

COVID-19

UPDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARDS



April 27, 2020

Members,

Governor Ron DeSantis' Re-Open Florida Task Force is seeking public comments. [Submission form is here.](#)

Also, the Task Force has unveiled [all of the working documents, agendas, and slide decks](#) from last week's meetings.

How can we help you? What questions do you want us to discuss on future calls?:

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

UPDATE and Q&A with FSBA (Every Friday 9 am EST until further notice):

All members should plan on joining us for FRIDAY LIVE again this Friday with Executive Officers and me.

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Annual Summer Conference has been CANCELLED.

FSBA leadership has made the difficult decision to CANCEL the FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference scheduled for June. [Read the full announcement.](#)



Florida School Boards Association
ANDREA MESSINA
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www.fsba.org



Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update

April 24, 2020

NSBA Weekly Update

Congressional Update

Congress Passes Additional Emergency Relief

This week, Congress approved a \$484 billion coronavirus relief bill (H.R. 266). The measure provides additional funding for small businesses (\$380 billion), hospitals (\$75 billion), and disease testing (\$25 billion). The bill does not include additional funding support for education, or other parts of state and local government, but NSBA expects Congress to begin working on another spending bill that will most likely address growing local needs. The next emergency bill is expected to originate in the House. NSBA is continuing to urge Congress to provide additional funding of at least \$200 billion for K-12 education including full funding or IDEA or a minimum of \$13 billion for the program in the current crisis to help offset expected state and local revenue losses associated with the economic downturn, along with dedicated funding to help connect students that lack broadband to online learning. NSBA is actively supporting legislation offered this week by U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) to address the homework gap issue. H.R. 6563 would create a special \$2 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund administered through the E-rate Program for schools and libraries under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission. The funds would be used to purchase Wi-Fi hot spots, modems, routers and internet-connected devices. NSBA will urging Congress to include this legislation as part of the next supplemental package.

Administration Update

Department of Education Publishes Application for K-12 Relief Funding

The CARES Act provided \$30 billion in education relief funding, including \$13.5 billion for K-12 education. Yesterday, the Department of Education announced the process for releasing the \$13.5 billion in CARES Act funding dedicated to supporting K-12 education to the states, promising no more than a 3-day review of state applications. States have until July 1 to apply for the funds and have a year to use them. Any funds not used must be returned to the Department of Education who will reallocate the funds to other states. The announcement of funds, state certification and agreement form, and state allocation funding table can be found [here](#). As a reminder, the Department of Education has a [dedicated website](#) for resources related to COVID-19 that includes guidance, FAQs and a variety of other resources that are updated often.

Department of Education Announces Green Ribbon School Awardees

The Department of Education [announced](#) the 2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees. In total, 39 schools, 11 districts and five postsecondary institutions “are being honored for their innovative efforts to address the

three "Pillars" of the program: reducing environmental impact and utility costs, improving health and wellness, and ensuring effective sustainability education”.

Department of Education Announces Two New Discretionary Grant Programs for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services

“Parent Information and Training Program – Technical Assistance for Parent Training and Information Centers” – This grant program, authorized under the Rehabilitation Act, funds State Level Parent Training and Information Centers and one national Center. These state centers provide training and information to individuals with disabilities and their parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives. The national center provides technical assistance to the state-level centers. The priority for this grant competition will fund a national parent training and information center. The Administration has requested \$300,000 for new awards for this program for fiscal year 2020. Applications are due by June 22, 2020 and further information is available [here](#).

“Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities – Parent Training and Information Centers and Parent Information and Training Program” – This grant program will support projects to provide “impartial training and objective information to enable individuals with disabilities, and the parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives of the individuals...to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the vocational, independent living, and rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities.” This grant program will fund 65 Parent Training and Information Centers to meet the needs of parents of children with disabilities and the training needs of youth with disabilities. The estimated available funds for this grant program total \$21,195,248. Applications are due by June 22, 2020 and further information is available [here](#).

