



Good Morning!

The start of the school year will look very different than any of us have ever experienced before. Many schools, including Brevard and Indian River County School Districts, will be providing in-person instruction this fall, as well as distance learning options. However your family chooses to participate in school this year, you can enjoy savings on necessary school supplies during the Back To School Sales Tax Holiday.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature approved the tax free holiday for Friday, August 7th through Sunday, August 9th. The following items qualify for the savings:

- Clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item.
- Certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item.
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories selling for \$1,000 or less per item, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use.

For more information on this sales tax holiday and specific items that qualify, please visit the [Florida Department of Revenue site](#).

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#). If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Governor DeSantis Visits with Aerospace Industry Leaders

This past week Governor Ron DeSantis visited the Space Coast to attend the historic launch of the United Launch Alliance Atlas V Rocket. This rocket carried NASA's Mars Rover, Perseverance, which will be looking for signs of life and taking samples on the red planet. The spacecraft carrying the mission is expected to arrive at its destination in February 2021.

Governor DeSantis then convened a roundtable with leaders from the aerospace industry including Blue Origin, Lockheed Martin, One Web and Boeing. Industry leaders expressed that they were continuing with their projects and are continuing to create jobs to support the demands of this growing industry.

Following the roundtable, Governor Ron DeSantis also signed [House Bill 717: Space Florida Financing](#) into law. This legislation provides Space Florida with additional flexibility to issue bonds and provide financing for commercial space and aerospace projects. Space Florida will be able to offer 30 year bonds instead of 40 year bonds, making them more attractive to investors.

Space Florida was established by the Legislature in 2006 to consolidate Florida's three existing space entities, namely the Florida Space Authority, the Florida Space Research Institute, and the Florida

Aerospace Finance Corporation, into a single organization. Space Florida was created to promote aerospace business development by facilitating business and infrastructure financing, spaceport operations, research and development, workforce development and innovative education programs. Space Florida acts as the single point of contact for state aerospace-related activities with federal agencies, the military, state agencies, businesses, and the private sector.

Florida Drug Importation Program Advances

President Trump recently issued an executive order directing the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar to complete the rulemaking process to allow for the importation of certain prescription drugs from Canada. This is one of the final steps in the process to lower the cost of prescription drugs for Americans and Floridians.

"I was excited to join President Trump for the signing of this landmark executive order and to highlight what we've accomplished at the state level to lower the cost of prescription drugs," said Governor DeSantis. "For far too long, the exorbitant prices of these drugs have only increased, hindering Floridians' and Americans' abilities to pay for the medication they need to get by. With his signing of this executive order, President Trump has done what those before him could have but chose not to, and we thank him for his support."

"Help is on the way for Floridians frustrated by the high and rising cost of prescription drugs," said Senate President Bill Galvano. "Friday's announcement by President Trump was a great step forward for the historic legislation passed in 2019, which will allow our state to pursue lower priced drugs on the international market, while ensuring safety through oversight by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration."

During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature made lowering the cost of prescription drugs for Floridians a priority with the passage of [House Bill 19: Prescription Drug Importation Program](#). The legislation created two programs to safely import FDA-approved prescription drugs into the state from approved Canadian suppliers, but still required federal approval. Rulemaking commenced in December 2019, and at the end of June AHCA finalized an Invitation to Negotiate for the Canadian Drug Importation Program on the state's vendor bid system. They anticipate that by December 2020 they will have secured a vendor to assist with implementation of the program.

Florida Legislature Invests in Higher Education

As Florida's higher education system continues to soar to the top of national rankings, my colleagues and I in the Florida Senate remain committed to ensuring our postsecondary students are prepared to enter the workforce and lead our state into the future.

To continue building on the success of Florida's higher education system, the 2020-2021 budget includes historic state operating funding for the Florida College System and State University System at \$1.3 billion and \$2.7 billion respectively. It does not include any tuition increases.

The Florida Legislature also made historic investments in Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) this year. Despite unprecedented circumstances prompting one of the largest veto amounts in state history, the budget provides more than \$123 million to Florida's HBCUs to advance the academics, research and education of students. Some of these budget highlights includes \$92.8 million for Florida A&M University, an increase of \$1.3 million, and historic funding of:

- \$16.96 million for Bethune-Cookman, an increase of \$13 million.
- \$7 million for Florida Memorial University, an increase of \$3.5 million.
- \$6.4 million for Edward Waters College, an increase of \$3.5 million.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Education provided major funding for Florida's HBCUs, a total of \$23.2 million, through the federal CARES Act to help ensure learning continued for students at HBCUs during the COVID-19 emergency.

District 17 Highlights

Brevard Small Business Economic Relief Program

The Brevard County Board of Commissioners has allocated \$10 million from the Federal CARES Act to support a Small Business Economic Relief Program. Small businesses and nonprofit organizations may be eligible for grants of up to \$10,000 to offset expenses and lost revenue related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To be eligible through the Small Business and Nonprofit Economic Relief Program, the small business must:

- Be physically located in Brevard County
- Have had 50 or fewer employees as of January 1, 2020
- Have been negatively impacted financially by the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Be enrolled in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security E-Verify program
- Not have been reimbursed through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), Small Business Administration (SBA) Debt Relief Program or other similar federal and state programs.
- Nonprofits that are eligible must be a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6) or a 501(c)(19) as designated by Internal Revenue Code.

Applications for this program are now open through August 10, 2020 for small businesses in Brevard County. For more information on this program, and to access the application please visit www.brevardfl.gov/BrevardCARES.

Indian River State College Welcomes New President

The Indian River State College Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Timothy Moore, Chief Science Officer at MagPlasma and Co-Founder and Chief Science Officer at Probaxtra Inc., to become the College's next president. Dr. Moore will be the fourth president in the College's 60-year history. He will succeed Dr. Edwin Massey, who has served the institution with high distinction since 1973, and will conclude his 32-year term as president in August.

Moore, a military veteran, has a 35-year career in higher education, federal, commercial, military and start-up sectors. His roles in higher education include service as Vice President for Research at Florida A&M University, the largest of the public Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Research Program Development/Assistant Professor at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Auburn, Alabama; Director of Federal Research Program Development at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine; and Director of Federal Research Program Development at the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University.

For more information, visit www.irsc.edu or call (866) 792-4772.

Brevard Schools Foundation Back to School Giveaway

The Brevard Schools Foundation will be hosting their annual Back to School Giveaway in a drive-through style this year due to COVID-19. They will be distributing 2,000 free backpacks filled with school supplies for economically disadvantaged students in Brevard County.

18th Annual Back to School Giveaway

Saturday, August 8th 9:00 AM - Noon
Clearlake Education Center Gym
1225 Clearlake Rd, Cocoa

The Supply Zone, a service of the Brevard Schools Foundation, works with local businesses, organizations, churches and individuals to provide these free supplies to families who cannot afford to purchase their own.

The child must be present in the car to receive the school supplies; be enrolled in Brevard Public Schools; and must have been enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program. No registration is required. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Schreiber at info.supplyzone@Brevardschools.org or (321) 617-7727.

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