

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE**

**Senator Burgess, Chair
Senator Bracy, Vice Chair**

MEETING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2021
TIME: 12:00 noon—2:00 p.m.
PLACE: *Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Burgess, Chair; Senator Bracy, Vice Chair; Senators Ausley, Book, Bradley, Brandes, Brodeur, Harrell, Perry, and Pizzo

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
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PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL BE RECEIVED FROM ROOM A3 AT THE DONALD L. TUCKER CIVIC CENTER, 505 W PENSACOLA STREET, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

1 Presentation by the Florida Department of Education

Other Related Meeting Documents



Florida's Response and Recovery for Education

Closing Achievement Gaps and
Creating Safe Spaces for Learning



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Response and Recovery from Educational Perspectives

Theory of Action

1. Presume the reopening of school campuses, safely.
2. Open schools with a moral purpose – closing achievement gaps.
3. Florida can only hit its economic stride if schools are open.
4. To ensure safety, take a “dimmer switch” (step-by-step) approach rather than flip the light switch approach.

Guiding Principles Since Inception of COVID-19

Initial Response

1. Urgently transition Florida's schools to distance learning to give Florida's students the greatest access to the best education possible.
2. When confronting any difficult decision, always show compassion and grace.

Recovery

1. Prepare our schools and programs to reopen safely and ready for success.
2. Eliminate achievement gaps, which have likely been exacerbated by this crisis.



Profile of Florida's Students

- 72% count on schools for at least 1, often 2, meals daily
- 64% minority: 34.9% Hispanic; 21.5% Black/African American
- 63% economically disadvantaged
- 63% of Americans cannot telework
- 15% have special needs (disabilities)
- 10% are English Language Learners (ELLs)
- 1% homeless

Prolonged School Closures Have Disproportionate Impacts

- Poor and Marginalized
- Summer-Slide
- Increases Stress on Health Care and First Responders
- Abuse in the Home
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Crises
- Disruption for Families
- Food Supply Chain Broken
- Low-income and rural communities without reliable technology and Internet access

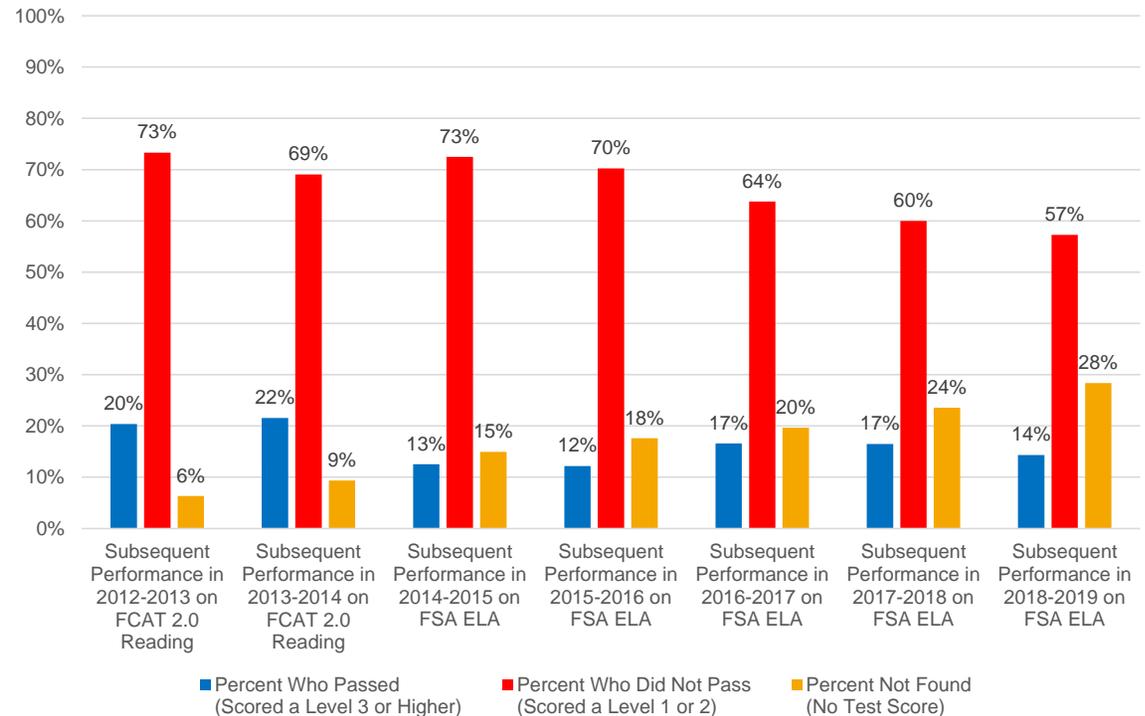
Schools are Inherently Connected to Florida's Economy and Social Service Sectors

