



THE PERRY POST

Senator Keith Perry
FL District 9

June, 2023



District 9

Friends,

Though we have adjourned from Regular Session, my office is working hard serving the residents of District 9. If you need assistance or have any input regarding legislation, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office. Your feedback is a critical part of the decisions I make and helps me be better represent the values of North Central Florida.

Sincerely,



ICYMI

In Case You Missed It



Senator Perry Passes The Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program



Photo use courtesy of Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis

Senator Perry established The Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program in 2017 implementing comprehensive music education programs in kindergarten through second grade. Pilot program schools were selected based on their proximity to the University of Florida and Florida International University and the universities were required to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program. After strong results, Senator Perry successfully passed a bill establishing the program as a permanent, state-wide grant.

“The data is overwhelming and shows that integrating music into an academic curriculum improves classroom engagement, language development, brain development and fine motor skills, and I am proud to continue Florida's efforts in building a strong foundation for our K-12 students.” said Senator Perry.

Eligible schools will receive \$150 per student who is enrolled in a comprehensive music education program. Schools must meet the following criteria to be program eligible:

- Includes all students enrolled at the school in kindergarten through second grade
- Is staffed by certified music educators
- Provides music instruction for at least 30 consecutive minutes two days a week
- Complies with class size requirements under the law
- Complies with the Department of Education’s standards for early childhood music education programs for students in kindergarten through second grade

To learn more, click [here](#).

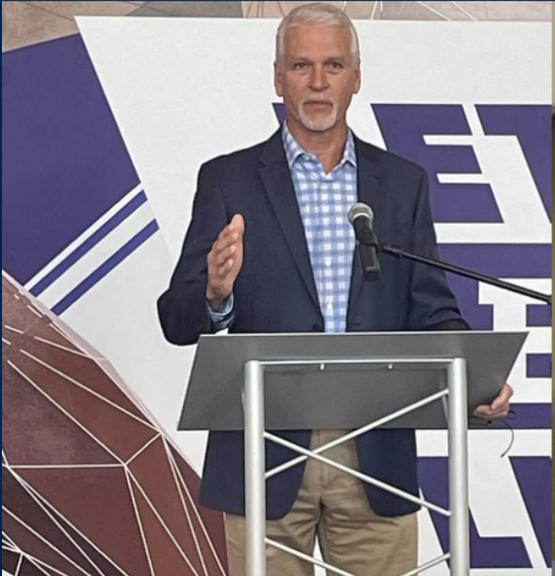




DISTRICT NEWS



Senator Perry Attends Ribbon Cutting of the New Alachua County Sports & Events center



Arena South

It was an honor to attend the ribbon-cutting of the Alachua County sports and events center at Celebration Pointe.

The 144,000 sq. ft. Alachua County Sports & Events Center was made possible by a public-private partnership between Alachua County and Celebration Pointe Developer, Viking Companies, LLC. Project funding came from Alachua County's \$30 million in Tourist Development Taxes (paid by visitors to the County), Viking's \$3 million, and the State of Florida's \$2.32 million.

The venue can accommodate 10 basketball courts, 18 volleyball courts, 21 pickle ball courts, and six batting tunnels. There is also a portable indoor track system with a six lane, 200 m track. The center area of the venue provides an eight-lane sprint straight away and there are spaces for triple jump and pole vaulting.

This center will bring in many sports organizations, teams and clubs, as well as add to the local economy in Gainesville and Alachua County.



Senator Perry Joins in the Unveiling of UF Health Shands Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit



I recently had the honor of joining UF in their unveiling event for UF Health Shands Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit. It is a unique, custom-designed ambulance equipped with a portable CT scanner, telemedicine equipment and medication to respond to and treat stroke victims quickly to reduce the risk of death or disability from a stroke.

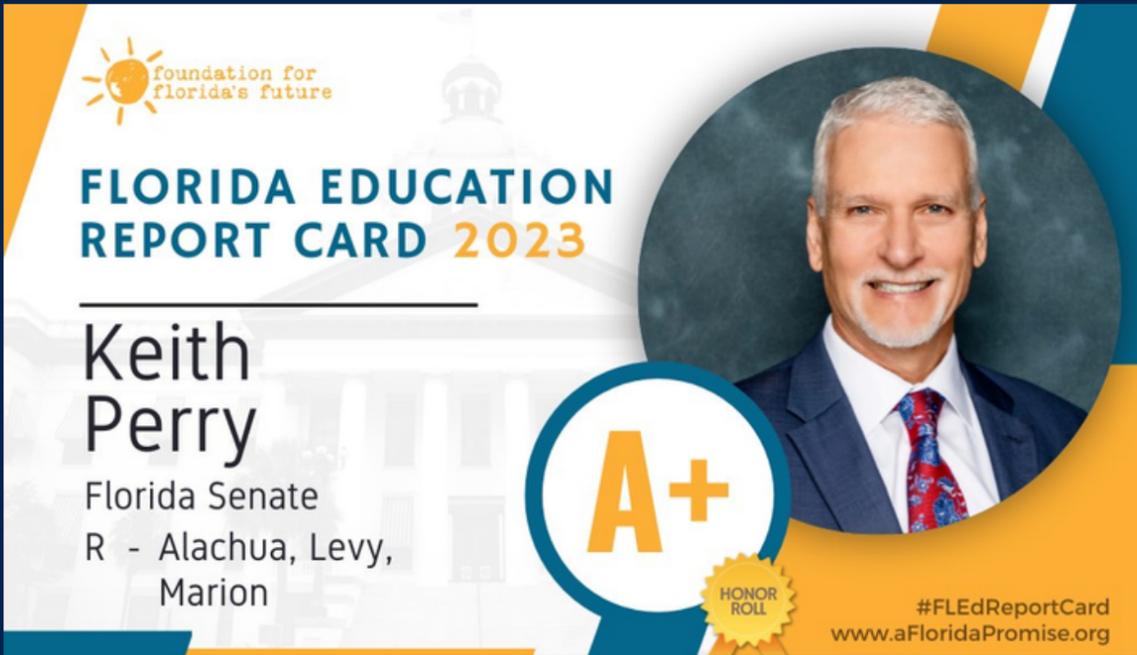
The MSTU will deploy with Fire Rescue to assess and treat individuals with stroke symptoms. Bringing this advanced technology to the field will increase survivability for victims. Mobile teams will include a stroke-trained nurse, a CT technician, an EMT driver as well as a stroke neurologist (when available).

