [Parents Hate "Parent Empowerment" School Bill. So Why Does It Exist?](#)

(Ft. Lauderdale New Times © 03/09/2012)

The bill would convert public schools to charters. ?A bizarre showdown is unfolding in Tallahassee this week. Advocates for parents – including the Florida PTA and Parents Across America – are lobbying vehemently against a bill that's supposed to "empower them." The proposed legislation would let parents vote to turn a failing public school into a charter school. Opponents say SB 1718, th...

---

### [Triggering the end of public educationColumn](#)

(Hernando Today © 03/09/2012)

The Florida Legislature has finally figured out how to destroy public education — under the guise of "school choice." After all, everybody likes choice, unless it involves abortion, contraception or gay marriage. The so-called "parent trigger" bill is the crowning blow to a decade-long effort to take "public" out of education and unload struggling schools, especially those that serve poor, black,...

---

### [Fla. Legislature passes UF and FSU tuition bill](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 03/09/2012)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Florida's two major research universities could gain wide power over how much to charge students under a bill sent to Gov. Rick Scott on Thursday. The legislation would allow the University of Florida and Florida State University to raise tuition above the current 15 percent yearly cap - if it survives the governor's veto pen. Scott, who has steadfastly said he is opp...

---

### [Brainstorming to end South Florida's brain-drain](#)

(Miami Herald © 03/09/2012)

The steady exodus of young professionals out of South Florida — and into cities such as Seattle, Denver and Houston — has come to be referred to as the region's "brain drain" problem. And it's a problem that local economic leaders are deeply concerned about. On Thursday, Florida International University's Metropolitan Center put on its collective th...

---

### [South Dade PE teacher accused of sex act with 15-year-old girl](#)

(Miami Herald © 03/09/2012)

A high school physical education teacher has been arrested after being accused of luring a 15-year-old girl off school grounds, giving her marijuana, and having her perform oral sex on him, according to Miami-Dade police. Jimmy Francisco Vega, who taught at South Dade Senior High School, was charged Wednesday with one count of lewd and lascivious battery in the Feb. 22 incident, police said. The g...

---

### [Collier Golden Apple teacher denied rehiring wants answers, has Lee job](#)

(Naples Daily News © 03/09/2012)

NAPLES — Mia German says she won't go away quietly. The former Collier County public school kindergarten teacher, a Golden Apple recipient in 2009, was denied a job by the Collier County School District in 2011. The Immokalee kindergarten teacher was reapplying for the job she held when she won the Golden Apple, given annually to an elite few of the district's best teachers. In between, she ent...

---

### [What would new tax pay for? School Board works on the list](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 03/09/2012)

Expand Pre-k programs, hire reading coaches, bring in more tutors, improve school bus security, update classroom technology, and enhance extracurricular activities. These are some of the things that a school tax might pay for if approved by voters in November, Marion County school officials said Thursday. Superintendent Jim Yancey offered the...

---

### [U.S. student-loan debt surpasses credit-card debt](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 03/09/2012)

A good education can make dreams come true, but for millions of Americans, paying for that education has become a nightmare. A new analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York gives startling details on the rising levels of student loan debt in the U.S. The report finds that Americans had a total of about \$870 billion in student loan debt in the third quarter of 2011. The report, ...

---

### [School Board gives up impact fees, with nothing in return](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 03/09/2012)

How much? That was what the Lake County Commission demanded to know last month. The School Board had passed along a new study showing that the impact fee on

new homes should be \$10,292. That's the amount it costs the school district, on average, to provide for new students each time a home is built in Lake. Commissioners, who have the power to impose the fee, simply wanted to know whether the S...

---

#### [Calif. court: Schools liable for hiring molesters](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 03/09/2012)

LOS ANGELES — School districts can be held liable for administrators who learn that an employee may be prone to molesting children but fail to take action to protect students, the state Supreme Court ruled Thursday. The unanimous ruling came in a 2007 case of molestation of a 15-year-old boy by the head guidance counselor at a Los Angeles County high school. The decision overturned trial ...