- “Losing one month of learning may prevent students from meeting grade level knowledge and skill expectations.”
- Despite Florida being heralded for its pivot to distance learning, distance learning still leaves massive gaps for most students and is a second class education.
- “Nearly two-thirds of employed parents of minor children in Florida say that school closures and/or lack of childcare...hurt their ability to fully perform their job responsibilities during the pandemic.”
- The impacts of prolonged closures are also disproportionately felt by working mothers, particularly in low-income households.
- The majority of Americans worried about losing their jobs and many realized the need for upskilling to reduce their economic fragility.

If We Lose a Child by Grade 3, We Often Lose Them for Life

☐ **ONLY 14%** of third graders, who scored a Level 1 or 2 on the state reading test, scored a Level 3 or higher as tenth graders.

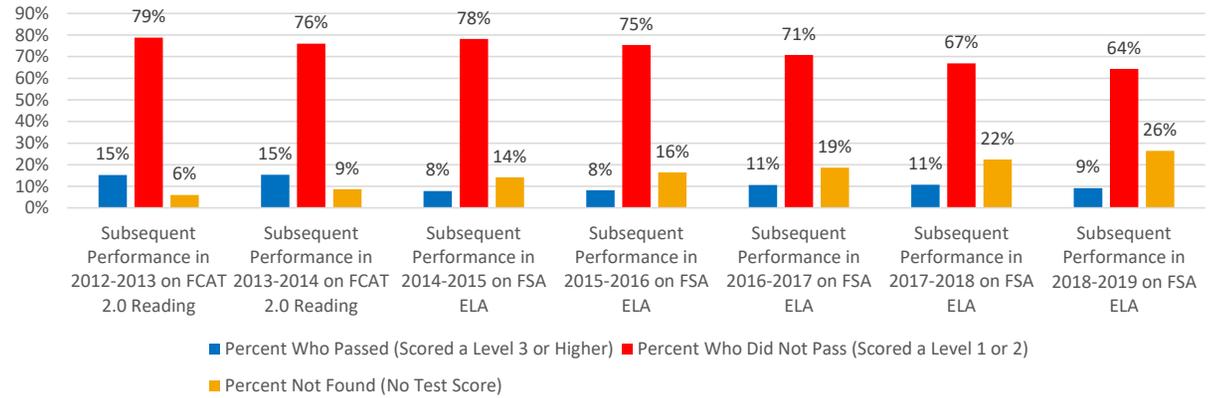
Subsequent Performance of Students Who Scored a Level 1 or Level 2 on the Reading Assessment in Grade 3 in 2011-2012



