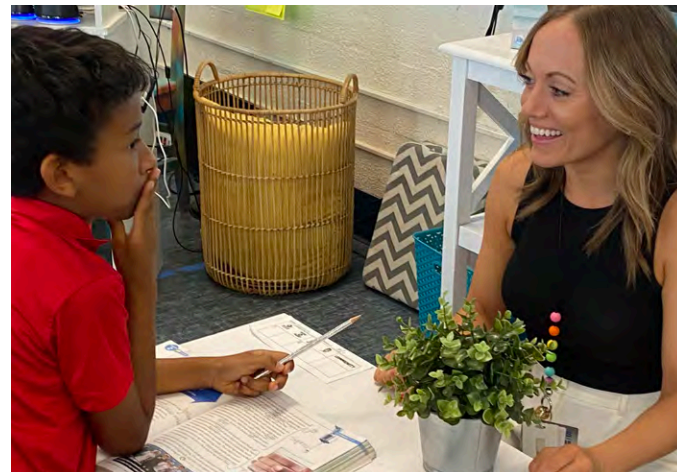


# HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Family Resource Guide





# HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT & BOARD MEMBERS



**Van Ayers**  
Interim Superintendent



**Nadia Combs**  
Board Chair, District 1



**Stacy Hahn**  
District 2



**Jessica Vaughn**  
District 3



**Patricia "Patti" Rendon**  
District 4



**Henry "Shake" Washington**  
Board Vice Chair, District 5



**Karen Perez**  
District 6



**Lynn Gray**  
District 7

Dear Families,

I am honored to lead Hillsborough County Public Schools as we begin the 2023-24 school year and am so grateful to be working alongside such dedicated employees—more than 24,000 individuals working with each other and for each other, towards the same goal of creating the best educational environment for your children, our students.

The information provided in this 2023-24 Family Resource Guide shares valuable tips, tools, and services available within Hillsborough County Public Schools to support you and your child through their academic journey. Inside, you will find details about new and exciting district initiatives, award-winning choice options, and ways to become involved at your child's school.

Ranked the seventh largest school district in the nation, Hillsborough County Public Schools provides high-quality education and career pathways for all students. We are committed to providing every student with the tools and opportunities they need to achieve their dreams and offer innovative resources and technologies to prepare them for a successful future.

Thank you for choosing Hillsborough County Public Schools to prepare your child for life. We are Hillsborough Strong and look forward to another year of new opportunities and celebrating academic successes.

**Van Ayers**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Hillsborough County Public Schools

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

The school board is responsible for the organization and control of the district's public schools and is empowered to determine the policies necessary for the effective operation and the general improvement of the school system. To find out which School Board Member represents your area, visit [www.hillsboroughschools.org/Board](http://www.hillsboroughschools.org/Board) and click on Board Members.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

School Board meetings are aired on Hillsborough Schools TV, Spectrum Cable channel 635 and Frontier channel 32, and online at [hillsboroughschools.tv](http://hillsboroughschools.tv), live on specific Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. and replays on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (Board Meetings), and 8:00 p.m. (Recognition Meetings).

Hillsborough School Board Meetings are available with closed captioning on live webcasts and on live television broadcasts. Closed captioning is also displayed on a monitor in the Board auditorium during School Board meetings. Visit our website, [www.hillsboroughschools.org/Board](http://www.hillsboroughschools.org/Board) to view meeting dates, board agendas, live webcasts, and archived School Board meetings.

## Here's a checklist to help your child succeed in school...

### ATTENDANCE

- I expect my child to go to school every day or learn virtually, be on time and complete each school day.

### COMMUNICATION

- I call the school's attendance line to report my child's absence.
- I attend scheduled conferences and events and volunteer when I am available and needed.
- I ask for a conference with the teacher if I have a concern.
- I inform the teacher of anything that may have an effect on my child's performance or behavior.
- I read and act on information sent home about my child's progress and achievements.
- I talk with my child and know what he or she is doing and with whom.

### HEALTH

- I schedule visits to the doctor and dentist.
- I set a bedtime that lets my child get nine hours of sleep.
- I talk with my child about the dangers of abusing alcohol and drugs.

### INTEREST

- I set aside time each day for my child to share with me what he or she has done in school.
- I review my child's report card and help him or her set goals for doing better.
- I read with my child every day.

### EXPECTATIONS

- I will log into my Parent Canvas account to monitor my child's progress and communicate with teachers when needed.
- I set high expectations for my child's behavior and achievement at school.
- I expect my child to finish all class and home-work assignments.
- I expect my child to respect others.
- I expect my child to get a high school diploma and seek additional education.

For a directory of schools, please go to our website, [www.hillsboroughschools.org](http://www.hillsboroughschools.org) and look for the Schools tab is the top right corner.

# IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

Students' First Day of School .....	August 10, 2023
Labor Day/Non-Student Day .....	September 4, 2023
End of First Grading Period.....	October 12, 2023
Non-Student Day .....	October 16, 2023
Veterans Day Observed/Non-Student Day .....	November 10, 2023
Fall Break/Non-Student Days .....	November 20 – 24, 2023
Students Return to School.....	November 27, 2023
End of Second Grading Period/End of First Semester.....	December 22, 2023
Winter Break/Non-Student Days.....	Dec 25, 2023 – January 5, 2024
Students Return to School.....	January 8, 2024
Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Non-Student Day .....	January 15, 2024
Non-Student Day .....	February 16, 2024
Non-Student Day .....	March 4, 2024
Spring Break/Non-Student Days .....	March 11– 15, 2024
Students Return to School.....	March 18, 2024
End of Third Grading Period.....	March 20, 2024
Non-Student Day .....	March 29, 2024
Last Day of School/End of 4th Grading Period/Second Semester .....	May 24, 2024

Please Note:  
\*Hurricane Day(s) if needed – October 16, November 10, November 20-22 and November 24

**Student Early Release Days:**  
Every Monday except for any Monday that is a non-student day.  
May 24, 2024, students will be released 2.5 hours early.

This publication contains information that was approved by the Hillsborough County School Board prior to July 2023 and is subject to change. For the most current information, go to our district website: [hillsboroughschools.org](https://hillsboroughschools.org).

The district accords preference in selection, retention, and promotion procedures to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who are Florida residents.  
Continuous Notification of Nondiscrimination

Pursuant to Title VI, Title IX, Section 504/Title II and other civil rights regulations, the School District of Hillsborough County does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, genetic information or pregnancy in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices; and it will take immediate action to eliminate such harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Pansy Houghton, Executive Officer, Compliance, (813) 272-4000; [pansy.houghton@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:pansy.houghton@sdhc.k12.fl.us); 901 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33602.

**VISION**  
Preparing Students for life.

**MISSION**  
To provide an education and the supports which enable each student to excel as a successful and responsible citizen.

TO VIEW IMPORTANT  
EVENTS AND DATES,  
VIEW THE DISTRICT  
CALENDAR AT:

[hillsboroughschools.org/calendars](https://hillsboroughschools.org/calendars)

# IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR CHILD

The School Health Services Program oversees or provides mandated services in accordance with Florida Statute sections 381.0056, 381.0057, and 402.3026. School health services' purpose is to minimize health barriers to learning for public school students in pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

To help ensure the provision of safe and appropriate county-level school health services, the Department of Health, Hillsborough, School Health Program office work in conjunction with Hillsborough County Public Schools, School Health Services Department to implement health services and state mandates provided in our public schools.

## Students from pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade who are coming into a Florida school for the first time must present

- An immunization record (DH 680) and a current Florida School Entry Physical Examination, Form (DH 3040)
  - The immunization record must show that the student has met the minimum state requirements for that grade
- Immunizations are provided at no charge by the Department of Health, Hillsborough County.

## Immunization Requirements for pre-Kindergarten

For students entering Pre-Kindergarten\*, the immunization record must show that the student has met the minimum state requirements for vaccines:

- \* 3–5 doses DTaP (diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis)
- \* 3–5 doses Polio
- \* 1–2 doses MMR (measles–mumps–rubella)
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- \* 1–2 doses Varicella (chickenpox)

\* Note: Immunizations listed below are not required, but recommended: Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13) Hepatitis A (Hep A)

\* Varicella vaccine is not required if Varicella disease is documented (the year the child had the disease must be included) by a Licensed Physician, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant.