---

#### [Caylee's law, high school sports bills among many sent to Scott Thursday](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 03/09/2012)

Post Staff and Wire Reports Caylee's Law and measures affecting high school sports and Florida's major universities were among the more than a dozen bills receiving final approval by the House or Senate Thursday and sent to Gov. Rick Scott: Caylee's Law: The bill (HB 37), passed unanimously by the Senate, would increase the penalty for making a false statement to police about a missing child fro...

---

#### [Schools cracking down on cheating, plagiarism](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 03/09/2012)

As schools prepare for another round of high-stakes exams, Palm Beach County educators and parents are also making a pre-emptive strike against cheating and plagiarism. "We believe this topic is of extreme significance to students, parents, teachers and the community as a whole," said parent Sharon P. Kelley of West Boca Raton High School. The PTSA is hosting a cheating forum at 6:30 p.m. April ...

---

#### [Disputed ?inspirational messages? bill waits for Scott?s signature](#)

(South Florida Times © 03/09/2012)

Written by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Thursday, 08 March 2012 GULF BREEZE (AP) ? ?Pray for Our Schools,? many fading yard signs scattered throughout Santa Rosa County say, remnants of a bitter court battle over school prayer between conservative Christian groups and the American Civil Liberties Union That fight, which co...

---

#### [Magnets? distinction recognized](#)

(South Florida Times © 03/09/2012)

Written by STAFF REPORT Thursday, 08 March 2012 WEST PALM BEACH ? Suncoast Community High School in Riviera Beach, and Roosevelt Middle School in West Palm Beach, have been recognized as 2012 Magnet Schools of Merit by Magnet Schools of America. At Suncoast High, one of 50 Magnet Schools of Excellence in the United S...

---

#### [\\$5K helps girls in science push](#)

(South Florida Times © 03/09/2012)

Written by STAFF REPORT Thursday, 08 March 2012 HOLLYWOOD ? South Broward High School?s Ocean STEM Outreach Program for Girls (OSTEM) is one of only 11 projects in the state to receive a \$5,000 grant through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF). The Motorola Solutions Foundation provided \$50,000 ...

---

### [What We Think: Inspiration: A good first step](#)

(South Florida Times © 03/09/2012)

Written by EDITORIAL BOARD The very first thing that is obvious about the ?inspirational messages? bill which the Legislature has overwhelmingly passed and now awaits Gov. Rick Scott?s signature is that while it is an important effort, it fails to achieve a greater potential. The sponsors of the bill, including Sen. Gary Siplin, an Orlando D...

---

### [On 60th day of Florida's legislative session. Sine Die clock is ticking](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 03/09/2012)

TALLAHASSEE — Lawmakers in the House are debating the proposed \$70 billion budget, the Senate is taking up a controversial education bill that would empower parents to convert failing public schools into charter schools, and everyone is talking about a Florida Supreme Court ruling tossing the Senate's proposed legislative maps. Welcome the to the 60th and last scheduled day of Florida's 201...

---

### [Opponents say they can stop "parent trigger" bill](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 03/09/2012)

A raucous and emotional debate over a measure that would allow parents to "trigger" the takeover of their local school by for-profit corporations exposed raw nerves in the Senate and left the future of the bill murky entering the last day of the 2012 legislative session, reports Brandon Larrabee of the News Service of Florida. Opponents of the proposal (SB 1718) said they felt confid...

---

### [Legislators should demand better on higher ed](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 03/09/2012)

Only in Tallahassee would it be considered a victory to cut \$300 million from higher education and still establish a new university with no students, no faculty and no accreditation. Yet Florida legislators are congratulating themselves on spreading the financial pain while meeting Senate Budget Committee Chairman JD Alexander's demand to create Florida Polytechnical University. That is not good e...

