



Solidarity Report

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

~ Dr. Martin Luther King

Welcome to 2026: A New Opportunity

Welcome to 2026! As we look ahead, I want to be clear about the goal of our union. It is to continue to build our power and influence through our members. Every gain we make is the direct result of YOU choosing to engage, speak up, and stand in SOLIDARITY.

This year we proved that when VUE members take action, we can move this district. When members showed up during contract negotiations, we showed district leaders and members of the board that we will not quietly accept the pittance they decide to throw our way. When we overwhelmingly won the PERC election for our Trades and Service Professionals, it showed district leaders and members of the school board that employees want their union. We showed them that we know the promises of an employer disappear the moment they become inconvenient, but a union contract forces them to keep their word.

The focus for the remainder of this school year is about *Growing Our Power*. This only happens when we increase our membership. Recruitment is not just about numbers, it is about influence. Every new member strengthens our collective voice and increases our leverage and ability to create the changes we need. It makes it harder for decisions to be made without us. When we recruit our colleagues into our VUE family, we shift the balance of power where it belongs; which is into the hands of those doing the work of this district.

I am asking each member of VUE to take ownership of our future and the future of VUE. I am asking YOU to talk with a colleague about the power of the collective. Have the conversation about how to make things better, and extend the invitation to join. Sitting on the sidelines will not result in change, getting in the game is the only way to win. Our VUE is the strongest when participation is the expectation, not the exception.

Together, we will continue to build power, increase our influence, and secure the respect and dignity every VCS employee deserves. The way to victory is clear, and we are ready to walk this path together! Solidarity.

Membership Link:
www.ourvue.net/membership



Membership QR code

Florida's Legislative Session 2026

The official start of the 2026 legislative session is Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Session is scheduled to adjourn on Friday, March 13, 2026. The decisions made during the sixty days between January and March have the potential to significantly impact public education. It is up to us to determine if the impact is positive or negative.

After six weeks of committee meetings, here is what we know so far:

- There is some pro public school/employee legislation moving through the Senate
- Voucher concerns are being addressed - Kind Of
- The Governor's Budget does not help us
- Vaccines are once again in the spotlight

Bills to Watch:

SB 320 - This bill creates a pathway for multi-year contracts that would help to stabilize the teaching profession. It removes many of the regulations on how instructional staff are paid, it expands eligibility for payment of advanced degrees (districts are currently able to pay for advanced degrees regardless of certification requirements, yet VCS has rejected this proposal for two years in a row!), removes the Value-Added Model from being the sole requirement in teacher placement for schools in turnaround status. However, it does include problematic language for collective bargaining related to salary supplements. We are waiting for a House companion bill to get this closer to the finish line.

SB 318 - This bill was filed in response to the concerns with the voucher program. The bill separates voucher funding from public school funding in the FEFP, ensures every student who receives public funding for education is assigned a unique ID number to track student movement, and tightens up deadlines for voucher applications and when funding is dispersed. However, the bill DOES NOT reduce the amount of public tax dollars being funneled into vouchers and away from public schools. The bill will continue to allow \$4 Billion to be drained from public school funding each year.

Budget - The Governor released his proposed budget in December. While claims of record funding and historic salary increases continue to be made, I ask you, are you experience historic and record increases in your paycheck? The reality is that the claims are false and the funding is not going to those working in Florida's public schools.



Legislative Session, continued

For specific information on the proposed budget, click [HERE](#).

Vaccines - YOUR UNION firmly believes that decisions related to your personal health and wellness are YOUR OWN to make. Each individual can and should make their own decisions about vaccines and other health related issues. However, it is our responsibility to keep you informed so you can make the best decision possible. The Florida Department of Health (DOH) has moved forward with a draft rule that would remove vaccines for chicken pox, meningitis, and Hepatitis B from the list of required immunizations for schoolchildren. During the workshop where the conversation occurred, many health professionals and concerned citizens, including public school employees, spoke out against these proposed changes and the negative impacts they could have on the health of students, teachers, and staff as well as the impact on student learning due to student and teacher absenteeism. The next step in the process will be for DOH to formally propose a written rule. When that happens, an additional comment period will open up. We will be sure to keep you informed when that happens.

If you are interested in taking action during the 2026 Florida Legislative Session, and we hope you are, visit the FEA website by clicking [HERE](#), to learn more about how you can share your voice! Solidarity.

Important Update: Curative Changes

Many of you have received messages from Curative about changes with the provider network and most recently how certain providers must now be paid using the Cash Card. We understand how messages like this, especially when they are received without warning and during the holiday break, create confusion, stress, and uncertainty.

Please know this: YOUR UNION is actively working to get answers, accountability and stability!

VUE staff met with district leaders on Friday, December 19th to raise serious concerns about provider disruption, inconsistent information, and the burden navigating the ever changing landscape Curative has created puts upon employees. Access to medical care should not depend on last-minute portal checks, unclear provider lists, or trial-and-error at the point of service.

The district and Curative must be held accountable for properly managing employee benefits. Employees should not be expected to shoulder the risk, confusion, or the administrative burden created by these changes.

At this time, VUE is gathering information, documenting member experiences, and pressing for answers and corrective action. As we receive verified information, we will share updates with you.

If you experience:

- Difficulty accessing care
- Conflicting information from Curative representatives
- Problems using the Cash Card
- Delays in follow-up or approvals

please notify us immediately. We will continue to work with the district to find solutions to these issues.

You are important and we are here to ensure that you have access to the health care that you need!

VUE Professional Learning: Spring 2026

VUE Professional Development is created to meet the needs of our members. The courses offered to VUE members are at no cost. Please take advantage of these opportunities.

Remember; the strategies you learn during VUE PD are available to be used for your DPP. If you have any questions about professional development, please contact Dr. Howard at lekita.howard@floridaea.org.



January Calendar Reminders

Please note the important dates below:

Jan. 5 - Teacher Duty Day & **final non-student work day for paras**

Jan. 9 - **Mid-Year Self Evaluation Due - Category 2 Instructional** - we strongly encourage you to complete this process. See VSET support for additional information by clicking [HERE](#).

Jan. 15 - Payday

Jan. 19 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - No School

Week of Jan. 19 - 23 - additional pay run Longevity payments all units (will confirm exact date w/ VCS payroll)

Jan. 21 - ERPL #4 - School Based

Jan. 23 - DPP #1 feedback due from Administrators

