
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 26, 2020



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COVID-19 — FLORIDA — 3/23/2020

Florida Legislature. The Florida legislature adjourned session March 20, 2020, after passing a \$93.000 billion budget with a unanimous vote.

Public Health Emergency. On March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis declared a public health emergency in Florida related to COVID-19.

School Closures. School buildings will be closed until at least April 15, 2020, and state-mandated assessments have been canceled. The majority of school districts have extended spring break through March 30, 2020, after which schools are encouraged to operate virtually or through other non-classroom-based means to the greatest extent possible by developing an instructional continuity plan. Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is offering virtual teacher training in using the FLVS online platform for virtual instruction. FLVS is also increasing its server capacity to accommodate up to 400,000 new full-time students by the end of April. To support students with identified Individualized Education Program (IEP)-related services, school districts have been given flexibility for the remainder of the school year to provide alternative services or delay services until later in the summer months, in coordination with a student's parents and IEP team. School districts are being directed to prepare to extend their educational calendars through June 30, 2020, to the extent feasible and necessary.

School Funding. All school readiness programs, voluntary prekindergarten programs, K-12 programs, career and technical education centers, and state college programs will receive their full allocation of 2019-2020 funding. School districts are being allowed to redirect unspent 2019-2020 funds from the Reading Instruction Allocation, the Digital Classroom Allocation, and the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program to help low-income students purchase digital devices and establish internet services.

Additional State Measures. As of March 23, 2020, additional state measures include:

- Closure of all bars and nightclubs through April 15, 2020.
- Activation of a business damage assessment online survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey will evaluate businesses impacted and impacts on the economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin.
- Deferral of closure decisions about beaches and restaurants to local governments.
- Closure of the state's 175 parks by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Direction to state officials to identify facilities that could be used to augment available hospital capacity if needed.

COVID-19 Reported Cases. As of March 23, 2020, there have been 1,096 confirmed cases among Florida residents, 75 cases among non-Florida residents, and 14 deaths.

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