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SPORTS, 1B

# PENSACOLA PNJ.COM News Journal

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## Children's Trust mulling next major grants

Mary Lett

Pensacola News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Escambia Children's Trust is gearing up to issue its second major round of grant funding, and 13 applicants went through extensive vetting May 4 during the grant committee review process.

Bright Pathways is the Children's Trust Out of School Time preK-12th grade afterschool program. Applicants are vying for a share of \$3.5 million in

funds each year for three years.

The review committee intended to provide recommendations to the Children's Trust Program Committee that would be presented to the board of directors for approval on May 12.

But that didn't happen, as the nearly 3 1/2-hour review process ended without recommendations. The two committees and applicants will meet again at 10 a.m. May 29 to complete the review process.

Lindsey Cannon, Children's Trust executive director, said the full board can

vote on the grant applicants at the June meeting. The new funding cycle will start Aug. 1 and end May 31 or July 31, based on the individual program.

"I guess it was a little ambition of me to think we could do all this today," Cannon told the Pensacola News Journal following the meeting. She said the extra time will also allow applicants to make corrections and update their application packets.

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Jasmine Caldwell works with second graders at C.A. Weis Elementary School in Pensacola. GREGG PACHKOWSKI/PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL



Gulf Breeze property owner Christopher Green is under fire after building a fence along his property line and cutting off a popular alternative route to the Harbourtown shops. Green began building the fence in late April, but as of May 5, the City of Gulf Breeze officials ordered him to stop construction. TONY GIBERSON/PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

## Gulf Breeze fired up over new fence

Mollye Barrows

Pensacola News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The old adage "good fences make good neighbors" may be true most of the time, but for one Gulf Breeze businessman a fence he built on his own property has caused an uproar.

Christopher Green has owned the shopping center adjacent to Harbourtown commercial center in Gulf Breeze for 31 years. About a week ago the 84-year-old developer hired a crew to put up a fence along his property line between the two shopping centers.

Construction got as far as the framing and a few wooden slats before he said the city of Gulf Breeze told him to stop.

"I was building what was going to be a board fence here until the city stopped me," Green said. "They sent code enforcement out, who call it a discrepancy in the (building permit) application."

The News Journal left messages for comment for the Gulf Breeze City Administrator and the reception desk at City Hall, but no one was available to speak on the issue at the time.

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## Teachers sue state over public school funding

Alajjah Cross

Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Florida Education Association filed a lawsuit May 5 against the Florida Department of Education, alleging it has failed to provide a "uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high-quality system of free public schools" as required by the state's constitution.

The suit, filed in Leon County Circuit Civil court, names Florida Education Commissioner Anastasio "Stasi" Kamoutsas and each member of the Florida Board of Education as defendants.

The plaintiffs include eight parents and the FEA organization.

This is not the first time the FEA has initiated a legal challenge against the Florida Department of Education. A previous high-profile lawsuit was filed in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic over a reopening order from the state, but the suit ultimately failed.

For years, the FEA and public education advocates have criticized lawmakers for pouring billions of dollars into private schools through the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, and its most recent Schools of Hope initiative, which allows charter operators to move into unused space in public schools at no cost.

Plaintiffs are asking a circuit judge to rule the private school scholarship and charter school programs unconstitutional and force a change to current practices.

"The Florida Education Association is once again wasting taxpayer dollars

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