

## COVID-19

UPDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARDS



March 30, 2020

Members,

New resources for you today.

***FLDOE recommends school closings extended to May***

Visit [DOE's official Covid-19 webpage](#) for all regular updates

***Congressional Stimulus information***

In recent weeks, Congress passed three bills to appropriate supplemental emergency funding and make significant policy changes to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [Here is a summary of these bills.](#)

***State Board of Education to meet electronically Wednesday morning***

9 am, EST, via conference call. See agenda and meeting details [here](#) and below:

- Conference Call: 1-800-309-1256
- Passcode: 553536

**[EEOC Updates Guidance on Medical Inquiries During a Pandemic](#)**

***And, not Covid-19, but important note***

[2020 FSBA Legislative Session Summary now available](#)

***Question:***

What do you need right now that you are not getting from us? How can we better help you? [info@fsba.org](mailto:info@fsba.org)



Florida School Boards Association  
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Executive Director

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***UPDATE and Q&A with FSBA (Every Friday until further notice):***

All members should plan on joining us for FRIDAY LIVE again this Friday with Executive Officers and me. Call in time is 9 -10 a.m. EST. All members are encouraged to call, receive updates, and ask questions.

FRIDAY LIVE call-in information

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/998389365>

You can also dial in using your phone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

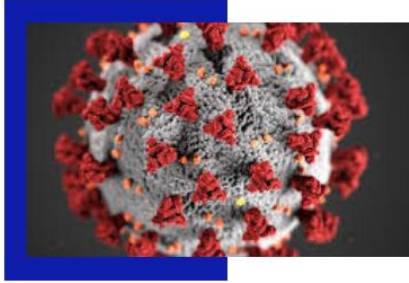
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Access Code: 998-389-365



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UPDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARDS



March 31, 2020

Members,

New resources for you today.

[\*\*FLDOE Press Release on extended school closings through May 1\*\*](#)

[\*\*US Dept of Labor, Families First Coronavirus Response Act Q&A\*\*](#)

**Webinar from our friends at BoardDocs**  
[Navigating Public Board Meetings During Crisis](#)

**State Board of Education to meet electronically tomorrow, Wednesday morning**  
9 am, EST, via conference call. See agenda and meeting details [here](#) and below:

- Conference Call: 1-800-309-1256
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***Response requested:***

What is working for your district? What isn't? What questions would you like to see addressed in our Friday LIVE webinar? Let us know! [messina@fsba.org](mailto:messina@fsba.org)



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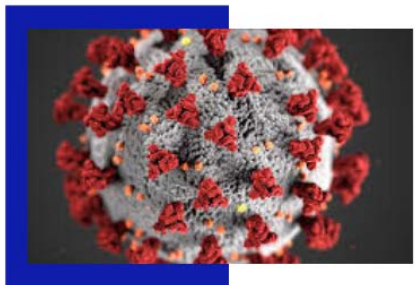
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April 1, 2020

Members,

New resources for you today.

### ***Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order***

20-91, set to expire on April 30, regarding Safer at Home directives. This Executive Order is [available here](#).

### ***Wondering what Florida will get under CARES Act?***

[Estimated State Grants Under the Education Stabilization Fund Included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)

### ***Picture of nation's school districts plans to support students***

Today, the Center on Reinventing Public Education is releasing an [initial, baseline database](#) of school districts' plans for supporting students during unprecedented mass closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Outbreak?***

[Questions to Consider](#)

### ***Response requested:***

What is working in your district? What isn't? What questions would you like to see addressed in our Friday LIVE webinar? Let us know! [messina@fsba.org](mailto:messina@fsba.org)



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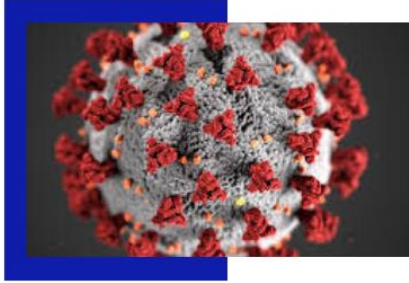
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## COVID-19

UPDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARDS



April 2, 2020

Members,

New resources available as of today:

### ***Perkins Flexibility***

[Secretary DeVos Announces New Federal Deadline Flexibility for Career and Technical Education](#)

### ***US Congress CARES Act***

[Committee on Education and Labor Fact Sheet CARES Act Education Provisions Support for Homeless Youth in the Context of COVID-19](#)

### ***FLDOE has issued updated resources***

[Postsecondary CTE and Adult Program Updates](#)

[Q&A CTE and Adult Programs](#)

[Guidance to Direct Support Organizations](#)

[Distance Learning Resources](#)

[FLVS Flex](#)

### ***5 Things District Leaders Should Brace for During a Recession***

***Many districts rely on e-rate to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.***

[This white paper will help you better understand what e-rate is and how it works.](#)

***Join us tomorrow Friday, April 2, 9 am to hear NSBA representatives discuss IDEA and broadband issues***

Call in information below.

