

Some highlights of the budget include:

Early Learning

- \$10.5 million allocated for a School Readiness quality pilot program
- \$3 million for additional School Readiness slots
- \$8.8 million for a \$54 per student increase in Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) funding
- \$2.5 million increase for HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters)
- \$2.0 million for early learning professional development
- \$2.0 million for the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council's Help Me Grow Network

Intensive Reading Instruction

- \$75 million to be used by school districts for intensive reading instruction beyond the normal school day in the 300 lowest performing elementary schools

Child Welfare

- \$7 million in recurring funds for Healthy Families in home prevention services (\$2 million net increase over last year)
- \$21 million for hiring new child protective investigators and sheriffs investigators
- \$10 million to the state's Community Based Care agencies
- \$4.5 million for children's community action teams (CATs)
- \$4.45 million to increase safety in Child Protective Investigations for families experiencing domestic violence
- \$3 million for enhanced services for victims of sexual trafficking
- \$1 million to expand substance abuse services for pregnant women and women with children
- \$8.9 million in increased funding to the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program which will finally mean that 100 percent of all children who need a guardian will have access to one

Juvenile Justice

- \$2 million for Juvenile Justice Education Program supplement
- \$10 million added to adjust for the state's share of secure detention costs
- \$3 million increase in funding for CINS/FINS
- \$2 million increase to PACE Centers for Girls

Health/Safety

- \$20 million to serve additional clients on the APD home and community based services waiver waitlist
- \$600,000 for newborn screening and hearing testing

Tax Cuts

- \$40 million for a back-to-school sales tax holiday on clothes and school supplies from August 1-3
- \$4 million sales for a sales tax holiday for hurricane preparedness supplies
- \$2.4 million to eliminate the sales taxes for child car seats and bicycle helmets
- \$11.4 million to eliminate the sales tax for college meal plans

Affordable Housing

- \$167 million in Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust funds