## Immunization Requirements for Kindergarten through 6th Grade

Students entering kindergarten must submit an updated immunization record and a school entry physical examination

- 5 doses DTaP (diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis)
- \*4–5 doses Polio (Kindergarten)
- 2 doses MMR (measles–mumps–rubella)
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- \*\*2 doses Varicella (chickenpox)

\* Note. K — if the fourth dose of polio vaccine is administered prior to the fourth birthday, a fifth dose of polio vaccine is required for kindergarten entry only.

\*\* Varicella vaccine is not required if Varicella disease is documented (the year the child had the disease must be included) by a Licensed Physician, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant.

## Meningococcal Disease

A dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) is recommended for children and adolescents 11–18 years of age. This vaccine is 85–90% effective in preventing meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. The disease is spread by airborne respiratory droplets (cough or sneezes). Symptoms of meningococcal disease are often mistaken for less serious illnesses such as the flu.

Common symptoms may include fever greater than 101.4, red to purple colored rash, nausea, vomiting, generalized muscle aches, severe headaches, confusion, sensitivity to light, and/or stiff neck. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2–18 years old in the United States. The vaccine is available at the department of health, Hillsborough County, if it is not provided by your child's healthcare provider's office. For those who have never gotten MCV4, a dose is recommended at high school entry but not required in the State of Florida. Most colleges and universities require this vaccine. Please check the college or university policy you plan to attend. In addition, this is highly recommended if you are living in a dormitory type of residence. MCV4 is contraindicated to anyone that experiences a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or to any components of vaccines.

## Human Papilloma Virus Disease

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) causes the majority of genital warts and cancers. HPV vaccine has been shown to protect against 80% of the most common types of cervical cancer and oral cancers and decrease genital warts. While it is recommended for ages 11–12 years of age, this vaccine has been approved for both males and females beginning at nine years of age. The most frequently reported symptoms of the HPV vaccine are chronic pain with paresthesia, headaches, fatigue and orthostatic intolerance.

## Immunization Requirements for students entering 7th-12th grade

Tetanus–diphtheria–pertussis (Tdap) immunization is required for all students entering 7th grade. It must be documented on an updated DH680 form and the original copy submitted to the school along with the minimal state requirements:

- 5 doses DTaP (diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis)
- 4 doses Polio (IPV or OPV)
- 2 doses MMR< (measles–mumps–rubella)
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- 1 dose Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
- 2 doses Varicella (chickenpox) or has had the disease as documented by a healthcare provider

\* Note. 1 dose Tdap (tetanus– diphtheria– pertussis) for seventh grade is required.

\* An updated DH 680 form to include Tdap must be obtained for submission to the school.

\* Varicella vaccine is not required if Varicella disease is documented (the year the child had the disease must be included) by a Licensed Physician, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant.

## Additional Immunization Recommendations:

Four vaccines are not mandated for your child's grade level but are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and should be discussed with your health care provider. They are meningococcal meningitis, hepatitis A series, Influenza and Human Papilloma (HPV) Vaccine series.



## PARENTAL CONSENT FORM FOR SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Beginning this year, parents/guardian must complete the written Parental

Consent Form for School Health Services. Your child will not be able to receive any health related

services without a signed consent form. Do not hesitate to contact School Health Services at (813) 273-7020 for any questions or concerns.

## State Mandated Screenings

School Health Services is responsible for state–mandated screenings, Florida Statute 381.0056(6)(e). Vision and hearing screenings are necessary to identify impairments that interfere with learning. In addition, growth and development, body mass index (BMI) and scoliosis screenings are necessary to prevent complications associated with obesity, diabetes, heart, and lung damage, respectively. The mandatory grade levels are listed below:

- Vision screening – provided to students in grades K, 1, 3, and 6. Vision screening will also be performed on all students entering Florida schools for the first time in grades KG through 5.
- Hearing screening – provided to students in grades K, 1, and 6.
- Hearing screening will also be performed on all students entering Florida schools for the first time in grades K through 5.
- Growth and development screening with BMI – provided to students in grades 1, 3, and 6.
- Scoliosis screening – provided to students in grade 6.
- All students who do not pass their screening will be referred for further examination and corrective measures. If you are in need of a health care provider for your child, please contact your school nurse.
- If you do not want your child to participate in any of the mandated screenings, you must notify your child's school nurse in writing before the assigned screening date. Please ask your child's school for the date or dates of the scheduled screenings. In addition, please provide your child's results from that particular screening to be included in your child's health record.

*If you have private health insurance or Medicaid, contact your health care provider. If you do not have private health insurance or Medicaid, contact the Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County Immunization Clinic for further information.*



# MATH HOMEWORK HOTLINE



<b>09/14/23</b> Rates and Unit Rates	<b>01/18/24</b> Multiply & Divide Rational #s
<b>09/21/23</b> Pythagorean Theorem	<b>01/25/24</b> Area & Volume
<b>09/28/23</b> Percents & Probability	<b>02/01/24</b> Algebraic Expressions
<b>10/05/23</b> Proportional Relationships	<b>02/08/24</b> Angles & Triangles
<b>10/12/23</b> Fraction Operations	<b>02/22/24</b> Equations & Inequalities
<b>10/19/23</b> Introduction to Functions	<b>02/29/24</b> Exponents & Scientific Notation
<b>10/26/23</b> Rational #s & Coordinate Plane	<b>03/21/24</b> Transformations
<b>11/02/23</b> Linear Functions	<b>04/04/24</b> Statistical Measures
<b>11/16/23</b> Add & Subtract Rational #s	<b>04/11/24</b> Data Displays
<b>11/30/23</b> Two Variable Statistics	<b>04/18/24</b> Semester 2 Review
<b>12/07/23</b> Semester 1 Review	<b>04/25/24</b> Algebra Review

## Call (813) 840-7260 for Math Help

Our marvelous math team can help you on select Thursday nights from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the Education Channel.

### Spectrum Channel 635 & Frontier Channel 32

Tutors will begin taking calls at 5:30 p.m. The show will begin at 6 p.m.

### MathHomeworkHotline.com

Produced by Hillsborough County Public Schools



**Timely access  
to mental and  
physical health  
for students  
in need**

[Hillsboroughshcooks.org/hazel](https://Hillsboroughshcooks.org/hazel)

• **VIRTUAL** • **NO COST**

## Did You Know?

This year, Hillsborough County Public Schools partnered with Hazel Health to offer free virtual mental health services at home and school to all K-8, middle and high schools. Hazel Health is a service that connects students with licensed, bilingual, culturally competent therapists for virtual counseling appointments. This service can help a student build coping skills for a short-term challenge or act as a bridge until students are successfully connected with longer-term resources. After consent is granted, student services staff or legal guardians can refer students to Hazel for therapy, and an appointment can then be made by calling Hazel Health at (813) 213-4021. Parents and guardians can also utilize Hazel's virtual physical health services at home to address student health needs and help them feel better so they can return to learning.

Hazel at Home services for mental health are available Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Hazel at Home services for physical health are available Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hazel visits will be available at school during regular school hours; the rollout to begin in schools will take place now through the end of the first quarter. Contact your child's school counselor for more information.

Learn more and get started at <https://my.hazel.co/hillsboroughschools>.

# ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD

STEP

1

TALK TO  
YOUR  
CHILD'S  
TEACHER

STEP

2

TALK TO THE  
ASSISTANT  
PRINCIPAL

STEP

3

TALK TO THE  
PRINCIPAL

STEP

4

REACH OUT  
TO A  
REGION  
SUPER-  
INTENDENT

STEP

5

REACH OUT  
TO THE  
CHIEF OF  
SCHOOLS

## Region Superintendent for Elementary Schools

**Kristin Tonelli**, Elementary Region 1  
(813) 272-4655  
Kristin.Tonelli@hcps.net

**Lacy Healy**, Elementary Region 2  
(813) 272-4655  
Lacy.Healy@hcps.net

**Julie Scardino**, Elementary Region 3  
(813) 272-4655  
Julie.Scardino@hcps.net

**Jaime Gerding**, Elementary Region 4  
(813) 272-4738  
Jaime.Gerding@hcps.net

**Frankye Bulmer**, Elementary Region 5  
(813) 272-4738  
Frankye.Bulmer@hcps.net

## Region Superintendent for Middle Schools

**Shellie Blackwood-Green**,  
Middle Region 1 • (813) 272-4616  
Shellie.Blackwood-green@hcps.net

**Dr. Johan von Ancken**,  
Middle Region 2 • (813) 272-4616  
Johan.vonAncken@hcps.net

## Region Superintendent for High Schools

**Gary Brady**, High School Region 1  
(813) 272-4443  
Gary.Brady@hcps.net

**Robert M. Nelson III**, High School  
Region 2 • (813) 272-4443  
Robert.Nelson@hcps.net

## Region Superintendent for Transformation Network

**Regina Gordon**, Transformation Network  
Elementary Region 1  
(813) 272-4845  
Regina.Gordon@hcps.net

**Vacant**, Transformation Network  
Elementary Region 2  
(813) 272-4845

**Richard Grayes**, Transformation Network  
Elementary Region 3  
(813) 272-4845  
Richard.Grayes@hcps.net

**Matthew Hayes**, Transformation Network  
K-8 and Middle Schools Region 4  
(813) 272-4777  
Matthew.Hayes@hcps.net

## Chief of Schools

**Sue Burkett**  
Phone Line: (813) 272-4071  
Susan.Burkett@hcps.net

## Chief of Transformation Network

**Shaylia McRae**, Deputy  
Superintendent of Academics &  
Transformation  
Phone Line: (813) 272-4876  
Shaylia.McRae@hcps.net

## Executive Director of K-12 Non-Traditional Programs

**Earnest Wood**  
Phone Line: (813) 272-4519  
Earnest.Wood@hcps.net



# STUDENT WELLNESS



## STUDENT NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

HCPS Student Nutrition Services is one of the largest school nutrition programs in the country, with more than 1,600 dedicated employees serving over 180,000 nutritious meals every day. Our aim is to improve the health and education of our students with a diverse variety of meal options.

For the 2023-24 school year, school breakfast will remain free for all Hillsborough County Public Schools students.

Free meals are available to any student who is enrolled in a school eligible for the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or qualifies for free or reduced-price meals based on household income or state-approved benefit programs.

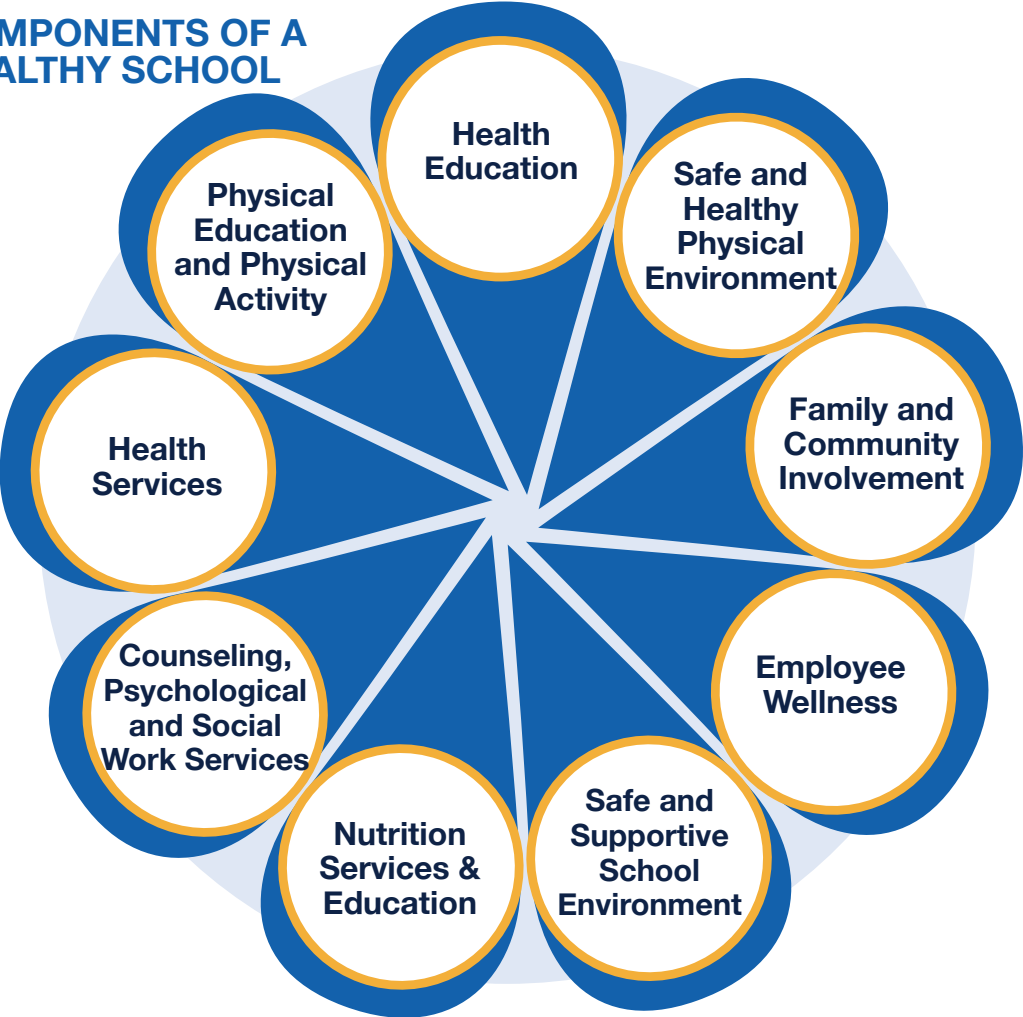
To find out if your child’s school is on the CEP list or fill out a Meal Benefit Application, go to [hillsboroughschools.org/sns](https://hillsboroughschools.org/sns).

Do you have questions about nutritional information? **Email our registered dietitian at [asktherd@hcps.net](mailto:asktherd@hcps.net).**

### COMPONENTS OF A HEALTHY SCHOOL

Hillsborough County Public Schools is proud to make health and well-being a priority throughout the district. **There are nine components of being a Healthy School and each year a survey is sent to our schools so our well-being Champions can rate where the school falls within each of the components.** The top schools are awarded Gold Level status. For the 2022-23 school year, we had 96 Gold Status Healthy Schools!

The Hillsborough County School District is also honored to have received the **Healthy District Gold Award** which recognizes school districts across Florida that have implemented policies, practices, and procedures that support health and remove barriers to learning.



### SCHOOL MEAL PRICES

- Breakfast - **FREE**
- Elementary Lunch - \$2.25
- Middle & High School Lunch - \$2.75
- Lunch in CEP Schools - **FREE**



# EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PROGRAMS



In Hillsborough County Public Schools, we don't believe learning begins in Kindergarten. We believe learning begins much earlier than that. Our district offers several options for your pre-Kindergarten learner.

## HEAD START

Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive, child development program that encompasses all aspects of a child's development and learning. The program serves children ages 3 to 4 years old. Eligibility is based on income. Upon entry into the program, each eligible child will receive required screenings to determine their overall health status, developmental strengths, needs, and areas of concern, such as the possibility of a serious delay or disability. To be eligible for Head Start, a child must be at least 3 or 4 years old by September 1st of the year entering public school or turning 5 after September 1st of the year entering public school. **For more information call (813) 740-7870.**

## VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN (VPK)

The Voluntary pre-Kindergarten Program (VPK) was implemented with the goal of providing all Florida's four-year-olds with access to free, quality pre-Kindergarten programs. VPK prepares children for kindergarten and builds a foundation for educational success. This state-funded program is free for the first three hours. If parents want to stay for the full day, they must pay a fee (\$25 for free lunch status, \$50 for reduced lunch status, or \$100). This applies for all 4-and 5-year-old children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of the following school year. Hillsborough County Public Schools offers both school year and summer VPK options. **For more information, call (813) 272-4516.**

## HOST

HOST is an after-school program for Hillsborough County Public Schools. After school programs were developed from a need within the community to assist families that needed a safe, supervised environment for their children during the before and after school hours. The goal of HOST is to provide the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth and development which children need in order for them to be successful. HOST is an affordable option that is held at 148 of our elementary and middle schools. **For more information, call (813) 744-8941.**





# STUDENT SERVICES



## Need to talk?

Your school is here to help.

