Fund Our Future: Fact Sheet

- Florida was given an F on school spending by *Education Week's* national report card.
- Florida ranks 41st in total education spending per pupil and 51st in public school revenue for every $1,000 of in-state personal income. In other words, no other state collects less to support public schools than Florida, even though Florida has the seventh largest economy in the country!
- Florida ranks 46th in teacher salaries.
- Average teacher pay in the state has actually gone backward in the past decade — decreasing by 11.9 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars from 2009 to 2018.
- Florida’s average teacher salary is more than $12,000 below the national average. Average salaries are $8,000 higher in Georgia and $2,400 higher in Alabama.
- At the beginning of the school year (August 2018) there were more than 4,000 advertised teacher vacancies in Florida.
- For next school year, the Florida Department of Education projects that there could be more than 10,000 teacher vacancies, and many Florida students will start school in August without a permanent, fully certified teacher.
- Taxpayers support better funding for stronger schools. In the 2018 elections, local voters in 19 Florida counties chose to tax themselves in order to pay our educators as professionals and increase funding for public schools.
- We spend less on public education today than before the Great Recession — in inflation-adjusted dollars, more than $1,000 less per student. We have one of the largest economies in the nation, but we are in the bottom 10 states in per-pupil spending.
- Bus drivers, paraprofessionals, clerks, food-service workers and custodians earn an average pay that is at or below the national poverty rate.
- A 10-percent increase in per-student funding would equal $743.
- An increase of $743 will move Florida out of the bottom 10 in the nation but still will leave the state way below the national average.