

## Senate 0006: Relating to Education Personnel

**GENERAL BILL by Thrasher; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Gaetz; Detert; Wise; Constantine; Richter; Peaden; Storms (Linked [S 2740](#), Compare [H 7037](#)) Education Personnel [SPSC]**

From the BFT Office - please share. **We will need your help in communicating to members all across the state the catastrophic effects this bill will have on students and teachers.**

On March 2, 2010 the Senate released SB 6 -- "An act relating to education personnel." The bill is a putrid collection of punitive measures against school districts, public school employees and colleges of education. The bill eviscerates any semblance of local control and would gut collective bargaining agreements.

It is clear from the language of this bill that the sponsors do not respect or value the contributions our teachers, ESPs and school districts have been making each and every day to the success of Florida's students.

**Every Republican on the Senate Education Committee is listed as a sponsor of the bill.** Also disturbing is that the bill was only referred to two Senate committees: Education PreK-12 and the Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means. This is an indication that Republican leaders intend to move the bill through the process quickly.

We are in the process of analyzing the various provisions in the 61-page bill and will provide you with more details tomorrow. But we do know this about some of the key provisions of SB 6:

- **Property Tax Penalty:** The bill would require any school districts that fail to "reward quality classroom teachers based on performance or for districts that pay for number of years worked, or degrees held"... "or who fails to maximize student learning by not providing appropriate incentives" shall be required to levy an additional school property tax equal to 5 percent of the districts salaries -- and the state would withhold a matching amount of state general revenue dollars from that district as a penalty. This revenue is said to be compensation for the loss of state funding caused by the failure of the district to comply with the new rules.
- **Compensation and Salary Schedules:** A salary schedule must base more than 50 percent of each employee's compensation on student learning gains, as established in rule by DOE.
- **The salary schedule would not be subject to collective bargaining and the state will decide what categories of differentiated pay will be provided for. Length of service and degrees cannot be used in salary schedules.**
- **Probationary contracts** are issued for up to five years, after which a teacher could get an annual contract if they are rated effective or highly effective, which will be defined by the DOE, not the school district. The state will have a much greater hand in appraisals.
- **MORE TESTING** for students (end of course for all subjects) and for teachers (certification and recertification).

After a more thorough review of the bill, we will be sending out action alerts to you and also via Pump Up the Volume. **We will need your help in communicating to members all across the state the catastrophic effects this bill will have on students and teachers.** We **MUST** be sure our members know what the Legislature has in store for them if we do not unite in our fight against this legislation.

Andy Ford  
FEA President