

School District Roundtable on COVID-19 Financial and Related Impacts

AUGUST 12, 2020

Government Finance Officers Association



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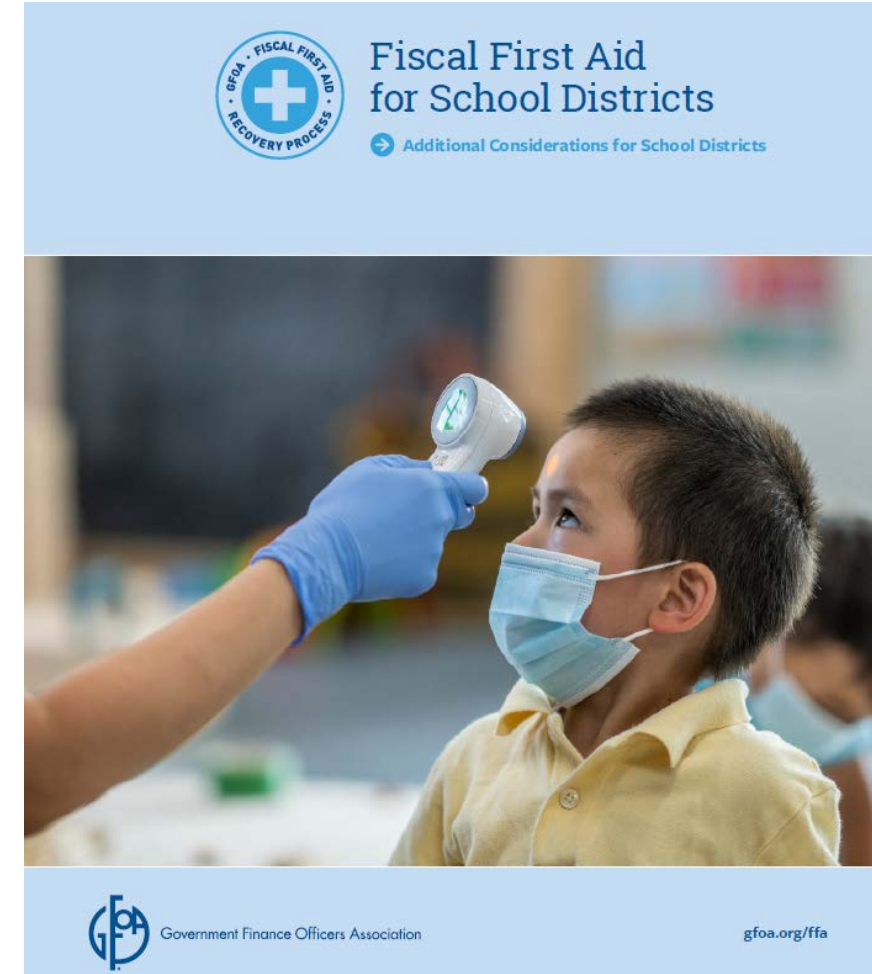
Agenda

- Fiscal First Aid for School Districts
- Roundtable with 5 School CFOs from across the US
- Polls to allow you to share thoughts, comments, etc.
 - Set up through Poll Everywhere – www.gfoa.org/school-cfo
 - **Be sure to include your name – these will replace our traditional webinar polling questions**
- Highlight other resources and upcoming trainings



Fiscal First Aid for School Districts

- Report just released – available here – <https://www.gfoa.org/materials/school-ffa>
- Guidance and considerations for a number of areas of cost savings and better strategic alignment of resources
- Divided into:
 - o Shorter term opportunities
 - o Longer term opportunities





Speakers

- Lisa Bracken, CFO, Atlanta Public Schools, GA
- Matt Lentz, CFO, Upper Moreland School District, PA
- Judith Marte, CFO, Broward County Public Schools, FL
- Bill Sutter, CFO, Boulder Valley School District, CO
- Michele Trongaard, Associate Superintendent for Business & Finance, Mansfield Independent School District, TX

Atlanta Public Schools, GA

- 52,000 students, 91 schools
- All students starting virtual August 24th for at least the first 9 weeks
- Key points:
 - o Still brought staff back on August 3rd, using the extra time for professional learning and device/ supply distribution (Runway weeks)
 - o Weekly food distribution on Monday's (supported by transportation)
 - o Will reassess model every 9-weeks and base decision on community spread (severe= virtual, moderate= hybrid, low to no = brick and mortar)



