



The Briefing for January 26, 2025

The Last Briefing was January 21, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

Legislative Calendars for Week of Jan. 27

[Senate Calendar for Monday - Special Session - No Committee meetings scheduled](#)

[Calendar of the House of Representatives for Week of Jan 27](#)

Deliberations can be watched live on

[The Florida Channel: Home](#)

Small Districts Support Local Flexibility in setting school start times.

As a result of legislation, approved in the 2023 Legislative Session, the State of Florida 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. The 36 school district members of the Small School District Council Consortium were surveyed regarding implementation of the start time legislation.

- All 36 districts returned with completed surveys.
- All thirty-six respondents indicated that they would prefer that the statutes be revised to provide authority to the local school districts to set school start times.
- 12 districts responded that they have implemented start times that comply with the state requirements.
- 24 districts have yet to set start times that comply with the 8:00am and 8:30am start times.
- All respondents indicated they have communicated with local entities – parents, staff, etc – regarding the new requirements.

All 36 districts responded outlining challenges relating to implementation. Responses center around several core issues:

- Concern for Student Safety – younger student have earlier start times.
- Supervision of students with later start times.
- Conflicts/Challenges with parent work schedules.
- Impacts on extracurricular academic and athletic activities.
- Impacts resulting from insufficient child care in rural areas.
- Insufficient workforce – qualified bus drivers.

- Loss of academic time with students being pulled from classes to participate in after-school activities.
- Impact of available work opportunities and internships.

The Small School District Council Consortium is supporting legislation that would provide local authority for local school boards to set school start times. Senator Bradley has filed SB 296 repealing the mandate.

Special Session To Convene Amid Differences between the Governor and Legislative Leaders

Governor Ron DeSantis is calling the legislature into special session on Monday to implement immigration policies that related to executive orders during the first week of the Trump Administration. President Albritton and Speaker Perez issued a joint memo to members with an update on special session 2025A. The House and Senate will convene in session on Monday, January 27th at 10:30 a.m. in their respective chambers. The call includes the following issues:

- combating illegal immigration
- condominium regulation
- agricultural relief in response to natural disasters
- replenishing the My Safe Florida Home program
- citizens' initiative petition process

Since Inauguration Day the 47th president has been busy issuing Executive Orders – Here's a look at President Trump's actions

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

 [***Special Session Bills - 2025A.docx***](#)

22 bills – 11 each in the Senate and the House. Information on the bills is provided in the link. At this point, it is uncertain how the Legislative leaders will respond when the Session is convened at 10:30am in the morning. Your guess is a good as mine!

On the Docket

MONDAY, JANUARY, 27, 2025

— Legislature:

- SPECIAL SESSION - Monday, 10:30 a.m. The House and Senate will convene in a special legislative session called by Gov. Ron DeSantis. DeSantis wants lawmakers to address issues such as making changes to help carry out President Donald Trump's immigration policies. House and Senate chambers.
- REMEMBRANCE DAY LEGISLATION - Monday, 12:30 p.m. Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boca Raton, and Rep. Debra Tendrich, D-Lake Worth, will hold a news conference about legislation that would formally recognize Jan. 27 as Holocaust Remembrance Day in Florida. Sen. Shevrin Jones, D-Miami Gardens, and Rep. Mike Gottlieb, D-Davie, also are expected to take part. Fourth floor, the Capitol.
- HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY - Monday, 5:45 p.m. The Jewish Legislative Caucus of Florida will hold a gathering as the Old Capitol is illuminated in yellow as part of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

— Also:

- HIGHER ED COURSES - Monday, 9:30 a.m. The United Faculty of Florida will hold an online event to criticize a state law that allows removal of general-education courses. https://floridaea.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k2Aevzv1SYKo7qqU2zIvpg
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Monday, 3 p.m. The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd. East, Niceville.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

Legislature:

- WORKFORCE NEEDS - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee will discuss issues related to meeting workforce needs. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee will hold a discussion about the state's role in energy, transportation and broadband planning. Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- IT PROJECTS - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The House Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about information-technology project management and oversight. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- LAWMAKERS GO TO SUPREME COURT - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee will visit the Florida Supreme Court. The subcommittee will convene at 212 Knott Building, before walking to the Supreme Court.
- CITIZENS INSURANCE - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee will receive a presentation about the state's Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- 'ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY' - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Human Services Subcommittee will receive a presentation from the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Commerce and CareerSource Florida about a 2024 law related to "economic self-sufficiency." 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee will receive presentations from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Transportation and the Division of Emergency Management about emergency management. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL READINESS - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. The House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee will receive information about budget issues for school readiness programs. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS - Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for special primary elections in Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 6. The District 1 seat is open because of the resignation of former U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla. The District 6 seat is open because former U.S. Rep. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., was named national security adviser by President Donald Trump. Special general elections will be held April 1. District 1 is made up Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties and part of Walton County. District 6 is made up of Flagler and Putnam counties and parts of Lake, Marion, St. Johns and Volusia counties.
- MIAMI DADE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 8 a.m. The Miami Dade College Board of Trustees will meet. Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus, 11011 S.W. 104th St., Miami. <https://www.mdc.edu/livestream>

