



The Briefing for January 14, 2025

The Last Briefing was January 13, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

[10-Day Weather Forecast for Tallahassee, FL – The Weather Channel | weather.com](https://www.weather.com)

Congratulations!

Jovante Teague, Dixie County, was elected Vice Chair of the Republican Party of Florida at their state meeting this past weekend. Evan Powers, Leon County, was re-elected RPOF Chairman.

What's Going On?

Governor Announces Plan for Special Session

At a press conference Monday morning, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that he will call the legislature into special session the week of January 27th to implement immigration policies that are anticipated from executive orders during the first week of the incoming Trump Administration. DeSantis said the call will not be limited to illegal immigration, and will include: lingering hurricane relief; condominium relief; and, reforming the petition and amendment process in Florida.

School Start Time Requirement Needs a Second Look

The Florida Legislature requires that no later than July 1, 2026, the instructional day for all public and charter middle schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and no earlier than 8:30 a.m. for high schools.

Text of Legislation as passed.

Staff Analysis of Start Time Legislation

District school boards are required to inform its community, including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, athletic coaches and other stakeholders about the health and safety impacts of sleep deprivation on middle and high school students and the benefits of the later school start times. District school boards must discuss local strategies to successfully implement the later start times with the community, including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, athletic coaches and other stakeholders.

School Start Time Survey

Small School Districts are currently being surveyed on the status of implementation of the start time requirement. Here is some of the initial feedback –

- Concern regarding the impact on school transportation and supervision of students in the afternoon.
- Youngest students who live in the most rural areas will be outside in the darkness waiting on the bus.
- Many families use older siblings to watch younger ones in the afternoons.
- Many of our high school students work in the afternoons.
- Current shortage of bus drivers

- Limited availability of childcare facilities in rural districts
- Difficult for parents to align their work schedules with the new school hours.
- conflicts for students who are expected to help with farm work before school or for parents who need to manage schedules around early-morning agricultural tasks.
- parents work times require them to leave home prior to 7 AM in the morning.
- Impact on school extra curriculars.
- Starting later does not reduce sleep deprivation.

Committee Meetings of Note

Committee Deliberations can be watched live on

[The Florida Channel: Home](#)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

- SENATE - **IMPACT OF HURRICANES** ON AG INDUSTRY - Tuesday, 11 a.m. The Senate Agriculture Committee will receive a presentation from Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson and a presentation about the effects of hurricanes on the agricultural industry. 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE - **LIVE LOCAL** REVIEWED - Tuesday, 11 a.m. The Senate Community Affairs Committee will receive a presentation from the Florida Housing Finance Corp. about the “Live Local Act,” a 2023 law aimed at adding workforce housing. 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE - **WATER QUALITY** - Tuesday, 11 a.m. The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee will receive presentations from the Department of Environmental Protection about water-quality issues. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE - **HURRICANE RECOVERY** - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will receive a presentation from the Division of Emergency Management about hurricane recovery. 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **HURRICANE DAMAGE** - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about local governments affected by hurricanes. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **SCHOOLS BUDGET** - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. The House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee will receive a presentation from Education Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. and other officials about the schools budget. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

- SENATE - **SCHOOLS BUDGET** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Senate Pre-K-12 Education Appropriations Committee will receive an education budget overview. 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE - **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will receive presentations about programs such as the Job Growth Grant Fund and Visit Florida. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **WORKFORCE HOUSING** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion on workforce housing. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Student Academic Success Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about a law on technology in public schools. Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **HOME RULE** - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee will discuss home-rule powers and preemption of local governments. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

Mark Your Calendars

2025

- January 13-17- Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- January 21-24 Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- February 2 - Deadline for release of Governors recommended budget
- February 3 – 7 Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- February 10 – 14 Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- February 17 – 21 Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- March 4 Regular Session Begins
- March 18 - Small County Coalition Legislative Briefing/Reception
- March 19- FAC Day in the Legislature
- March 19 – 20 FSBA 38th Annual Day in the Legislature, Tallahassee, FL
- March 19 Small School District Legislative Briefing
- March 19 -20 Rural Counties Day in the Legislature
- May 2 - Regular Session Ends

Headlines Around the State

[*WUSF: Floridians in Trump administration may be a positive for the Sunshine State*](#)

[*NBC 6: State agency sues company linked to South Florida Rep., alleging it won't give back \\$5.8M*](#)

[*NBC 6: Florida judge rules against marijuana dispensaries at gas stations*](#)

[*WUSF: Central Florida homeowners join rising trend, opting out of property insurance*](#)

[*WUSF: Floodgates killed more manatees than usual last year, but 19 were also rescued after storms*](#)

[*Times: Florida Space Coast set for busy year in 2025 with new craft, moon landers*](#)

[*CBS Miami: Florida State Rep. Cassel's departure from Democratic Party was "surprising," State Rep. Gottlieb says*](#)

[*Sun-Sentinel: Elections supervisor to Florida lawmakers: Keep guns away from polling places*](#)

[*WUSF: Drought in Florida: What has improved? What has worsened?*](#)

[*Today: Brevard County seeking \\$2.3 million for damages to parks from hurricanes Helene and Milton*](#)

[*Democrat: City looking to rename three streets after successful FAMU alumni*](#)

About the Briefing

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

[*cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com*](mailto:cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com)

The Briefing is compiled 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*](mailto:_cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

[*If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdec.org and click on the red Briefing button*](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org)