



State Investigating allegations that Special Deals were given by publishers that were lower than the State Negotiated Best Price! Some districts got the deal – other districts, many small, did not!

The Briefing – Thursday – May 26 – 2022

The last Briefing was Wednesday – May 24

The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to County Commissioners and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and School Board members, Superintendents, and staff in districts that are members of the Small School District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email – Cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

Important Information and Resource Links

[Small County Coalition Website](#)

[Small School District Council Consortium Website](#)

The Quick

Investigation moving forward over Special Deals Given by Publishers to Some Districts
Small School District Council Consortium asks for Reimbursements or Credits if found!

“If it is found that some districts received favorable pricing -

The Small School District Council Consortium requests retroactive reimbursement or credits, and, for future purchases, equitable treatment of all districts as required by law.”

Here are links to the SSDCC correspondence and the new articles covering this issue.

- SSDCC – [SSDCC statement in relation to Investigation of Instructional Materials Sales Practices .docx](#)
- SSDCC Memo - [SSDCC Requests Transparency and Reimbursement for Overcharges for Instructional Materials.docx](#))
- Clip of ABC News - [Here is the news clip than ran on Tampa ABC station Wednesday night - click on it and wait for the ad to run then the new article will start.](#)
- News Article - [News Service of Florida Article on the Textbook Investigation - Published 5-25-22 .docx](#)

BACKGROUND

For the two weeks, our office has focused on a “Whistleblower” claim that Textbook publishers are giving “Special Deals” to some districts and not others. The deals come in the form of “freebies” and lower prices. The Whistleblower allegation was sent by their attorneys in letters to the General Counsel for the Attorney General’ office, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Department of Education accompanied by invoices and purchase orders that backed up allegation. In discussion with SSDCC Leadership – a letter was sent on behalf of the SSDCC to the Governor, Attorney General, CFO Patronis, and Interim DOE Commissioner Jacob Oliva outlining concerns that if Special Deals were offered, they should have been provided to all districts. In meetings with the Governor’s Office, it is affirmed that a serious investigation is going forward and that if there is a violation of law, and I believe it is, there should be actions taken to provide credits to the districts that did not receive the cost breaks. That’s it for now! Yesterday the issue was covered in two news articles – one from the statewide new organization News Service of Florida – the other by the ABC affiliate in Tampa.

Special Session 2022D in the Books

The House passed SBs 2D and 4D in session on Wednesday, and Special Session 2022D has effectively concluded. The chambers are not expected to meet again, but can reconvene up on the call of the chairs for the remainder of the call.

Bills that Passed

SB 0002D - Property Insurance by Boyd - Property Insurance; Creating the Reinsurance to Assist Policyholders program to be administered by the State Board of Administration; requiring certain property insurers to obtain coverage under the program; revising homeowner eligibility criteria for mitigation grants; requiring claimants to establish that property insurers have breached the insurance contract to prevail in certain claims for damages; requiring the Office of Insurance Regulation to aggregate on a statewide basis and make publicly available certain data submitted by insurers and insurer groups, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$150,000,000 Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law

SB 0004D - Building Safety by Boyd - Building Safety; Providing that the entire roofing system or roof section of certain existing buildings or structures does not have to be repaired, replaced, or recovered in accordance with the Florida Building Code under certain circumstances; requiring condominium associations and cooperative associations to have milestone inspections performed on certain buildings at specified times; authorizing local enforcement agencies to prescribe timelines and penalties relating to milestone inspections; revising the types of records that constitute the official records of a condominium association; prohibiting certain members and associations from waiving or reducing reserves for certain items after a specified date, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

Headlines from around the State

CBS Miami: Texas school shooting reignites Florida partisan divide on guns

CBS Miami: 'Try To Take Our Guns And You'll Learn,' Florida Lawmaker Tweets At President Biden

Today: Critics accused Fine of threatening Biden in wake of Texas tragedy

The Floridian: Eskamani Fires Back at Fine Over Gun Comments

FlaPol: U.S. House ballot access panel takes field trip to Tallahassee, ground zero for election police

Bradenton Herald: Congressional panel goes to Tallahassee to ask about DeSantis' 'election police'

Sun-Sentinel: Latest school massacre generates a lot of political heat. But here's why some feel it's still not enough to bring change.

WLRN: Lawyers for Parkland shooter say Texas school shooting will affect jurors

Post: Jurors can't hear about Texas killings at Nikolas Cruz trial, but it's on everyone's mind

Sun-Sentinel: Texas school massacre casts shadow on Parkland mass shooting trial

Democrat: Cameron Kasky, Parkland school survivor, bashes Biden's response to gun violence

My News 13: 'They do nothing': Parent of Parkland victim wants Florida lawmakers to get moving in fight against gun violence

Times: Florida's \$23 billion freelance economy is booming, study says

The Capitolist: Florida among top five states for app economy jobs

Herald: Remote learning apps used in schools tracked kids data without their knowledge, report says

FlaPol: Jared Moskowitz added \$665K in first 27 days of congressional campaign, Q1 reports show

FlaPol: Ashley Moody endorses Laurel Lee in CD 15

FlaPol: Martin Hyde is ready to tell voters who he is

Sentinel: Florida's median home price soars to \$410,000; affordability a statewide crisis

The Cptolist: Average Florida home price over \$70,000 higher than a year ago, but market remains strong

Sun-Sentinel: State of the housing market: Sales slump, interest rates high, but home prices keep rising

