



***This Briefing Summarizes the Conference Budget!
Day 58 – 2 days remain!***

The Briefing - Wednesday – May 3 - 2023

Day 58 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 2 days til Sine Die!

The last Briefing was Tuesday, May 2, 2023

How's your weather – <https://weather.com/>

You can watch Legislative Meetings on [The Florida Channel](#)

Some Wins!

- Sovereign Immunity Changes Died!
- Term Limits for County Commissioners died! -
- Florida Retirement Changes Scaled back to 10% of original proposal.
- Funding for Small Districts Protected
- Special Facilities – fully funded
- Regional Consortia – fully funded
- Small District Factor included in the FEFP
- Comparable Wage Factor increased the old “DCD” so every district receives a factor of 1.0.
- Major funding for County Projects and Program Priorities
- Over \$100,000,000 to support Fiscally Constrained Counties
- Over \$100 million to support Small County Road Programs
- Over \$100 million to support continue Broadband and Digital Expansion
- Significant funding supporting Infrastructure, Water, and Springs protection
- Over \$700,000,000 to funding Housing Programs
- \$80,000,000 to support Visit Florida
- Funding for Agriculture, Cultural, Historic Preservation and Parks Projects
- Reduction of Concordant Score needed to receive high school diploma!

[Link to General Appropriation Act - SB 2500](#)

Budget Agreement Outlined

This Briefing provides information on what is included in the GAA for FY23-24. All links to key documents are highlighted and word searchable. There are sections pertaining to Education and funding for programs important to Small Counties. Additional reports will be provided over the next few days.

Budget Documents Associated with the Conference Reports

[Link to General Appropriation Act - SB 2500](#)

Budget Summary SB 2500 Conference Report FY 23-24

Balanced Budget Invests in Infrastructure, Education, Tax Relief & Historic Reserves

[Florida Education Finance Program \(FEFP\) 5/2/23](#)

Conference Report on SB 2502 - Implementing the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act

Conforming Bill Conference Reports:

- Conference Report on SB 2504 - State Employees
- Conference Report on SB 2506 - Capitol Complex
- Conference Report on SB 2510 - Health
- Conference Report on SB 7018 - Inmate Welfare Trust Fund
- [Conference Report on SB 7024 - Retirement](#)
- [Conference Report on HB 5101 - Education](#)
- Conference Report on HB 5303 - Biomedical Research
- [Conference Report on HB 1285 - Implementing](#)

Summary of SB 2500 General Appropriations Bill for FY 23-24

[Link to General Appropriation Act - SB 2500](#)

Total Budget: \$117 billion [\$46.5 billion General Revenue; \$70.5 billion Trust Funds]

Increased Reserves & Debt Reduction

- \$10.9 billion Total Reserves
 - \$5.3 billion General Revenue Unallocated
 - \$4.1 billion Budget Stabilization Fund
 - \$1.4 billion added to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund
- \$200,000,000 to retire outstanding state debt

Compensation & Benefits

- 5% Pay Increase for all State Employees
- In addition to the 5% across-the-board pay increase:
- Agency Discretion Pay Increase Plans to address compression, recruitment, and retention
 - Correctional Officers – Starting salary to \$45,760 (\$22/hr.) and bonuses for high vacancy facilities

Florida Retirement System - Enhanced benefits

[Conference Report on SB 7024 - Retirement](#)

- Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy increase of up to \$75 per month
- DROP Program - Extension from 5 to 8 years for all Employees, from 8 to 10 years for Teachers
- Special Risk - Reduced normal retirement to age 55 or 25 years of service

- 2% increase to Investment Plan employer contributions

Education Funding Summary

Note – after significant lobbying effort regarding potential changes to the FEFP – The final FEFP is favorable to small district priorities.

