

65% Solution - during the 2005/2006 SPAC year the following position statement failed to get the required 2/3 approval to become a new position statement:

1. Classroom budgets

The Junior Leagues of Florida support a constitutional provision that requires all School districts to spend an equivalent minimum percentage of its operational budget in the classroom.

Rationale: Public schools in Florida consistently rank near the bottom in national educational statistics, including per student spending. On average, Florida school districts spend approximately 59 cents per dollar in the classroom. If that amount were raised to a minimum of 65 cents on the dollar, nearly an additional one billion dollars would be pumped into the classrooms for teacher salaries, classroom supplies, and physical education activities without raising taxes. Seven other states in the country have recently passed 65 percent solution legislation and many others have legislation or ballot initiatives pending.

Becker, needless to say these numbers aren't quite accurate. Most reviews of the proposal nowadays state that most school districts in Florida are already at the 65% threshold. And, it wouldn't really pump in one billion dollars into the classroom...it's Peter stealing to pay Paul. It's still coming out of the education budget and it is NOT providing any additional dollars to the strapped education system. Just my opinion.

2. PTA Position Paper on the issues:

Go to www.floridapta.org. Click on Restricted Area. Login ID is flapta. Password is member. Under official positions (or something like that) you will find the amendment papers. Florida PTA is against all three amendments. As you know - that is PARENTS & TEACHERS! Even the teachers are against this!!