- SOUTHWEST WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Southwest Florida Water Management District, 7601 U.S. 301 North, Tampa.
- PILOT COMMISSIONERS BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Pilot Commissioners will meet. DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Key Resort Key West, 3990 South Roosevelt Blvd., Key West.
- ENGINEERS BOARD - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The Florida Board of Professional Engineers will meet. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89248983266>. Meeting ID: 89248983266
- KEYS COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 2 p.m. The College of the Florida Keys Board of Trustees will meet. The College of the Florida Keys, Upper Keys Center, 106040 Overseas Highway, Key Largo.
- MANATEE-SARASOTA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. The Board of Trustees of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota will meet. State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, 5840 26th St. West, Bradenton.
- SEWER SERVICE - Tuesday, 6 p.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold a hearing for potential customers of Environmental Utilities, LLC, which is seeking approval to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County. Tringali Park Recreation Center, 3460 North Access Road, Englewood.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

— Legislature:

- RULEMAKING ISSUES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Government Operations Subcommittee will receive an overview of rulemaking. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS TEED UP - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee will receive an overview of agriculture programs and issues. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CORRECTIONS, JUVENILE JUSTICE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Justice Budget Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about issues at the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice. 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CRIMINAL SENTENCES - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The House Criminal Justice Subcommittee will discuss prison sentences and probation. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- MENTAL HEALTH - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The House Health Care Budget Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about mental health and substance abuse. 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- AGE RESTRICTIONS - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about protecting minors from “age restricted products.” 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- LOCAL BILLS - Wednesday, 1 p.m.
 - The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee will receive an overview of the local bill process. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY - Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Education Administration Subcommittee will receive a presentation about the student and school accountability system. Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- KIDCARE ELIGIBILITY - Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee will get a briefing on a 2023 law about eligibility for the KidCare program, which provides subsidized health insurance to children who don’t qualify for Medicaid. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee will receive a presentation from the Division of Emergency Management about issues such as the costs of disasters. 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.

— **Also:**

- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Florida Commission on Offender Review, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- UNEMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission is scheduled to meet. Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 261180880
- SEWER SERVICE - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold a hearing for potential customers of Environmental Utilities, LLC, which is seeking approval to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County. Tringali Park Recreation Center, 3460 North Access Road, Englewood.
- DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Florida Development Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. Florida Development Finance Corp., 156 Tuskawilla Road, Suite 2340, Winter Springs. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84840300265?pwd=TJ0zNhatbGcehloHqLE2bFVIJWV7rf.1>. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656. Meeting ID: 84840300265. Code: 936748
- TURNPIKE PROJECT - Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold a meeting about a project to add lanes on Florida's Turnpike from the Sawgrass Expressway to Glades Road in Broward and Palm Beach counties. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4996170285056852320>

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

- COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind is scheduled to meet. Holiday Inn IHG Hotel, 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-583-5063. Code: 237602893
- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Thursday, 9 a.m. The state university system's Board of Governors will hold a series of committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting. University of North Florida, John A. Delaney Student Union West, 1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville.
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review is scheduled to meet. Florida Commission on Offender Review, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission for Independent Education is scheduled to meet. Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-In-The-Hills.
- SPEECH-LANGUAGE BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology will meet. Residence Inn Tallahassee Universities at the Capitol, 600 West Gaines St., Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions. <https://floridachamberfoundation.regfox.com/2025-virtual-florida-economic-outlook-jobs-solution-summit>
- GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY EYED - Thursday, 1 p.m. The state Government Efficiency Task Force will meet. Call-in number: 850-739-6768. Code: 893974948

- TURNPIKE DISCUSSED PROJECT - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting about a project to add lanes on Florida's Turnpike from the Sawgrass Expressway to Glades Road in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 South Military Trail, Boca Raton.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

- BROWARD COLLEGE CANDIDATES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Broward College Board of Trustees will interview candidates for the school's presidency. The candidates are Torey Alston, a former chief of staff at the Florida Department of Transportation who also was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2021 to the Broward County Commission and in 2022 to the Broward County School Board, and Jose Llontop, an executive partner at Salt Creek Capital, an investment firm. The Board of Trustees also will hold a regular meeting scheduled to start at 4 p.m. Broward College, Willis Holcombe Center, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
- NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing Home Administrators will meet. Information at <https://floridasnursinghomeadmin.gov/meeting-information/>
- PRISON MEDICAL ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. The state Correctional Medical Authority will meet. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 344085830
- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission for Independent Education is scheduled to meet. Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-In-The-Hills.
- PODIATRIC BOARD - Friday, 10 a.m. The Florida Board of Podiatric Medicine will meet. Drury Inn & Suites-Universal Orlando Resort, 7301 West Sand Lake Road, Orlando.

