

# Growth Management Reform: *Schools Background*

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## THE ISSUE

- Growth management reform would mean that schools needed to serve new development are available concurrent with the development impacts.
  - Currently school policy issues are decided by the school board, including determining what schools are built and what students go to which schools. Meanwhile, the local governments within the school district are responsible for approving development, which creates the demand on the school facilities. Lack of coordination and linkage between these schools and development decisions results in pressures and strains on schools and impacts to the quality of the educational and community experience.
- Reform would coordinate school planning with growth management by:
  - Requiring school concurrency;
  - Closing the gap between when new development begins and the needed school facilities are built;
  - Allowing locals to decide what is appropriate in their communities by requiring that the school boards and the local governments jointly determine the appropriate level of service standards; and
  - Creating optional methods by which the impacts of development can be funded cooperatively by the public and private sectors.

## CURRENT GROWTH MANAGEMENT LAW

- Under current law, school concurrency is optional.
  - Only Palm Beach County has chosen to implement school concurrency.
  - Orange County has accomplished a form of school concurrency with their policy to link the approval of land use and zoning changes with the availability of schools.
- Local governments and school boards must enter into the interlocal agreements that outlines the process for information sharing regarding local government development approvals and the school facility decisions made by the school board.



## A Pay As You Grow Plan For Florida's Future

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#### GROWTH MANAGEMENT REFORM AND PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS

The proposed bill:

- Links new development and school capacity.
- Allows exemptions for counties and municipalities where the pressures on the school system are minimal.
- Requires that the local governments and school boards jointly establish appropriate level of service for their community.
- Provides for a transition period for implementing school concurrency at the less than districtwide level.
- Allows for proportionate share mitigation by developer.
- Requires local governments to adopt a public school facilities element as part of their local comprehensive plan.

#### THE BENEFITS OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT REFORM

- Local governments and school districts will proactively plan for and develop the school facilities needed to support expected growth.



**Governor Jeb Bush**

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