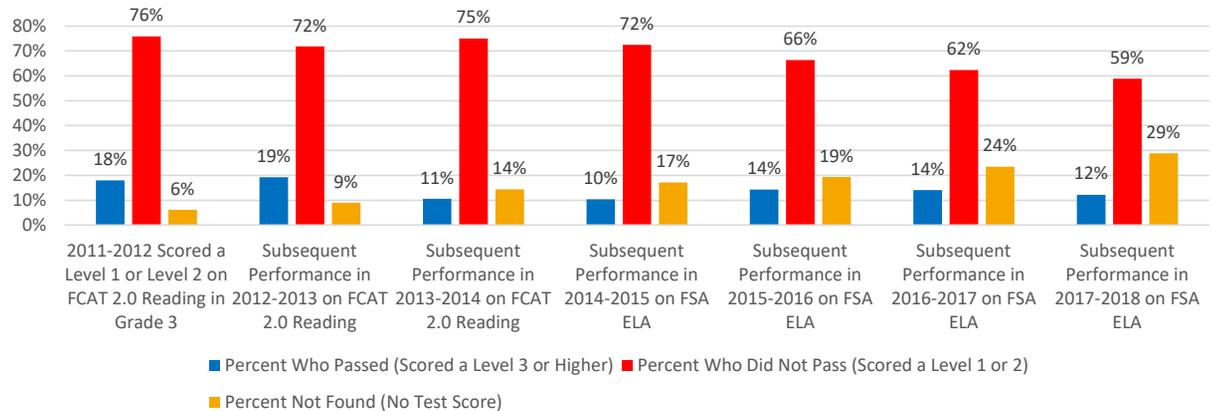
If We Lose a Child by Grade 3, We Often Lose Them for Life

□ And, The numbers are even more alarming for African-American (9%) and low-income (12%) students.

Subsequent Performance of African American Students Who Scored a Level 1 or Level 2 on the Reading Assessment in Third Grade in 2011-2012



Subsequent Performance of FRL Students Who Scored a Level 1 or Level 2 on the Reading Assessment in Third Grade in 2011-2012



State Colleges & Technical Colleges Help Supply the Talent Pipeline for Essential Services

- ❑ 24 of Florida's 28 state colleges and 7 of Florida's 48 technical colleges host law enforcement academies.
- ❑ In 2018-19, the Florida College System (FCS) had 14,984 enrollments and 7,361 completions in first responder programs (law enforcement, fire fighters, fire officers, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians).
- ❑ During the 2019-2020 school year, the state's technical colleges enrolled nearly 5,000 students, and on average graduate 3,000 annually, who chose to dedicate their careers to public service and first-responder-related programs (emergency medical responder/technician, paramedic, fire fighter, nursing, and law enforcement officer).

Major Milestones

Governor's Executive Orders

- ❑ 2020-52 (Mar. 9): Overarching order declaring the state of emergency, designating the State Coordinating Officer, etc.
- ❑ 2020-212 (Sep. 1): Bright Futures
- ❑ 2020-214 (Sep. 4): Palm Beach Phase 2
- ❑ 2020-223 (Sep. 11): Miami-Dade and Broward Phase 2

Commissioner's Emergency Order

- ❑ 2020-01 (Mar. 23): Campus Closures, Funding Flexibilities, Accountability, K-12 Scholarship Students, Teachers, Early Learning, CTE, VR, Blind Services, etc.
- ❑ 2020-02 (May 13): Supports for Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, Literacy, Instructional Materials, Teachers, Early Learning, CTE, VR, Blind Services, etc.
- ❑ 2020-03 (May 19): Teacher Certification Test Fees Waivers for 60,000 Teachers
- ❑ 2020-04 (Jun. 11): Summer VPK
- ❑ 2020-05 (Jun. 11): Bright Futures
- ❑ 2020-06 (Jul. 6): Fall 2020 Semester for K-12
- ❑ 2020-07 (Nov. 30): Spring 2021 Semester for K-12



June 11, 2020: Reopening and CARES Act Plan July 6 and November 30, 2020: EO-06 and EO-07



Reopening Florida's Schools and the CARES Act

Closing Achievement Gaps and Creating Safe Spaces for Learning



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EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020-EO-07

