



Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Governor DeSantis Plans Teachers Bonuses

Despite conflicts with the federal government, Governor Ron DeSantis plans to use \$216 million in 2021 COVID relief funds to issue a \$1,000 bonus as a “Thank you” for teachers and principals for working through the pandemic. Gov DeSantis is hopeful the State of Florida can distribute these bonuses by August 2021, the start of the school year, to teachers despite the federal government questioning whether the bonus plan conflicts with current federal guidelines.

The U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran stating that there is a path that provides premium pay to educators. Still, the way Florida approved the bonuses may not meet the federal government’s guidelines. Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ian Rosenblum at the Department of Education, said enhanced pay needs to be “reasonable and necessary,” adding, “funds are to be utilized for learning-

-losses through programs that respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs.” Deputy Assistant Secretary Rosenblum reinforced that the Department of Education will “work with the state to ensure relief money is spent as intended.”

Gov. DeSantis is looking to add another bonus for teachers, doubling down on his commitment to educators. The \$106 million Civic Literacy Excellence Initiative will be used as part of that money to create the Florida Civics Seal of Excellence. Teachers across the state will have the ability to earn a \$3,000 bonus with the completion of the Seal of Excellence.”

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