Special Facilities – funded

Regional Consortia – funded

Small District Provisions in the FEFP – Included

Provide below are highlights of what is included in the GAA For FY23-23

[Link to General Appropriation Act - SB 2500](#)

Funding Summary

Total Appropriations: \$27.9 billion [\$20.2 billion GR; \$7.7 billion TF]

Total Funding - Including Local Revenues: \$42.9 billion [\$28 billion state/federal funds;

\$14.9 billion local funds

Major Issues

Education Capital Outlay - Total: \$1.3 billion

- State University System Projects - \$682.2,000,000
- Florida College System Projects - \$272.4,000,000
- Charter School Repairs and Maintenance - \$213.5,000,000
- Small School District Special Facilities - \$88.6,000,000

Public Schools/K12 FEFP

Total Funding: \$26.7 billion [\$14.52 billion state funds; \$12.25 billion local funds]

Calculation of Per Student Funding Modified

(Weighted FTE x Base Student Allocation District's x Comparable Wage Factor x Small District Factor)

All Small Districts will receive per student increase higher than non-small districts. Check the link-

[Florida Education Finance Program \(FEFP\) 5/2/23](#)

Funding Breakdown

- FEFP Total Funds increase is \$2.2 billion or 9.04 percent
- FEFP increases in Total Funds per Student served by a district is \$404.67, a 4.91 percent increase (from \$8,243.44 to \$8,648.11)
- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase by \$552.33 or 12.04 percent
- FEFP Base Funds (flexible \$) increase of \$2.7 billion or 18.09 percent
 - o Includes a small district factor - adds \$20,000,000 to base funds
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$1 billion; RLE millage maintained at prior year level of 3.262 mills
- Inclusion of Small District Factor enhancing per student funding by 1.0227 per student for districts of 20,000 or less.
- Teacher Salary Increase - \$252,000,000 increase for a total of \$1 billion
- Safe Schools Allocation - \$40,000,000 increase for a total of \$250,000,000 for School Safety Officers and school safety initiatives
- Mental Health Assistance Allocation - \$20,000,000 increase for a total of \$160,000,000 to help school districts and charter schools address youth mental health issues
- Educational Enrichment Allocation (New) - \$825,000,000 - provides funds to assist school districts in providing educational enrichment activities and services that support and increase the academic achievement of students

- State-Funded Discretionary Supplement (New) - \$436,000,000 - to fund the non-voted discretionary millage for operations for students awarded a Family Empowerment Scholarship

Public Schools/FEFP Back of the Bill

- Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program - \$350,000,000 - provides funds (pursuant to HB 5101) to maintain the stability of the operations of public schools in each school district and to protect districts from financial instability as a result of changes in full-time equivalent student enrollment throughout the school year.

Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP

Total: \$585.7,000,000 [\$578.3,000,000 GR; \$7.4,000,000 TF]

- Regional Education Consortia - \$175,000
- Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program - \$6,500,000
- School Recognition Program - \$200,000,000
- Mentoring Programs - \$14.6,000,000
- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers - \$8.7,000,000
- School District Foundation Matching Grants - \$6,000,000
- Autism Programs - \$12,000,000
- Recruitment of Heroes Bonus - \$10,000,000
- Regional Literacy Teams - \$5,000,000
- Early Childhood Music Education - \$10.4,000,000
- Micro-Credential Incentives - \$21,000,000
- Science of Reading Literacy and Tutoring Program - \$16,000,000
- Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation - \$1.5,000,000
- Early Start Time/Transportation Grant Program - \$5,000,000
- Department of Juvenile Justice Teacher Salary Increase - \$2.1,000,000
- Florida Safe School Canine Program for Fiscally Constrained - \$4,000,000
- New World Reading - \$4,000,000
- SEED School of Miami - \$11.9,000,000
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants - \$40.5,000,000
- Exceptional Education - \$8.8,000,000
- Florida School for the Deaf & Blind - \$62.4,000,000
- Florida School for Competitive Academics - \$24,000,000
- Capital Projects - \$44.2,000,000
- Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches - \$3.5,000,000

Funded in Legislation

SB 150 - Total: \$58.7,000,000

- School Hardening - \$42,000,000
- School Environment Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System - \$3,000,000
- Threat Management Portal - \$12,000,000
- Office of Safe Schools
 - Workload Expenses - \$1.3,000,000
 - Safety Training Infrastructure - \$400,000

SB 240 - Total: \$102,000,000

- Workforce Capitalization Grants - \$100,000,000
- Reimbursement for workers' compensation insurance premiums - \$2,000,000

Vocational Rehabilitation

Total: \$250.4,000,000 [\$57.9,000,000 GR; \$192.5,000,000 TF]

- Adults with Disability Funds - \$8,300,000
- Vocational Rehabilitation Recruitment and Retention Efforts - \$2,000,000
- ABLE Trust High School/High Tech Program - \$468,177

