



## HAPPY FOUNDER'S DAY!

"It is the boast of Americans that every child has the opportunity of school education, but it is true that many children—through no fault of their own—get nothing from education. Not education, but the right education should be our boast."

**Elizabeth Farrell's** statement is remarkable in three ways: that the children of the very poor deserved the same quality education as their richer peers, children with intellectual disabilities should benefit from a rich educational experience by knowledgeable and dedicated teachers, and these children and young adults should be with their regular peers to the greatest extent possible.

Farrell set out to find "the right education—the kind of teaching... [the special student] needs. Under the watchful but supportive eyes of her principal and senior administrators, Farrell set out to create her special-education curriculum, one adapted to the diverse needs of her pupils. Farrell had the students engaged in meaningful manual tasks that would instill a love of work.

Her philosophies that children have diverse talents and abilities and that they have much to offer one another would form the foundation of inclusion under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, where all students had the right to a full public education.

In 1922, she created the Council for the Education of Exceptional Children, known today as the Council for Exceptional Children. It is the foremost professional and advocacy organizations devoted to teaching the atypical child.

***We Salute You Elizabeth Farrell!***



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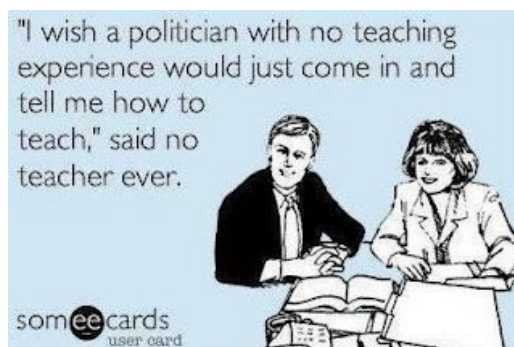
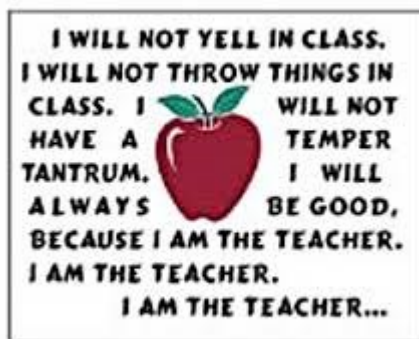
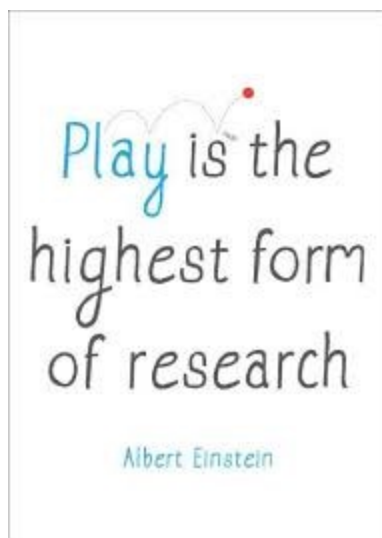
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*What do you call an academically successful slice of bread? An honor roll.*

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## ***Here are eight ways Florida's public schools will be different this year ...***

*Courtesy of Tampa Bay Times*

As they return to school in August, Florida students will find they have some new rights, courtesy of a state Legislature that was busy this year when it came to education. These range from the ability to speak more freely to the chance to get a little down time.

### **Freedom of expression**

With little dissent, lawmakers made it crystal clear that kids have the right to talk about religion in their public schools without fear of retribution. The new law prohibits any such discrimination, which really had not been allowed anyway. The law even requires school districts to adopt policies creating a limited public forum at any event where students are to speak, allowing them to discuss topics including religion. This had been optional in the past, and no districts have implemented such policies. The Legislature did make one addition for school district personnel, allowing them to participate in student-led religious activities before and after classes, unless the participation interferes with their work responsibilities.

### **Recess**

After unsuccessfully urging their local school boards to require daily elementary school recess, a group of parents turned to the Legislature for assistance. Beginning this fall, all elementary schools in Florida must offer 20 minutes of uninterrupted free time each day. This rule does not apply to charter schools. Districts are working out the details of exactly how to fit the requirement into an already crowded school day.