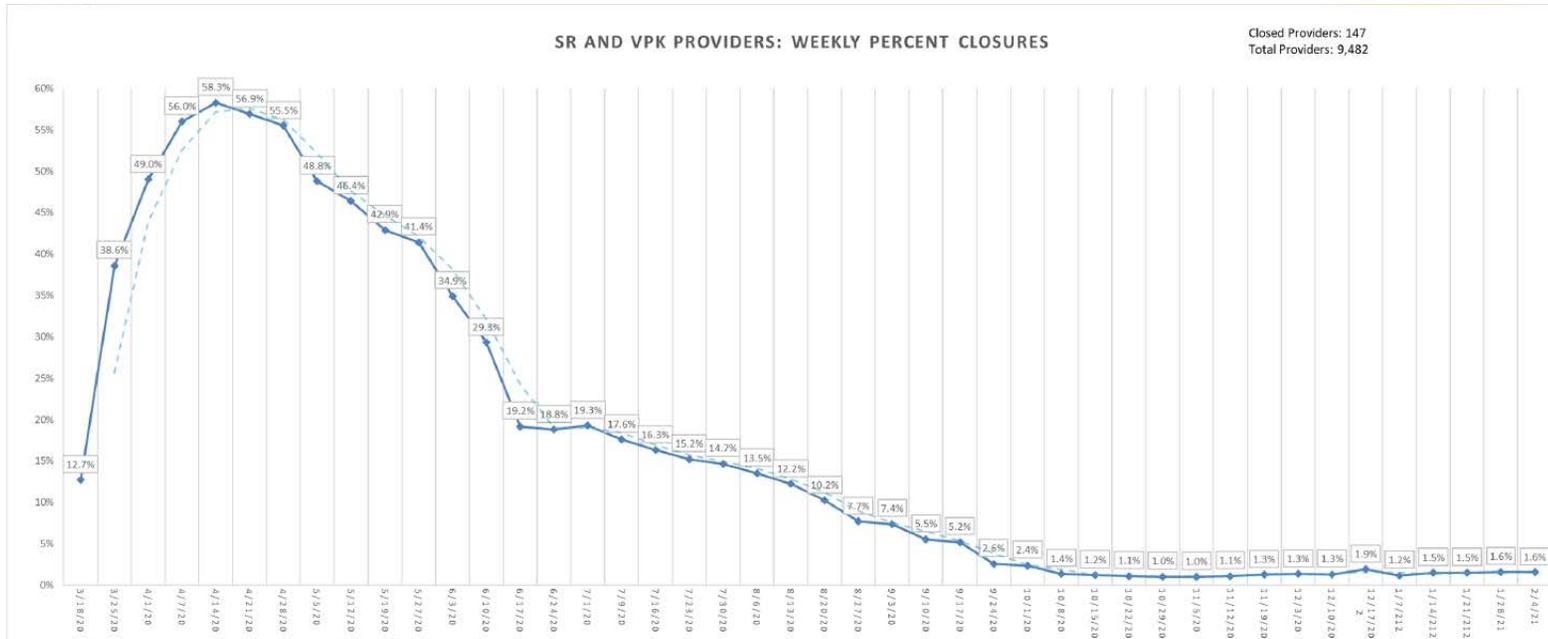
<i>What stays the same?</i>	<i>Spring 2021 Improvements:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continues full parental choice. While in-person education is steadily increasing, some families will still need flexibility for the spring semester due to medical vulnerabilities. ✓ Continues financial flexibility and stability for school districts and charter schools. ✓ Continues flexibilities for state scholarship students at private schools. ✓ Continues guarantee of full panoply of services for at-risk students. ✓ Continues requirement to progress monitor students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requires educational interventions for students who may be falling behind, especially Florida's most vulnerable students. ✓ Rewards school districts and public charter schools that have exceeded their projected enrollment. <p>FOLLOWS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (FADSS) AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS' FINANCE OFFICERS.</p>



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April 2020: 58.3% of SR and VPK Providers were Closed