---

### [Graduation rates expected to drop, but Bloomingdale, Newsome to bear up best](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 03/09/2012)

VALRICO — A tough new federal formula for measuring high school graduation rates may have some SouthShore and Brandon parents up in arms and others tickled pink. School officials, however, are cautioning against either reaction, saying communities need to take a closer look before reaching any conclusions. Graduation rates at county high schools are expected to drop when the state adopts f...

---

### [Former Martin County superintendent Sara Wilcox critical of Nancy Kline, test allegation](#)

(Stuart News © 03/09/2012)

STUART — STUART — Former Martin County schools superintendent Sara A. Wilcox says she would "absolutely not" consider phoning for help on a state certification exam. Wilcox, in her first interview with Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers since retiring in 2008, also criticized her successor's running of the district and endorsed Laurie Gaylord, a Martin County School Board member, in this year's su...

---

### [Editorial: Martin County taxpayers have right to be concerned about rising legal expenditures in school district](#)

(Stuart News © 03/09/2012)

The Martin County School District is creating a lot of business for law firms in the area. While this is good news for attorneys, it's bad news for county taxpayers, who have a right to be concerned about the large amounts of money the district is shelling out to defend itself in legal matters. And — unfortunately — this trend is likely to continue in the foreseeable future. At a recent meeting....

---

#### [Bill protects young Florida athletes after concussions](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 03/09/2012)

TAMPA – Youth athletes who get concussions will face more stringent medical scrutiny before getting back in the game, according to a bill approved Thursday by Florida's Legislature. The House and Senate unanimously backed the bill requiring schools and sports leagues to immediately remove athletes suspected of having a concussion. A physician must evaluate and approve the child's...

---

#### [Legislation could destroy dreams of college](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 03/09/2012)

In the midst of budget cuts and discussion of across-the-board tuition hikes comes Florida Senate Bill 1752. Introduced by Sen. Evelyn Lynn and amended Feb. 16, the bill would allow qualifying institutions to establish and regulate their own tuition, opening the door for record-breaking increases. The bill requires universities to meet 11 of 14 criteria regarding average freshmen GPA, annual giv...

---

#### [Bill would raise standards for athletes with suspected concussions](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 03/09/2012)

TAMPA – Youth athletes who get concussions will face more stringent medical scrutiny before getting back in the game, according to a bill approved Thursday by Florida's Legislature. The House and Senate unanimously backed the bill requiring schools and sports leagues to immediately remove athletes suspected of having a concussion. A physician must evaluate and approve the child'...

---

#### [School official says grant money unaccounted for](#)

(WFTX Fox 4 (Ft. Myers) © 03/09/2012)

LEE COUNTY - A top Lee County school official says for more than a month he's been trying to find out what happened to more than 80 thousand dollars. He says missing grant money is unaccounted for and he hasn't been given a reason why. Four in your Corner investigator Mike Mason going to district officials for answers. Dr. Alberto Rodriguez is the second in command at the school district. He ...

---

#### [School District Employee Faces Suspension and Possible Demotion Amid Sexual Harassment Accusations](#)

(WJHG NBC News 7 Panama City © 03/09/2012)

Marianna- Jackson County School District Transportation Director John Hamilton spoke out Thursday amid accusations he sexually harassed a female bus driver. "We just were not expecting anything like this. This has been devastating to me and my family. We can't sleep, we talk about it you start crying," said Hamilton. ...

---

#### [Gadsden Magnet School receives state recognition](#)

(WTXL ABC Channel 27 Tallahassee © 03/09/2012)

Gadsden Magnet School students and faculty with the Education Commissioner QUINCY, Fla. - Gadsden Elementary School in Quincy is receiving state recognition for being one of the top 10 elementary schools in Florida. Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson visited the campus on Thursday, March 8. He presented the school with an award for their excellence in education. Stude...

---

*Cheryl Etters*

Cheryl Etters

Public Information Officer

Office of Communications and Public Affairs

Florida Department of Education

325 W. Gaines Street

1524 Turlington Building

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

850-245-0413

[cheryl.etters@fldoe.org](mailto:cheryl.etters@fldoe.org)

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure.