

“70% of Funds Spent in the Classroom”

The above paraphrase is taken from a recent newspaper account of Governor Crist’s State of the State address. The Governor has supported the concept of the *65% Solution* in the past. Now, it seems he is interested in increasing that percentage.

”The 65% Solution diverts 65% of a School District’s operating budget to classroom instruction”, and 35% for all other student services provided in a school. This proposal is sponsored by *First Class Education* (<http://www.firstclasseducation.org/>). *First Class Education* advocates a 2% per year increase in any given School District until the 65% benchmark is reached. Their web site lists Florida’s classroom spending at about 59% (Ibid.). The *National School Boards’ Association* is opposed to this concept (*New York Times*, 1/4/2006).

An article in the *Lakeland Ledger* of 4/26/08 distinguishes classroom activities from administrative activities in explaining the *65% Solution*. School Nurses know that school funding supports bus drivers, cafeteria workers, nurses, psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, etc in addition to administrators.

It is to the advantage of **FASN** and related Associations to impress upon the Governor, and all who will take note that services other than administrative ones will be reduced for students when a specific percentage of funding is restricted for classroom use, only. Please listen to the Governor when he discusses funding for Education. What if 70% of monies for each District were earmarked exclusively for the classroom? What might that mean for your School District?

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