Talk to a Student Services team member—  
a School Counselor, School Nurse, School Psychologist,  
School Social Worker—or any adult you trust.

Visit [HillsboroughSchools.org/mentalhealth](https://hillsboroughschools.org/mentalhealth)  
or call 211 for help. Call 911 in an emergency.



**Hillsborough County**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Preparing Students for Life

## OUR STUDENT SERVICES TEAM IS HERE TO LISTEN AND HELP

As solutions-oriented, servant leaders, the Department of Student Services provides prescriptive, ongoing support that is designed to meet the evolving needs of students. By building open communication pathways and growing supportive, meaningful relationships with students and families, services provided consider the needs of the “whole child.”

Our site-based Student Services Team includes school counselors, school psychologists and school social workers. These team members provide students’ academic, mental health and wellbeing supports. There is also a district based mental health team that provides support for students with more intensive needs that includes crisis management.

Both teams work with a resource map that can connect students and families to the vast array of community agencies and resources available to further support students and families.

\*Parent permission is required for ongoing services and prior to any community connections being made for students under the age of 18.

For additional resources, and to learn more about Student Services in Hillsborough County Public Schools, visit [hillsboroughschools.org/studentservices](https://hillsboroughschools.org/studentservices).

**For more information about our mental health team and mental health plan, visit [hillsboroughschools.org/mentalhealth](https://hillsboroughschools.org/mentalhealth).**

## HELP IS JUST ONE TEXT OR PHONE CALL AWAY

### Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

Call 211 or visit  
[crisiscenter.com](https://crisiscenter.com)

### Crisis Text Line

Text HOME or APOYO  
(APOYO for Spanish) to  
741741 to connect with  
a crisis counselor

### 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Call or text 988 or visit  
[988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Mobile Response Team (MRT) model

In an effort to increase mental health supports and prevent suicide in Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) has partnered with Gracepoint, a local community agency, to develop a school-based Mobile Response Team (MRT) model. This unique model offers layers of intervention to ensure students are supported during a mental health crisis. At the school level, school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers utilize the District’s Suicide Prevention Protocol when working with individual students in crisis. An evidence-based suicide risk screener is administered, and relevant information is collected. The school personnel are able to consult with our District Mobile Response Team, an on-call team of licensed mental health professionals, to ensure de-escalation strategies are implemented, parents are notified, and determine appropriate next steps for mental health care. Through consultation, the team may determine the need to deploy a Gracepoint licensed mental health professional to complete a more comprehensive suicide risk assessment. Following parent/guardian consent, mental health professionals who are trained in crisis intervention are deployed to the school site. They provide an array of services including completing the suicide risk assessments, development of safety or crisis plans, facilitating stabilization services, and facilitating transportation to stabilization services, as needed. Diversion services, such as follow-up care management and mental health service referrals, are offered if the student is de-escalated and deemed to not require an involuntary examination at that time.

**A primary goal of this initiative is to provide crisis care in the school setting to stabilize students in their least restrictive environment and reduce the risk of trauma, while coordinating care for the present and potential future mental health crises.**



# EDUCATION REFERENDUM RESULTS

Thanks to taxpayers who approved the half-penny sales tax in 2018, our district has invested more than half a billion dollars to improve our schools. **Thanks to funds from the Referendum...**

- We have invested more than 607 million dollars into school improvements
- Our goal is to complete 1,700 projects, which includes more than 200 air conditioning units and 60 aging roofs.
- We have completed more than 600 projects
- More than \$191 million has been awarded to local businesses
- More than 46% invested into minority, women-owned or small business enterprises
- Just this past summer, crews replaced or renovated air conditioning systems at 14 of our schools. This year, we have invested more than \$87 million into major air conditioning upgrades, fire alarm system replacements and other infrastructure improvements.

## What's next...

### Major 2024 air conditioning projects are planned at:

- Brandon High School
- Bryan Elementary School
- Burns Middle School
- East Bay High School
- Fishhawk Creek Elementary School
- Heritage Elementary School
- Jennings Middle School
- Mendenhall Elementary School
- Nelson Elementary School
- Roosevelt Elementary School
- Seminole Elementary School
- Sessums Elementary School
- Shaw Elementary School
- Shields Middle School



**STAY INFORMED: VISIT  
HILLSBOROUGH.SCHOOLS.ORG/REFERENDUM**

**#HalfPennyPromise**

# ADULT EDUCATION

Hillsborough County's Adult Education Programs include various instructional programs that help adults get the skills needed to be productive workers, family members, and citizens. Are you looking to enhance general educational skills such as reading, writing, mathematics, and English competency?



Do you need to complete courses to earn a high school diploma or want to prepare for and pass the Standard GED® tests?

Let us help you gain the knowledge and skills necessary to enter and succeed in the workforce.

- Adult Education ABE/GED Programs Online and On Campus
- Underage GED Program (16 and 17-year-old, not enrolled in K-12)
- Adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- Adult High School – standard diploma online and on campus
- Adult High School co-enrolled credit classes (created for students in high school who need to make up credits failed)
- Family Literacy Services – (Childcare services for parents enrolled in ABE /GED or ESOL)
- National Farm Worker Jobs Program (for migrants)
- Adult Literacy Volunteer Programs through Volunteer Services
- Adult and Career Services Center (Career Pathways Services)



**For more information, please contact the Adult and Career Services Center at 813-231-1907, visit [hillsboroughschools.org](https://hillsboroughschools.org) and search “adult education” in the search box or contact one of our Adult Education locations:**

**Bowers/Whitley Adult School**..... (813) 463-9528  
**Brandon Adult School** ..... (813) 744-8131  
**Chamberlain Adult School**..... (813) 631-4500  
**Gary Adult High School**..... (813) 740-7660  
**Jefferson Adult School**..... (813) 356-1288  
**Lennard Adult School**..... (813) 658-2075  
**Leto Adult School** ..... (813) 356-1831  
**Plant City Adult School** ..... (813) 707-7147



# PARENT RESOURCES & VOLUNTEERING

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Students Supporting Students

With implementing the K-3 RAISE tutoring program, more than 35 high school juniors and seniors enrolled in the ECE program at their high school were trained in Science of Reading aligned strategies, thanks to a state grant. These students took their skills to several of our elementary schools to tutor students in grades K-3. The district will continue to grow this program for the 2023-2024 school year using K-12 CERP dollars.



### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

SAC is a team of individuals from various community segments who assist the principal in developing and evaluating the school improvement plan's results and the annual school budget. The responsibility of SAC is to provide parents, citizens, faculty, staff and students an opportunity to participate in the development of educational priorities, assessment of a school's needs and identification of local resources. To be a part of SAC, contact your child's school.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Based on feedback from school counselors and students, for the 2023-24 school year, students will no longer need to log in and enter volunteer hour information by themselves. An electronic log will now be done by their school.

There will be a list of approved volunteer opportunities on the district website, as well as, the downloadable form for students to print and log their volunteer hours.

If a student does not have access to a printer, they can pick up copies with their school counselor. Once a student receives volunteer hours, they will simply have their parent/guardian sign off on the hours and turn it in to their school counselor.

All completed hours will be captured, and

students will get credit for volunteer hours they have previously submitted.

As always, school counselors are available to answer any questions you or your child may have regarding volunteer hours.

### PARENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Parents have the right to review and know the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct their children. Federal law allows parents to request the following information:

- The license or qualifications issued by the state for grade levels and subjects being taught
- If the Florida Department of Education has granted permission for a teacher to provide instruction without being licensed or qualified, due to unique circumstances.
- The teacher's college, major of study, advanced degrees and subjects.
- The qualifications of any teachers' aides or paraprofessionals providing services to your child.
- Your child's level of achievement on each of the state academic assessments.

