



The Briefing for Monday, August 7, 2023

The last Briefing was Thursday, August 3, 2023

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

The Quick

School Year Starts with New Set of Challenges

A personal reflection on the start of the school year!

As a former classroom teacher – I always experience a heightened level of anxiousness at this time of year. Having taught elementary school in the 70's, I recall the feeling of being a bit overwhelmed by the responsibility of making sure my students got the best preparation to move forward with their education. I left the classroom in the late 70's. It was a good experience – I'm glad I "had" it!

The 2023-24 school year starts with districts facing challenges – Curriculum changes resulting from statutory changes regarding instructional materials and course content. Challenges relating to staffing shortages, and new parental engagement procedures – where a challenge from one parent can "freeze" instruction and have an impact on the whole school district. Implementation of the new "universal" voucher program also has districts gaging impacts on student enrollment and funding.

Of significance, at this time, is the discussion between the State DOE and the College Board relative to the course content within AP Psychology. There's a lot at stake on how this gets resolved – teacher bonuses, college credits, and the impact on Student class rankings. This is a big deal that directly impacts students on the path toward college.

Notwithstanding these challenges, School Districts will open doors the State welcoming thousands of students with optimism - providing leadership and instructional programs geared toward addressing every student's academic potential.

It is with confidence that I believe that teachers will continue to do their best with the resources provided; and School Administrators and School Board members will proceed to meet the challenges head-on!

School District 2023-24 Opening and Closing Dates

[school-district-calendars.xlsx](#)

School District Information
[Find A School District](#)

DeSantis Announces Adjustments in the Executive Office of the Governor

Last week, Governor Ron DeSantis' office announced changes on the senior team in the Executive Office of the Governor.

- Anastasios Kamoutsas has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff - Kamoutsas most recently served as Chief of Staff at the Department of Education following his tenure as General Counsel at the Department.
- Cody Farrill, currently serves as Cabinet Affairs Director, is transitioning to Deputy Chief of Staff - Farrill has served on the Governor's staff for nearly a year and has most recently held the title of Cabinet Affairs Director.
- Jason Mahon has been named Communications Director - Mahon has served as Deputy Communications Director to the Governor since May 2021
- Peter Cuderman has been elevated to Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. Cuderman served as Deputy Legislative Affairs Director during last year's historic legislative session.

Tropical Outlook

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



Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Current Disturbances and Seven-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%

Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane

Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

Headlines Around the State

NBC News: 'Of course he lost': Ron DeSantis rejects Trump's 2020 election claims

Times: Trump is still DeSantis' main rival. But watch out for Tim Scott.

My News 13: DeSantis steps up dire warning to GOP about distraction from Biden, amid Trump's latest indictment

Times: DeSantis wants GOP to move on from 2020 election, amid latest Trump indictment

NYTimes: Barbecues, Fairs and Weddings: Ron DeSantis Amps Up Retail Politics in Iowa

FlaPol: Joe Biden's inaction on death penalty may become top issue as Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis laud executions

The Floridian: Donalds Calls Case for Impeaching Biden 'Open and Shut'

The Floridian: Gimenez Sounds Alarm on Illegal Chinese Bio Lab Found in California

Herald: Off Miami, scientists put corals to a heat-stress test. It's survival of the fittest

Bloomberg: DeSantis Camp Hit by Gloom as Aides Worry Race Is Slipping Away

WUSF: DeSantis' retaliation against Disney hurts Florida, former governors and lawmakers say

The Hill: DeSantis, wife to sit down with NBC's Dasha Burns in first formal network interview

Times: What has nearly \$34 million bought a pro-DeSantis super PAC?

FlaPol: New Deputy Chiefs of Staff, other lieutenants named in Ron DeSantis administration

City & State FL: Major Florida citrus grower sees 51% drop in production

FlaPol: Polk County elections chief agrees to make races partisan following demand letter from state lawyer

Times: Two Tampa Democrats face familiar state House challengers

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis fills out Big Cypress Basin Board with three new members

NBC Miami: Miami-Dade police director and wife deny physical aggression in statement released weeks after his suicide attempt

WUSF: Sarasota County to receive federal grant for Hurricane Ian recovery

On the Docket

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

- **MEDICAID MONEY** - Monday, 8:30 a.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will discuss the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, which helps determine how much money Florida receives from the federal government for the Medicaid program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **KIDCARE PROGRAM** - Monday, 9 a.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze expenditures in the KidCare subsidized health-insurance program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY** - Monday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Occupational Therapy will meet. - Florida Department of Health, 4042 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee.

