

From: Smith, Kevin
Sent time: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:56:50 PM
To: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; walt_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope
Subject: FW: Education Roundup 2-25-12 through 2-27-12

FYI – have a great evening!

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



From: Mongiovi, Jamie
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 8:07 AM
Subject: Education Roundup 2-25-12 through 2-27-12

Florida Department of Education
News Clips
February 25-27, 2012



[Progress report slated on school construction needs](#)
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 02/27/2012)

An initial report on data that will be used to forecast Volusia County's school construction needs for the next five years will be presented Tuesday to the Volusia County School Board. RENOVATIONS A PRIORITY: The "educational plant survey," required every five years by the state, is expected to focus on renovation and remodeling projects this time around, in contrast to past years when new school...

[Opinion column: School grades](#)
(Florida Times-Union © 02/27/2012)

On behalf of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and the JAX Chamber, we would like to express serious concerns about proposed changes to the school grades formula. These changes were first put forward last month and are set for a vote by the State Board of Education on Feb. 28. These proposals would unfairly create more F-graded schools in Duval County and around the state, saddling distri...

[Change for evaluations has teachers worried](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 02/27/2012)

Teachers and school administrators are working under new evaluation requirements spurred by the Student Success Act passed by the Legislature last year, but one piece of the puzzle has district officials worried: the use of a "value-added" model. It could be boom or bust, said Steven Stark, Alachua County Public Schools director of rese...

[Jackie Pons: Let's be fair: don't let Florida Board of Education change the grade your school earned ex-post facto](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 02/27/2012)

Imagine that your child has studied all week in preparation for a test on Friday. After completing the test, he leaves with confidence knowing that he studied hard and did well. On Monday, he finds out he earned an A. However, because of too many high grades, the teacher decides to change the grading scale; now your child receives a B. No student or parent would think that's fair. But a Florida D...

[South Florida's colleges provide an economic jolt to the region](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/27/2012)

Construction has long been a staple industry in South Florida, but the Great Recession and its associated housing crash made building cranes a rare sight in recent years. At the same time, unemployment among all economic sectors has hovered near record highs. But at the University of Miami, Miami-Dade County's second-largest private employer, the past few years have included both a burst of...

[W.Va. to share plans on possible NCLB waiver](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 02/27/2012)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia education officials are set to share plans on whether they will seek a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind law. President Barack Obama is allowing states to waive basic elements of the Bush-era school reform act. States would need to meet conditions such as setting standards to prepare students for college and careers. West Virginia officials ha...

[Task force provides ideas to boost black males' graduation rates](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 02/27/2012)

The Palm Beach County School District needs to put its resources into more tutoring, getting students to take more Advanced Placement classes and hiring more black male teachers to bridge the racial gap in graduation rates and decrease suspensions of black males, a district task force has recommended. The graduation rate for black students in Palm Beach County public high schools, including chart...

[Charter schools would benefit from proposed legislation](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 02/27/2012)

TALLAHASSEE — Charter schools would receive more construction money, greater freedom to expand and the ability to take over struggling public schools at the request of parents under two bills still in play as the legislative session winds down. Gov. Rick Scott visits students and tours classes at Sarasota Military Academy, a charter school Feb. 17. "We have to remember the charter schools are ...

[Public schools jittery over proposed grading changes](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 02/27/2012)

Like students assigned to a tough new teacher, Florida's public-schools administrators are jittery and looking for a schedule change as the state gets ready to revamp its school-grading system. They fear the planned overhaul of the grading formula will unfairly label too many campuses as failures. The State Board of Education is poised Tuesday to make significant changes to Florida's school ...

[Hammering out budget agreement between House and Senate begins this week](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/27/2012)

The process of banging out a budget agreement between the House and Senate will hopefully begin some time early next week, House Speaker Dean Cannon said Friday reports the News Service of Florida. "Obviously, there are both some policy choices in the budget and some numeric differences that will have to be ironed out, but I don't see any insurmountable obstacles toward coming together...

