Are you ready for some Football?

Link to College Football Schedule

Note- Don't know why some games are not listed!

The Briefing for Friday, August 28, 2026

The Last Briefing was Wednesday, August 26, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

More Leadership Changes at FDEM?

More changes are rumored at the top of the FDEM –Last week we saw the resignation of Kevin Guthrie, Florida's Director of the Division of Emergency Management after being named as Jay Collins' running mate the day before the Primary Election. Early rumors have Deputy Executive Director/FLSERT Chief Ian Guidicelli and FDEM Interim Chief of Staff Lela Whitfield also leaving – Yet to be officially confirmed.

National Webinar Scheduled to Discuss Changes to E-Rate
Changes to E-Rate will be discussed

A virtual town hall meeting will be held on September 9 to discuss potential changes E-Rate and their potential impact on schools. Register for the webinar here.
For additional background, please review AASA's one-page overview of the issue and view the Notice of Proposed Rule.

- Check out how much E-Rate money the schools and libraries in your state have received over the last five years. CLICK HERE.
- Look up your E-Rate funding data at the state and Congressional district level here.

Florida DOE - Rules for Classroom AI

The Board of Education will vote Sept. 16 during its meeting at Polk State College whether to require public school districts and charter school governing boards to amend their internet safety policy to include AI.Florida education officials are considering a proposed rule requiring each school district and charter school to adopt an artificial intelligence policy by January 1. Parents would need to opt their children into classroom AI use or limit access, while schools would provide non-AI alternatives. Districts would also notify parents when AI tools receive instructional approval, create a formal objection process, and bar programs from monetizing or profiling student data.

HHS Announces $32.5 Million DEPEND Initiative to Transform School Nutrition

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) this week announced a new $32.5 million initiative to help schools replace highly processed foods with nutrient-dense, real food and identify effective, scalable strategies for improving school meals. Awards are expected to range from $75,000 to $2.5 million.

The initiative, Developing Evidence for Programs to Ensure Nutrition for Development (DEPEND), will be led by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). DEPEND will make funding available to schools and school districts to test innovative approaches to delivering nutritious foods to school-aged children while strengthening the evidence base for school nutrition interventions. Schools and districts can learn more about DEPEND by visiting the newly launched HHS Real Food in Schools website. The application cycle will open soon with the first round of funding expected to be awarded in October.

DEPEND will support School Food Authorities, school districts, and individual schools pursuing innovative approaches in four key areas:

- Food Purchasing & Supply
- Workforce & Food Production
- Student Demand & Meal Economics
- Transforming Operations & Infrastructure

State Associations Seeking Legislative Proposals for 2027

The parameters for submitting proposals are as follows:

Florida Association of Counties – Policy Submission Procedures
FAC's Deadline for submittal – September 2
https://www.fl-counties.com/2026-policy-proposal-submission/

Florida School Board Association – Policy Submission information.
Deadline for submittal is September 4 at 6:00pm
The FSBA proposal submission form is on website.
For reference, you can access FSBA platforms from previous years here

On The Docket This Week

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

- COMMISSION ON ETHICS - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Commission on Ethics is meeting. - First District Court of Appeal, First Floor Conference Room, 2000 Drayton Drive, Tallahassee.
- FSU BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - - The Florida State University Board of Trustees will discuss the president's evaluation and compensation and changes to the student conduct code. - Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center, 555 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee.
- MINIMUM FLOWS - Friday, 10 a.m. - - An online joint meeting is planned with the St. Johns River Water Management District, Southwest Florida Water Management District and the South

Florida Water Management District to solicit stakeholder input on the proposed 2026 minimum flows and levels priority lists for the Central Florida Water Initiative area. - Phone: 1(386)256-1151. Code: 263 689 344 #

- BIG CYPRESS BUDGET - - Friday, 11 a.m. - - The South Florida Water Management District's Big Cypress Basin Board is to approve the submittal of the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. - Collier County Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor, Naples.
- FINANCE REPORTS - - Friday - - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21. - Department of State, Division of Elections, Bureau of Election Records, R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.

Headlines Around The State

AP: Florida grand jury finds DeSantis administration misused $10 million, but no charges filed

Politico: Hope Florida reemerges as midterm issue with leaked grand jury report

Florida Phoenix: DeSantis administration moving to regulate AI from Pre-K to PhD

Gainesville Sun: FDA approves pancreatic cancer drug Sasse credits with extending his life

Post: Florida affordability crisis hits voters on all levels as election looms

PNJ: Jolly proposes plan for '10-year public education renaissance' in Florida

Florida Phoenix: Cook Political Report shifts FL gubernatorial race from solid to likely Republican

Floridian: DeSantis Awards Nearly $15.5 in Infrastructure Improvements and Community Projects to North Florida

Florida Phoenix: Pediatric group wins early legal battle against DeSantis administration and its Medicaid rates

News4JAX: DeSantis calls flock camera surveillance out of control, urges legislative action

News4JAX: Florida moves to require AI policies at public colleges

Times: Florida to issue up to 215 black bear hunting permits this year

TCPalm: FEMA staff violated law by skipping Florida homes with Trump signs

Times: Duke Energy Florida was approached about huge data centers, among largest in world

Sentinel: Enrollment in Central Florida public schools falls by nearly 12,000 students

TCPalm: Florida best public high schools, four in Martin County

Floridian: David Jolly Says he Would Issue Moratorium on Data Centers, if Elected

Floridian: Byron Donalds Highlights Plan to Tackle Florida's Affordability Crisis

WLRN: Second Amendment groups weigh in on Bryan Avila's selection as Byron Donalds' running mate

