

## FLORIDA PTA POSITION

Subdivision of School Districts (1998) The Florida PTA urges the legislature to reject any measures that propose dividing the existing 67 school districts into smaller districts.

## Background

The Florida Constitution provides for sixty seven county wide school districts in the state of Florida. This constitutional language was adopted to ensure that all children in Florida had an equal opportunity and access to a quality public school education.

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**Talking Points:**

- This bill will lead to an inequitable system of public education with rich municipalities forming their own districts (Rich vs. poor districts)
- Dividing districts by this proposal risks segregating children by race, ethnicity, or family income.
- Causes financial chaos: bonds and certificates of participation (COPS) which many school districts currently use for school construction are negotiated based on countywide anticipated revenues.
- This will result in millions in refinancing costs as well as in negotiations regarding payment of existing bonds (who will assume the debt?)
- Can increase costs of public education as currently rates are negotiated based on district wide expenses for materials and programs
- Raises questions regarding food service, transportation, school construction, growth management etc, all of which are county issues and services
- The splitting of school districts would cause a great deal of divisiveness and dissention between communities when dealing with issues that include drawing of district boundaries, the dividing of programs, facilities and other assets and debts

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