- EASTERN FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Monday, 10:30 a.m. - The Eastern Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Eastern Florida State College, Melbourne Campus, 3865 North Wickham Road, Melbourne.
- TURNPIKE WIDENING - Noon and 5:30 p.m. - Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold online and in-person public hearings on a project-development and environment study about widening parts of the turnpike in Central Florida. Locations: Online hearing at noon, with information at www.Turnpike408to50.com. In-person hearing at 5:30 p.m., Florida's Turnpike Turkey Lake Service Plaza Building 5315, Milepost 263, Ocoee.
- SCHOOL FUNDING EYED - Monday, 1:30 p.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will discuss the Florida Education Finance Program, or FEFP, the main funding formula for public schools. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023

- SUWANNEE WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - Suwannee River Water Management District, 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak.
- RURAL COUNTIES - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss fiscally constrained counties, which include many rural counties. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol. Note – this is a routine discussion – no major policy anticipated.
- GAMBLING MONEY - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to slot machines and pari-mutuel facilities. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- ST. JOHNS WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid St., Palatka.
- JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, noon. - The Florida State College at Jacksonville Board of Trustees will hold a workshop, followed by a regular board meeting. - Florida State College at Jacksonville, 501 West State St., Jacksonville.
- SCHOOL BUILDING MONEY - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will discuss the Public Education Capital Outlay, or PECO, program, which helps fund building projects. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

- SPECIAL ELECTION QUALIFYING STARTS - A qualifying period will start at 8 a.m. Wednesday for candidates in special elections in House District 35 and House District 118. The House District 35 seat in Orange and Osceola counties opened when former Rep. Fred Hawkins, R-St. Cloud, was named president of South Florida State College. The House District 118 seat in Miami-Dade County opened when former Rep. Juan Alfonso Fernandez-Barquin, a Republican, was appointed Miami-Dade clerk of court and comptroller. The special primary election in District 35 is scheduled Nov. 7, with a special general election on Jan. 16. The special primary in District 118 is scheduled Oct. 3, with a general election on Dec. 5.
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. - Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 686974885

- REFUGEE ISSUES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Orlando Area Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/orlando-area-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>
- COLLEGE ENROLLMENT - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will analyze enrollment in the Florida college system. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- ST. JOHNS RIVER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The St. Johns River State College Board of Trustees will meet. - St. Johns River State College, Administration Building, 5001 St. Johns Ave., Palatka.
- I-95 INTERCHANGE - Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - The Florida department of Transportation will hold an open house in Duval County about a project involving the interchange of Interstate 95 and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. - Florida Department of Transportation Urban Office, 2198 Edison Ave., Jacksonville. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6581874947946998359>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

- CITY OFFICIALS GATHER - Thursday, 8 a.m. - The Florida League of Cities will hold an annual conference that will continue through Aug. 12. - Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, 14100 Bonnet Creek Resort Lane, Orlando.
- SOCIAL WORK BOARD - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling will meet. - Westin Lake Mary Orlando North, 2974 International Parkway, Lake Mary.
- HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Healthy Kids Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Call-in number: 850-792-4925. Code: 863718495
- EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Self-Insurance Estimating Conference will discuss the state employees' health-insurance program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- VALENCIA COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Valencia College Board of Trustees will meet. - Valencia College, Osceola Campus, 1800 Denn John Lane, Kissimmee.
- SPECIAL ELECTION QUALIFYING ENDS - A qualifying period will end at noon Thursday for candidates in special elections in House District 35 and House District 118. The House District 35 seat in Orange and Osceola counties opened when former Rep. Fred Hawkins, R-St. Cloud, was named president of South Florida State College. The House District 118 seat in Miami-Dade County opened when former Rep. Juan Alfonso Fernandez-Barquin, a Republican, was appointed Miami-Dade clerk of court and comptroller. The special primary election in District 35 is scheduled Nov. 7, with a special general election on Jan. 16. The special primary in District 118 is scheduled Oct. 3, with a general election on Dec. 5.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Dr., Havana.
- PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference will discuss the voluntary pre-kindergarten program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- NEW COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewCollegeofFL>
- FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Gateway College Board of Trustees will meet. - Florida Gateway College, Administration Building, Lake City.

- FRIED APPEARS IN ST. LUCIE - Thursday, 6 p.m. - Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried is expected to appear in St. Lucie County as part of a statewide tour. - Information at <https://www.miamidadedems.org/events>
- BLACK HISTORY STANDARDS A - Thursday, 7 p.m. - Sen. Shevrin Jones, D-Miami Gardens, and Sen. Rosalind Osgood, D-Tamarac, will help host a town-hall meeting about controversial new standards for teaching African American history in schools. Education Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. is expected to attend. - Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 21311 N.W. 34th Ave., Miami Gardens.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023

- DENTAL ISSUES - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Dentistry will meet. - Fort Lauderdale Airport Marriott, 166 North Compass Way, Dania Beach.
- CONSERVATION ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The state Acquisition and Restoration Council, which works on land conservation issues, will meet. - Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- OSTEOPATHIC BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine will meet. - Holiday Inn Orlando-Disney Springs Area, 1805 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista.
- FINANCIAL AID - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will take up student financial-aid issues. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- OPTOMETRY BOARD - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Board of Optometry will meet. - <https://meet.goto.com/314280077>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 31428077
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/miami-dade-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- COLLEGE PRESIDENTS - Friday, 12:30 p.m. - The Council of Presidents of the Florida college system is scheduled to meet. - Information at <https://www.myafchome.org/>

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 Representing 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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