February 2021: Only 1.6% of SR and VPK Providers are Closed



CARES Act

The Four Education Related Categories of CARES Act Funding

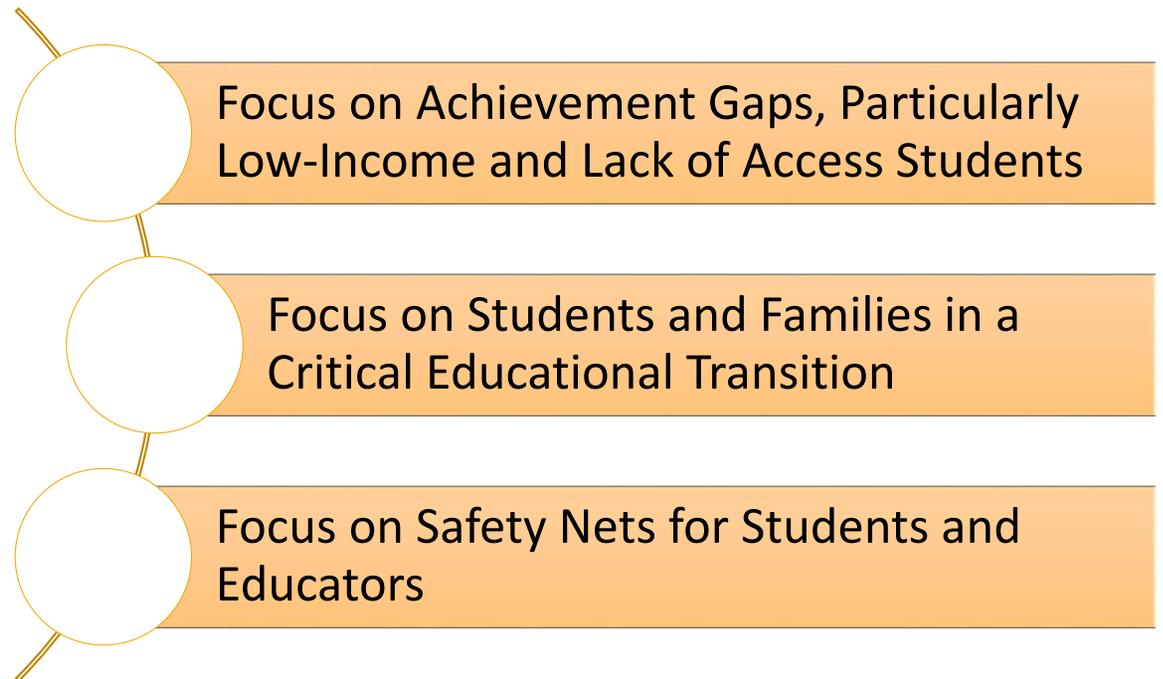
Three Discretionary Funds:

- Governor's Fund
- FDOE's portion (10%) of the K-12 Fund
- Child Care Fund

Governor's Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$173,585,880
K-12 Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$770,247,851 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Education Agencies receive at least 90% (\$693,223,066) • FDOE can utilize up to 10% (\$77,024,785)
Higher Education Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$873,880,451 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 State Colleges (\$285,971,411) • 12 State Universities (\$286,360,179) • Private Colleges and Universities (\$274,667,876) • 48 State Technical Colleges (\$26,880,985)
Child Care Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$223,605,188

Focused Flexible CARES Act Funding on Students Represented in Achievement Gaps

- ❑ By the very nature of achievement gaps and the impacts of poverty, the priority spending will focus on earlier grades, where the educational risk for students and the return on early supports are both at their greatest.



CARES Act

Supporting Early Learning

- ❑ Emergency Child Care Relief Grants \$52.8 Million – Phase I
- ❑ High-Quality Reopening Support Grants \$19.1 Million – Phase II
- ❑ Support for Reopening Contracted School Readiness and VPK Providers \$16.9 Million – Phase III
- ❑ Support for Contracted and Non-Contracted Providers \$19.8 Million – Phase IV
- ❑ First Responders/Health Care Workers \$90.8 Million
- ❑ Non-CARES Act Supports – mini-grants, cleaning and sanitation, waived School Readiness copayments, reimbursed based on enrollment rather than attendance, mental health staff, high quality curriculum
 - ❑ \$153 Million in Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF)
 - ❑ \$84.4 Million in General Revenue (GR)
 - ❑ \$5.2 Million in Preschool Development Grants Funds (PDG)



CARES Act

Supporting Progress to 90% Literacy

- Upskill Highly Effective Reading Coaches \$5 Million
- Capacity Building for Reading \$5 Million
- Ensuring High Quality Regional Reading Supports \$5 Million
- Ensuring the B.E.S.T. Curriculum for Reading \$20 Million



