

Council Overview

The Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement, originally the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC), was created by executive order in 1980, given statutory authority in 1981 (ss.240.145 and 240.147, Florida Statutes), and was reauthorized by the 1991 Legislature. In 2001, under the Education Reorganization Act PEPC was renamed the Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement (s.229.0031, now s.1008.51 pursuant to the 2002 Florida K-20 Education Code, Chapter 2002-387, L.F.) and its mandate expanded. It now serves as a citizen board for independent policy research and analysis, which will provide state policymakers and educators with timely and objective research that supports the seamless K-20 educational system and the K-20 accountability process. The Council is composed of 9 members of the general public of whom five are appointed by the Governor, two by the Speaker of the House, and two by the President of the Senate.

A major responsibility of the Council is to prepare and update a *Master Plan* for education every five years. The enabling legislation provides that the *Plan* "shall include consideration of the promotion of quality, fundamental educational goals, programmatic access, needs for remedial education, regional and state economic development, international education programs, demographic patterns, student demand for programs, needs of particular subgroups of the population, implementation of innovative educational techniques and technology, and the requirements of the labor market. The capacity of existing programs, in both public and independent institutions, to respond to identified needs shall be evaluated and the Council shall recommend efficient alternatives to address unmet needs."

Other statutory responsibilities include reporting on the progress of public schools and postsecondary institutions toward meeting educational goals and standards periodically reviewing and making recommendations to the Legislature regarding the activities of research centers and institutes; and periodically conducting special studies, analyses, and evaluations related to other K-20 education issues and programs.

Further information about the Council, its publications, meetings and other activities may be obtained from our website, <http://www.cepri.state.fl.us> or from the Council office in the Pepper Building, 111 West Madison Street, Suite 574, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400; telephone (850) 488-7894; Fax (850) 922-5388.