



The Briefing for September 15, 2023

The last Briefing was September 13 – 2023

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

College Football link-Schedules and Rankings

[College Football Schedule - Week 3 Regular Season, 2023 - ESPN](#)

Saturday

FSU at Boston College

Alabama at USF

Florida International at U Conn

Florida Atlantic at Clemson

Villanovan at UCF

UWF vs FAMU

Tennessee at Florida

The Quick

Purchasing Guide outlines Eligible Uses of School Voucher Funds

242,929 students are enrolled in the voucher program

The Florida Policy Institute has requested information about school vouchers from Florida Education Commissioner Manny Diaz. The universal school voucher program took effect in Florida on July 1.

FPI's request for more information on the expansion of the voucher program came days after Florida Tax Credit Scholarship/Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options Purchasing Guide 2023-24 was published by Step Up For Children revealing that vouchers in the state could be used [to pay for TVs, theme park tickets and kayaks](#). The Florida Policy Institute wants to see a breakdown of demographics for these students, such as race and ethnicity.

In addition to the purchasing guide, information released by Step Up for Children indicates that 122,895 students used these scholarships for the first time, 69% were already attending private schools. Forty-four percent come from households that make \$120,000 a year or more for a family of four.

Here's some data Step Up provided on Florida's school voucher program:

- 242,929 students are enrolled in the voucher program
- 122,895 are new to the program
- 84,505 of these new recipients (69%) were already in private school, 16,096 (13%) came from public schools, and 22,294 are entering kindergartners

- 53,828 (44%) of new students are from families that make over \$120,000 for a household of four or did not submit income. Thirty percent are from families that make \$55,000 for a household of four
- Of the 242,929 total students enrolled, 44% are from families that make \$55,000 for a household of four, 29% are from families that make \$55,000 to \$120,000 for a household of four

Florida DOT Finishes First Pass at cleaning up Idalia Debris

FDOT has completed the first pass of debris pickup on all state roads in every county within the impacted parts of the state. To date, FDOT crews have picked up over 100,000 cubic yards of debris within two weeks of Hurricane Idalia making landfall. FDOT provided targeted support to the seven fiscally constrained counties who requested assistance, including with debris pickup. Communities can find additional information related to local emergency response efforts at the county links available on fdot.gov/idalia.

Small County Commissioners Participate in discussion of State Legislative Proposals

Commissioners from Small Counties participated this week in the Legislative Policy ‘Conference held by the Florida Association of Counties. The Legislative Policy Conference was held to consider proposals for consideration for the 2024 Legislative Session. Policies ranged from proposals impacting economic development, local revenues, protecting local control, water and the environment. Commissioner involved in policy discussions were Small County Officers Russell Melendy, Tray Hawkins, Chris Dougherty and Coalition Executive Committee members – Susan Adams, Ramon Iglesias, Larry Harvey, John Meeks, Terry Burroughs, and Michele Lincoln. Other small county commissioners participated as well. The Small County Coalition is in the process of finalizing a proposed set of Legislative Priorities for consideration by Coalition members.

Rep. Perez to be designated 2025-26 House Speaker

Rep. Daniel Perez, R-Miami, is slated during a Monday ceremony to be formally designated as the next House speaker, one of the most-powerful positions in the state. Perez will become speaker after the November 2024 elections and will lead the House during the 2025 and 2026 sessions.