CARES Act

Progress Monitoring and Data Informed Supports

- ❑ VPK Progress Monitoring \$2.9 Million
- ❑ Data Scientists \$6 Million: Provided LEAs with a data science budget.
- ❑ Progress Monitoring to Inform Teaching Practices \$10 Million:
 - ❑ Contracted to create a screening and progress monitoring assessment, aligned to the state test, for voluntary use by LEAs and charter networks. 35 districts are using this tool and have administered over 221,000 tests to over 135,000 students.
 - ❑ Additionally contracted with a single vendor to acquire the data directly from the districts' and charters' progress monitoring vendors (e.g., Renaissance Learning, I-Ready, NWEA, etc.) to data aggregation, analysis and feedback.
- ❑ Data Modernization Tools \$4 Million: Contracted for a modernized cloud based statewide data collection and student information system with the ability to serve all school districts and public charter schools, Pre-K through 12th grade, for the purposes of data collection, longitudinal analysis and progress monitoring and also all state and federal funding accountability and reporting requirements.

CARES Act

Supporting Students' Key Transitions and Challenges

- Successful Transition to Kindergarten \$14 Million
- Summer Recovery and Continued Interventions \$64 Million
- Urban League Supports for Students Literacy and Adult Upskilling \$1 Million
- Civic Literacy \$5 Million
- Free SAT & ACT \$8 Million
- Telehealth \$2 Million
- Instructional Continuity Plans \$8 Million



CARES Act

Upskilling Florida for Recovery and Long-Term Success

- ❑ Rapid Credentials \$35 Million
- ❑ Career and Technical Education (CTE) Equipment \$10.9 Million
- ❑ Workforce Education Analytics Tool \$2.5 Million

CARES Act Safety Nets

- Private School Stabilization Grants \$15 Million
- Virtual Safety Net \$5 Million
- Teacher Training on Virtual Learning Management Systems \$250,000

Florida DOE's Technical Support, Guidance and Partnerships

Technical Support and Guidance

- ❑ Throughout 2020, hosted over 75 live webinars for early learning through postsecondary to ensure Florida's education stakeholders were prepared to help students continue receiving a world-class education.
- ❑ Helped transition all school districts to distance learning during the Spring 2020 semester.
- ❑ Provided Florida teachers a free fee waiver for teacher certifications that resulted in almost 125,000 free teacher certification exams for approximately 60,000 teachers, saving stakeholders more than \$16 million to ease the financial and professional stress on Florida's teachers.
- ❑ Chancellor of the K-12 Division of Public Schools at Florida Department of Education worked tirelessly as a member of the Florida State High School Athletic Association (FSHAA) Board to ensure sports could and would continue in the fall and spring of 2020 as Florida school districts reopened.



Technical Support and Guidance

- ❑ The Florida College System (FCS), State University System (SUS), and private institutions across the state announced more than 130 ventilators have been donated to local hospitals, community medical centers and other facilities. Additionally the FCS, SUS and other private institutions donated, tens of thousands of boxes containing gloves, masks – including N95 masks – gowns, caps, shoe slippers and other PPE supplies to assist medical personnel as they care for patients, and food pantries and other social services available for students.
- ❑ Supported the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to distribute Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) for households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures.
- ❑ Ensured that Florida’s abuse hotline was readily available to students, parents, and educators by getting FLVS and all Florida school districts to place and promote the hotline number in prominent locations on their district web pages and distance learning pages.
- ❑ Created the #COVIDStopsWithMe Toolkit designed to assist Florida’s education family in lowering the impact in Florida’s education institutions and slowing the spread of COVID-19. This guidance and tools helped all of Florida’s education institutions make decisions, protect their students and staff, and communicate with their local communities.