### **Sunscreen**

Some schools in Florida actually provide sunscreen to students when they go outside for activities. Some ask for a doctor's note to allow students to use the lotion. The Sunshine State needs sun protection, lawmakers reasoned, as they prohibited school districts from requiring a prescription for sunblock. Slather away. Don't miss your nose and ears.

## ***Here are eight ways Florida's public schools will be different this year continued...***

*Courtesy of Tampa Bay Times*

### **Testing**

Educators, parents and students have long argued that Florida requires too many tests, taking up too much class time. The legislative session started out with a strong push against testing, with bills aiming to cut the number of exams and the days spent administering them. Algebra II students no longer will face the state end-of-course exam, which had been required and counted as 30 percent of their grade. They'll still face a final, just not from the state. As for others who had hoped to escape end-of-course exams in U.S. history, civics, geometry and biology, as once proposed, forget it.

Hoping to leave more time for learning and less for testing, superintendents pushed to return to paper-pencil state tests that take fewer days to implement. (Computerized tests take longer because districts have to schedule a large number of test-takers on a limited number of devices.) They said the change would allow testing to begin later in the spring. Lawmakers met that idea halfway. Students in third through sixth grades will take their state math and language arts tests on paper, rather than on computers. That will allow the state to shrink its assessment window and begin testing closer to the end of the school year.

The Legislature also agreed to resume publication of certain state tests after students take them, so parents and educators can see samples. The state stopped releasing tests a decade ago.

### **Physical education**

Student athletes won a P.E. pass in the session.

If they participate in varsity or junior varsity sports for two years, high school students no longer will have to take the state physical education graduation requirement. In the past, those students had to either earn the credit or pass a proficiency test, regardless of their time on a team.

Lawmakers questioned the rationale for that requirement, noting that students in other activities such as ROTC received a pass from the P.E. mandate. Students still are required to receive at least one credit through an online course, and many take care of that with physical education, killing two birds with one stone. Whether athletes will choose to meet that online requirement with another subject will remain to be seen.

### **Textbooks**

The books and other materials teachers select for their classes always have been open for review and challenge. Now, with the religious expression law mentioned above, contesting their use gets a bit easier. Students are more free to speak their views, though they must remain respectful. Parents, and now "county residents," have more explicit rights to question the texts being used to teach lessons, or that are available in school libraries.

Districts will have to set up guidelines for reviews, which must include at least one public hearing before a qualified hearing officer. The final say remains with the school board. The law doesn't specifically give students the right to challenge the items, but it doesn't exclude them either.

### **Extracurriculars**

This one is aimed at students who attend private schools that don't have the extra programs they're interested in. They've always been able to participate in sports at the public school their house is zoned into. With school choice in mind, the Legislature expanded the opportunities for the new academic year. Now, those students can play at any public school they might choose to attend if that school has available capacity. Rules against recruiting still apply.

### **Dress code**

Over two years, about a dozen Florida school districts and a handful of charter schools adopted mandatory student uniforms for kindergarten through eighth grade. Their aim, at least in part, was to access a \$10 per student financial incentive from the state. This year, the state killed that \$14 million line item in the education budget. Will the schools end their clothing mandates, too? Time will tell.

## Florida Stats

Population- 19,173,769

Male- 48.9%

Female- 51.1%

Median Age- 40.06

### Education Completion

#### Statistics

High school- 13%

Some College- 29.5%

Bachelor's Degree- 24%

Graduate Degree-13.1%

#### Enrollment

Students enrolled in public schools

45,056,472

Students w/disabilities enrolled in public schools

5,789,884

Students in Florida schools (age 6-21)

2,393,471

Students w/ disabilities in Florida schools (age 6-21)

321,477

### % of students w/disabilities

Nationally- 12.9%

Florida- 13.4%

## 20 Fundamentals: What every teacher should know about learning

**1. Students Learn Differently** It may seem obviously obvious, but how many classrooms are currently designed with one learning style in mind?

**2. Use It Or Lose It** Using information is how it becomes knowledge. Revising knowledge over a lifetime is how it becomes wisdom.