**For more information, please contact your child's school.**

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department serves as the lead department for promoting and establishing strong, collaborative and sustainable structures between our schools, families, and community, in support of overall school improvement. We aim to Accelerate Hillsborough through the implementation of the following key initiatives:

- Provide leadership, guidance and support to district-wide Visitor & Volunteer Services.
- Build the capacity of school administrators, instructional & support staff by creating & offering trainings, tools, tips & technical assistance that strengthens sustainable engagement strategies.
- Cultivate partnerships that support families, education and student achievement through community resources, collaboration, and in-kind donations.
- Establish and promote student mentorship and leadership programs to include: 5,000 Role Models of Excellence, Latinos in Action & more.
- Develop pathways to build family's capacity to advocate and engage in their children's education, at home and school, through training and culturally responsive support to include: Power Hour (parent education courses), Parent School Partnership Program, the Parent Engagement District Advisory Council (PEDAC), and African-American, Hispanic and Multicultural Outreach.



### The Volunteer Services

Department is committed to working with volunteers and community partners. We serve as a liaison to link volunteers and community partners with our schools. Volunteers and community partners are saying Y.E.S. (You Empower Students) every day with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to "Prepare Students for Life." Volunteer opportunities to say "Y.E.S." include school-based volunteers, business and community partnerships, mentors, speaker and enrichment programs, classroom presentations and days of service.

Individuals interested in volunteering in Hillsborough County Public Schools complete a district volunteer application and are screened and registered by Volunteer Services. For more information, visit [www.hillsboroughschools.org/volunteer](http://www.hillsboroughschools.org/volunteer). Make this your year to say Y.E.S. to becoming a volunteer in your child's school.

SAVE THE DATE

The Great *Hybrid*  
(VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON)  
**TEACH-IN**



For more information, please contact the school of your choice or email [volunteer.services@hcps.net](mailto:volunteer.services@hcps.net) for district-wide virtual/in-person opportunities.

  
**Hillsborough County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Preparing Students for Life

# RIGOROUS MAGNET SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

**Magnet Schools** offer programs of study for students wanting to explore areas that spark their interests, allowing them to engage with their education in unique and exciting ways. The 80+ nationally-awarded Magnet Programs found at 40 Magnet Schools feature a unique approach to immersing students in their learning, connecting each subject and class to the Magnet School's course of study. Programs include: Montessori, Engineering, Medical, Performing and Technical Arts, Cybersecurity, International Baccalaureate, Collegiate Academy, Cambridge AICE, Environmental Science, Criminal Justice, Architecture, Law and many others. Magnet Schools are offered to K–12 students and have pathways in place that provide learners with the opportunity to pursue their program through Senior year. Educators in each Magnet School receive training on their specific program and infuse it into their discipline to create an engaging and unified environment for learning. An application is required in order to be considered for entry to each Magnet School. Visit the [hillsboroughschools.org/Magnet](https://hillsboroughschools.org/Magnet) to find out more information on programs, application dates, and school contact details. You can also call (813) 272–4692.



## NEW MAGNET SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS IN 2023-2024:

Magnet Schools provide the community with the most innovative and rigorous programs possible in order to provide students with opportunities—and access to those opportunities—that are responsive to their interests and future goals. Magnet Schools engage students in their education in unique and fun ways while providing a diverse educational environment. Several new Magnet Schools and Programs will be opening in 2023-2024 that promise to excite students and prepare them for the future.



- **The NEW Building Construction Academy at Bowers/Whitley High School** will welcome its first Magnet Students in 2023-2024 while providing a wide spectrum of programs for them to explore. Automotive, Plumbing, Building Construction, and more will all be found under one roof so students can engage in their learning while they explore their futures. State-of-the-art labs and learning environments will be waiting for all students who join this Academy in 2023-2024 and beyond!
- **The NEW Medical Academy at DW Waters High School** will open its doors as a Magnet School for the first time ever! Students from around the district will be welcomed to this technology-rich Magnet Program that promises to sharpen students' skillset and enlighten them to the medical profession and its many facets. This medical program will feature approaches to learning not found anywhere else, all housed in the most historic building in Hillsborough County Public Schools!



## NEW Magnet Programs being added to Magnet Schools can be found at:

- **Dunbar Elementary Magnet**—the FIRST EVER Biomedical program in district history—and the only one in the entire state of Florida—will be added to this nationally-recognized Magnet School in 2023-2024!
- **Lockhart Elementary Magnet**—students will begin to explore Robotics and Engineering in ways they have never imagined as this program is added to Lockhart Magnet in 2023-2024!
- **Tampa Heights Elementary Magnet**—two acclaimed programs will be added to this Magnet School—Leader in Me and Global Engineering—



making the experience at Tampa Heights Magnet unique and truly aware of the world around them!

- **Young Middle Magnet**—the new labs and equipment being added to this Magnet School will make the new Robotics and Engineering program thrive and will prepare these middle school students for whatever lies ahead in a Magnet High School!

## MAGNET INFORMATION AND RECRUITMENT EVENTS:

Magnet Schools, as well as the Magnet Office, will offer families many opportunities to learn about Magnet education in HCPS throughout the 2023-2024 school year, especially between September and December 2023. These events will be offered both in-person and virtually as well as in multiple languages so all families can participate no matter where they are or what language barriers they may too often encounter. Experts from the school and the district levels will be present at every event to answer questions, provide information on programs, and give details on how to apply. Event dates and locations will be announced soon!

Visit [hillsboroughschools.org/Magnet](https://hillsboroughschools.org/Magnet) for information on event dates, locations, and how to register.



# VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

## HILLSBOROUGH VIRTUAL K-12 (FULL TIME) IS A SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12.

Highly qualified Hillsborough County teachers for each online class serve HVK12 students.

Students log in, receive curriculum, complete assignments, and take quizzes and tests online.

They have full access to their teachers for each subject and can communicate via email, phone/text, instant message, or virtual classroom.

We offer online courses to eligible students in a variety of ways:

- HVK12 Full-Time
- HVK12+ Credit Recovery
- HVK12+ Part-Time
- Home Education

Co-enrollment is year-round  
Students planning to take a class as part of, or in addition to, their school day can enroll in classes now!



### Did you know?

- Field trips are offered to full-time students where they have the opportunity to connect and collaborate with classmates.
- Students can participate in their attendance-area school athletics and extracurricular activities.
- Full-time students earn a diploma and participate in a graduation ceremony with their HVK12 classmates.
- Virtual Instruction Programs serves over 20,000 students yearly through the various program offerings.

CHECK OUT ALL  
OF THE PROGRAMS  
AVAILABLE WITH VIRTUAL  
INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS  
WITHIN HILLSBOROUGH  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.bitly.com/HVK12FLIP](http://www.bitly.com/HVK12FLIP)



For more information, call (813) 983-7278 or visit [hillsboroughschools.org/virtual](http://hillsboroughschools.org/virtual).



## FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

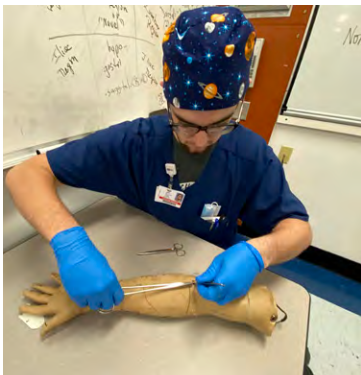
Welcome to Hillsborough County Public Schools! We are proud to be home to more than 8,000 military-connected families in schools across our district. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our military families, especially our youngest heroes—your children, our students.

Our district is dedicated to offering a variety of educational opportunities and resources to your family. **Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions about your transition into Hillsborough County Schools, call (813) 272-4692 and identify yourself as an active duty military family.**



# HILLSBOROUGH TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Workforce development and continuing education provide adult students access to postsecondary training opportunities that lead to industry certifications or state licenses, which in turn lead to great-paying jobs. **Hillsborough Technical Colleges are dedicated to providing quality, career-focused, technical postsecondary programs that prepare students with the knowledge, skills and credentials needed to launch, enhance or change careers.**



## HTC PROGRAM CLUSTERS

- Agricultural Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Energy
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing, Sales & Service
- Transportation, Sales & Logistics

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us at  
[hillsboroughschools.org](https://hillsboroughschools.org)  
and search "HTC" or  
call (813) 231-1907.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Hillsborough Technical Colleges (HTC) are just one of several Hillsborough County Public Schools postsecondary options.

