



MYTHBUSTERS

MYTH #1 Requiring bachelor's degrees for pre-k classrooms will have a huge impact on this year's budget.

BUSTED

There is no fiscal impact this year, next year, or the year after. In fact, the fiscal impact doesn't take place until 2013 when the requirement for a degreed lead teacher would take effect. This gives Florida more than 6 years to prepare.

MYTH #2 There will not be enough teachers to cover the requirement.

BUSTED

At Florida's current pre-k enrollment rate, with a half-day model, Florida needs between 2,500 – 3,000 degreed lead teachers to reach the goal. Not only is it a doable number, but also consider the following: (1) Certified or degreed teachers are currently required for summer pre-k; (2) Education was the most popular undergraduate major in Florida in 2005 and Elementary Education, which includes pre-k, was the top program area with more than 16,000 students; (3) Florida's K-12 student enrollment is actually dropping, relaxing demands for new teachers.

MYTH #3 If degreed lead teachers were required for pre-k, the current caring staff would lose their jobs.

BUSTED

Again, the change won't take place until 2013. Opponents make it sound as if jobs would be lost immediately, which isn't only wrong now but is wrong in the future too. Current non-degreed associates would work as assistants to the lead teachers. Avenues will be opened in the community colleges and universities to provide opportunities for current associates to matriculate upward to higher professional credentials if they want to. No one will be displaced.

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