



Florida Faces An Education Crisis



Florida is experiencing an unprecedented shortage of teachers and few students entering the profession.

The Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) appreciates that Governor Ron Desantis has proposed incentives and bonuses for retired military personnel and first responders to be trained as teachers, as well as new pathways to become an educator.

As an association of career educators, FREA offers additional ideas for recruiting future educators to help solve Florida's short- and long-term teacher shortage.

1

Enact legislation to pay teachers more so they stay in the profession.

2

Strengthen benefits for working educators: healthcare, pensions, and cost-of-living adjustments.

3

Provide college graduates with the same benefits and incentives as working teachers so they are attracted to the profession.

4

Provide retired teachers with the same benefits and incentives as working teachers so they return to the classroom.

5

Elevate respect for teachers.

6

Increase funding to universities and schools of education to boost student enrollment.

7

Provide high schools with funds for future teacher academies, and fast track dual enrollment opportunities.

8

Develop a marketing campaign such as "Be A Teacher That Makes the Difference."