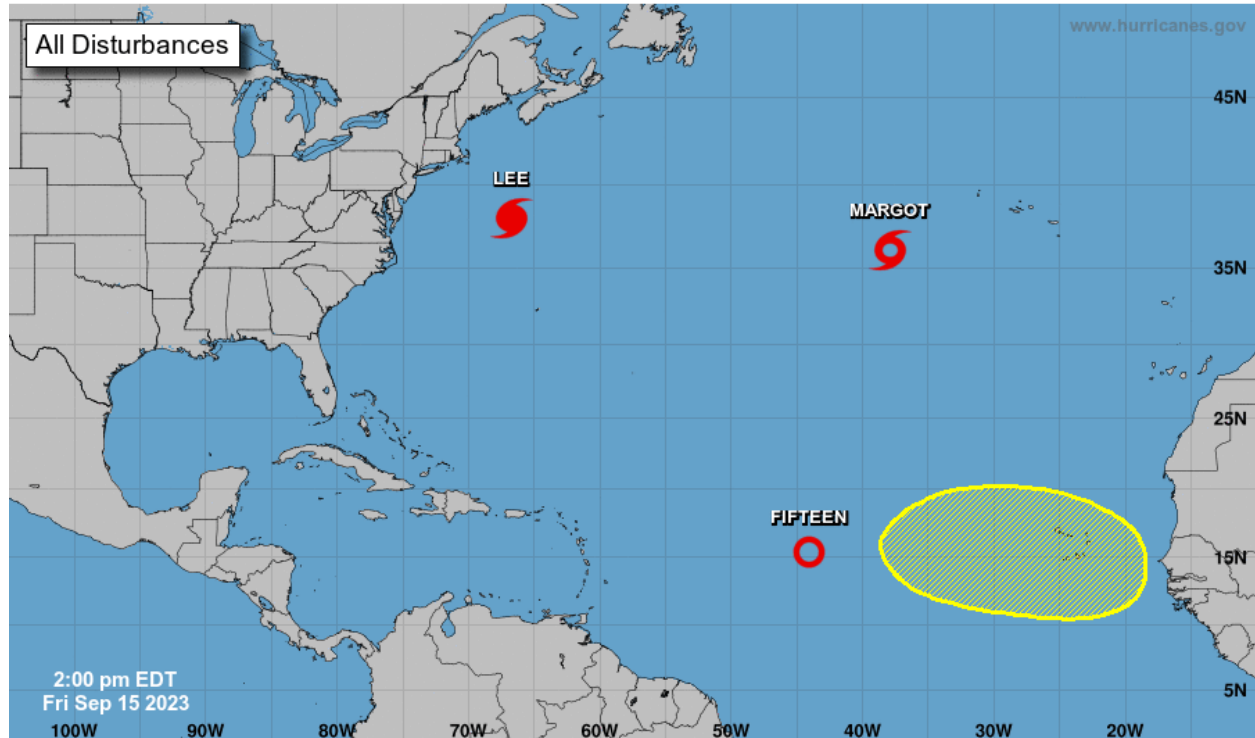
Perez, an attorney, was elected to the House in a 2017 special election and serves as chairman of the Rules Committee. He will succeed Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast.

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

The Messenger: 'King Don vs. Ron-Zilla': Trump Tightens Grip on Florida GOP Under DeSantis

The Hill: DeSantis slams Trump on COVID: 'He would do the same thing all over again'

NYTimes: DeSantis Spreads Vaccine Skepticism With Guidance That Contradicts C.D.C.

NYTimes: In Dueling Appearances, Trump and DeSantis Will Appeal to Social Conservatives

KCCI: Ron DeSantis launches Faith and Family Coalition with support from two dozen Iowa pastors

AP: DeSantis says Trump's chance of being elected if convicted 'is as close to zero as you can get'

The Hill: DeSantis campaign on undisclosed flights report: 'more Trump-legacy media collusion'

Sentinel: DeSantis donors paid for Augusta flight and others in 2018, report says

Bloomberg: Ron DeSantis Plans to Detail Energy Policy on Visit to Oil-Rich Texas

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis slates Northeast Florida fundraisers for Monday

FlaPol: Down by 50 points in Texas, Ron DeSantis slates campaign trip

FlaPol: Sorry, Clubber: Ron DeSantis rates 'Rocky IV' over 'Rocky III'

FlaPol: Latest fuel-theft arrest signals austerity from Wilton Simpson's Office

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis-backed billboards woo Chicago cops

Politico: Third GOP debate to be held in Miami

Sentinel: Florida school districts express frustration with changing state edicts

Floridian: Rubio and Scott File Bill to Expand Florida's Miccosukee Reserved Area

Floridian: Scott Demands Answers on CIA Bribing Agents Over COVID Origin

Floridian: Donalds Mocks Democrats Demanding Vote on Impeachment Inquiry

Floridian: Salazar Meets with President of Guyana, Discusses Shared Security Priorities

Sentinel: Report reveals 123,000 new students taking Florida school vouchers

WLRN: Florida Policy Institute asked for school voucher data. Here's what one nonprofit provided

Sentinel: Research group wants more information about Florida's tax-paid scholarships

Daily News: Collier County School Board raises taxes to meet \$1.6 billion budget in 3-2 vote

FlaPol: Lobbying compensation: Rubin Turnbull & Associates earns \$2.8M+ in Q2

Politico: Behind the scenes, Ron DeSantis is making things worse for Kevin McCarthy

Insider: Matt Gaetz can count on some progressives' support as he threatens to force a vote on ousting Kevin McCarthy

Post: Matt Gaetz strikes at Speaker McCarthy. Will Biden, government shutdown end up as pawns?

The Hill: Frost rips into McCarthy, GOP: They 'care more about themselves and their politics than you'

The Hill: Fetterman to Gaetz: 'How about you get your s--- together and do your job, bud?'

