



# The Florida House of Representatives

**Paul Renner**  
Speaker

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
March 22, 2023

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## **Florida House to Modernize PreK-12 Student Funding** *FEFP calls for increased funding and flexibility for every district and ensures funding for teacher salaries*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 22, 2023)** — Today, the Florida House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee approved a proposal to update and improve the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding formula for PreK-12 students. Proposed committee bill PKA 23-01 ensures all Florida students are fully-funded through their school districts while considering recent changes in Florida's PreK-12 education landscape.

The new FEFP aligns the state's funding model with the state's education policy that ensures funding follows the student. The modernized FEFP retains the structure of the FEFP which included: (a) the base FEFP funding and (b) separate funding allocations earmarked for certain programs or types of students called categoricals. However, the legislation reduces the number of categoricals and transfers their funding to the base FEFP funding, giving school districts greater spending flexibility to meet district individual needs. It also reorganizes and reframes the categoricals to more accurately account for policy adopted over the last 50 years, account for ESE students, and protect the minimum base salary for full-time classroom teachers.

For Fiscal Year 2023-24, the legislation provides for an additional \$2.1 billion in total FEFP funding over the prior year. It includes \$805.7 million in new state funds for the base FEFP to support school district operations in addition to the \$1.8 billion transferred from the nine categoricals. This also represents a \$459.11 increase in statewide average funds per student.

“Florida’s PreK-12 education system is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for achievement and through proper funding, policies and teacher recruitment, we can become number one. Over the last 50 years, as our policies have changed, our funding formula has not. This legislation represents a long-overdue update of an antiquated formula,” said Florida House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). “Modernizing how we deliver PreK-12 funding will ensure each district and school have the financial resources and flexibility for success.”

House PreK-12 Appropriations Chair Josie Tomkow (R-Polk City) added, “This transformational legislation modernizes the funding mechanism for the patchwork of K-12 legislation and policy adopted over the past half century. This new formula guarantees that every student, classroom, teacher and district will be fully-funded for success with the best environment for learning. Florida’s future leaders will not be hampered by a lack of resources.”

The bill provides for an effective date of July 1, 2023.

For more information about PKA 23-01, visit the House PreK-12 Appropriations committee page on [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov).

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