The first unit will be in Alachua due to a generous anonymous \$1.5 million commitment followed by a donation of \$1 million from UF Health. The Villages Hospital Auxiliary Foundation donated to support a second unit.





Senator Perry Receives Recognition from the Foundation for Florida's Future



It's an honor to be recognized with an A+ rating by the Foundation for Florida's Future.

Florida's leading the way in school choice and supporting student-centered legislation to benefit our children for generations, and as Chair of the Senate Education Appropriations Committee, our work during the 2023 legislative session will make sure students come first in Florida.

The Foundation for Florida's Future Annual Report Card recognizes policymakers who took bold action this 2023 legislative session to pass student-centered legislation that will change lives.

By grading lawmakers on a scale of A-F, just like students and schools, Florida's Education Report Card gives the public a clear and comprehensive assessment of who is keeping the promise of a quality education in the Sunshine State.

To learn more, visit: <https://afloridapromise.org/education-report-card/>



Governor Ron DeSantis signs Framework for Freedom Budget



Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Framework for Freedom Budget for Fiscal Year 2023–24. The Framework for Freedom Budget includes a record \$2.7 billion tax relief package to help Florida families during a time of high inflation caused by reckless federal spending. Additionally, the Governor highlighted record investments in Florida's environment and natural resources, which are a cornerstone of Florida's thriving economy, including a record \$1.6 billion investment in Everglades restoration and water quality projects. The Governor championed and secured the Debt Reduction Program that will immediately reduce Florida's debt by approximately \$400 million, saving an estimated \$31 million and accelerating debt reduction while Washington, D.C. continues to grow the national debt.

- **The Framework for Freedom Budget totals \$116.5 billion for the people of Florida.**
- **Florida maintains healthy reserves at the end of the fiscal year, totaling more than \$15.3 billion.**
- **Florida has maintained record levels of reserves while continuing to make historic investments in education, public safety, infrastructure, and the environment.**
- **To maintain Florida's sound fiscal standing in the face of continued economic headwinds due to ill-conceived federal policies, Governor DeSantis vetoed \$510.9 million.**

For budget highlights, [click here](#).





Framework for Freedom Budget strengthens disaster preparedness, recovery, and resiliency in 2023-2024

the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) highlighted Governor DeSantis' and the Florida Legislature's investment in strengthening preparedness, recovery, and resiliency through the signing of the 2023-2024 budget. The 2023-2024 budget expands the Division's response and recovery capabilities for future disaster responses while also supporting FDEM operations for non-declared disasters.



“Governor Ron DeSantis continues to prove his commitment to building a more prepared and resilient Florida,” said FDEM Director Kevin Guthrie. “I want to also thank the Florida Legislature for supporting our vision of maintaining the Division's position as a national leader in the field of emergency management.”

Key highlights from the FY 2023-2024 budget include:

- \$500 million for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund to ensure funds are available for any unforeseen disaster impacting Florida.
- \$2.1 billion in federal and state funding so that communities and the state can respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies as well as mitigate against future disasters or emergencies.
- \$3 million to streamline the FDEM's grant management system and support expedited preparedness, recovery, and mitigation funding to Florida's communities.
- \$2.5 million to expand access to the Division's emergency mission management system and enhance FDEM's resource management effectiveness and ability to serve communities during a disaster.
- \$11 million to implement the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act and establish a revolving loan program for local communities.
- \$500,000 to support FDEM's operations for Non-declared Disaster responses.
- \$350 million for the Hurricane Ian and Nicole Recovery Grant Program to support communities impacted during the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season.
- \$5 million to help clean up Sargassum seaweed along the ocean side of the Florida Keys and the east coast of Florida.



Governor Ron DeSantis Highlights Largest Tax Relief Plan in Florida's History



Governor Ron DeSantis signed the largest tax relief plan in Florida's history, providing Florida families with \$2.7 billion in tax relief during the 2023–2024 fiscal year. The tax relief package includes a permanent exemption for baby and toddler necessities such as strollers, cribs, diapers, and baby wipes. Additionally, the tax relief package includes two back-to-school sales tax holidays lasting 14 days each, two disaster preparedness sales tax holidays lasting 14 days each, and a freedom summer sales tax holiday on recreational items and children's toys that will last from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Sales tax holidays included in the tax relief package for the 2023–2024 fiscal year:

- Back-to-School sales tax holidays will take place July 24 – August 6, 2023, and January 1 – January 14, 2024
- Disaster Preparedness sales tax holidays will take place May 27 – June 9, 2023, and August 26 – September 8, 2023
- The Freedom Summer sales tax holiday lasts from Memorial Day through Labor Day of this year
- The Tools and Equipment sales tax holiday will take place from September 2 – September 8, 2023

More on the tax relief can be found [here](#).