Mark Your Calendars

2025

- January 27 - Special Session and Committee Meetings
- January 28-29 - House Committee Meetings
- 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

Sentinel: Showdown looms over Monday special immigration session called by DeSantis

Herald: Florida lieutenant governor backs off support of in-state tuition for undocumented students

FlaPol: LG Jeanette Nuñez backs away from immigrant tuition law she backed a decade ago

FlaPol: Jessica Baker bill requires jails to cooperate with ICE, fulfilling a Ron DeSantis wish. But it's not for Special Session

[Floridian: Diaz-Balart Says 'Nothing Trump is Doing is a Surprise' on Border, Deportation Efforts](#)

[The Hill: Florida Republican urges Trump to spare some migrants under deportation plan](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: 'Citizens insurance for all' among insurance proposals filed for spring legislative session](#)

[FlaPol: Lost in translation? China warns Marco Rubio to 'behave'](#)

[FlaPol: After Hegseth vote, Rick Scott takes another shot at Mitch McConnell](#)

[FlaPol: 'RIP': Ron DeSantis lauds Donald Trump squashing 'book ban hoax'](#)

[FlaPol: Donald Trump to speak on 'no tax on tips' after Florida Republicans file bill to make that happen](#)

[AP: Nikki Fried vows to rebuild Florida Democrats as re-elected chair](#)

[Politico: Florida Democrats reelect Nikki Fried as state party chair](#)

[FlaPol: Nikki Fried wins re-election as Florida Dems Chair by wide margin](#)

[FlaPol: Nikki Fried confirms she will not run for Governor in 2026](#)

[FlaPol: In bid for DNC chair, Ben Wikler tells Florida Dems future of democracy 'runs through Florida'](#)

[Democrat: 'Worse than a Category 5 hurricane': Outdoor nurseries devastated by Florida snow storm](#)

[Herald: In a new memo, Miami-Dade mayor abandons incinerator plan attacked by Trump's son](#)

[Herald: Does Miami-Dade have enough officers? New sheriff says no, wants more funding](#)

[Today: With Melbourne, Palm Bay councils voting against fluoride, debate moves to Cocoa, Titusville](#)

[Herald: Non-citizen in Miami Beach charged with voting 6 times in US elections](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: 'We haven't had an assassination in years!': West Palm Beach man charged with making Facebook posts threatening Trump](#)

[Floridian: Florida GOP Leaders Reluctantly Announce Special Session Time Amid Tensions with DeSantis](#)

[FlaPol: Lawmakers will convene for Special Session, but have yet to file any bills for consideration](#)

[News-Press: Senate Democratic Leader Jason Pizzo braces for special session amid GOP tensions](#)

[Florida Phoenix: 2026 gubernatorial race: Jason Pizzo says he wouldn't run as an independent](#)

[FlaPol: Debbie Mayfield formally submits resignation, Gov. DeSantis calls Special Election for HD 32](#)

[Herald: Frightened migrants in Miami ponder future after Trump targets Biden-era paroles](#)

[Sentinel: Maxwell Frost slams Trump shutdown of Gun Violence Prevention office](#)

[FlaPol: Darryl Rouson seeks privacy protections for court clerks, judicial conduct reviewers](#)

[FlaPol: Legislative Session preview: Lori Berman files fleet of family-focused bills](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis takes national stage at March for Life rally but misrepresents heartbeat bill history](#)

[Axios: Florida ed department says it will cooperate with federal immigration enforcement](#)

[FlaPol: Amber Mariano Davis heads to D.C. for education adviser post under Donald Trump](#)

[FlaPol: Ex-Sheriff who deputized Eric Trump and posted viral arrest videos lands Homeland Security job](#)

[FlaPol: Charlie Justice named new CEO for Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber](#)

[WLRN: 'I did nothing wrong!': Miami's Proud Boys leader wants his Jan. 6 prosecutors 'investigated'](#)

[News4JAX: Former Jan. 6 Capitol rioter in Northeast Florida shares perspective, experience after Trump issues pardons](#)

[Times: Tampa Bay Jan. 6 convicts show little remorse, thank Trump for pardon](#)

[Floridian: Castor Announces Grant to Rebuild MacDill Air Force Base School](#)

[FlaPol: Orange County lawmakers support Sunbridge District changes](#)

About the Briefing

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

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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

www.smallcountycoalition.org or
www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button