**3. Consider Kinesthetic Learning** Of the different learning styles, the kinesthetic learning is the hardest bunch to teach in a traditional setting. This learning is about movement—touching, feeling, and moving through knowledge.

### 4. There Are Seven Learning Styles

Visual: Using sight

Auditory: Using songs or rhythms

Verbal: Speaking out loud the information

Kinesthetic: Using touch and taste to explore the information

Logical: A more mathematical approach to concepts

Interpersonal: Learning in groups

Intrapersonal: Learning alone

**5. Make It Relevant** Information is only stored permanently when it relates to day-to-day living. For example, math concepts must be reinforced in real life examples or the student will have no reason to absorb the information beyond the exam.

**6. Failure Is a Fabulous Teacher** People learn from failure. In fact, ask any major successful person what helped them and usually it will involve a story that harkens back to a big “mess-up”. Failure teaches even better than a perfect score on a test.

**7. Integrate The Curriculum** Rather than keeping each subject separate, curriculums that use thematic units work well to blend knowledge together in a way that is useful and memorable.

**8. Define “Learning”** The word “learn” has various definitions. In the classroom, it can be the ability to spout back facts and information on a test. While this is one form of learning, there are other forms of learning that are just as important.

Memorization

Acquiring facts or procedures

Understanding reality

Making sense of the world

**9. Care For Introverts** It's easy to assume that “group work” is always the best approach. That students who raise their hands are attentive. And that students who prefer to work alone are loners.

**10. Create Space** This is a psychological and logistical suggestion. Creativity is the birthplace of true learning, where a student can initiate thoughts, ideas, problems, and make connections between concepts.

**11. Brief And Organized “Bites”** When a person wants to memorize a phone number, they divide the digits into easy to remember patterns. This is because the brain struggles to hold onto a long list of numbers, but can do so when they are organized meaningfully. A 30-minute lecture that is not structured with categories, or organized into easy-to-recall bullets, will not be as effective.

**12. Use Several Different Angles** For example, if a science teacher is lecturing on photosynthesis, the students will benefit from hitting the same concept at different angles.

**13. Proper Method For The Material** In the quest for “deeper” learning, some professors might dismiss the concept of shallow learning; the simple recall of theories, facts, and rules. However there is some validity to rote memorization and the ability to regurgitate rules and facts, depending on the information.

**14. Use Technology** Never before in human history has there been such unparalleled access to knowledge and information. With the tap of a tablet or smartphone, a student can get instant answers to questions that used to mean a trip to the library's dusty encyclopedia section.

**15. Let Them Teach** One of the most effective methods for absorbing knowledge is to teach the knowledge back to another. Provide students with ample opportunity to give lectures, presentations, and develop lesson plans of their own.

**16. Create Hunger And Curiosity** When students are interested in a subject, their ability to learn greatly increases. They have more focus, tenacity, initiative, engagement, and investment in the material. Teachers can give students the freedom to choose their own topics.

**17. Brainstorming Not Always Effective** Brainstorming introduces groupthink – a psychological phenomenon where the group forms its own beliefs – and when it doesn't, the most charismatic individual tend to take over.

**18. Forming Habits** Psychologists agree that it takes approximately 30 days for a new habit to form. Parents who are teaching children a new routine (like brushing their own teeth) have to help their child for at least 30 consecutive days before the brain turns to “auto-pilot”. Study habits can become regular with guided encouragement to keep going while the brain catches up to the new norm.

**19. Learning Feedback Matters** In the same way that failure stretches a person, **learning feedback** is crucial to how students learn. When they can understand their strengths and weaknesses, accept and receive constructive criticism, and be redirected to the areas that need assistance, the overall process of learning is enhanced.

**20. Teach How To Learn** “Learning” is an abstract concept to many. By helping students understand the art of learning, the techniques of learning, as well as the different learning styles, they will be empowered

# SAVE THE DATE!!

Thursday, September 28th

5-7pm

@ Lee Roy Selmon's

8253 Cooper Creek Blvd, Bradenton, FL 34201

Shoppes at University Center

LEE ROY  
SELMON'S

Come to this year's first CEC social! Network and enjoy  
some snacks on us!

All alcoholic beverages will be attendee's responsibility

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