Herald: 'An atmosphere of violence.' DeSantis' policies rebuked after racist Jacksonville killings

Phoenix: FL public universities move to get rid of reports such as race and sex in student enrollment

Sun-Sentinel: Broward College president resigns, but board wants to try to keep him

Herald: Broward College president abruptly resigns. Board delays decision after community speaks out

Herald: Miami Commissioner Diaz de la Portilla arrested on bribery, money laundering charges

WLRN: Miami commissioner arrested for felony money laundering, official misconduct

FlaPol: Miami Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla arrested for money laundering, bribery

Herald: Miami Commissioner Diaz de la Portilla spoke after leaving jail. Here's what he said.

Sentinel: Ballots are set in Orlando ahead of November contests for mayor, commissioners

FlaPol: Buddy Dyer faces multiple opponents as he vies for 6th term

FlaPol: Bakari Burns faces challenge from Rufus Hawkins for his Orlando Council seat

FlaPol: Tony Ortiz elected without opposition to 5th Orlando Council term

FlaPol: Patty Sheehan faces Katie Koch, Randy Ross in re-election bid

FlaPol: 5 Palm Beach lawmakers endorse 'pragmatic problem solver' Rachele Litt for HD 94

FlaPol: Sierra Club endorses Daniella Levine Cava for re-election as Miami-Dade Mayor
Herald: Divided Coral Gables Commission votes against moving elections from April to November
Herald: Miami Beach gives initial approval to outdoor sleeping crackdown, despite objections
WUSF: Zephyrhills puts the brakes on growth as it battles water woes

On the Docket Around the State

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Legislature:

- PEREZ DESIGNATION - Monday, 10 a.m. The House will hold a ceremony to formally designate Rep. Daniel Perez, R-Miami, as the next House speaker. Perez will succeed Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, after the 2024 elections and serve a two-year term. House chamber, the Capitol.

Also:

- UNF TRUSTEES MEET- Monday, 8:30 a.m. The University of North Florida Board of Trustees will meet. University of North Florida, University Center, Jacksonville.
- CONSERVATION ISSUES - Monday, 8:45 a.m. Gov. Ron DeSantis and the state Cabinet will take up a series of issues, including proposals to spend more than \$141 million to conserve 42,000 acres of land in various parts of Florida. DeSantis and Cabinet members will participate by phone. The public can listen to the meeting in the Cabinet meeting room at the Capitol or on The Florida Channel.
- SOUTH FLORIDA COUNCIL - Monday, 10:30 a.m. The South Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. South Florida Regional Planning Council, 1 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 250, Hollywood.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81768005536?pwd=ZzZTQnIzS29DVEY5QmViNjFYIUIUT09>. Meeting ID: 81768005536. Code: 023080
- SEMINOLE STATE TRUSTEES MEET- Monday, 2 p.m. The Seminole State College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford/Lake Mary Campus, Auto Showroom, 100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford.
- TCC TRUSTEES MEET- Monday, 2:30 p.m. The Tallahassee Community College Board of Trustees will meet. Tallahassee Community College, Hinson Administration Building, 444 Appleyard Dr., Tallahassee.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Legislature:

- ‘RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD’ ADDRESSED- Tuesday, 9 a.m. The House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee will receive presentations on a 2022 law related to “responsible fatherhood.” Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- WETLANDS - Tuesday, 11 a.m. The House Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee will receive presentations from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection about wetlands and the St. Johns River Water Management District about mitigation banking. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

- TRANSPORTATION ISSUES - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The House Transportation & Modals Subcommittee will receive a presentation from the Florida Transportation Commission. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- ATHLETIC TRAINING BOARD - Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Athletic Training will meet. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 884984349
- PASCO-HERNANDO COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The Pasco-Hernando State College Board of Trustees will meet. Pasco-Hernando State College, Spring Hill Campus, Rao Musunuru M.D. Conference Center, 450 Beverly Court, Spring Hill.
- ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees will meet. St. Petersburg College, Gibbs Campus, 6605 Fifth Ave. North, St. Petersburg.
- SPACE FLORIDA ISSUES - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Space Florida Board of Directors will meet. Call-in Number: 1-855-758-1310. Guest code: 6277636389. Passcode: 567768
- STATE INVESTMENTS - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The state Investment Advisory Council is scheduled to meet. The Hermitage Centre, 1801 Hermitage Blvd., Tallahassee.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/tampa-bay-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 3 p.m. The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Center, 100 College Blvd., Niceville.
- PALM BEACH COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 3 p.m. The Palm Beach State College Board of Trustees will hold a workshop, followed by a regular board meeting. Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth Campus, 4200 South Congress Ave., Lake Worth.
- SANTA FE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 4 p.m. The Santa Fe College Board of Trustees will meet. Santa Fe College, Academy of Science and Technology, 3000 N.W. 83rd St., Gainesville.
- PENSACOLA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. The Pensacola State College Board of Trustees is scheduled to hold a workshop, committee meetings and a full board meeting. Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola.
- ‘ABOVE & BEYOND’ EVENT - Tuesday, 6 p.m. City & State Florida and The News Service of Florida will host “Above & Beyond,” an event honoring women in government and public service. Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- DEER DISEASE - Tuesday, 6 p.m. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services hold a meeting about chronic wasting disease, which has been described as similar to mad cow disease, with deer becoming emaciated and often being found isolated and trembling. A case of the contagious disease was detected this year in a deer killed in Holmes County. Bonifay K-8 School, 140 Blue Devil Dr., Bonifay.
- BLACK HISTORY - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Rep. Angie Nixon, D-Jacksonville, will be among the panelists during an event titled, “The Value of Black History: A Community Forum.” The event will be held by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The Bethel Church, 215 Bethel Baptist St., Jacksonville.
- CHIPOLA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. The Chipola College Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. Chipola College, Public Service Building, Marianna.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

