

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:42:09 PM  
**To:** walt\_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us; Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope  
**Subject:** FW: Education Roundup 2-29-12

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FYI – have a great evening!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Mongiovi, Jamie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:25 AM  
**Subject:** Education Roundup 2-29-12

## Florida Department of Education



**[Charter school hires management firm](#)**  
(Florida Keys Keysnews © 02/29/2012)

Monroe County's only charter high school is bringing in new management, striking a deal with a charter school service that agreed to run the school pro bono for at least a year, board members decided Tuesday. Key West Collegiate, which opened last fall, has lost two principals and has hit its lowest enrollment in its brief tenure at about 30 students. On Tuesday, its board signed a ...

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**[Civic leaders taking a role in education](#)**  
(Florida Times-Union © 02/29/2012)

The race to choose Duval County's next School Board could be one of the most crowded and expensive in Jacksonville history. Four of the board's seven seats will be on the ballot this year and at least one incumbent — former Mayor Tommy Hazouri — has said he won't seek re-election. Powerhouse attorney W.C. Gentry is running again and has already drawn opponents. To date, seven candidates have ann...

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### [Time is right for new school leadership](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/29/2012)

The golden rule of a good life is simple. Did you leave things better than you found them? That applies to work and family and the larger community, as well. Ed Pratt-Dannals can be assured that he left the Duval County public school system much better than he found it. High school graduation rates were up over 11.4 percent in five years, including 4.6 percent last year. And 85 percent of Du...

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### [State Education Board backs charter school rejected by Duval School Board](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/29/2012)

The state Board of Education Tuesday ruled in favor of Jacksonville's Florida Virtual Academy, which had its charter school application previously rejected by the Duval County School Board. The state board's action overturned the decision of the Charter School Appeals Commission to back the denial. On Oct. 4, the School Board denied the application from Northeast Florida Virtual Charter School Boa...

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### [Game of budget chicken heats up in Tallahassee](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/29/2012)

The House budget chief says she is frustrated. The Senate's top brass say they are ready for a special session. Let the game of budget chicken begin. Early this morning, House Budget Committee Chairwoman Denise Grimsley, R-Sebring, told reporters that there was little progress made Monday night, and she is a "little frustrated." The Senate's biggest names, meanwhile, stood on the flo...

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### [Standardized Tests That Fail](#)

(Inside Higher Education © 02/29/2012)

Large numbers of community college students are being placed into remedial courses they don't need, according to new studies that questions the value of the two primary standardized tests two-year colleges use to place students: the COMPASS and the ACCUPLACER. The research, which analyzed data from a large, urban community college system and a statewide two-year system, found that up to a...

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### [Fair Features Options for Students With Disabilities](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 02/29/2012)

LAKELAND | Jeremy Brimer took a day off from his job Tuesday, but he certainly wasn't idle. Brimer sat at a table in Sykes Hall at The Lakeland Center, offering copies of his book "Where's Jeremy? A Life Journey of Living with Down Syndrome." He also shared his experience of learning to live on his own and holding down a job despite a genetic abnormality that could have confined him to a ...

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### [A new era: Florida schools face toughest standards ever](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/29/2012)

Florida's public schools face a tougher grading formula this year — and the prospect of a less-than-stellar report card. But the revamped A-to-F school-grading plan approved by the State Board of Education on Tuesday deleted or delayed a few parts of the proposal that school administrators had found most troublesome. That included an "F trigger" that would have meant an automatic F for scho...

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### [Our take on: Tuition hike caps](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/29/2012)

Don't bust the cap Higher performance from Florida's public universities and colleges will make the state's economy more competitive by attracting and growing more high-wage employers. But we can't back a two-tiered tuition proposal in the Legislature, even though it's being promoted as a way to boost quality in higher education. Bills approved by the state House and Senate education committees ...

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#### [NYC releases data for 217 charter school teachers](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 02/29/2012)

NEW YORK — Days after they released ratings for 18,000 teachers based on student test scores, New York City officials released similar numbers Tuesday for a much smaller number of charter school teachers. The so-called teacher data reports for the charter schools showed a range of scores from low to high, as with the traditional public schools. Participation was optional for charter schoo...

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#### [State board changes grading system, leaving school officials worried about failing grades](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 02/29/2012)

The state Board of Education today approved a new school grading system that superintendents from several large Florida school districts, including new Palm Beach County Superintendent Wayne Gent, have said could increase the number of failing schools. But the state board made several amendments aimed at addressing the statewide uproar of criticism from parents, teachers and school districts ove...

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#### [Sen. Don Gaetz on budget impasse: "I will stay here for a Tallahassee springtime"](#)

(Saint Petersburg © 02/29/2012)

Responding to Grimsley's comments, Sen. JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales, said the chambers are at impasse over higher education cuts, reports the News Service of Florida. Specifically, the Senate has proposed \$300 million in non-recurring cuts. The House position is also to cut \$300 million in higher education, but \$200 million of that would be recurring cuts. "I don't think you would be co...

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#### [State approves new grading formula for schools — with revisions](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/29/2012)

TALLAHASSEE — After a week of controversy gave way to an emotional public meeting, the state Board of Education on Tuesday softened plans to revamp the school grading formula. Superintendents, teachers and parent groups had slammed several proposed changes to the formula, including the so-called proficiency trigger, which would have slapped schools with an automatic F if fewer than 25 perce...

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#### [CAIR answers critics at Hillsborough schools meeting](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 02/29/2012)

TAMPA — Hassan Shibly had heard enough. After staying away from Hillsborough County school board meetings where people spoke what he called hatred and lies, the executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations showed up at a meeting Tuesday afternoon to finally say his piece. "With everything that has been said about me," Shibly told board members, "I am waiting f...

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#### [Magnet school students need to get applications in](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 02/29/2012)

TAMPA — If your child wants to attend an elementary magnet school or another school outside his or her attendance zone for the first time, an important deadline is approaching. Wednesday is the last day for parents to apply to the Hillsborough County school district for those spots. Among the magnets offered are the animal science program at Cahoon Elementary and the world studi...

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