



The Florida House of Representatives

Paul Renner
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Florida House Unleashes Largest Expansion of School Choice in the Nation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 17, 2023) — Today, the Florida House passed the largest expansion of school choice in the nation in House Bill 1 by Representative Kaylee Tuck (R-Lake Placid). HB 1 expands school choice to all 2.9 million school-aged children, regardless of race, income, background, or zip code, while prioritizing low income, then middle income students. The bill unlocks universal school choice for every Florida student, empowering parents and students with customizable learning options to boost outcomes and create competition in education across the state. It also provides funds for every student with disabilities, also known as unique abilities, currently awaiting a scholarship.

“Governor Jeb Bush kicked off the school choice revolution over 20 years ago and Governor DeSantis will usher in the largest expansion of educational freedom in the country with the passage of HB 1. The goal is to deliver education in a much different way than the one-size-fits-all model that we all knew growing up. The Florida model factors in the unique learning needs of every child to deliver education by empowering parents and students to choose the best way to achieve their educational goals, regardless of zip code, race, or income,” said Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). “Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Representatives Kaylee Tuck and Susan Plasencia, Florida is poised to unlock the full potential of every student in the state.”

“Every student will have the opportunity to reach their full potential by customizing education to match their needs. Whether your child has unique abilities or needs additional tutoring to help them achieve more in the classroom, HB 1 gives parents the tools to boost educational outcomes. I appreciate the thoughtful debate on both sides of the aisle throughout the committee process to

improve our bill and I look forward to continuing to work with my House and Senate colleagues to ensure Florida delivers a world-class education for our students.”

HB 1 removes income requirements from the Family Empowerment Scholarship to open school choice to any Florida public school-eligible student, while prioritizing low-income families. HB 1 eliminates the waiting list for students with unique abilities to ensure their unique needs are met. It also allows parents to use Education Savings Accounts (ESA) to cover eligible educational products and services, including:

- Tuition and fees at an eligible private school.
- Instructional materials.
- Testing fees (e.g., SAT, ACT exams, etc.)
- Curriculum and tutoring.
- Tuition and fees for approved preapprenticeship programs and distance education at eligible higher education institutions.
- Choice navigator fees.
- Contracted services provided by a public school or school district.

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