School District Workforce

Total: \$675.8,000,000 [\$343.7,000,000 GR; \$291.9,000,000 TF; \$40.2,000,000 tuition/fees]

- Workforce Development - \$426,600,000
- Workload increase - \$36.2,000,000
- Teacher Apprenticeship Program and Mentor Bonus - \$4,000,000
- Student Success in Career and Technical Education Incentive Funds - \$2.5,000,000
- Adult General Education Incentive Funds - \$5,000,000
- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$8.5,000,000
- Workload increase - \$2,000,000
- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships - \$20,000,000
- Increase for “Grow Your Own Teacher” Apprenticeship Program - \$5,000,000
- Nursing Education Initiatives - \$20,000,000
- No tuition increase

Early Learning Services –

Total: \$1.6 billion [\$585,300,000 GR; \$1 billion TF]

- Partnerships for School Readiness - \$56,700,000
- School Readiness Program - \$1.1 billion
- o Increase of \$100,000,000 for School Readiness Services
- Early Learning Standards & Accountability - \$4.9,000,000
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$427,000,000
- o Decrease of 14,630 fewer students (\$46,500,000)
- o Increase of \$20,000,000 to increase the Base Student Allocation

State Board of Education

Total: \$306.8,000,000 [\$146.3,000,000 GR; \$160.5,000,000 TF]

- Assessment and Evaluation - \$127.2,000,000
- ACT and SAT Exam Administration - \$8,000,000
- Just Read Florida Early Literacy Professional Development - \$1,000,000
- School Choice Online Portal - \$3,000,000
- Career Planning and Work-based Learning Coordination System - \$4,000,000
- District Tools (CPALMS) - \$3.5,000,000

Blind Services

Total: \$61,000,000 [\$19,000,000 GR; \$42,000,000 TF]

- Community Rehabilitation Services for Blind Citizens Workload - \$477,165
- Recruitment and Retention Services - \$345,081

Florida College System

Total: \$2.4 billion [\$1.4 billion GR; \$274,000,000 TF; \$668,500,000 tuition/fees]

- CAPE Incentive Funds for Industry Certifications - \$20,000,000
 - o Workload increase - \$6,000,000
- College System Program Fund - \$1.6 billion
 - o Florida College New Funding Model - \$100,000,000

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| o Dual Enrollment Fee Reimbursement - | \$25,700,000 |
| • Nursing Education Initiatives - | \$59,000,000 |
| • Postsecondary Academic Library Network - | \$11,100,000 |
| • Student Success Incentive Funds - | \$30,000,000 |
| o 2+2 Student Success Incentive Funds - | \$17,000,000 |
| o Work Florida Incentive Funds - | \$13,000,000 |
| • No tuition increase | |

Program Funding Important to Counties

The final conference report is protected the priorities of the small counties.

Over \$100,000,000 to support Fiscally Constrained Counties

Over \$100 million to support Small County Road Programs

Over \$100 million to support continue Broadband and Digital Expansion

Significant funding supporting Infrastructure, Water, and Springs protections

Over \$700,000,000 to funding Housing Programs

\$80,000,000 to support Visit Florida

Funding for Agriculture, Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation and Parks Projects

[Link to General Appropriation Act - SB 2500](#)

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| Deputies /Correctional Officer Raises in Fiscally Constrained counties - | \$20,713,800 |
| ERate match in Fiscally Constrained Counties - | \$862,000 |
| Fiscally Constrained Offset for Conservation Lands Exemption - | \$1,322,626 |
| Fiscally Constrained Offset for Homestead Exemption - | \$58,092,482 |
| Fiscally Constrained funding to offset previous year tax rolls - | \$20,106,110 |
| Fiscally Constrained funding for Pretrial Detention Costs - | \$3,883,853 |
| Revenue Sharing – Emergency Distribution - | \$33,807,042 |
| Revenue Sharing – Supplemental Distribution - | \$592,958 |
| Small County Road Assistance Program - | \$28,355,898 |
| Small County Outreach Program - | \$87,383,297 |
| County Transportation Programs - | \$62,800,000 |
| Small Cities Block Grant - | \$36,500,000 |
| Broadband and Digital Equity Grants - | \$112,960,000 |
| Rural Lands Protection - | \$100,000,000 |
| Rural Infrastructure - | \$25,000,000 |
| Fixed Capital Rural Infrastructure - | \$7,000,000 |
| Job Growth Grant Program - | \$75,000,000 |
| Visit Florida - | \$80,000,000 |
| Home Energy Assistance - | \$123,988,863 |
| Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)- | \$25,363,096 |
| Low Income Housing Energy Assistance - | \$16,000,000 |
| Library Maintenance Grant – State Program - | \$24,000,000 |
| Cultural and Museum Grants - | \$46,600,000 |
| Historic Preservation Grants - | \$58,000,000 |
| Housing - Florida Hometown Heroes Program - | \$100,000,000 |
| Housing - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) - | \$252,000,000 |
| Housing - State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) - | \$259,000,000 |