- MEDICAID ISSUES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee will meet. Agency for Health Care Administration, 2727 Mahan Dr., Building 3, Tallahassee.
- WATER QUALITY - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The state's Blue-Green Algae Task Force will meet. South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7339003053370481495>
- 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
- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Wednesday, 10 a.m. The state university system's Board of Governors will meet after holding a series of committee meetings. Committees will start at 10 a.m., with the full board expected to meet about 11:35 a.m. <https://flbog.zoom.us/j/89092956199?pwd=Uk12M1ZIMVdxcUVIMGQ0a0c4WEVYQT09>
- EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. 455 North Garland Ave., Orlando.
- SOUTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The South Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. South Florida State College, Highlands Campus, 600 West College Dr., Avon Park.
- PATRONIS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY- Wednesday, 2 p.m. State Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis is expected to hold a discussion in Palm Beach County about issues related to the Internal Revenue Service. Okeechobee Steakhouse, 2854 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.
- 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, St. Augustine Campus, Viking Center, 2990 College Dr., St. Augustine.
- LAKE-SUMTER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 5 p.m. The Lake-Sumter State College Board of Trustees will meet. Lake-Sumter State College, Leesburg Campus, Kelly Convocation Center, 9501 U.S. 441, Leesburg.
- TURNPIKE WIDENING - Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold a public hearing on a project-development and environment study for widening part of the turnpike in Broward County. Chateau Mar Golf Resort, 3501 Inverrary Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

- DEFENSE ISSUES - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Defense Support Task Force will meet. Hampton Inn & Suites Miami South, 22855 N.E. Ninth St., Homestead.
- SOUTHWEST PLANNING COUNCIL - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2301 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91588729954?pwd=OVErTVNQVVpRZjQrY1Jab1dpMDBPUT09>. Meeting ID: 91588729954. Code: 082520. Call-in number: 1-929-205-6099.
- SPORTS FOUNDATION BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Sports Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82142951851?pwd=M8kauRgLuITwGu7W31qDTynZcJ21GY.1>. Meeting ID: 82142951851. Code: 612599
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Broward Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/broward-refugee-task-force-meeting>

- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS- Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is expected to release regular weekly opinions.
- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will meet. The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando.
- ‘BANNED BOOK READOUT’ - Thursday, 5:15 p.m. Rep. Angie Nixon, D-Jacksonville, is expected to take part in a “Banned Book Readout” held by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. James Weldon Johnson Park, 135 West Monroe St., Jacksonville.
- NORTH FLORIDA WATER ISSUES - Thursday, 6:30 p.m. The Suwannee River Water Management District will hold a workshop about a draft North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan. Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board Room, 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak. <https://northfloridawater.com/watersupplyplan/index.html>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

- DRUG LIST - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, which makes recommendations about a preferred drug list in the Medicaid program, will meet. <https://magellanhealth.zoom.us/j/91676269640?pwd=Z280MjdqaHVNZDJBWkszUjF0Y0pPUT09>
- COLLEGE PRESIDENTS - Friday, 9 a.m. The Council of Presidents of the Florida College System is scheduled to meet. Tallahassee Community College Center for Innovation, 300 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY - Friday, 9 a.m. U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Florida Democrat who is chairwoman of the Caucus on the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, will host a panel discussion on African American history. Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W., Washington, D.C.
- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will meet. The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando.
- ACUPUNCTURE BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Acupuncture will meet. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 659073965
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. The Palm Beach Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/palm-beach-area-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- OPTICIANS - Friday, 2 p.m. The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 239471221
- GULF CONSORTIUM - Friday, 4 p.m. The Gulf Consortium, which works on issues related to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, will meet. <https://meet.goto.com/176854197>. Call-in number: 1-872-240-3212. Code: 176854197

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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