Technical Support and Guidance

- ❑ Provided comprehensive distance learning resources in partnership with Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to ensure students continue learning while school campuses were closed and created best practices for distance learning throughout the state which was shared directly with more than 2+ million parents, and a complete best practices guide for distance learning, which we shared with 175,000+ teachers.
- ❑ Additionally, FLVS provided 100 free digital course to all Florida schools and offered teacher training to prepare for online learning environments in the event of school closures, with a \$200 stipend to teachers who completed the training.
- ❑ Provided more than 32,000 laptops to 34 small and rural school districts to quickly serve Florida's students as they transitioned to distance learning.
- ❑ Partnered with the Florida Department of Children and Families to provide nearly 1,000 devices to Florida children in foster care who are in need of a mobile technology device, such as laptop or notebook to help address the unique challenges to educational stability.
- ❑ The Florida Education Foundation Awarded \$300,000 in Distance Learning Mini-grants to 44 public schools, school districts and non-profit organizations to support and create innovative solutions for distance learning during the spring and summer semesters.
- ❑ Announced a partnership with T-Mobile's Project 10 Million to provide 100GB of internet to over 600,000 Florida families over the next 5 years.

Closing Out the 2020-2021 School Year

Maintaining Accountability Essential to Closing Achievement Gaps and Students' Growth

- ❑ Nearly 900,000 assessments have been safely administered, statewide, since summer of 2020.
- ❑ In this year of recovery, when all Florida schools are closely measuring the progress of their students, accountability ensures equity and directly informs curriculum and instruction for Florida's millions of at-risk students:
 - ❑ The results of assessments help identify students who need specialized supports.
 - ❑ The results also determine when students elevate out of specialized supports and return to fully inclusive instruction with their peers.
 - ❑ The results also help teachers modify instructional delivery to support students' individual needs and unique growth goals.
- ❑ Florida DOE has already supported districts and schools in their successful efforts thus far to provide safe and secure environments for administering assessments to students:
 - ❑ The Fall 2020 FSA and NGSSS EOC testing window was extended by seven weeks.
 - ❑ The Fall 2020 ELA Retake testing window was extended by 11 weeks.
 - ❑ The Winter 2020 FSA and NGSSS EOC testing window was extended by four weeks.
 - ❑ The Spring 2021 FSA Algebra 1 EOC and ELA Retake testing window was extended by seven weeks.
 - ❑ The ACCESS for ELLs testing window was extended by 10 weeks.

Maintaining Florida's Momentum

Commissioner's 2/12/21 statement regarding new guidance for schools from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- ❑ “Since Summer 2020, Florida school districts, superintendents, public charter schools, private schools, educators, students and families have worked hard and have done an incredible job ensuring Florida students can continue to receive a world class education in-person, every day. CDC guidance is informative, although Florida school districts, public charter schools and private schools should stay the course they began in Summer 2020. The science has been clear since August, and subsequent studies and data since then show that schools are safe to reopen.
- ❑ “Unlike much of the nation, Florida's schools have been operating safely for in-person instruction since last August, many also operated summer education programs, and 98.4% of early learning programs are serving families in-person. Most of Florida's state colleges and technical colleges never fully stopped in-person instruction because of the essential pipeline they supply for Florida's recovery-related workforce professions.
- ❑ “As Commissioner, I want to be particularly clear that all K-12 school districts and public charter schools should proceed with their Spring 2021 plans that were built on their successful fall 2020 reopening plans, continue to follow the Florida re-opening guidance and feel secure in the financial and educational modality flexibilities assured to them through both DOE emergency orders 06 and 07. Be reminded that the financial flexibilities afforded by the state are contingent on adhering with the requirements of emergency orders 06 and 07.
- ❑ “Through the pandemic, Governor DeSantis has shown great leadership when making decisions, consistently utilizing science and data. Our district and school leaders have been thoughtful and diligent in safely reopening Florida schools and every district and school has long since reopened to serve our students and have continued to implement best practices for safe and healthy schools while continuing to close achievement gaps, likely exacerbated by school closures.”

Looking Forward

Students' Enrollment and Participation

- ❑ From August 2020 to February 2021, VPK enrollment increased from 50% to 75% of 2019-2020 enrollment.
- ❑ From September 2020 to November 2020, K-12 in-person learning increased from 54% to 65%.
- ❑ A net 87K public K-11 students who were expected to but did not enroll; 57K of whose parents/guardians also did not indicate where they transitioned to.
- ❑ A disproportionate percentage of educationally disadvantaged K-12 students are utilizing distance learning.
- ❑ EO-07 required districts and schools to transition students back to in-person learning if they were not on track to meet a year's worth of learning in a year's time, unless the parents choose for a student to remain at home.
- ❑ While Florida's State Colleges and Technical Colleges have seen small enrollment declines, they are much smaller than the national average and dual enrollment is increasing steadily.
- ❑ Bright Futures eligibility data is being carefully tracked.

