



Florida schools roundup: PLSAs, tax credit scholarships, testing and more

By [Travis Pillow](#) on October 6, 2014

Personal learning scholarship accounts. The [Miami Herald](#) and [Tampa Bay Times](#) look at PLSAs, Florida's newest educational option for special needs students.

Tax credit scholarships. The school choice program saves the public school system money, the Cato Institute's Jason Bedrick [writes in the Palm Beach Post](#). A new coalition aims to defend the program from a lawsuit. [Bay News 9](#).

Charter schools. The Duval school board rejects two charter applications. [Florida Times-Union](#).

Career education. Pasco schools prepare to revamp their career and technical education offerings. [Gradebook](#). Manufacturers court high school students in hopes of filling job openings. [Lakeland Ledger](#).

Testing. The [Tampa Bay Times examines](#) whether Florida will be ready for the switch to a new standardized testing regime. Outcomes in Utah are prompting questions from parents about the state's new assessments. [Sun-Sentinel](#).

Common Core. A Miami middle school uses debate lessons to help students meet the new standards. [StateImpact](#).

STEM, Hands-on lessons reinforce math and science lessons. [Florida Today](#).

Special needs. A Polk program helps special needs students prepare for life after graduation. [Lakeland Ledger](#).

Growth. St. Johns schools grapple with growing enrollment. [St. Augustine Record](#).

Facilities. Broward schools would benefit if voters approve a bond referendum for construction and repairs, a [Sun-Sentinel editorial argues](#).

Military families. The [Tampa Tribune has more](#) on the expansion of a school on MacDill Air Force Base.

Superintendents. Clay schools prepare for a potential switch from an elected to an appointed superintendent. [*Florida Times-Union*](#).

Campaigns. A prominent African-American minister and school choice supporter may throw his weight behind Gov. Rick Scott. [*Tampa Bay Times*](#). A well-known Hillsborough school board member April Griffin faces a less well-known challenger. [*Tampa Bay Times*](#).

Parent involvement. Pinella schools may ease their volunteering policy for felons. [*Tampa Bay Times*](#).

Security. Pinellas schools plan to return M16 assault rifles they previously ordered. [*Tampa Tribune*](#). Students help keep their campuses safe by reporting weapons to adults. [*Florida Times-Union*](#).

Employee conduct. A Manatee assistant principal is denied a new hearing in a case stemming from a sexual abuse scandal. [*Bradenton Herald*](#).