GAO Releases Report Citing Quality Issues with Restraint and Seclusion Data

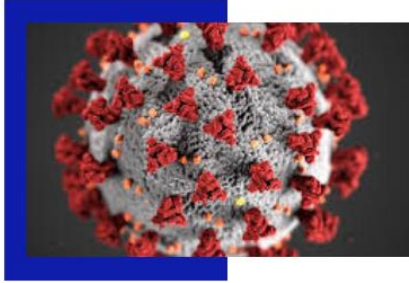
The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) stemming from the analysis of school year 2015-2016 restraint and seclusion data. The report examined: (1) the effectiveness of CRDC data quality control procedures; (2) selected districts’ interpretation of CRDC’s restraint and seclusion definitions; and (3) selected districts’ use of data. GAO analyzed CRDC’s quality control processes for school year 2015-16, and interviewed officials from seven stakeholder groups and over 50 school and district officials in three states. The GAO found that the Education Department’s “data quality control processes were insufficient to detect problematic data in its Civil Rights Data Collection”, which is the data used to enforce federal civil rights laws. The GAO noted that “absent more effective rules to improve data quality, determining the frequency and prevalence of restraint and seclusion will remain difficult”. Further, the Department of Education “will continue to lack information that could help it enforce various federal civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination.”

NSBA Updates

There will be a CSALS call this Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:00 pm eastern. You may access the call with the following information:

(833) 444-6583; Conference ID: 710 675 885#

Have a nice weekend.



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April 28, 2020

Members,

USDOE Secy DeVos has released her recommended waiver authority

--it did NOT include that Congress pass any additional waiver authority concerning FAPE or LER of IDEA. [See waiver report.](#)

FRIDAY Live this week

will focus on District Financial Planning: What should school board members be focused on during these very uncertain times? Florida School Finance Officer Association guests include school finance officers Gretchen Saunders (Hillsborough), Sarah Graber (Osceola), and Corey Wheeler (Okeechobee).

Questions about school financial planning for FRIDAY Live this week? Send to gay@fsba.org by 5 p.m. Thursday.

[Data You Can Use: Changes to the Educator Workforce After COVID-19](#)

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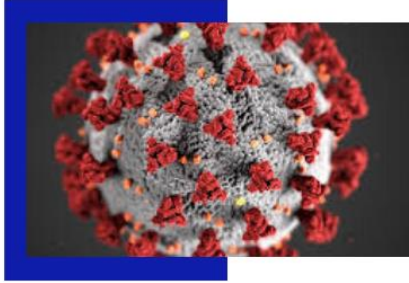
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April 29, 2020

Members,

During a 5 pm press conference, Governor DeSantis discussed his SAFE. SMART. STEP-BY-STEP Plan to reopen Florida, beginning May 4, with some counties excluded (for now). Watch the presser [here](#).

When the plan becomes available, [it should be found here](#) and [here](#). At the time of this writing, it has not yet been posted. NOTE: **Florida Phase 1 calls for school to remain on distance learning, social groups remain at 10 or fewer, and facemasks and social distancing should continue.**

The "[Supporting State and Local Leaders Act](#)" was introduced in Congress yesterday.

This bipartisan legislation, titled the "The Supporting State and Local Leaders Act," would make states and local governments eligible, retroactively, for the emergency paid leave payroll tax credits that were authorized as part of the second emergency supplemental ("The Families First Coronavirus Response Act"), and would help alleviate the fiscal burden affecting state and local budgets impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have not done so, please contact your representatives (<https://www.house.gov/representatives>) and urge their co-sponsorship. The goal is to include this measure in upcoming emergency supplemental legislation.

Council of Great City Schools wrote a [letter to Congress](#) calling for additional stimulus funds for education.

Not COVID-related, but you will want to know

Florida TaxWatch released [Florida's Top Public Employers by County](#). No surprise! School districts are the largest employers in 49 counties.