K-12 Districts and Schools' Increased Costs for Routine Activities

- Transportation
- Teaching Workforce
- Food Services
- Progress Monitoring and Interventions
- Technology
- Curriculum
- Utilities
- Custodial
- Unemployment Claims
- Revenue Declines

Governor's 2021-2022 Florida Leads Education Budget Recommendations

Separate and Apart from the CARES Act, the Florida Leads 2021-2022 Budget Includes Critical Supports for Recovery

- Maintains 2020's significant increase to VPK Base Student Allocation
- \$100 Million in federal budget authority for Early Learning Coalitions to increase School Readiness provider rates
- Maintains \$10 Million for T.E.A.C.H. and \$3.9 Million for HIPPIY, critical early learning supports
- \$132/student increase to the K-12 Base Student Allocation
- \$10 Million increase, for a total of \$110 Million, to the K-12 Mental Health Allocation and maintains \$5.5 Million for Youth Mental Health Awareness Training
- \$50 Million increase, for a total of \$550 Million, to the K-12 Teacher Salary Allocation
- \$43.5 Million Title 1 School Recognition Program
- Maintains \$10 Million for Computer Science Education teacher professional development
- Maintains all Postsecondary Workforce and Performance Funding programs
- Maintains support for all Postsecondary Financial Aid programs
- Maintains programs for Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services



Questions and Thank You!

J. Alex Kelly, Chief of Staff
Florida Department of Education

Alex.Kelly@fldoe.org



THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

02/15/2021

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic School Reopening, PPE Supplies, Accountability Plans, Missing Students

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Alex Kelly

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State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Department of Education

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

YOU MUST PRINT AND DELIVER THIS FORM TO THE ASSIGNED TESTIMONY ROOM

Duplicate

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

February 15 2021

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Marie-Claire Leman

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Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing

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S-001 (10/14/14)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KN 412

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response Judge:

Started: 2/15/2021 12:02:18 PM

Ends: 2/15/2021 1:50:51 PM

Length: 01:48:34

12:02:17 PM	Sen. Burgess (Chair)
12:05:42 PM	TAB 1 - Presentation by the Florida Department of Education
12:05:53 PM	Alex Kelly, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Education
1:03:49 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:03:59 PM	Sen. Brodeur
1:05:11 PM	A. Kelly
1:08:50 PM	Sen. Brodeur
1:09:07 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:10:19 PM	A. Kelly
1:12:09 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:12:42 PM	A. Kelly
1:13:45 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:14:38 PM	A. Kelly
1:16:33 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:17:27 PM	A. Kelly
1:19:03 PM	Sen. Ausley
1:19:44 PM	A. Kelly
1:19:58 PM	Sen. Ausley
1:20:11 PM	A. Kelly
1:20:56 PM	Sen. Ausley
1:21:34 PM	A. Kelly
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1:24:32 PM	A. Kelly
1:26:36 PM	Sen. Ausley
1:26:48 PM	A. Kelly
1:27:11 PM	Sen. Ausley
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1:30:08 PM	Sen. Ausley
1:30:19 PM	A. Kelly
1:30:40 PM	Sen. Ausley
1:31:21 PM	A. Kelly
1:32:40 PM	Sen. Ausley
1:33:05 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:34:13 PM	A. Kelly
1:35:43 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:36:19 PM	A. Kelly
1:36:58 PM	Sen. Book
1:37:15 PM	A. Kelly
1:37:57 PM	Sen. Book
1:38:22 PM	A. Kelly
1:39:05 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:39:38 PM	A. Kelly
1:42:03 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:42:55 PM	A. Kelly
1:43:53 PM	Marie-Claire Leman, Parent
1:48:03 PM	Sen. Burgess
1:50:01 PM	Sen. Pizzo
1:50:17 PM	Sen. Burgess