Boulder Valley School District, CO

- 31,000 students, 56 schools, 30 minutes NW of Denver
- All students starting virtual August 26th
- Key points:
- Short term concerns
 - State funding challenges within the budget year - midyear rescissions are very challenging to address without depleting fund balance and/or reserves
 - Enrollment - options for parent choice for the higher income bracket
 - Employee conflict in furlough/pay situations when jobs don't exist (eg. no bus driver needs when school is fully home/remote learning)
 - Ability to react thoughtfully to changes as they come along - large, complex organizations need time to process and plan
- Long term concerns
 - 2021-22 and 2022-23 funding issues - state revenue sources will be slow to recover
 - Pitting school choice (charter, traditional, private, etc.) against scientific health restrictions for learning
 - Tectonic shifts in the delivery and receipt of public education with a limited track record of the benefits and drawbacks of a new delivery method (remote/virtual)
- #BackTogetherBVSD Reintroduction Plan - Shifting between scenarios of opening schools
 - <https://www.bvsd.org/parents-students/academics/covid-19-reintroduction>
- Child Care Handbook - Providing child care in a pandemic
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NckPo-814bZnW15r_AhuV-mrHCdAEkrHGDzyme1Z9E/edit?usp=sharing

Broward County Public Schools, FL

- 268,000 students, 241 schools, includes Ft. Lauderdale, Hollywood
- All students starting virtual August 19th – reassess late September
- Key items:
 - o View presentation and document for their re-opening plans - <http://bcpsagenda.browardschools.com/agenda/01793/Agenda-Outline-for-2020-08-10-12-00.htm>
 - o Links to documents at bottom of page

Mansfield Independent School District, TX

- 35,000 students, 46 schools, Dallas/Fort Worth suburb
- All students starting virtual August 12th; In-person learning starts September 8th; Virtual students can switch at 9 weeks.
- Key points:
 - o Numerous guidance – rolled out plan 7/28
 - o What does it look like? Virtual, remote, teachers on campus, employee, children?
 - o What to do with bus drivers, crossing guards, student nutrition employees?
 - o Keeping track of funding and eligible expenditures



Upper Moreland School District, PA

- 3,200 students, 4 schools, Philadelphia suburb
- All students starting virtual August 31st until at least November 25th
- Key points:
 - o Planning for budget and staffing with various models
 - o Anticipating changes to state funding
 - o Communicating to stakeholders how internal and external factors influence decisions
 - o Anticipating needs and efficiently obtaining information
 - o Redesigning systems for efficiency and online work





What communication strategies, tools, etc. have been most effective during the pandemic (with parents, students, staff, senior leadership, etc.)?

Top



How is your district's support staff (classroom aides, special ed aides, etc.) going to be utilized?

Top



What efforts are you currently implementing or considering to protect against revenue loss this fiscal year (and beyond)?

Top



Who/where are your go to's for information regarding COVID-19 and related impacts (i.e. other districts, state, federal agencies, associations, etc.)?

Top



Help Us Help You!

- Complete our survey on revenue loss, expense increases and use of CARES money to help us be better informed to tell legislators what you need.
- Survey can be accessed here - <https://www.gfoa.org/detail/school-district-covid-19-survey>



Balancing the Budget in Bad Times

PART 1

Primary Treatments for Reducing Cost and Enhancing Revenues in the Next 12–18 months

Balancing the Budget in Bad Times

PART 2

Riskier Treatments for Reducing Cost and Enhancing Revenues in the Next 12–18 months



Fiscal First Aid for the Procurement Office

Strategies for balancing the budget while maintaining critical services during a financial crisis



Cash is King

Short-Term Strategies to Slow the Flow of Money Out the Door and Keep the Budget Balanced

BY SHAYNE C. KAVANAGH AND JOSEPH P. CASEY, PH.D.



How to Eliminate Paper and Save Time and Money

Rethinking Paper-Based Business Processes in the Finance Office Using Low or No Cost Technologies



Upcoming Events/Webinars

- August 18th - [Communicating in Uncertain Times: The Role of a Strategic School District CFO](#) – Webinar
- September 29th – October 1st - [School Budgeting Best Practices Virtual Readiness](#) - Training
- November 6th, 10th and 13th – [Alliance for Excellence in School Budgeting – Fall Meeting](#) – also have a pre-meeting on November 5th to review framework for new members and those wanting a refresher.



Resources/Questions

- Fiscal First Aid - www.gfoa.org/ffa
- Smarter School Spending – <https://smarterschoolspending.org/>
- GFOA Best Practices - <https://www.gfoa.org/best-practices>
- GFOA's COVID-19 Response Center - <https://www.gfoa.org/coronavirus>
- Other questions?
- Contact - Matt Bubness, mbubness@gfoa.org