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Andrea Messina

From: Swonson, Bethany <Bethany.Swonson@fldoe.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:45 PM
Cc: Ochs, Jared; Moya, Elizabeth; Fowler, Jessica
Subject: FW: FYI Federal Updates: COVID-19 Important Resources

Dear Education Partners, and Legislators,

Here are some federal updates you may find interesting:

- **President Trump Signs H.R. 266 – Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act:** Friday, April 24, President Trump [signed the new legislation](#) into law to further assist American businesses, workers and healthcare providers. The legislation provides \$310 billion in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), \$60 billion more for the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Disaster Loan Program, \$75 billion in funding for hospitals and healthcare providers, and \$25 billion to support our Nation’s testing efforts. Find more on the Paycheck Protection Program [here](#).
- **President Trump Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Revitalize Communities Hit Hard by the Coronavirus:** Wednesday, April 22, President Trump announced that the Administration is implementing a comprehensive strategy for distressed communities severely impacted by the coronavirus. Working with State and local leaders, the Administration will target resources to these communities and take other measures, including providing more support for community health care centers and expanding access to telehealth. The effort will be directed by the [White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council](#) led by House and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson.
- **U.S. Department of the Treasury Releases Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance:** Wednesday, April 22, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released guidance for State, Local, and Tribal Governments regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund of the CARES Act. As stated by the legislation signed by President Trump on March 27, the use of funds “are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19).” The guidance document ([here](#)) and frequently asked questions ([here](#)) provide, in detail, examples of eligible and ineligible expenditures of the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund. You can find additional information about Assistance to State and local governments [here](#).
- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again:** On Thursday, April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled [new guidelines](#) ([download here](#)) for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The guidelines also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country.
- **Coronavirus Guidelines for America:** On Tuesday, March 31, the White House announced updated [Coronavirus Guidelines for America \(Español\)](#), extending social distancing efforts through April 30. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings *in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain* (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies, particularly in areas of significant community-based transmission. On April 8, CDC also provided [guidelines](#) regarding when people in critical infrastructure roles can return to work after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Additional information on critical infrastructure below.
- **Up-To-Date Information:** The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – www.coronavirus.gov. The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live [here](#).

- **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Primer:** Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. It is important that requests for assistance, including for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. Learn more about the response and recovery process via this important resource – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Response and Recovery Through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership](#). FEMA’s public assistance guidance for COVID-19 response efforts can be found [here](#). Guidance for Tribal Governments can be found [here](#).
- **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidelines:** On March 16th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued updated [critical infrastructure guidance](#) in response to the COVID-19 emergency. DHS continues to work with stakeholders in the critical infrastructure community to update the advisory list if necessary as the Nation’s response to COVID-19 evolves. The guidance, and accompanying list, is intended to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is advisory in nature and is not a federal directive or standard.
- **Rural Resource Guide:** USDA and Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses, and communities. USDA developed a [resource guide](#) for State, Local, and Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders.
- **Coronavirus Fact vs. Myth:** Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. FEMA setup a [website](#) to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Fraud & Scam Protection:** The Department of Justice is remaining vigilant in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wrongdoing related to the crisis. Find out how you can protect yourself and helpful resources on DOJ’s Coronavirus Fraud Prevention [website](#). The Federal Trade Commission has also established a [website](#) with helpful information to help consumers avoid coronavirus-related scams.
- **Social Media Resources:** Download the [Apple COVID-19 Screening Tool](#). Follow the White House on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Also follow HHS ([Twitter](#)) and CDC ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) You can also find informational videos from Coronavirus Task Force members on mitigation, social distancing, etc. on the White House’s [YouTube](#) page.
- **Mental Health Resources:** Natural disasters – including such pandemics as the coronavirus outbreak – can be overwhelming and also can seriously affect emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) – provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. Learn more about the Disaster Distress Helpline [here](#).
- **Addiction & Substance Abuse Resources:** The COVID-19 pandemic has created countless challenges for those delivering care to our most vulnerable populations. People with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) are especially at high risk suffering complications from COVID-19. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which leads and coordinates the development, implementation, and assessment of U.S. drug policy, released a [fact sheet](#) that contains information on Federal actions to expand telemedicine and e-prescribing, to increase flexibility for treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, to improve access to prescribed controlled substances, and to expand assistance to rural areas.
- **Administration Actions and Federal Agency Resources:** USA.gov is cataloging all U.S. government activities related to coronavirus. From actions on health and safety to travel, immigration, and transportation to education, find pertinent actions [here](#). Each Federal Agency has also established a dedicated coronavirus website, where you can find important information and guidance. They include: Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)), Food and Drug Administration ([FDA](#)), Department of Education ([DoED](#)), Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)), Small Business Administration ([SBA](#)), Department of Labor ([DOL](#)), Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)), Department of State ([DOS](#)), Department of Veterans Affairs ([VA](#)), Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)), Department of Energy ([DOE](#)), Department of Commerce ([DOC](#)), Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)), Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)), Department of the Treasury ([USDT](#)), Internal Revenue Service ([IRS](#)), Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([ODNI](#)), and U.S. Election Assistance Commission ([EAC](#)).

