

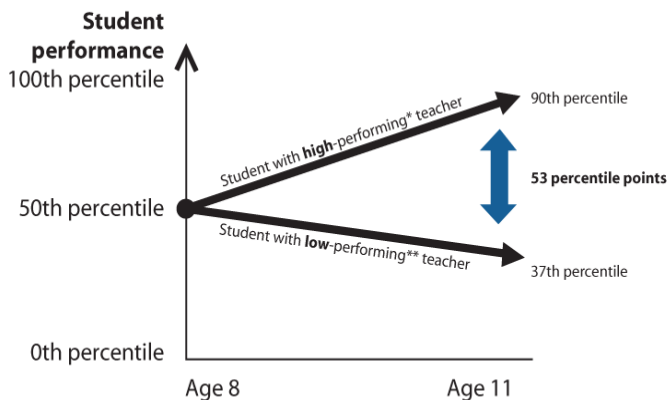


**The Foundation for Florida's Future
SUPPORTS**

SB 6 Relating to Education Personnel by Sen. Thrasher

The Foundation asks that you vote YES on **SB 6** by Sen. Thrasher in the Education Pre-K – 12 Committee on March 10th. To create a higher standard of living, prepare our students for a global marketplace, and attract investment and attract high-wage jobs, Florida needs to transform our schools into world-class centers of knowledge and learning. **SB 6** creates the environment for a dynamic and highly skilled teaching workforce, which is the key to our future economy.

Research is clear – teachers are the most important factor in the classroom. Effective teachers produce student gains almost four times greater than the least effective teachers and the effects of one bad teacher on a student's progress are evident for at least the following three years:



*Among the top 20% of teachers; **Among the bottom 20% of teachers
Analysis of test data from Tennessee showed that teacher quality effected student performance more than any other variable; on average, two students with average performance (50th percentile) would diverge by more than 50 percentile points over a three year period depending on the teacher they were assigned

“From the moment students enter a school, the most important factor in their success is not the color of their skin or the income of their parents, it's the person standing at the front of the classroom.”

- President Barack Obama

To ensure that every child has a high-quality instructor, the bill:

Pays teachers based on the things that matter.

- The legislation reforms Florida's antiquated system of paying teachers based on seniority and degrees obtained and replaces it with a system that pays teachers based on student performance and the requires higher pay for teachers who teach in a high-poverty school or who teach a subject with a shortage of qualified teachers.

Changes our evaluation process to make sure teachers are getting the feedback they need.

- Last year, 99.74% of teachers in the state were given satisfactory evaluations, yet data shows many of our students are not making any progress in reading. By using student data and making evaluations more rigorous we can ensure that teachers are continuing to improve each year.

Eliminates barriers to remove ineffective teachers from the classroom.

- For too long tenure has protected bad teachers at the expense of our children. The bill ends tenure for newly hired teachers and adds poor student performance to the list of just causes for termination. Additionally, if a teacher does not have a history of student learning gains the bill prohibits the state from renewing their certification.

Studies the state's effectiveness at producing high-quality teachers.

- By tracking the student performance of teachers from each college of education, the Department of Education can study the quality and cost-effectiveness of where and how we educate our best teachers.

In 2005-06, 30% of elementary teachers, 47% of middle school teachers, and 85% of high school teachers had more than half of their students' reading scores decline. Our system of evaluating, paying, and retaining needs to be re-evaluated to ensure every student receives the highest quality teacher in the classroom..

Your support of our legislative priorities will be reflected in the grade you earn on the 2010 Florida Education Report Card. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Peshek, Policy Analyst, at (850) 298-8571 or adam@afloridapromise.org.

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