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| Housing - Inflation Loan Program for SAIL - | \$100,000,000 |
| Agriculture Education and Promotion Facilities - | \$18,100,000 |
| Everglades Restoration - | \$574,600,000 |
| Wastewater Grant Program - | \$200,000,000 |
| Water Projects - | \$433,000,000 |
| Water Quality Improvements - Everglades - | \$50,000,000 |
| Total Maximum Daily Loads - | \$40,000,000 |
| Northwest Florida On-site Septic Systems - | \$2,000,000 |
| Non-Point Source Planning Grants - | \$5,000,000 |
| Alternative Water Supply - | \$60,000,000 |
| Onsite Sewage Program - | \$700,000 |
| Solid Waste Recycling - | \$3,000,000 |
| Springs Restoration - | \$50,000,000 |
| Small County Wastewater Treatment Grants - | \$11,500,000 |
| Water Infrastructure Improvements - | \$155,700,000 |
| Florida Keys Area of Critical Economic Concern - | \$20,000,000 |
| FRDAP Parks Program - | \$22,900,000 |
| Local Government Fire and Firefighter Services - | \$87,400,000 |
| Local Government Cybersecurity Grants - | \$40,000,000 |

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)

[Link the Florida House of Representatives](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

[House and Senate Calendars for final days](#)

[House Calendar](#)

[Senate Calendar](#)

Broadband Technical Assistance Webinar

[Broadband Webinar - USDA Technical Assistance Grants .docx](#)

**FY2023 Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) Funding Opportunity
Announcement (FOA) Webinar**

USDA is offering funding under the new Broadband Technical Assistance Program. \$20 million is available to support technical assistance projects such as conducting feasibility studies, completing network designs and developing broadband financial assistance applications.

RUS will be hosting its first BTA FOA webinar on **Monday, May 8, 2023 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM Eastern**. The webinar will include:

- An overview of the recently published FOA
- How to apply
- An opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the FOA

Monday, May 8, 2023 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM Eastern

[Register here!](#)

Headlines Around the State

[Politico: 'The DeSantis people are rookies': Even Trump critics say he's running circles around DeSantis](#)

[Politico: Who paid for Ron DeSantis' trip overseas? No one will say.](#)

[CBS News: Gaetz, AOC among those backing bill to ban Congress from owning stocks](#)

News4Jax: Another woman threw a drink at US Rep. Matt Gaetz in Florida

PNJ: Florida woman arrested, charged with battery after allegedly throwing drink at Matt Gaetz

PNJ: A woman was charged with a felony for throwing a drink at Matt Gaetz. She's not the first.

WUSF: Environmental groups sue the federal government to protect Florida's manatees

WUSF: Ousted Hillsborough State Attorney argues in federal court to be reinstated

FlaPol: Legislature graduates bill banning higher ed dealings with 'foreign countries of concern'

Bradenton Herald: Florida's ban on Chinese-made drones comes with \$25 million price tag for taxpayers

News4Jax: Florida to execute prisoner for 1986 fatal stabbing of woman

Herald Tribune: 'What are we going to do?' Two migrants share fears for the future in Florida crackdown

Times: Florida college campuses hit with multiple swatting calls

Sun-Sentinel: False active-shooter calls target universities across South Florida

Post: 'Swatting' pranks lure police to colleges across South Florida in search of 'active shooter'

Bradenton Herald: Manatee deputies investigate hoax active shooter threat at USF Sarasota-Manatee

Sentinel: Tickets for loud music nearly 3 times more likely for Black drivers under new Florida law

Sentinel: Florida Supreme Court hears arguments in Orlando death penalty case

Ledger: Polk Pride still on schedule in Lakeland as Legislature passes bill restricting drag shows

Post: Giant mats of seaweed lurk off Florida coast and have beached in spurts but will peak soon