### ***Response requested:***

What is working in your district? What isn't? What questions would you like to see addressed in our Friday LIVE webinar? Let us know! [messina@fsba.org](mailto:messina@fsba.org)



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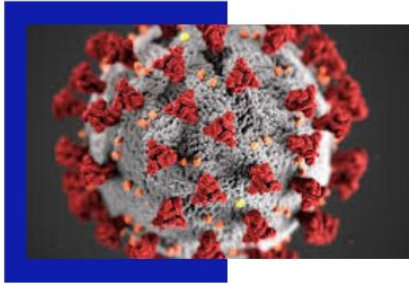
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## COVID-19

UPDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARDS



April 3, 2020

Members,

***ICYMI: This morning's FRIDAY Live Webinar***

With guests from NSBA to discuss IDEA, E-rate, and CARES Act can be [accessed here](#).

The accompanying/follow-up Q&A is attached.

***Urgent Member Guidance by the Government Finance Officers Association***  
[IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS to Maintain Your Entity's Debt Management Program and Disclosure Responsibilities During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

***Response requested:***

What is working in your district? What isn't? What questions would you like to see addressed in our next Friday LIVE webinar? Let us know! [messina@fsba.org](mailto:messina@fsba.org)



***UPDATE and Q&A with FSBA (Every Friday until further notice):***

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## Update and Q&A with FSBA 4.3.2020

### CARES Act, Student Nutrition, Internet Accessibility/Rural Districts, School Board Meetings and Authority of the Board, Florida Budget FY 20-21

This week, I have combined questions and contained under topical headings for your convenience. Also, many thanks to Chip Slaven and Deborah Rigsby, NSBA, for their time on the webinar and their valuable knowledge. ADM

Chip Slaven, NSBA Chief Advocacy Officer: [cslaven@nsba.org](mailto:cslaven@nsba.org)

Deborah Rigsby, Director of Lobbying and Federal Legislation: [drigsby@nsba.org](mailto:drigsby@nsba.org)

#### CARES Act

**Q:** Can you bottom line the financial impact to our local districts from the \$13.5 billion?

**A:** (provided by D. Rigsby, NSBA) Based on quick calculations from the CRS report ([here](#)), overall Florida would receive about \$770,248,000.

Of this amount, 5.82 percent (approximately \$44.6 million) would be designated for state level activities. From the overall state allocation, at least 90 percent must be distributed to school districts, per the following language from the CARES Act. (As a reference for a rough estimate, and nothing certain, you may want to look at [this report](#) that lists FY2019 Title I grants to school districts in Florida. However, please note that the FY2019 Title I allocation to Florida was a larger amount (\$898,112,824) than the allocation in the CARES Act. Also, for FY2020, the U.S. Department of Education's estimate for regular Title I appropriations to Florida LEAs is \$922,111,599.)

**Q:** Can that language [18006 section, "continued payment to employees..." ] please be sent to use later?

**A:** The exact language is:

#### CONTINUED PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES

##### SEC. 18006.

*A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under "Education Stabilization Fund", shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.*

You can access the full [CARES Act here](#). The USDOE should be clarifying with guidance soon.

**Q:** Contractors? Did they define this any further?

**A:** (provided by D. Rigsby, NSBA) For the CARES Act definition of a contractor, the only definition I have seen so far is applicable to "air carriers." Asking the Senate Appropriations

Committee staff who wrote section 18006 about the definition of contractor for the Education Stabilization Fund.

**Q:** What was the section number again with the CARES ACT regarding continuing to pay employees and where can we access the CARES ACT? So click on the COVID-19 Resource link and then the Federal tab to access the CARES ACT?

**A:** 18006, on FSBA's website you can access the [CARES Act](#).

**Q:** Please confirm that the approval of the expenditure of the CARES funds, once appropriated to the district level, require local school board action as budget items?

**A:** Yes, it will likely appear in the form of a budget amendment that is brought to the board for approval. Depending on your policies and guidance to superintendent, there may be some flexibility in how the superintendent uses funds outside of board approval.

**Q:** I'm on the board of a Non-profit and I was wondering if school districts can get funds from the Paycheck Protection and Cares Ace, since I understand we already have our funding for the remainder of the school year?

**A:** When the CARES Act was enacted last week, within 30 days from that date, the US DOE has to announce the availability of funding to states. At that point, a state education agency (FLDOE) Governor can apply for the funding from the USDOE. The law gives the USDOE 30 days to review applications, but they are trying to implement an expeditious process. Once the funds to the state, they will distribute it to a school district. Funds must be expended by Sept. 30, 2021.

