

EVERY STUDENT DESERVES A HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

Every child in Sarasota and Manatee Counties has the fundamental right to a high-quality education in schools that are safe, nurturing, creative and inspiring. As teachers, parents, students and community supporters of strong public schools, we say:

- **NO to for-profit charter schools & NO to school vouchers!** For decades, the Florida Legislature's priority has been to funnel money into for-profit managed charter schools and to expand school vouchers. Florida now diverts nearly \$1-billion in tax revenue for private tax credit scholarships to unregulated, largely religious private schools. As of May 2019, Florida is taking hundreds of millions more dollars out of the education budget to pay for state-issued vouchers.
- **NO to high-stake testing!** The Florida Legislature pushes high-stake testing that is often used to punish students, teachers and struggling schools alike. Teachers are forced to teach the test, wasting weeks of valuable class time. Teachers are unfairly evaluated on the basis of testing results.
- **YES to raising per pupil spending to at least the national average!** Florida ranks 43rd in the nation for education spending. For 10 years, Florida's per student spending has increased so minimally that there has been a 20% cut when adjusted for inflation. For Florida to reach the national average in per pupil spending of \$12,201, spending would need to increase by over 28%.
- **YES to raising starting teacher salaries to \$50K with at least a 10% across-the-board raise for all educators & YES to restoring teacher tenure and other rights!** Florida teachers' pay is 46th in the nation and Florida teachers have been stripped of almost all job security with their contracts lasting for the current school year. Teachers are fleeing in droves, leaving many classes covered by unqualified substitutes.
- **YES to expanding Community Partnership Schools & Magnet Schools!** An important way to increase equity and to solve many of the problems of under-performing schools is to increase the number of public Community Partnership Schools that offer extensive wraparound services and supports, Specialized magnet schools also offer real choices to students and parents and enhance educational innovation.

Protect Our Public Schools (POPS), Manasota meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota 34234. Join us!

Public education needs your voice!
Join POPS in building a movement to protect and improve our public schools in Manatee & Sarasota.

For more information, contact
Protect Our Public Schools (POPS)
Manasota at
popsmanasota@gmail.com