- Our district has four technical college campuses: Aparicio–Levy Technical College, Brewster Technical College, Erwin Technical College and Learey Technical College.
- There are 15.6 million secondary and postsecondary career and technical education students in the U.S.
- Industry certifications can increase pay and job prospects. We have many programs that transfer credits to your local community college. Speak to a counselor for details.



# COOL SCHOOL TOOLS



**Canvas** is our learning management system that provides a hub of learning for our students, parents, and teachers. We know you have a lot on your plate, if you need a refresher or help to navigate Canvas, you can always refer to the Family Guide and Student guide, which will walk you through the process and show you what Canvas can do.

- **Family Guide:**  
[bit.ly/canvasfamilyguide](http://bit.ly/canvasfamilyguide)
- **Student Guide:**  
[bit.ly/hcpsstudentguide](http://bit.ly/hcpsstudentguide)

New to Hillsborough County? If you are the parent of a new Hillsborough Schools student or have never accessed Canvas before, please visit the families section on [HillsboroughSchools.org](http://HillsboroughSchools.org) and click the MySPOT Login link to register for an account. Canvas will make it easier than ever to communicate with your student's teachers, monitor their progress, and set up alerts, so you never miss an update in your student's classes.



**Here Comes The Bus** is an app allowing parents to view the real-time location of their child's school bus on their smartphone, tablet, or computer.

With it, parents have the information they need to send their children to the bus stop at just the right time, helping protect them from inclement weather and to better gauge the actual arrival time of the bus. **The free app is available in three languages (English, Spanish, and French), and it can be downloaded from the App store, Google Play, or at [herecomesthebus.com](http://herecomesthebus.com).**

Parents then click on the "sign up" button, and enter the code 75255. Under "My Students", parents should click "add" and enter their child's last name and the student's ID number. Parents with multiple children riding different buses will need to put each student's ID number into the app.



HILLSBOROUGH  
**ASSIST**

## HILLSBOROUGH ASSIST

This online resource can be found as an icon on the HCPS Hub and offers assistance to students who are looking for help with anything from mental health supports to reporting unwanted behavior at school.

Clicking on the Hillsborough Assist icon will provide students with directions or procedures that allow them to directly access the Student Services Team at their school. It also provides contact information for community resources that can be accessed by text or a phone call.

**Communicating with adults can sometimes seem scary or difficult. If students are feeling overwhelmed or depressed, we can connect them with professionals who can help.** For any child experiencing unwanted behavior at school such as bullying, violence, or sexual harassment, we want to make sure they are comfortable reporting it so we make sure it never happens again.



Come along and learn with Hillsborough County Public Schools as we explore each letter of the alphabet as we See It, Sign It, Say It, Find It, Build It, and Write It! Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It allows young readers to develop their reading comprehension and decode new words as they read. Our goal through Learning Letters is to make learning phonics relevant and fun, as well as to build a strong foundation for early literacy skills!



**Watch Learning Letters here at [hillsboroughschools.org/learningletters](http://hillsboroughschools.org/learningletters).**



Like & follow us on Facebook  
[@HillsboroughSch](https://www.facebook.com/HillsboroughSch)

Follow us on Instagram  
[@HillsboroughSch](https://www.instagram.com/HillsboroughSch)

Follow us on Twitter  
[@HillsboroughSch](https://twitter.com/HillsboroughSch)

Connect with us on Nextdoor

**SUBSCRIBE** Subscribe to our YouTube channel at [HCPSTVideoChannel](https://www.youtube.com/HCPSTVideoChannel)



**myON** is a personalized digital library is available at no cost to every child in our district. **Renaissance myON® Reader is a student-centered, personalized literacy platform that gives students access to more than 6,500 enhanced digital books.** Books can be matched to your child's interests, grade and reading level. Combined with a suite of close reading tools and embedded supports, myON Reader fosters student engagement and achievement.

To log in, go to [myON.com](http://myON.com) and search your child's school name; the username is your child's lunch number and the password is your child's district password or birth year and date if you have not logged in. Contact your child's school if you have additional questions. **[myon.com](http://myon.com)**

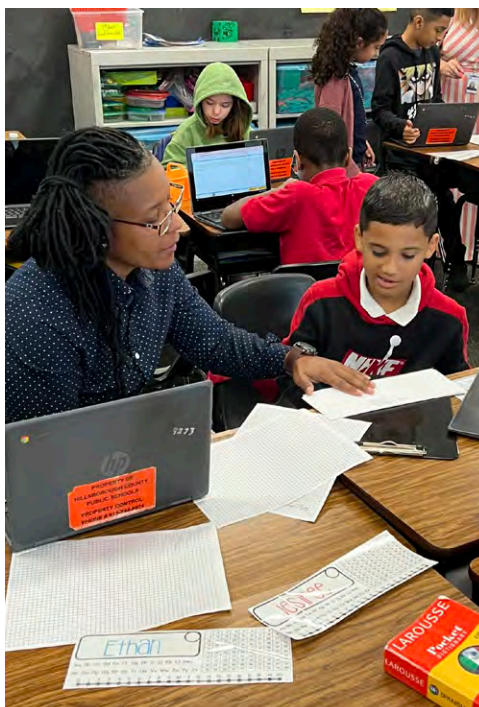
# TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

The Transformation Network works relentlessly to focus on bold, innovative approaches that create equitable access to high-quality instructional practices, develop organizational talent and capacity, design high achieving collaborative school cultures, and empower family involvement and community partnerships for the most vulnerable schools in Hillsborough County.

## Did you know?

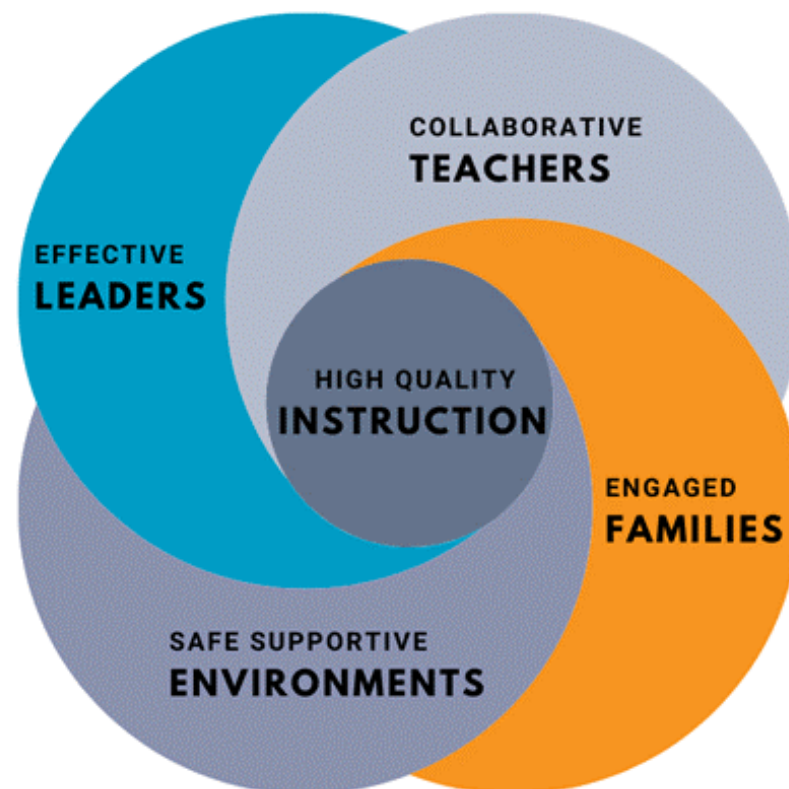
The Transformation Network launched the Transformation Fellows Program, a comprehensive, multi-year effort to recruit, train, and place several hundred university and college level students as tutors, mentors and support staff in all our most vulnerable and high-need schools. **This program is being launched with the support and partnership of several incredible local institutions of higher education, including the University of South Florida, the University of Tampa, Saint Leo University, and Hillsborough Community College.**

Fellows will be trained and assigned to push-in to classrooms and in predefined student groups to assist in the implementation of targeted support, and on an as-needed basis will support school staff in areas defined by the school's strategic plan.



