

## Talking Points

- A quality education system is the key to driving the economic engine.
- Florida's per student funding was \$7,144 per student in 2007 -2008. In 2008 – 2009, it was \$6,988 per student, a reduction of \$156 per student.
- The United States Census ranks Florida as 50<sup>th</sup> in education spending.
- *Education Week* in its 2008 “Quality Counts” rankings of U.S. education gave Florida an “F” in K-12 spending.
- The legislature has identified over \$23 billion in exemptions that Florida does not collect.
- The legislature should begin their work at tax restructuring by repealing unnecessary exemptions that will realize added revenues to the state, before proposing further cuts that will hurt the children of Florida.
- Closing existing loopholes will generate needed revenue without adding a tax burden to average Floridians.
- We support comprehensive tax restructuring that will increase tax revenue through tax structure reform, in order to adequately fund the services necessary to meet the educational, health, safety, recreational and other basic needs of Florida's children.
- Florida PTA supports reforming Florida's system of sales and use taxes. Exemptions for products and services should be retained only where they meet an overriding public policy interest.

—from

<http://www.floridapta.org/legislative%20information/tool%20kit%20for%20economic%20campaign.pdf>