

One Cent Sales Tax Increase Proposed for Public Schools

Donna Deegan ■ 3 days ago

TAMPA, FL -- Florida educators will be going to the state capitol next Wednesday, asking for a 1-cent sales tax increase. The money raised from the statewide tax would go to support public schools.

"It will make a big difference in the lives of our children and our schools all over the state" said Jean Clements the president of the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association.

The tax would end after 3 years and it's expected to raise about \$3.5 billion annually. Clements admits the tax is not a long-term solution, just a way to help school avoid deeper cuts while a new funding plan for schools is ironed out.

"It's a bold move, but it's not going to take money off on anybody's table. We don't tax food and nobody has ever proposed that we do."

For their trip to Tallahassee, teachers from across the state have been collecting pennies. Clement says the goal is to bring one penny for every student in the state. That's roughly 2.6 million pennies. After the group's rally, the pennies will be donated to the Children's Home Society of Florida.

Supporters of the tax increase, including the Federal Education Association, say they would like the plan passed during the current session.

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