The Transformation Network model focuses on ensuring that every school and every child are supported by five key levels of school change:

## TRANSFORMATION NETWORK IMPROVEMENT MODEL





### TRANSFORMATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

If you are a college student or recent graduate, apply to the Transformation Fellowship Program.



**For any additional questions on this program, please contact the Transformation Network at [TransformationNetwork@hcps.net](mailto:TransformationNetwork@hcps.net)**



# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department provides support and services to students with disabilities (SWD) who are eligible for special education services.

The ESE Department is comprised of administrators, teachers, and other district-level staff that provide professional learning opportunities and instructional programming to facilitate high quality instruction and supports for students with disabilities. The ESE Department supports the district in processes related to identification, evaluation, eligibility determination, educational placement and the provision of a free appropriate public education to SWD and ensures that parents have the opportunity to be a partner in the educational decisions made regarding their child, and that they are afforded the procedural safeguards to which they are entitled.

When families and educators work together as partners, our students can accomplish so much and realize our vision of Preparing Students for Life. One Team, One Goal, The Power of One!

## SERVICES INCLUDE:

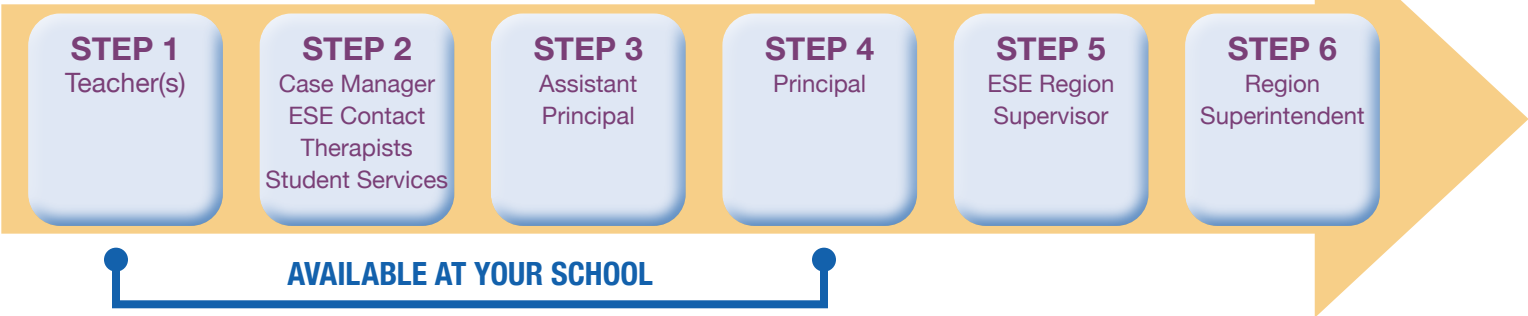
- General education classrooms
- Resource rooms
- Special classes
- Specialized day schools
- Hospital homebound
- Services for many SWD can be provided at their neighborhood school. Eligible students are provided supports and/or services per their Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is based on each child's unique needs.
- Supplemental services are provided in collaboration with discretionary projects such as Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), Florida Inclusion Network, and the Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET).



## DID YOU KNOW?

The John M. McKay Scholarship option is a state-operated voucher program for exceptional education students with IEPs and 504 plans. **For questions regarding the John M. McKay Scholarship program, visit [floridaschoolchoice.org](http://floridaschoolchoice.org), call the Florida Department of Education Office of Independent Education at 800-447-1636, or call our school district's Exceptional Student Education office at (813) 273-7025.**

## FDLRS ESE PARENT LIAISON



*No matter where you are in the process, your ESE Parent Liaison can help!*

The Parent Liaison project is supported by Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) and Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS).

Each liaison works closely with area district schools and staff and is a parent of a child who currently receives, or has received, Exceptional Student Education (ESE). Their goal is to guide and empower families to become collaborative, effective advocates for their child with special needs by providing information, help and support to promote academic and social success in school and within the community.

# SPORTS

The Athletics Department serves to develop, enhance, and oversee the interscholastic athletic programs at the high school and middle school levels. The two priorities for the Athletics Department are:

- Provide a safe environment for student athletes to participate
- Promote good sportsmanship and fair play

We offer the following sports:

- Middle School - basketball, volleyball, track, soccer and flag football.
- High School - baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, flag football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball and wrestling

Hillsborough County Public Schools uses cashless ticketing. You can purchase tickets to any athletic event on [HillsboroughSchools.org/athletics](http://HillsboroughSchools.org/athletics) or by downloading the Hometown Ticketing app.

We are extremely proud of all our athletes and athletic teams. Our district boasts some extraordinary champions!

## WHAT ARE THE DIPLOMA OPTIONS?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24–credit standard diploma
- 18–credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

In addition, they must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale; and pass all the applicable testing requirements

## DIPLOMA DESIGNATIONS

In addition to meeting the 24–credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student may earn one or more designations on their high school diploma:

- Merit Diploma Designation
- Scholar Diploma Designation

Requirements for graduation from high school depend on the year a student enters 9th grade. Please visit [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org) for the latest information on graduation requirements and diploma designations.



## PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

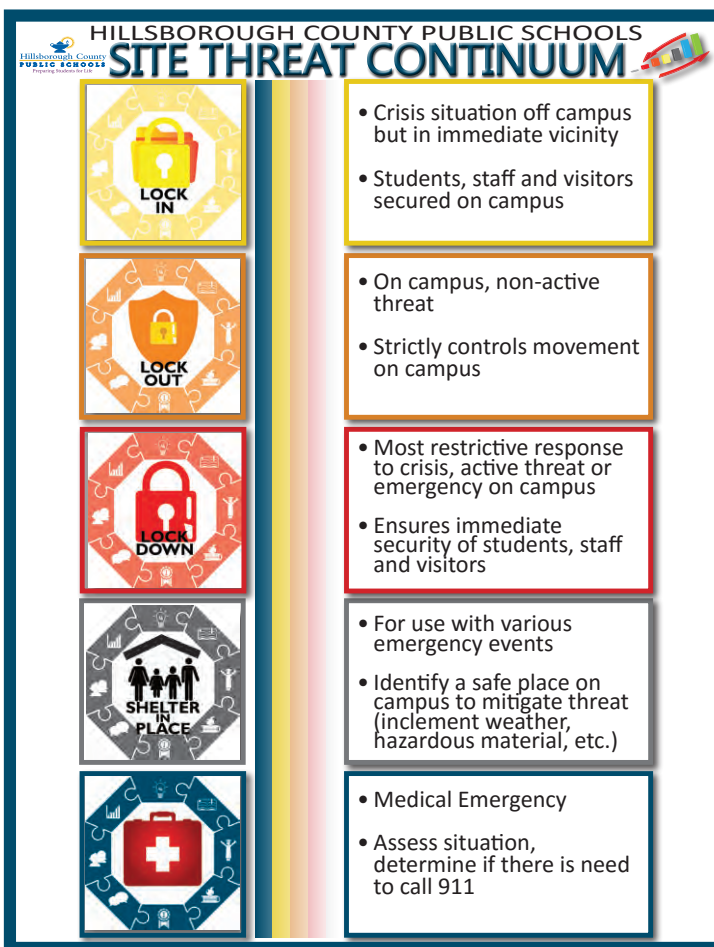
It's never too soon to start planning for your child's future, visit [www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org) and [www.hillsboroughschools.org/scholarships](http://www.hillsboroughschools.org/scholarships) to learn about scholarship and grant opportunities available for postsecondary education.

## PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS & STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN

Hillsborough County Public Schools provides an education and the supports needed, which enable each student to excel as a successful and responsible citizen. Students will be placed in programs and levels best suited to meet their academic needs, with consideration given to their social, emotional and physical development, to ensure their total and continuous development. Decisions regarding student promotion, retention and special placement are primarily the responsibility of the principal and the School Placement Committee, in accordance with the district's Student Progression Plan. Promotion is based on student achievement. Instruction will be offered in each school that complies with the student performance standards adopted by the Florida State Board of Education. The standards adopted by the state, are incorporated into appropriate courses in all subject areas in Kindergarten through adult.