## **Student Nutrition**

NOTE: the information below should answer most of the questions posed by board members on today's call. ADM

Based on an announcement the USDA posted on March 26, states have the option to allow parents/guardians to pick up meals for their children. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/26/usda-makes-it-easier-feed-kids-and-those-who-need-food-during-covid>

"Under one of the newly-announced waivers, **USDA is giving states the option to allow parents or guardians to take meals home to their children**. Typically, children would need to be present to receive a meal through [USDA's child nutrition programs](#)."

**Q:** Is the expectation that schools continue to feed in the same model that we are using right now - delivering breakfast and lunch to all children 0-18 at various locations throughout the district.

**A:** While there are a number of models currently being followed, we are seeking official guidance on this issue.

**Q:** Deborah said we could apply for a waiver from the 50% rule for FARM. Can districts apply for the waiver or does the state have to make that application?

**A:** This needs to go through the state

Comments that may be of assistance:

Flagler has just moved to allowing parents pick up without children. Parents just need to complete a document.

Brevard: we were told we got a waiver that would allow parents to bring documentation of the child and we could give food per child.

Citrus allows parents alone to pickup with documentation  
it would be nice if we could provide meals on a multiple day bases on a single day.

Sarasota: we are starting once a week next week

Under what food wavier? we are under impression there is not a wavier for that yet.

Flagler: we are providing 4 days with Thursday receiving food for the weekend.

Citrus: we do for weekend but mid-week is the issue I understand  
Levy is using buses 2x a week for food along with parent pickup on those days also.  
Levy, Citrus has been told there is no wavier to permit that due to food health requirements.  
Any details you can share with Citrus regarding wavier of food health with meal distribution please share.

### **Internet Accessibility/Rural Districts**

**Q:** How is the internet problem especially for rural counties being addressed? Rural doesn't have Internet. It is access of services & devices.

**A:** We know through personal conversations with FLDOE that this is a statewide issue. We know through personal conversations with NSBA colleagues that is a national issue. NSBA is working to gain access to additional funds through the Federal E-rate program ([learn more about E-rate here](#)).

NSBA collaborated with others active in the industry (NASSP, example) to do a letter drive that targeted the Chairman of the FCC to ask the FCC to use flexibility within the Telecommunications Act to make use of surplus funding that already exists.

Also, as part of a direct relief package, NSBA is asking Congress for an immediate directed funding to deal with the digital divide in education which would flow through the E-rate program.

FSBA continues to seek solutions to this ongoing challenge.

## School Board Meetings and Authority of the Board

**Q:** Can you please address whether we need to be meeting in Emergency Board meetings or can we hold our regular board meetings "virtually". I thought we could go back to regularly scheduled meetings, without needing a physical quorum.

**A:** Please check with your school board attorney. Some attorneys are interpreting this differently. However, many believe that you are correct. You can meet for your regular meetings (which your board approved at your reorganization meeting in November and have been advertised since then to your community) without a physical quorum thanks to [Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 20-69](#) which reads, in part:

*Section 1. I hereby suspend any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government body to meet at a specific public place.*

*Section 2. Local government bodies may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.*

*Section 3. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and "Florida's Government in the Sunshine Laws," including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.*

You can also meet if you need to conduct business in between regular meetings that is related to the current emergency using the [Emergency Meetings F.S. 120.525](#) or, as provided in F.S. [1001.372](#), for a Special Meeting.

**Q:** Please confirm that the approval of the expenditure of the CARES funds, once appropriated to the district level, require local school board action as budget items?

**A:** Yes, it will likely appear in the form of a budget amendment that is brought to the board for approval. Depending on your policies and guidance to superintendent, there may be some flexibility in how the superintendent uses funds outside of board approval.

**Q:** Can we discuss policy with giving Supt authority during this time

**A:** Some district school boards have authorized giving their superintendents additional authority through their current emergency policy (see [Polk policy 0132](#) ) or through Board action (see [Brevard Agenda item, passed at March 24 meeting](#) or [Hillsborough Agenda item, passed at March 31 meeting](#)) or through Resolution by the Board (see [Walton County School board Resolution #1920-14 which passed on March 24](#)). Other district school boards do not see the need to give additional authority given [Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 20-69](#) which waives the requirement for a physical quorum to be present. See additional language, above.

## Florida Budget FY 2020-2021

**Q:** Has the governor signed off on the budget yet? What is the timeline for that?

**A:** Not yet. There is a deadline of July 1 for the budget to be signed, and it must be signed within 15 days of the Governor's receipt of the budget passed by the Legislature (which doesn't happen immediately upon Sine Die. Sometimes it takes several weeks to get to the Governor's desk).