[Jacksonville Public Library Offering Student Financial Aid Workshops](#)

(WJXX ABC 25 Duval County © 02/27/2012)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Jacksonville Public Library, in partnership with the Florida Department of Education will present "Figuring Out FAFSA," a free session offering a thorough explanation of the college financial aid application process, including tips for filling out forms. WHEN: Mon., Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Highlands Regional Branch Library 1826 Dunn Ave. - 32218 (904) 757-7702 ...

[State education chief abandons plan to grade centers for disabled students](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/26/2012)

The state is abandoning its proposal to grade public school centers dedicated to educating severely disabled students, but not its entire plan to hold special needs children to the same academic proficiency standards as non-disabled students. Some Northeast Florida parents of disabled children said Saturday they're skeptical of the state's intention, as are some school district superintendents a...

[Leaders develop 3-year plan for education](#)

(Marco Island Sun Times © 02/26/2012)

Heads of area school districts and colleges believe the path to rebuilding Southwest Florida's economy starts with rebuilding the local education system, this time aligning it with the region's workforce needs. The Alliance of Educational Leaders, an informal group of five superintendents and six college executives, on Wednesday announced a three-year plan that would push students to take more ch...

[New formula for grading schools criticized](#)

(Miami Herald © 02/26/2012)

A new formula for grading Florida schools, set for a vote Tuesday by the state Board of Education, is facing a surge of opposition. Parents of special needs students, advocates for students learning English, teachers unions, superintendents from large school districts and the Florida PTA have blasted the new formula. Stirring particularly strong criticism: proposals to give schools an automatic F un...

[Legislature continues disinvesting in higher education](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 02/26/2012)

The Florida Legislature's years-long policy of cutting state funding for higher education while shifting more of the cost of a college education to students and parents

continues. Budgets passed in the Senate and the House of Representatives again reduce state funding for universities and colleges by hundreds of millions of dollars after four years ...

[Rules need to look deeper than letter grade](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/26/2012)

Accountability in schools is a good concept, but it is bad in practice when it is unpredictable and simplistic. And that's the problem with the new school grading system the state Board of Education will vote on Tuesday. The board should examine each of Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson's proposals individually. Some have merit. Some make no sense at all. Among the bad ideas: • Schoo...

[Pedestrian peril: Are students walking to bus stops cause for concern?](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 02/25/2012)

Some Palm Coast residents fear that with school bus stops being sometimes a mile or more from students' homes, the daily trek to and from the bus stop could turn into a tragedy when children opt to walk in the middle of neighborhood streets instead of on the sides of the road. (News-Tribune | David Tucker) Students stand on the side of the street at Eric and ...

[Martin Schools ready to take on proposed grading formula changes](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 02/25/2012)

Under a new, tougher grading formula up for consideration by the state Board of Education Tuesday, schools across the state are expected to see their school grades plummet. But the situation isn't looking as grim for Martin County as other school districts, which are bracing for more D's and F's. "This is a high-performing district and our expectation is that we'll continue to be a high-performi...

[After public outcry, state won't grade centers for educating disabled students](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/25/2012)

TAMPA – The state is dropping a move to grade the centers that educate disabled students, capping a week of outrage as Florida tries to revamp how it grades public schools. "That's off the table," Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson said Friday. A list released this week showed many of the special education centers, including those in Tampa Bay, earning "F" grades if the new rules were...

[Speaker remains neutral on Poly](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 02/25/2012)

TALLAHASSEE – House Speaker Dean Cannon on Friday sidestepped the issue of creating Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland. With the backing of Senate Budget Chairman J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, the Senate on Thursday voted 35-4 for a bill that will convert the University of South Florida Polytechnic campus into the state's 12th university. The school will focus on engineering and ...

[Duval County Superintendent to step down](#)

(WJXT Channel 4 Duval County © 02/25/2012)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The Superintendent of Duval County Schools is stepping down at the end of the year. Ed Pratt-Dannals made the announcement in a letter late Friday. Pratt-Dannals will retire in December 2012. DOCUMENTS: Pratt-Dannals' letter | Letter to the superintendent "I am looking forward to spending more time with my family, completing my doctorate and exploring other ...

Have a great day!

Jamie C. Mongiovi

Office of Communications & Public Affairs

Florida Department of Education

jamie.mongiovi@fldoe.org

(850) 245-0413