FlaPol: José Javier Rodríguez hits $2M fundraising milestone in bid for Attorney General

WUSF: At FIU, DeSantis rolls out new emergency management education program

Times: DeSantis touts careers in emergency management

WUSF: New state law to protect consumers from data center costs faces its first test

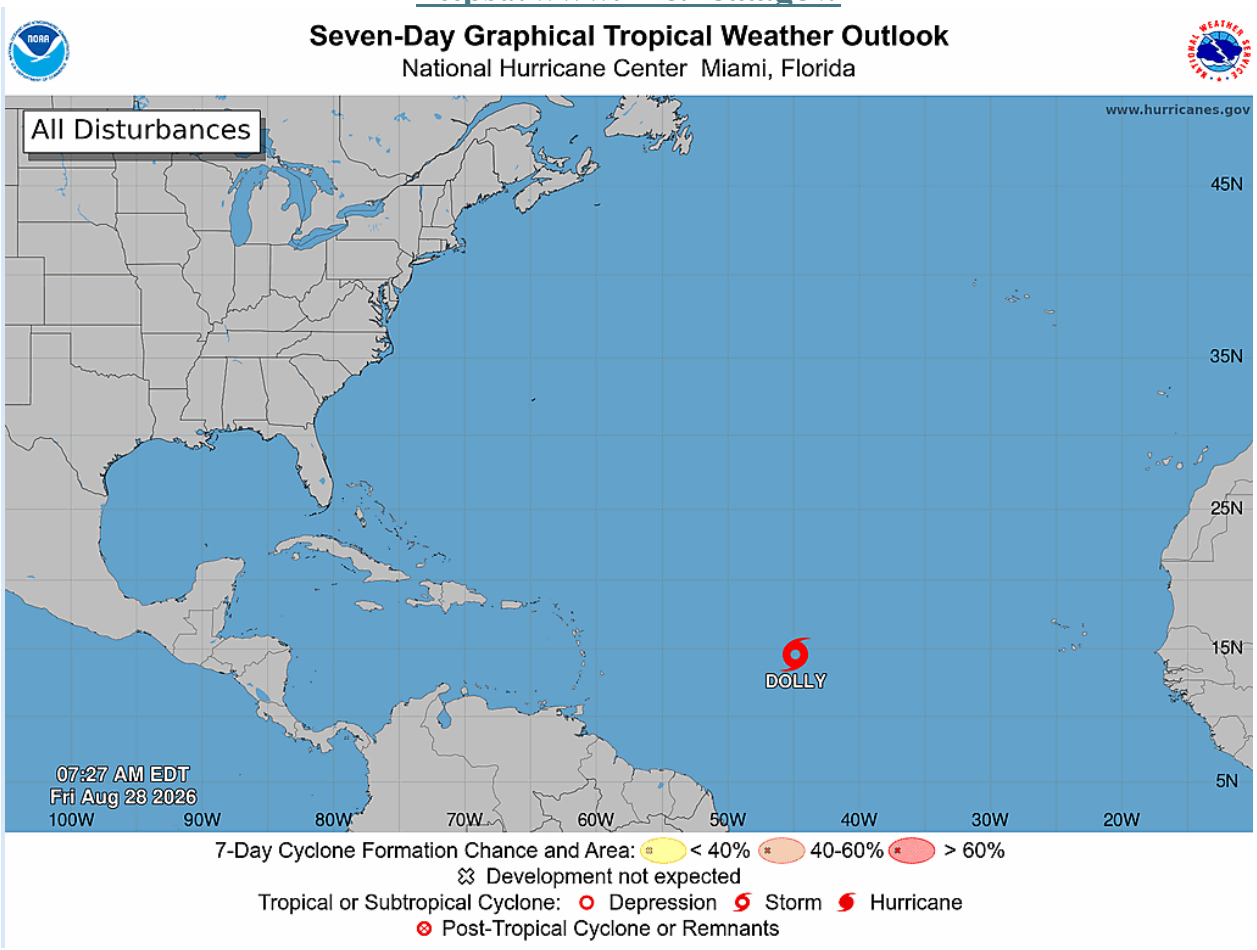
Democrat: Daryl Parks endorses Loranne Ausley for Tallahassee mayor

Sun-Sentinel: Palm Beach County schools report a nearly 7,000-student enrollment drop

Democrat: Leon School Board approves pay increase for select teachers

Tropical Outlook

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



Here are key dates for 26-27
2026 Events

Sept 16-17 –	FAC Policy Conference – Jacksonville
Nov 3 –	General Election
Nov. 17-19-	Rural Summit – Ocala – Sponsored by FREDA
Nov. 30 – Dec. 3	Legislative Committee Meetings
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

2027 Events

January 4 – 7	Legislative Committee Meetings
January 11 – 14	Legislative Committee Meetings
February 1 – 4	Legislative Committee Meetings
February 8 – 11	Legislative Committee Meetings
February 15 – 18	Legislative Committee Meetings
March 2 -	Legislature convenes
March 16 -	Small County Coalition/Small School District Joint Legislative Reception
March 17 -	Small School District Council Consortium Legislative Briefing
March 17 -	Florida Association Counties – Legislative Day
March 17-18-	Rural Days 2027 – Tentative
April 30 -	Legislative Session 60 Days – Sine Die!
June 9 – 11	FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference, Kissimmee, FL
June 10 -	Small School District Council Consortium – Annual Meeting
June 22-25	FAC Annual Summer Meeting - Hilton Orlando
June 22 -	Small County Coalition Annual Meeting Breakfast – Orlando
Nov. 30 – Dec. 3	FSBA/FADSS 82nd Annual Joint Conference, Kissimmee, FL

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

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