



# Florida House of Representatives

**Representative Joe Gruters**

**District 73**

381 Interstate Blvd  
Sarasota, FL 34240  
941-378-6309  
941-378-6319 (fax)

1101 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850-717-5073

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

July 26, 2017

Re: Duval County Public Schools Special Operational Audit Request

Dear Chair Mayfield,

I am writing in support of Representative Jason Fischer's request for a special operational audit of the Duval County school district's budgetary and spending practices. The school district is estimated to have overspent its authorized budget by \$21 million, generating concern from various local and state elected officials.

In response to Representative Fischer's request, Duval County School Board Member Scott Shine has been outspoken in his support for more transparency and accountability in the district. Recently he stated "Rep. Fischer's characterization of the budget findings point to the fact that the district finance office made a considerable mistake," and in previous statements he has recommended "the COJ Office of Inspector General provide an investigation into the current financial error and to provide a third party review of the origin of the problem." Additionally, the district's Chief Financial Officer resigned in light of these findings, another indication that something is amiss.

While the state does perform audits on the district every three years, I feel this situation is urgent and cannot wait to be investigated until the next audit cycle. Thank you for your attention to this issue and thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Gruters  
State Representative, District 73