



District Bulletin | December 2020

FDOE Issues Emergency Order Regarding Spring Educational Options

The Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) issued Emergency Order 2020 - EO – 07, which extends online learning and maintains the assurances outlined in [EO-06](#) for the upcoming Spring semester. Students who are doing remote learning will be able to continue their remote learning in the second semester of this school year, if they choose. The new order maintains a parent’s right to choose what educational option best fits the needs of their family, and provides innovative learning options benefiting students, families and school employees. The new order guarantees full services for at-risk students, and progress monitoring for all students. EO-07 requires educational interventions for students who may be at-risk or falling behind, and rewards school districts and charter schools that have exceeded their projected goals. Schools will be required to file intervention plans by Dec. 15 that detail how they will deal with students learning online who are failing courses, and to notify parents if those children are not making educational progress. Public schools will still be required to provide in-person instruction. To view all details of the new order, click [here](#).

NASA Moon Pod Essay Contest

On Sept. 15, 2020, NASA, in partnership with Future Engineers, launched the [Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest](#). The contest, which is open to all (public, private, and home school) students in grades K-12, asks participants to imagine they are leading a one-week expedition to the Moon’s South Pole. In the essay, students will need to describe to NASA what (and who) they would bring to help make their expedition a success. Every student who submits an entry will receive a certificate from NASA and be invited to a special NASA virtual event – with an astronaut! Selected semifinalists will be invited to represent their state or territory in a series of Artemis Explorer sessions with NASA experts. Finalists will travel with a parent to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in 2021 to learn about lunar exploration. The national winner in each grade division will win a family trip Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and watch the most powerful rocket in the world launch. Essays must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM PS on **Dec. 17, 2020**. For more information about the essay contest, including the requirements and who can enter, visit the Moon Pod Essay Contest [website](#).



Know Your Schools~ Online Tool for Florida Families

The KnowYourSchools portal was created in order for families and educators to access information on school and district-level educational outcomes, as well as, provide feedback. Based on that feedback, the FDOE announced improvements to the KnowYourSchools portal in August 2019 and now October 2020, providing more information and making the site more user-friendly. Florida's KnowYourSchools portal brings educational data to Floridians that is both informative to families and beneficial for educators and school leaders, allowing users to search for schools by zip code, school name or city; view state, district and school report cards; in-depth school-specific reports on enrollment, per-pupil expenditures, race/ethnicity, gender, and more. The department will continue to develop new enhancements that will help families and communities stay informed about their schools. The KnowYourSchools portal can be accessed at <http://www.knowyourschoolsfl.org>.

Student Scholarship Programs

There are two Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO)s that are approved to administer five scholarship programs for Florida's schoolchildren:

- The **Florida Tax Credit (FTC)** and **Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES)** for children K-12 from low-income families.
- The **Gardiner Scholarship** for children ages 3-22 who have certain special needs.
- The **Hope Scholarship** for children K-12 who are victims of bullying.
- The **Reading Scholarship Accounts** for public school students in grades three through five who struggle with reading.

Please contact each SFO to learn more, and apply! *Program funds are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis*

A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation- FL, LLC

P.O. Box 15719

Tampa, FL 33684

Phone/Fax: 888-707-2465

Email: info@aaascholarships.org

<https://www.aaascholarships.org/>

-Gardiner and FTC

Step Up For Students

P.O. Box 54367

Jacksonville, FL 32245-4367

Phone: 877-735-7837

Email: info@stepupforstudents.org

<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/>

-Gardiner, Hope, Reading, FTC and FES



District Contact Information

As we reach the end of this year, please take a moment to check the district contact list information listed for your district on the School Choice website. You may edit or update the information by logging on to your district page. Should you need additional assistance, please contact our office.

Additional Resources:

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Calendar](#)

[McKay Deadlines](#)

[District Time Table](#)

Happy Holidays!!