Best,

Bethany

Bethany Swonson
Executive Director
Florida Education Foundation
Deputy Chief of Staff

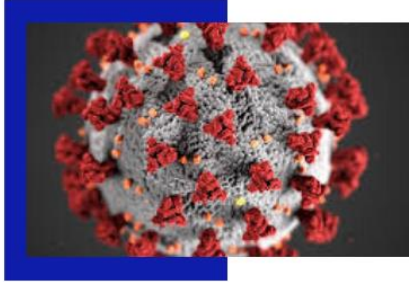
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April 30, 2020

Members,

Governor DeSantis's office has released a number of resources on ReOpening Florida:

[Re-Open Florida Task Force final report](#)

[Executive Order 20-111](#) (Limited Extension of Essential Services and Activities and Vacation Rental Prohibition)

[Executive Order 20-112](#) (Phase 1: Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery)

[FAQ's for EO 20-112](#)

Slides from presser 4.29 on [Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery](#)

[Extended Support to Floridians Participating in SNAP and TANF](#) press release

American Assoc of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Educator Prep Laboratory

webinar on [How Educator Prep Programs are Adapting During COVID-19](#)

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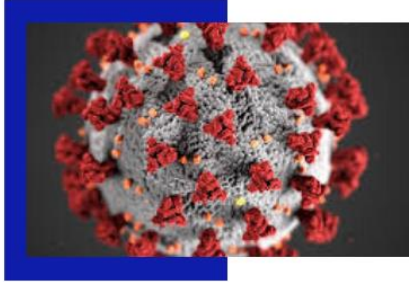
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May 1, 2020

Members,

ICYMI

[Recording of this morning's FRIDAY Live weekly member call](#) with guests from the Florida School Finance Officers Association.

[Monday, May 4 DEP will implement Phase 1 to reopen Florida's State Parks.](#)

CDC NEW/Updated guidance for COVID-19

[Reopening Guidance for cleaning and disinfecting public spaces, workplaces, businesses, school, and homes](#)

[Keeping Children Healthy While School's Out](#)

The Florida Department of Education wants to know what you think about getting schools reopened. [Here's the survey.](#)

[Labor and Employment Law alert](#), May 1 COVID-19 version

Several resources were released this week focused on restarting and reopening schools, children's' health and mental health

- CDC - [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)
- CDC – [Keeping Children Healthy While School's Out](#)
- CCSSO – [Phase 2: Restart and Recovery](#)

ICYMI: Governor DeSantis's office has released a number of resources on ReOpening Florida this week

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[Executive Order 20-111](#) (Limited Extension of Essential Services and Activities and Vacation Rental Prohibition)

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