My News 13: Mother of Ronald Greene leaves Orlando to attend police reform order signing

Herald: Cuba detains more than 800 Haitian migrants on the way to the Florida Keys

WUSF: Florida legislators approve property insurance measures, now await DeSantis' signature

Bradenton Herald: Lawmakers pass insurance legislation. Theres \$10,000 to harden qualified homes

FlaPol: House passes property insurance bill over rate cut gripes

CBS Miami: lawmakers sign off on condo safety requirements

News4Jax: Florida passes condominium safety bill in wake of Surfside

FlaPol: Legislature passes Surfside-inspired condo inspection bill

Herald: Democrats' top candidates for governor to appear at public forum in South Florida

Democrat: Florida Democrats want Legislature to take action on gun violence, safety following Texas shooting

Times: 3 things Florida has done to stop school shootings — and 3 ideas that haven't happened

FlaPol: Al Lawson: Cord Byrd brings Donald Trump philosophy to State Department

My News 13: Independent candidate in 2020 Florida Senate race posts bond in campaign finance case

Sun-Sentinel: After Surfside collapse, Broward is making condo safety records easier to find

Sentinel: 'Not expecting much to change.' Gun bills ignored in Florida, 'constitutional carry' still in play

control

Sentinel: School districts may have been cut out of book deals, breaking Florida law

WLRN: Florida wildlife officials say some manatee food growing

Bradenton Herald: Voters choose to name Florida park after Gov. DeSantis after candidate's email push

Sentinel: Florida appeals court revives Disney mask case

Sun-Sentinel: Broward lawmaker Anika Omphroy running for Congress

Ledger: FDOE failed to warn school districts about teacher's 2018 arrest. He was then hired in Polk

Times: A Florida library's LGBTQ Pride display started a yearlong battle

Herald: 'You feel helpless': Miami-area moms scramble to find baby formula amid U.S. shortage

Sentinel: Orange school board picks three semifinalists for new superintendent

The Capitolist: Study: Florida has the 3rd most traffic fatalities during Memorial Day weekend

Herald: With COVID surging, South Florida braces for 'the busiest Memorial Day weekend ever'

WLRN: Student protest led to Wendy's removal from Florida Atlantic University

Five Day Tropical Outlook

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>



Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Current Disturbances and Five-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%
Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane
 Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

Upcoming Meetings of State Associations

- June 8-10 - [FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference](#) – Tampa
- June 9 - Small District Breakfast – Annual Joint Business Meeting of the FSBA Small District Council and the SSDCC
- [June 28 - July 1 – FAC Annual Conference - Small County Coalition Annual Meeting - Orlando](#)
- June 29 - The Small County Coalition will meet for breakfast on Wed.

On the Docket

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

Legislature:

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: The House is scheduled to hold a floor session to consider legislation to address problems in the state’s property-insurance system. (Thursday, 10 a.m., House chamber, the Capitol.)
- SENATE COULD HOLD FLOOR SESSION: The Senate has set aside time to hold a floor session, if needed, to consider legislation to address problems in the state’s property-insurance system. (Thursday, 10 a.m., Senate chamber, the Capitol.)

Also:

- FSDB TRUSTEES: The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Trustees will meet. (Thursday, 8: 30 a.m., Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Moore Hall Center for Learning and Development, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.)
- UCF TRUSTEES: The University of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet. (Thursday, 9 a.m., University of Central Florida, Live Oak Event Center, Orlando.)
- VALENCIA COLLEGE TRUSTEES: The Valencia College Board of Trustees will meet. (Thursday, 9: 30 a.m., Valencia College, Lake Nona Campus, 12350 Narcoossee Road, Orlando. <https://valenciacollege.zoom.us/j/98992368831?pwd=MUpXam1SZ2JqZWRqbWd6dVU5SVJNZz09#success>)
- TRANSPORTATION ISSUES: The Florida Transportation Commission will meet. (Thursday, 10 a.m. Call-in number: 850-739-5589. Code: 715528254)
- APALACHEE PLANNING COUNCIL: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council will meet. (Thursday, 10 a.m., Holiday Inn & Suites Tallahassee Conference Center, 2725 Graves Road, Tallahassee.)
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS: The Florida Supreme Court will release weekly opinions. (Thursday, 11 a.m.)
- ‘CAT FUND’: The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Advisory Council will meet. (Thursday, 1: 30 p.m., Hermitage Centre, 1801 Hermitage Blvd., Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 973664296)
- NORTH CENTRAL PLANNING COUNCIL: The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. (Thursday, 7 p.m. <https://meet.goto.com/732247525>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 732247525)

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022

Legislature:

- **HOUSE SCHEDULES FLOOR SESSION:** The House could hold a floor session to consider legislation to address problems in the state’s property-insurance system. (Friday, 10 a.m., House chamber, the Capitol.)
- **SENATE COULD HOLD FLOOR SESSION:** The Senate has set aside time to hold a floor session, if needed, to consider legislation to address problems in the state’s property-insurance system. (Friday, 10 a.m., Senate chamber, the Capitol.)

Also:

- **SUPREME COURT APPLICATIONS DUE:** Candidates to succeed retiring Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson face a Friday deadline for submitting applications to the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022

- **HURRICANE TAX ‘HOLIDAY’ STARTS:** The state will begin a sales-tax “holiday” that will allow Floridians to stock up on hurricane supplies without paying sales taxes. The holiday, which will last through June 10, is held in conjunction with the June 1 start of the hurricane season.

