

Florida by the Numbers

“In the Classroom” Statistical Analysis

- 58.8%** Florida spent 58.8% of its educational operational budgets on “instruction” for the 2002-2003 school year according to the National Center for Education Statistics.
- 42nd** Florida ranks 42nd among all states for the percentage of education operational budgets reaching the classroom, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics June 2005 report for the 2002-2003 school year.
- 59.19%** Florida spent 59.19% of its education operational budgets on “instruction” for the 2003-2004 school year according to preliminary numbers from the Florida Department of Education.
- \$1,014,017,626** Additional money that Florida classrooms could have received in the 2002-2003 school year if Florida had attained a statewide average of 65% of its education operational dollars reaching our classrooms – **equal to \$399 per student or \$7,182 for each class of 18 students –enough for a new computer for every student in Florida.**
- \$0** Amount of new taxes needed to place an additional \$1,014,017,626 into Florida classrooms.
- NONE** None of Florida’s school districts currently reach 65% in the classroom – the only known state to have no school districts over 65%.
- 63.52%** Brevard School District ranks highest with 63.52% of its operational budget reaching the classroom.
- 50.90%** Gadsden School District ranks last with only 50.90% reaching the classroom.
- 125.22** Averaged cumulative reading and math proficiencies of the 5 highest classroom instruction percentage districts – the highest average among any 5 district grouping:

District Instruction % Proficiency

Brevard	63.51	134.30
Seminole	62.72	100.10
Okaloosa	62.23	139.30
St. Johns	62.06	137.80
Liberty	61.77	114.60

80.66 Averaged cumulative reading and math proficiencies of the 5 lowest classroom instruction percentage districts – the lowest average among any 5 district grouping:

<u>District</u>	<u>Instruction %</u>	<u>Proficiency</u>
Dixie	52.12	87.70
Lafayette	51.92	113.80
Glades	51.92	81.70
Jefferson	51.69	59.00
Gadsden	50.90	61.10

35% Higher The 10 school districts with the highest percentage in the classroom have 35% higher cumulative math and reading proficiencies than the 10 districts with the lowest percentage.

4x Greater According to the Independence Institute, when comparing all 50 states, the percentage of dollars going to the classroom has 4 times greater correlation to higher NAEP standardized 4th & 8th grade test scores (44% correlation) than does increased total spending (10% correlation).

Top 10% States The top 10% of states for education outcomes as ranked by NAEP standardized test scores and ALEC cumulative education outcomes place the highest averaged percentage of funding in the classroom. The bottom 10% of states for education outcomes place the lowest averaged percentage of funding in the classroom.

32nd, 48th, 42nd Florida is ranked 32nd in NAEP standardized test scores, 48th in education outcomes by ALEC and 42nd for the percentage of education funding reaching the classroom by NCES. *We can and must do better!*

Keeps 65% in Florida's Classroom
Keeps Class Size Reductions Calculated
At the School District Average

Over \$1 Billion More
For Florida's Teachers & Kids

Without a Tax Increase!

Florida's classrooms, teachers and students clearly need to be the first focus of school finance. But how we spend precious education tax dollars is as important as how many education tax dollars we spend. The First Class Education for Florida ballot campaign will ensure at least 65% of our education tax dollars reach the classroom. That means more than \$1 billion more for Florida's classrooms without a tax increase. It also will keep the numerical goals of the previously approved class size reductions, while giving local school districts some common-sense flexibility to meet these goals.

In Florida, only 59.19% of each education operational dollar reaches our classrooms, ranking Florida 42nd in the nation for percentage of dollars reaching the classroom. By moving Florida from 59.19% to 65%, we'll put an additional \$1.01 Billion a year into Florida's classrooms – **without a tax increase! That's equal to \$400 more per student, \$8,000 more for each class of 20 students!** (Source: National Center for Educational Reform, June 2005 and Florida Dept. of Education.)

Keeping more dollars in the classroom isn't only good for taxpayers...it's good for test results as well. In Florida, the 5 school districts that place the highest percentage in the classroom have the highest averaged reading and math proficiency scores. The 5 school districts that place the lowest percentage in the classroom have the lowest averaged math and reading proficiency scores. The same correlation exists nationally. The top 5 States for NAEP test scores place the highest averaged percentage in the classroom -- 64.12%. The Bottom 5 States for NAEP test scores place the lowest averaged percentage in the classroom -- 59.46%.

65% in the Classroom

- Require each Florida school district to place 65% of operational budgets into classroom instruction.

- Instruction means activities dealing directly with interaction between students and teachers, or other classroom and instruction personnel, special education instruction, tutors, books, classroom computers, general instruction supplies, instructional aides, libraries and librarians, and class activities such as field trips, athletics, arts, music, and multi-disciplinary learning.
- Allows districts phase-in classroom instruction increases at 2% per year.
- Keeps local control as each district determines what in the classroom to increase; sets statewide accountability.
- Districts can petition the Governor for a waiver

Flexibility to Fulfill Class Size Goals

- Keeps the numerical requirement for class size approved by 2002 voter initiative: 18 students for K - 3rd; 22 students for 4th - 8th; 25 students for 9th – 12th.
- Keeps the class size calculated at the school district average, with no class greater than 5 above the average.
- Allows for team teaching, on-line learning
- Districts can petition the Governor for a waiver.

Passage of First Class Education in Florida will mean over \$1billion more moved into our classrooms, without a tax increase and may mean over \$1billion saved by giving districts the common-sense flexibility to meet class size reductions. No wonder Florida survey results shows voters overwhelmingly approving the First Class Education for Florida ballot measure. But those who blindly want higher spending and higher taxes will mount a multi-million dollar campaign. That's why we need your help to get the message out:

More money for classrooms. More accountability for taxpayers. Common-sense flexibility for school districts