



## FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

### FLORIDA PTA POSITION

The Florida PTA urges the Legislature to reverse its recent trend and adequately fund public education. Adequate public education funding:

- a. must position Florida's per pupil expenditures for Public Elementary and secondary schools at a minimum of 105% of the national average;
- b. must guarantee full funding of the Statutory District Cost Differential (DCD);
- c. must provide equity for local tax efforts in districts;
- d. must fully fund all state mandates, e.g., transportation and ESOL training;

### Background

If we do not invest now to educate and care for our children, we will pay later in increased costs for unemployment, incarceration, and welfare. Florida is one of the fastest growing states in this nation. Our funding for education and other student needs, such as school construction, technology, etc. have not kept pace with this growth. Accountability, testing, and other state requirements increases the cost of a quality education and the legislature needs to make a commitment to adequately fund the mandates it passes on to school districts.



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## Talking Points

- Florida ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in education funding, according to the **Quality Counts 2005**, report by Education Week.
- The compelling need for an increased investment in education has intensified, as the stakes get higher.
- Investing in children's education programs helps strengthen the state's economy in the long run.
- Funding for education and children's program's is a cost effective investment in our future.
- Public opinion polls continue to demonstrate that investment in public education is a priority for the citizens of Florida.
- Florida educates one of every 20 students in the nation. Therefore, what happens in Florida's classrooms is important not just to Florida's economic future but to the economic viability of the nation as well (Florida Tax Watch, February 2005).

March 2005

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