

Dear Friends,

This week I was pleased to announce my priorities for next year's \$33.5 billion education budget. A report last week showed that Florida schools jumped from 31st to 14th in the nation. Student achievement is on the rise in our state.

Education is key to Florida's success. My budget includes \$138 million to fully fund any reductions that would occur as a result of voter approval of Amendment one on January 29th. We must provide Florida's teachers and schools the tools and resources they need.



To reach that goal, I propose a \$1 billion increase for pre-k-12 education. I plan to continue the progress we have made to help our children be more physically active by providing incentive funds for middle school physical education. More reading coaches and virtual tutors will help struggling readers.

We also need to pay our teachers more. Teachers who increase student achievement or take extra steps to improve their teaching skills should be rewarded.



Access to affordable higher education is essential to every individual's economic opportunity. I believe we should not raise tuition at our community colleges and state universities. I have proposed a budget that allows for new student enrollment, and helps accommodate that growth.

My recommended education budget moves us another step closer to having the top-ranked schools our students and people deserve.

Thank you and God bless.

Charlie Crist