



## Florida School Boards Association

*The voice of education in Florida.*

FSBA has offered itself as a resource to school districts affected by Hurricane Michael. Large swaths of the Panhandle continue to be without power, cell service, roads, or other services. Many schools continue to be used as shelters of refuge; others have sustained damages that haven't yet been fully assessed. Many of you have called asking, "How can I help? How can our district help?"

We know that right now, affected districts are overwhelmed. Crisis plans weren't written with the expectation that those who are responsible for executing the plans are victims themselves. We also know that the best thing they can do right now is focus on their employees, take pictures of all damage for full documentation (including aerial shots), secure storage/warehouse facilities ASAP, begin to plan for some schedule of regularity for students and staff, and establish an accounting and distribution system for donations.

As more direct and specific needs become apparent in districts, we will update this information. At this time, though, FADSS and FSBA are working hand in hand to provide resources to districts in the form of information, guidance, resources, and supports. We have assembled the team that rebuilt Charlotte County Public Schools after Hurricane Charley to provide best practice advice, direction, counseling, and aid. FSBA supports FADSS Hurricane Michael Relief efforts which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/fadss-hurricane-michael-relief>. Monetary donations are the most direct, immediate, and flexible way for you to help; having one source for relief aid will streamline the work on the receiving districts and the accountability expected of donated monies.

Please join me and pray for everyone's health, both mental and physical, and the strength to do what will need to be done for these communities.

Sincerely,

**Andrea D. Messina**  
Executive Director