



The Briefing for July 23, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, July 19, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

10-Day Weather Forecast for Tallahassee, FL – The Weather Channel

Dr. Henry Mack Selected as Commissioner of Education



The Florida Board of Education has selected Henry Mack as the state's new Commissioner of Education. Dr. Mack previously served as a senior chancellor at the Department of Education and most recently the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor. Mack replaces Anastasios Kamoutsas, who recently became president of Polk State College, and interim commissioner Paul Burns, a senior chancellor at DOE. The position pays approximately \$330,000 a year. Mack worked for DOE from 2019-2023, led the state's career and technical education initiatives and heavily supported parental rights policies. During his time with DOE, Mack was a proponent of "classical" education.

Registration is now open for the

Florida Rural Economic Development Summit 2026

Space to Live, Power to Grow

Tuesday, November 17 – Thursday 19, 2026

World Equestrian Center® | Ocala, FL

Note - A separate email has been sent to School And County officials to register for this meeting

In Case You Missed This!

County Medicaid Cost-Share Estimates for 2026-27

Social Services Estimating Conference set County Contributions to Medicaid per s. 409.915, F.S.

Conference Results for County Contributions to Medicaid,

inclusive of the impact for HB 5003-E (2026)

[County Contributions to Medicaid per s. 409.915, F.S.](#)

[County Medicaid Cost-share Estimates for 2026-27](#)

County Medicaid Cost-Share Calculations for 2025-26

Sales Tax Saving Month for School Stuff

Annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday

July 20, 2026, Through August 20, 2026

Department of Revenue Guidance on School Sales Tax Holiday 2026

Florida's 2026 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday begins on Monday, July 20, 2026, and ends on Thursday, August 20, 2026. During the annual sales tax holiday period, tax is not due on the retail sale of:

- Clothing, footwear, wallets, bags, handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Certain school supplies with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles with a sales price of \$30 or less
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories with a sales price of \$1,500 or less, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use

School Grades

The Florida Department of Education released the official school and district grades for the 2025–2026 school year on July 1, 2026. [\[1, 2\]](#) To see how individual schools or districts performed, you can review the full accountability reports on the [Florida Department of Education](#) website. [2026 School Grades and Accountability Reports](#)

School Starting Dates

Florida school start dates by county - [Florida School District Start Dates 2026-27](#)

Property Tax Data Sources

Impact of the Property Tax proposal is getting better understood. A number of organizations are working together to create websites and information.

- <https://votenoamendment3.com/>
- [Florida Association of Counties - Property Tax Proposal - Here's what it says and Here's what it will do!](#)

On The Docket

THURSDAY, JULY 23

- FLORIDA MARKET ASSISTANCE - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will review the Florida Market Assistance Plan. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- KIDCARE EXPENDITURES - Thursday, 1:45 p.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will review Kidcare expenditures. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- EAST COLONIAL WIDENING - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation is holding a meeting on proposed widening of East Colonial Drive. Location: Boardwalk Bowl, Bridge Events Center, 10749 East Colonial Drive, Orlando.
- NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING - Thursday, 6 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting. Location: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Santa Fe Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

- COMMISSION ON ETHICS - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Ethics is meeting, where it will be asked to consider a staff-recommended letter to a state legislator advising that the in-office representation ban will prevent them from personally representing a client before the Department of Health while in office. Location: First District Court of Appeal, First Floor Conference Room, 2000 Drayton Drive, Tallahassee.
- PSC - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is holding a prehearing conference on the Sunshine Water Services Company's petition to establish rate base value of an acquired system. Location: Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- HIGHWAY SAFETY REVENUE - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will review highway safety revenues. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- TAMPA BAY PLANNING - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Coastal Master Plan Technical Workgroup is meeting. Location: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100, Pinellas Park.
- CENTRAL FLORIDA TOURISM - Friday, 10:30 a.m. - The Central Florida Tourism Oversight District is meeting. Location: 1900 Hotel Plaza Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista.
- HISTORIC MARKERS - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Division of Historical Resources' Florida Historical Marker Council will discuss historical marker applications. Location: R.A. Gray Building, Room 307, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.
- COMMUNICATION SERVICES TAX - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will review gross receipts and the Communication Services Tax. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between July 11 and July 17. Location: Department of State, Division of Elections, Bureau of Election Records, R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.

