

## MADISON POLICY DIGEST

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- \*Rubio Aims to Revolutionize State's Broken School System
  - \*Florida Legislature May Take Steps to Curb Cities' Right to Seize Property
  - \*State Limits Voucher Expansion Plan
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### RUBIO AIMS TO REVOLUTIONIZE STATE'S BROKEN SCHOOL SYSTEM

Shortly, Rep. Marco Rubio, a Republican from West Miami, will become the Florida House Speaker. This is significant for those in the world of education, and for anyone who has any interaction with education in the state of Florida, such as parents.

Earlier this month, Rep. Rubio gave a speech in which he called for the complete transformation of Florida's public schools. With Rep. Rubio taking over the most powerful seat in the House, such dramatic education reforms may well be on their way.

"In Florida, we aspire for our third graders to read," Rubio said. "In China, they speak three languages." Rubio said sixth graders in America are getting "stars and happy faces" for their work while students in other countries work on advanced math and science.

"Public education will not improve by reformation, it will only improve by transformation," Rubio said, "when you say our system no longer works."

For the full story click here:

<http://www.gainesville.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060403/LOCAL/204030330/1078/news>

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### FLORIDA LEGISLATURE MAY TAKE STEPS TO CURB CITIES' RIGHT TO SEIZE PROPERTY

Recently three south Florida cities- Hollywood, Pompano Beach, and Riviera Beach- have forced residents to either sell their property to the city or have it taken from them.

Currently, Riviera Beach is planning to take a piece of land where over 5,100 people live.

Now the State's legislature is prepared to fight cities and protect Floridians' property rights. Legislators have proposed a law for the people of Florida to vote on to amend the state's constitution in November. The law would keep cities from being able to take people's land for redevelopment purposes.

There is a catch, however. The proposed law would not keep cities from taking private property for public purposes such as schools and roads.

For the full story click here: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-feminentapr04,0,7126624.story?coll=sfla-news-sfla>

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## STATE LIMITS VOUCHER EXTENSION PLAN

Gov. Bush had proposed to extend the state's voucher plan to all of Florida's children. This will not happen, however.

A Senate panel rewrote the governor's proposed constitutional amendment so that it will apply only to the state's existing voucher plan.

Three months ago, the State's Supreme Court ruled that the Opportunity scholarships were unconstitutional. This directly affected 733 Florida students, and caused concerns for thousands of other children who are enrolled in programs that receive state funding.

According to the St. Petersburg Times, "Bush initially proposed guaranteeing vouchers in prekindergarten through college to all students who have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged or 'whose parents request alternatives to traditional public education.' But the Senate balked at the broad language."

For the full story click here:

[http://www.sptimes.com/2006/04/05/State/Senate\\_limits\\_voucher.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2006/04/05/State/Senate_limits_voucher.shtml)

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech. (Benjamin Franklin)

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## OPINION OF THE WEEK

Dalrymple on French Riots

<http://insideronline.org/>

Whether they know it or not, the people on the streets in France were demonstrating to keep the youth of the *banlieus* — who recently so amused the world for an entire

fortnight with their arsonist antics — exactly where they are, namely hopeless, unemployed and feeling betrayed. For unless the French labour market is liberalised, they will never find employment and therefore integration into French society. You have only to speak to a few small businessmen or artisans in France — the *petits bourgeois* so vehemently despised by the snobbish intellectuals — to find out why this should be so. The French labour regulations make employment of untried persons completely uneconomic for them.

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