



# Solidarity Report

**"I am A PART of my union, not apart from my union."** ~ Ivan Lopez

## SB 1296 - What Does This Mean For VUE?

On Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Florida Senate put *"the nail in the coffin for unions in Florida, especially for our teachers and public workers,"* according to Florida's Senator Shevrin Jones.

After two weeks of fighting to stop and then amend **SB 1296**, the Freedom Foundation and the anti-worker regime in Tallahassee won another round in this fight. However, when the vote was taken, 6 Republican Senators stood with the workers in Florida and voted no against this very bad bill.

Senator Leek and Senator Wright, both from Volusia, voted yes and supported **SB 1296**.

### So What Happens Next?

**SB 1296** will now go to the House. If the House passes the bill, which is likely, it will go to the Governor to be signed into law. Although the actions of certain lawmakers are deeply disappointing, our response is simple: we organize, we grow, and we build our power.

**SB 1296** has no power over VUE once we hit 60% member density in all units, so the path forward is clear. We must commit to having one conversation at a time, recruit one member at a time, and build a more powerful VUE.

### This work must begin today!

Our Recertification with the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) is due on May 28, 2026. We believe that the new election requirements created in **SB 1296** will not impact us when we recertify this year, but nothing is certain. If we are forced to follow the new election process, it requires that 50% plus one member of the bargaining unit (more than 2,000 instructional, 750 TSPs, and 700 support staff) participate in the PERC election. This is a very high bar to reach, so we must start having conversations NOW with potential members. If the voting thresholds for participation in the PERC election are not met, WE WILL BE DECERTIFIED, regardless of how the votes are cast.

There is no time to waste. Talk with your steward or member representative about how YOU can help keep our contract and our union. If everyone recruits just one new member, we will crush the goal and be free from those who seek to harm us!

I believe in YOU, and I believe in Our UNION! Solidarity.



## How to Join VUE

The process to join your union now requires two steps:

- create an account with FEA Central Membership System (CMS)
- link a bank account to the ACH draft or pay one lump sum dues payment.

All new members must create an account in CMS. The link to the portal is [www.ourvue.net/membership](http://www.ourvue.net/membership)

Once the CMS account is created, linking a bank account is the next step. This is completed in a step-by-step process that is navigated using Plaid. VUE stewards and staff are available to assist. Please contact us if you or a coworker needs help to complete the steps to join. We will set an appointment and come to you. No Potential Member Left Behind! Call or email today!



Membership QR Code

## **ALL CALL: Tuesday's Board Meeting!**



**IT IS TIME TO SHOW UP!**

**IT IS TIME TO SHARE YOUR STORY!**

This is an ALL CALL to every employee impacted by a Focus failure to attend **Tuesday's School Board Meeting**.

The Board needs to see the faces behind these failures. They need to hear what choosing between paying a bill and buying groceries or gas feels like, and how docked pay and incorrect paychecks impact our ability to take care of our families!

We must **WEAR RED**, pack the room, stand together, and tell our stories.

If you are interested in speaking to the members of the board, please contact Elizabeth at [elizabeth.albert@floridaea.org](mailto:elizabeth.albert@floridaea.org).

Solidarity!



## PERC Recertification

Every year, our union must complete a recertification process with the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) in Tallahassee. Because the bargaining units have not reached the required 60% membership density, we must collect "Showing of Interest" (SOI) cards from at least 30% of the individuals in each bargaining unit (instructional, support, and TSPs).

Stewards and VUE staff have already started collecting the SOI cards. We must complete this process by the middle of May. We need everyone at your worksite to complete a SOI card. It does not mean they are joining VUE (although, we want them too!) it just means they want to keep our contract.

Please complete a SOI card ASAP. The cards are color coded:

- Instructional - Yellow
- Support (OS & paras) - blue
- TSP - green

The steps are simple:

- Print your name - **legibly**
- Sign your name
- Date the form

**You must complete both boxes on the page.**

The sooner we collect the SOI forms, the sooner we can complete the recertification process, but remember, once we achieve our goal of 60% membership density, we will no longer need to complete this process!

Let's use the SOI card collection conversations as an opportunity to talk with our friends about joining their union. One conversation at a time, one member at a time! 60% means power, power means influence, influence means we live a better life!

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## Important Reminders

- This week is a **NO MEETING WEEK**. The only meetings allowed before/during/after school on Mon.-Thurs. are IEP, 504, or MTSS meetings and those should be **ONLY** if necessary.
- Friday is a Teacher Duty Day and a **NON-Workday** for paraprofessionals. Admin can use half of the day for meetings or trainings, but meetings must end in time to allow an uninterrupted hour lunch and the other half of the day for individuals to work on their own. If you have questions about Friday's schedule, please make sure to contact the office (386) 238-1605.
- **DPPs are due (completed) in MyPGS on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>!**
- Have you recently moved or changed your phone number? If so, please make sure to provide your updated information to us and VCS. Your mailing address will be sent to PERC for the recertification election mail ballot so it is important to keep it updated.

## VUE Professional Learning

The VUE Professional Learning Department is working hard to meet the needs of our members. Recently, we have been contacted by several members who only need 1 or 2 ESE credits to recertify.

VUE PD is happy to offer the course below. This course will provide classroom strategies to improve your practice.

Don't delay, register today!



**Inclusive Education:  
Addressing Special Needs & Disabilities**

Mon. March 23th, 2026 5:00—7:00pm F2F @ VUE BLDG

**Course #72059 Section #117610**

This course is designed to enhance instructional awareness for classroom strategies, differentiation and meeting a wide variety of student needs.

**2 ESE  
in-service  
credit hours**

Please register through Volusia County Schools MyPGS. If there are any questions, contact Dr. Lekita Howard at [lekita.howard@floridaea.org](mailto:lekita.howard@floridaea.org) or call the VUE Office at 386-238-1605 for registration. **Non-VUE/VESA members will be required to pay a registration fee prior to the start date.**



The VUE office will be closed beginning Friday, March 13, 2026 at 4:30 pm and will reopen on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 8:30 am.

Have a safe, enjoyable, and peaceful Spring Break!