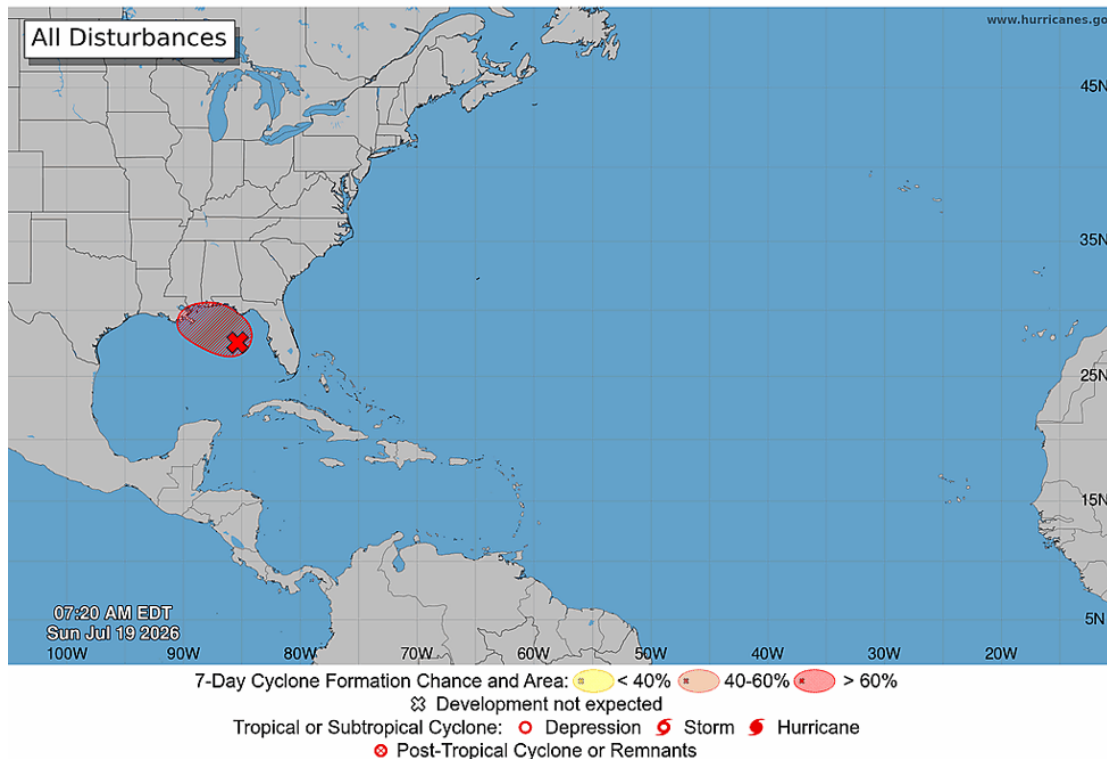
Tropical Outlook

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



Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Here are key dates for 26-27

August 18 –	Primary Elections
Sept 16-17 –	FAC Policy Conference – Jacksonville
Nov 3 –	General Election
Nov. 17-19-	Rural Summit – Ocala – Sponsored by FREDa
Dec 2-4 –	Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference
Dec 2 -	Small County Coalition Breakfast –
Dec 2-4 –	FSBA Legislative Conference – Tampa
Dec 3 -	Small District– SSDCC Legislative Meeting in Tampa
Dec - Feb. -	Legislative Committee Meetings
March 2 -	Legislature convenes
March 16 -	Small County Coalition – Legislative Reception
March 17 -	Small School District Council Consortium Briefing
March 17-18-	Rural Days 2027 – Tentative
March 17-18 –	FSBA Days in the Legislature
March 17 -	Florida Association Counties – Legislative Day
April 30 -	Legislative Session 60 Days – Sine Die!

Headlines Around The State

Times: Fishback defends his Florida residency in court hearing amid Collins challenge

FlaPol: ‘Jones has the heart’: Democratic Hispanic Caucus, Teddy Bridgewater back Shevrin Jones in CD 24 race

Post: Florida residents 3rd-most financially distressed. What that means

Today: Where is Florida's school system ranked? Study places Florida in top 15

FlaPol: Florida has worst housing foreclosure rate in nation for first half of 2026

The Capitolist: UF Ranked Nation's No. 1 Best-Value Public University for 2026

DBNJ: Florida home prices hit a new record as sales keep climbing

WUSF: Google wants to release 32 million invasive mosquitoes in Florida. Here's why

USA Today: Miami-Fort Lauderdale 'very unaffordable' for young homebuyers, survey shows

Politico: The data center and AI donors powering Donalds' bid for Florida governor

FlaPol: David Jolly calls for a halt to data centers, betting Byron Donalds is vulnerable

Democrat: Why candidates for governor are suddenly cooling on AI data centers

CBS Miami: Florida's Department of Education pushes for all school districts to define rules regarding AI

WLRN: Florida takes over critical Everglades plumbing project to accelerate work

FlaPol: Back-to-school tax holiday arrives early after Legislature moves up dates

News-Press: Who will replace Byron Donalds? Republicans debate ahead of election

Floridian: Rick Scott, Mark Kelly Introduce Bipartisan Bill Modernizing Federal Clean Water Allotment Program

FlaPol: Florida sees huge jump in new unemployment claims

WLRN: New federal rule could ramp up risks for sea turtles in Florida

AP: Florida GOP lawmaker and governor candidate says AI data center legislation keeps utility costs down

FlaPol: Byron Donalds files legislation to block AI data centers from using public power, water

My News 13: Donalds challenges leading Democrat to three debates in Florida governor's race as he faces several Republican challengers

FlaPol: Florida Democrats slam 'scam' property tax amendment as 'just plain bad for Florida'

WUSF: In home state, Moms for Liberty shows lackluster influence in school board races

Floridian: Lauren Book Pushes More Protections for Children Against Predators in World of A.I.

WUSF: Lake Okeechobee's annual summer blue-green algae outbreak 'close to the worst'

PNJ: Pensacola to freeze hiring as it grapples with property taxes

WUSF: D.C. gathering reveals far-right ties in Florida DOGE's national push

WLRN: As AI grows, so does its influence on Florida politics

Herald Tribune: These tropical diseases keep Florida doctors up at night

WUSF: Reviving the roots: FSC's century-old citrus legacy meets tomorrow's agribusiness

Daily News: Who won the Florida Python Challenge? Announcement 'soon', FWC says

FlaPol: ‘You can’t harm them’: Jay Collins wants a grant program for Florida’s fiscally constrained counties

Sentinel: FWC secretly investigated outspoken environmental activists, records show

WUSF: A shark-feeding ban exposes a deeper fight over Florida's changing seas

PNJ: Escambia drafts law opposing data centers. Why some say it's not enough

Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

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

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

Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com