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# CERRA CONSULTING GROUP, INC.

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## Memorandum

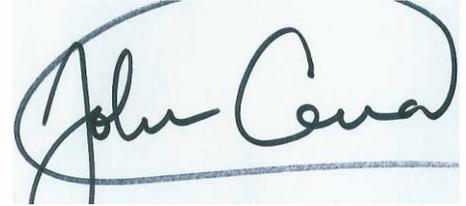
To: FLIBS Board of Directors

From: John Cerra, FLIBS Governmental Consultant

Date: May 13, 2013

Re: 2013 Legislative Update - FINAL

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The 2013 legislative session has come and gone. The Governor and Legislature considered several issues that will have major state-wide impact. One of the Governor's main priorities was making sure that state workers and teachers received a raise in 2013-14. This priority was realized for both state workers and teachers with both groups receiving increases in base pay. Florida teachers will receive approximately \$2,500 each subject to local collective bargaining. This issue was worked until the final days of session to make sure that this pay increase would be realized in 2013. Another issue that will increase the amount of pay for some teachers was a change to the IB and AP performance bonuses.

A major bill that came out of the Senate this year was SB 1076. This bill started as an industry certification bill that would create new programs and opportunities to allow students to take and pass industry certification courses. The bill also revises high school graduation requirements by adding financial literacy as a course allowable under the 24 credit requirements. The bill also creates two scholarship designations; the Scholar and the Merit and in the future, only the Algebra I and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts EOC's will be required to be passed for graduation with all other state EOC's being required to be at least 30% of the student's final grade in that class. Further, previous requirements to pass the Civics EOC in middle school for promotion were also erased in this bill. As SB 1076 moved along in the process, the bill was amended to include an increase in AP bonuses from \$2,000 to a potential increase of \$3,000. When this change occurred the bill had already moved through two committees of reference and time in the legislative process was running out to amend SB 1076 to include IB teachers to the performance bonus increase. After conversations with the FLIBS board, it was agreed that it would be important to go after the same increase in bonus opportunities as AP was receiving. After the FLIBS board decided to work for a similar increase in bonus language, we started working with the Senate to amend their bill to include IB bonus language in the bill. We had several House and Senate members who helped make this increase happen. First, there are four Senators that helped make sure that this increase to the IB bonus occurred. The Senators involved were: Senator Montford (D); Senator Stargel (R); Senator Bean (R); and the sponsor of the bill Senator Legg (R).

## How our Legislators helped us

Senator Montford, Senator Stargel and Senator Bean should get many thanks for asking several questions about the bill. One of the major questions was, "Why did the bill not include an increase in IB bonuses, when the newly amended bill had language that reflects an increase in AP bonuses?" Originally the bill did not include bonuses for AP teachers so naturally the bill did not have similar language for IB. The next question was, "Why did we not include IB in the new bonus section, when the Senate had amended in the AP language?" After we had some answers to our questions, we were able to take our issue to the next step. This next step was one of the most important in the process to include IB bonuses in the newly amended SB 1076. This is where Senator Montford, a Democrat, from Leon county, a former superintendent of schools in Leon county and absolutely an expert in public school education in Florida, took control. With Senator Montford's help and interest in our issue, he spearheaded the mission to amend SB 1076 with FLIBS's IB bonus language. We cannot thank, Senator Montford enough for the hard work he put into making sure that our language would be included and not voted down in committee. Lastly he took this issue to the next level making sure that the House of Representatives would accept our bonus language and that the Governor would not veto the bill. We must thank the sponsor of the bill in the Senate, Senator Legg and his staff for working daily with FLIBS and allowing our language to be amended to this great bill. We did have friends in the House of Representatives and we must thank both Representative Porter (R), who sponsored the bill in the House, and Representative Fressen for their help in including our language in the final bill package that passed the House and Senate and has already been signed by the Governor.

Below is the change in language that provides an increase to IB teachers from \$2000 bonus to a \$3000 bonus if our teachers meet the increased qualifications.

3042 Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph may  
3043 ~~shall~~ not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year. However, the  
3044 maximum bonus shall be \$3,000 if at least 50 percent of the  
3045 students enrolled in a teacher s course earn a score of 4 or  
3046 higher on the examination in a school designated with a grade of  
3047 A , B , or C ; or if at least 25 percent of the students  
3048 enrolled in a teacher s course earn a score of 4 or higher on  
3049 the examination in a school designated with a grade of D or  
3050 F . Bonuses awarded under this paragraph ~~and~~ shall be in  
3051 addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher received  
3052 or is scheduled to receive. For such courses, the teacher shall  
3053 earn an additional bonus of \$50 for each student who has a  
3054 qualifying score up to the maximum of \$3,000 in any given school  
3055 year.