News-Press: What we know: Rep. Donalds joins Ashbritt to update recovery efforts in St. James City

WLRN: Consultant: Florida politics are driving away Broward superintendent candidates

Herald: 'Politically, Florida is a challenge': Only 15 qualify for Broward superintendent job

Sun-Sentinel: 'The pool is weak': School Board underwhelmed by superintendent candidates

Today: Brevard school board chooses Mark Rendell as new superintendent

My News 13: Brevard School Board selects Cocoa Beach High School principal as next superintendent

News4Jax: Story behind Dr. Greene's departure: a teacher's arrest, a state investigation and politics

Times-Union: Duval schools Superintendent Diana Greene leaving job June 2; interim replacement undecided

News4Jax: Under fire amid teacher investigations, DCPS superintendent to retire at end of school year

WLRN: Joe Carollo defends the city's research on the men now suing him for harassment

News4Jax: Florida man charged with throwing explosive at Capitol riot

Herald: Miami's most controversial cop is back on the police force. Will he be on the street?

Sentinel: With rent rising in metro Orlando, homeless numbers are up, too

Politico: Florida GOP legislators agree to shield DeSantis travel records

My News 13: Attractions and gender bills among those on the table in Florida Legislature as end of session nears

The Capitolist: DeSantis signs anti-ESG bill, bans social credit scores

Herald: Dems blame 'grudge' by Lt. Gov. Nuñez for latest state takeover bid of Miami toll roads

WLRN: Florida lawmakers pass a sweeping elections bill

Times: Group subpoenaed by Florida House for gender-affirming support seeks injunction

FlaPol: Senate poised to restrict bathroom access, but not as broadly as House

Times: Florida lawmakers decide against plan that would cut worker paychecks

WUSF: Florida state employees could see a pay bump in DeSantis' budget proposal

FlaPol: Legislature passes physician 'freedom' bill backed by Gov. DeSantis

FlaPol: Pharmacy bill pushed by Gov. DeSantis passes Legislature without opposition

WUSF: Florida Senate backs inspections for Disney World's monorail

FlaPol: Tightened regulations on pronoun use, educational materials readied for Senate passage

FlaPol: Legislature passes new immigration rules de-incentivizing illegal migration

Bradenton Herald: Florida legislators decide to leave local 'living wage' rules alone

FlaPol: Legislature passes bill adding safe house protections against human trafficking, closing hotels loophole

Sun-Sentinel: Expansion of \$10,000 home-hardening grant program approved, awaits DeSantis's signature

The Capitolist: Lawmakers move to create Opioid Abatement council

WLRN: Lawmakers pass bill protecting certain victims from giving depositions

The Capitolist: House, Senate sign off on hurricane response measure, establish liability protections for utilities

Times-Union: Florida Gov. DeSantis backs UF putting graduate center in Jacksonville

FlaPol: Lawmakers give green light to seagrass technology innovation bill

FlaPol: Carlos Guillermo Smith raises \$80K in three weeks

FlaPol: Legislature gives passing grade to measure upping regulation of higher ed guest speakers

FlaPol: Southwest Florida lawmakers cheer Hurricane Ian, Nicole funding

FlaPol: Legislature gives final salute to 'Pathway for Military Combat Medics Act'

FlaPol: Skating rink liability shield will roll to Governor's desk

FlaPol: Legislature signs off on up to \$25M for Apalachicola Bay water quality

FlaPol: Legislature passes bill cracking down on auto glass lawsuits

FlaPol: Dueling sheriffs drive home public safety arguments in Jax mayoral race

FlaPol: Legislature passes bill allowing less than minimum wage pay for minor leaguers

FlaPol: Central Florida secures millions for roadway expansion, public safety

FlaPol: Sarasota-Manatee makes the grade with education funding

FlaPol: Seminole education, springs projects land millions in state budget

On the Docket

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

— Legislature:

- KIDCARE EXPANSION GOES TO SENATE -Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Senate will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a bill (SB 246), filed by Rep. Alexis Calatayud, R-Miami, that would expand eligibility for the KidCare subsidized health-insurance program. The bill would increase an income threshold for families to qualify for subsidized coverage. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Wednesday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET -Wednesday, 15 minutes after floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Thursday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Thursday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET -Thursday, 15 minutes after floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS -Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Friday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Friday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin

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The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email = cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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