



**Florida House of Representatives**  
**Representative Jason Fischer**  
**District 16**

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July 24, 2017

The Honorable Debbie Mayfield  
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, Chair  
324 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Mayfield,

I am writing to request the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee direct the Auditor General to perform an operational audit of the Duval County school district's budgetary and spending practices. I am specifically concerned that last fiscal year, the school district is presumed to have overspent its budget by \$21 million. As a past Duval County School Board Member I understand the complexity of their local budget. I'm deeply concerned that the school district is taking their eye off the ball by considering frivolous lawsuits against the State rather than getting their financial house in order.

As a member of the PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, I have the privilege of examining our State budget to ensure my constituent's taxes are being spent effectively and efficiently. I have major concerns that the \$21 million in overspending will hurt our most vulnerable citizens, our children. Every dollar spent by the school district needs to be accounted for, and my desire is that this special audit brings clarity and reconciliation to the school district's poor financial practices so our children do not have to suffer.

Duval County has the sixth largest school district in the State, serving nearly 130,000 students. Recently, the district's questionable budgetary practices have surfaced in the press, triggering pushback from the community and the philanthropic sector. We cannot afford to allow the Duval County school district to continue to operate

**Committees and Subcommittees**

Energy and Utilities Subcommittee; Joint Administrative Procedures Committee; Natural Resources and Public Lands Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; Public Integrity and Ethics Committee

in this manner. As our county continues to grow, I want to ensure the school district is operating with a fiscally responsible budget so we can continue to attract families to put roots down in Jacksonville.

I appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to working with you and the Auditor General's Office to investigate this significant overspending.

Sincerely,



Jason Fischer  
State Representative, District 16

cc: Representative Daniel Raulerson, Vice Chair

Senator Dennis Baxley  
Senator Audrey Gibson  
Senator Kathleen Passidomo  
Senator Perry Thurston  
Representative Tracie Davis  
Representative Randy Fine  
Representative Joe Gruters  
Representative Roy Hardemon  
Representative Cyndi Stevenson

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