



# School Matters

District School Board of Pasco County  
Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

April 25, 2014

## One More Week of Legislative Session Budget Update

The House and Senate have been negotiating differences between their two budgets. They have been unable to resolve several items, so they have been “bumped up” for resolution by the House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs – Representative Seth McKeel and Senator Joe Negron.

OF TREMENDOUS CONCERN, budget negotiators have REDUCED FEFP funding by more than \$100 million since budget negotiations began on Monday, and \$150 million from what the House originally proposed. The bottom line is that funding is now BELOW where it began in each chamber’s original budget proposal despite the fact that the total education allocation was slightly increased. **This is simply unacceptable in a year in which the state is enjoying a \$1.5 billion budget surplus and in which districts will be expected to implement new programs and serve more students with less funding per student than was available in 2007.**

## Congressional Art Competition

On Thursday, Congressman Gus Bilirakis was at Land O’ Lakes High School for the annual Congressional Art Competition reception and awards. Trevor Nichols was awarded Best in Show for his drawing of Cross Country Coach Kris Keppel. Coach Keppel is battling pancreatic cancer and his story inspired Trevor’s artwork.



Additional photos from the  
Congressional Art Competition  
<http://rmusselm.wix.com/cac2014>



## Algebra Nation Test Yourself! Challenge Winners

Sunlake High School student Cameron Kiellish (center) won his Algebra 1 teacher, Nathan Howe (left), a four-night cruise by competing in the Algebra Nation **Test Yourself! Challenge**. Students who completed the **Test Yourself!** modules earned entries in a drawing for iPads, pizza parties, and a cruise for their teacher! Also pictured is SLHS Principal Steve Williams.

Athanasia Klidonas from Paul R. Smith Middle School also won her Algebra 1 class a pizza party by competing in the same **Test Yourself! Challenge**.



## “Earth Day” Event

The District’s Conservation and Recycling office is promoting a joint event at Crews Lake Wilderness Park tomorrow, Saturday, April 26. Bring your household recycling, electronics, mercury, and unused medications for disposal and recycling. The event includes children’s crafts and education displays, and Mary Giella Elementary School will operate a concession stand to raise funds for the school. The park is located at 16739 Crews Lake Drive, Spring Hill. For more information, visit the Conservation and Recycling Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CONSERVE>.



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# FRAMEWORK FOCUS



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
OF PASCO COUNTY  
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*"A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary."*

*-Thomas Curruthers-*

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## Element 26 – Managing Response Rates

*Desired Effect: Students maintain engagement resulting from effective response rate techniques.*

### Why should I manage response rates?

Student engagement is enhanced when teachers design learning experiences that include follow-up questioning and student-response strategies. When students are able to justify or defend their responses to questions with evidence (by citing text, for example), they are actively involved in four factors of engagement: (1) high energy, (2) the self-system, (3) mild pressure, and (4) the potential for mild controversy and competition. While these strategies typically increase the rate of student responses, it is critical that the teacher remain cognizant of whether the student responses are increasing or decreasing. As the rates increase or decrease, one might consider the cause of the rate increase or decrease for future instruction. Questions to consider:

- What types of questions are being asked?
- Are the students actively involved in the four factors of engagement?

### What are some technology tools to help manage response rates?



[www.socrative.com](http://www.socrative.com)



[www.polleverywhere.com](http://www.polleverywhere.com)



[Hat App](#)



<https://getkahoot.com>



## Evidence of Element 26 – Managing Response Rates

*Focus: the teacher uses response rate techniques to maintain student engagement in questions.*

### Teacher Evidence

#### The teacher:

- uses wait time.
- uses response cards.
- has students use hand signals to respond to questions.
- uses choral response.
- uses technology to keep track of students' responses.
- uses response chaining.

### Student Evidence

#### Multiple Students:

- when asked, can describe their thinking about specific questions posed by the teacher.
- or the entire class, respond to questions posed by the teacher.



## Strategies for managing response rates

### Response Cards

Response cards can be made out of a reusable material, such as a whiteboard. For example, a math teacher may ask students to answer various problems on their boards. As the students hold up their answers, the teacher may be able to discern patterns in answers. Response cards can also help teachers gain information as to what students already know about a subject before teaching it, or to help students review for a test.

### Class Vote

The teacher asks students to vote on an issue in which a friendly controversy is encouraged. As students learn more about the topic at hand, they can change their minds and votes. The teacher can use a variety of tools such as Socrative, Polls Everywhere, and eClicker to monitor student responses.

### Response Chaining

Response chaining involves linking students responses by first asking a student to answer a question, then asking another if they agree, partially agree, or disagree and why. The teacher facilitates discussion about the content between the students. For example, a student explains the steps on how a bill becomes a law. The teacher then asks another student to weigh in. She says she agrees, but the teacher probes her to explain what specifically she agreed with and why. Next, another student says what he partially agreed with and why he thinks differently.



Click the Canvas.Pasco button to access more examples.