One thing that was consistent this year is that the Governor and the Legislature decided that increasing teacher pay would be an important way to promote and

thank the hard work that our school professionals have provided the state over the past year. With a combination of the \$2,500 salary increase that the Governor fought so hard to provide to teachers and the increase in IB and AP bonus language that would allow those teachers to increase their bonus pay from the \$2,000 to \$3,000 if our teachers meet the qualifications in the bill.

## **Public School Funding**

### **Appropriate FEFP Total Potential Funding**

Over \$1 billion as an increase was provided for public school district operations statewide. While a significant portion of this funding will be tied up in either increased FRS costs (about \$290 million statewide) or increased educator salary requirements (\$480 million), this still represents a significant step forward after multiple years of massive cuts since 2007.

### **Base Student Funding**

The increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) of \$169.32 leaves the BSA \$9.98 higher than it was eight years ago. The BSA amount for year 2013-14 is \$3,752.30.

### **Teacher Salary Allocation**

This year the Legislature added \$480,000,000 to the education funding with an earmark that this funding be used for educator salary increase. Final language that was included in a separate bill gives local school boards control to negotiate how this funding is distributed, but there is a clear desire by the Legislature for some component of the funding to be based on performance. Each school district will determine how this funding will be distributed with a plan that was bargained locally, which allows districts to include administrators and other education professionals in their plan but does not mandate they be included in the plan.

### **Special Weights for IB Programs**

In 2013 the legislature did not look at changing the weights for IB. This was important because these funds are how our programs are funded locally. What has changed for IB diploma teachers is a \$1,000 increase in potential bonus funding for IB diploma teachers from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

### **Florida Retirement System**

Despite strong support of the Speaker of the House to close the pension plan for new participants, no benefit changes were made in this regard during the 2013 session. We would expect for this conversation to continue in 2014.

### **Bills of Interests that did not pass**

For the second year in a row many bills have taken a parental empowerment theme. This year there were several. The Parent Trigger bill and the Florida High School Athletics Association bills both were marketed as providing parents with more opportunities to control what options their children have in schools. These two bills

were ultimately rejected in the Senate and we believe that both of these issues will reemerge next session.

Cerra Consulting Group was proud to have the opportunity to represent FLIBS and to work with your leaders this year. If you have any questions about the education budget, the education budget conforming bill or any other issue considered during the 2013 session, please contact us immediately at [cerraj@comcast.net](mailto:cerraj@comcast.net).

### **Final Enrolled Bills List – PreK-12 Education Impacts**

SB 2 – Relating to Ethics

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0002/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 21 – Relating to Background Screening for Non-instructional Contractors on School Grounds

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0021/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 50 – Relating to Public Meetings

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0050/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 52 – Relating to Use of Wireless Communications while Driving

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0052/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 85 – Relating to Public-Private Partnerships

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0085/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 113 – Relating to Distribution of Materials Harmful to Minors

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0113/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 142 – Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0142/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 230 – Relating to Flag Etiquette

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0230/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 284 – Relating to School Emergencies

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0284/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 407 – Relating to Criminal Gang Prevention

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0407/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 461 – Relating to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0461/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 569 – Relating to Campaign Finance

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0569/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 609 – Relating to Bullying in the Public School System

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0609/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 801 – Relating to Certified School Counselors

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0801/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1076 – Relating to K-20 Education

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1076/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1096 – Relating to Repeal of Educational Provisions

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1096/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1108 – Relating to Exceptional Student Education

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1108/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1388 – Relating to Instructional Materials

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1388/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1500 – General Appropriations Act

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1500/Amendment/590582/PDF>

SB 1502 – Implementing Bill to the General Appropriations Act

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1502/Amendment/944582/PDF>

SB 1514 – Conforming Bill to the Education Portion of the General Appropriations Act

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1514/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1664 – Relating to Education

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1664/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1720 – Relating to Education

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1720/BillText/er/PDF>

SB 1810 – Relating to Florida Retirement System

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/1810/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 7003 – Relating to Interstate Compact on Education/Military Children

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/7003/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 7009 – Relating to Charter Schools

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/7009/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 7029 – Relating to Education

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/7029/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 7089 – Relating to Public Records / School Food and Nutrition Programs

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/7089/BillText/er/PDF>

HB 7165 – Relating to Early Learning

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/7165/BillText/er/PDF>