# SAFETY AND SECURITY



## SITE THREAT CONTINUUM

All school staff is trained to implement the Safety Protocols whether there is a threat near campus, on campus, medical or weather emergency.

**FORTIFYFL**  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

#FORTIFYFL  
GETFORTIFYFL.COM

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

DOWNLOAD NOW

## FORTIFY

You can download the Fortify app on your mobile device or submit tips on your desktop computer at [www.getfortifyfl.com](http://www.getfortifyfl.com). You can leave contact information but can also report anonymously, if you prefer. We hope that you will become familiar with this app, and take all reporting seriously to ensure all of our schools are safe learning and working environments for our students and staff.

**CENTEGIX**  
EVERY. SECOND. MATTERS.

**CrisisAlert™ Quick-Start Guide**

### CrisisAlert Badges:

- Your badge (along with your school ID) must be worn every day
- It is better to wear the badge above the waist (clipped to your shirt or on your lanyard)
- Do not leave it unattended or accessible to students
- Do not glue or attach anything to the badge – it will have your name on a small label.
- Do not scratch, puncture, bend or otherwise damage the integrity of the badge

The badge will only be used if the usual way you contact the office is not easily accessible to you.

**This is ONLY used for a TRUE emergency!!**

**Staff Alert** (Admin/security will respond)

- Click the badge 3 times (you will receive a short vibration feedback)
- Administration/security will respond
- This is when you need individual assistance for an issue or incident:
  - Medical emergency
  - Physical altercation
  - Custody issue
  - Suspicious activity
- There will not be sirens (chirps) or beacon flashes – the entire school will not be aware of any incident.

**Lockdown** (Entire campus and district personnel will be notified)

- Continue clicking your badge until site is on lockdown (Red strobes flashing, sirens/chirps sounding)
- A pre recorded message will be heard over the intercom
- A desktop takeover message will appear on all campus computers

**Strobe Alert Colors** (Strobe will flash throughout school)

LOCKDOWN	LOCKOUT	SHELTER	EVACUATE

## CENTEGIX CrisisAlert System

CENTEGIX empowers teachers and staff members to call for help in an emergency. With CENTEGIX CrisisAlert, every staff member has the ability to get help when and where they need it most without relying on cell phone access. Simply click the button on your badge three times and help is on the way, no matter where you are on campus.



# HIRING IN HILLSBOROUGH SCHOOLS

From teachers and paraprofessionals to school bus drivers, mechanics, student nutrition, ESE professionals, and more, various job opportunities are available to support the students and families in Hillsborough County.

Join the seventh largest school district in the nation with more than 240 schools and the most dedicated employees; together, we are HILLSBOROUGH STRONG!

## Find Your Why at Hillsborough County Public Schools

- Starting salaries competitive with every major city in the Southeast
- Top-notch benefits including medical, basic life insurance, and participation in the Florida Retirement System

- Located in the best city to live in Florida by Forbes in 2023
- The best school district in the nation for new employees, according to Forbes' 2019 list of best workplaces for recent college graduates
- Teaching incentives may be available for teaching at our highest-needs schools
- Professional development and training included at no cost
- Opportunities for career advancement
- Teacher certification options for military veterans and other career opportunities inside and outside the classroom

Visit [TeachInTampa.com](https://TeachInTampa.com) to learn more about teaching opportunities

preparing students for life in Hillsborough County.

Visit [HCPSJobs.com](https://HCPSJobs.com) for all other positions available outside of the classroom.



3rd Annual Hillsborough County Public Schools

# 5K/1-MILE RUN & WALK

Join us April 6, 2024  
at Blake High School  
for our annual  
Race for Education!



Proceeds directly benefit HCPS students and teachers by funding innovative and engaging ways schools are improving the mental health and physical wellness of students.



Hillsborough County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Preparing Students for Life



[EducationFoundation.com/RaceforEducation](https://EducationFoundation.com/RaceforEducation)



FIND

YOUR

WHY



Want a job that makes a difference every day?

Learn more at [TeachInTampa.com](https://TeachInTampa.com)



# CTE / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



**Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs focus on a wide variety of career clusters, such as Agriscience, Business, Engineering, and Health Science.**

These elective programs develop skills that prepare over 50,000 middle and high school students for jobs in the workforce of the future.

Students in CTE programs take a hands-on approach to learning, with engaging classes that connect to real-world job skills and opportunities to complete in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO), such as FFA, HOSA, and TSA.

CTE often leads to valuable industry certifications and strong partnerships with schools and businesses that create a strong future after high school. In fact, our HCPS CTE student programs have generated over 10,000 industry certifications three years in a row! CTE prepares students for higher education, the workforce, and adult life.

For more information, call Career and Technical Education at 813-231-1860 or visit [hillsboroughschools.org/CTE](https://hillsboroughschools.org/CTE).



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call Career and Technical Education at (813) 231-1860 or visit [hillsboroughschools.org/CTE](https://hillsboroughschools.org/CTE).

### HCPS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION FAST FACTS 2022-2023

- 77 CTE programs are offered at all 28 high schools
- 52 Middle and K8 schools offer CTE courses to their students
- Over 43,000 students are enrolled in CTE programs



## BUILDING TAMPA'S TOMORROW

Hillsborough County students now have the opportunity to attend two redesigned high schools dedicated to specific areas of workforce development.

The Medical Academy at D.W. Waters and Building Construction Academy at Bowers/Whitley will provide students with the industry certifications and knowledge to start their careers right after graduation or be prepared for post-secondary training.

Interested families can apply during the School Choice and Magnet application window throughout the school year.

Be sure to follow the schools on Twitter for updates!

@HCPSDWWMedical  
@HCPSBW\_BCA

# SUPPORTING OUR HISPANIC COMMUNITY

One vital area of focus in our district is supporting student achievement through graduation and college and career readiness outcomes for Hispanic & Multicultural students. District staff helps to strengthen family, school, and community partnerships through engagement, capacity-building initiatives, and policy and program development.

## SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES:

1

### **Parent School Partnership (Colaboración entre Padres y Escuelas)**

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS), in partnership with the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund (MALDEF), is offering the Parent School Partnership Program (PSP) to empower parents to be advocates and leaders in their schools and to build authentic parent-school partnerships.

The PSP Program ensures parents gain knowledge to:

- Participate in their children's education by learning to navigate the educational system
- Effectively communicate & overcome language barriers & capitalize on cultural assets
- Gain an in-depth understanding of their rights and their children's rights

Parents will develop projects that create positive change to ensure their children receive a just and equitable education that prepares them for life.

2

### **Power Hour ( Hora de Aprendizaje)**

The mission of the HCPS Virtual Parent Academy is to provide parents, families, and the community with the necessary tools and skills to support students academically, socially, and emotionally while building a cornerstone to a healthier and safe community.

Our academy catalog focuses on three key pillars:

- Student achievement— workshops provide information and strategies for parents to support their children at home.
- Parent advocacy— workshops provide information and strategies to help parents advocate for their children.
- Personal growth— workshops build parent confidence and provide them opportunities for personal gain.

3

### **Latinos In Action**

Latinos In Action (LIA) offers an asset-based approach to bridging Latino students' graduation and opportunity gap, working from within the educational system to create positive change. This program operates as a year-long elective course taught by a highly-qualified middle and high school teacher to empower Latino youth to lead and strengthen their communities through college and career readiness.

4

### **Parent Engagement District Advisory Council ( English and Spanish) PEDAC**

The PEDAC focuses on providing an opportunity for parents, community members, and district staff to discuss parent and family engagement practices throughout the district and to build and sustain strong, positive partnerships. Members will also have the opportunity to engage in Parent-to-Parent Mentorship.

## DID YOU KNOW?

More than 37% of our population in Hillsborough County Public Schools identifies as Hispanic.

## DISTRICT BILINGUAL SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

**Bilingual school counselors address the needs of K-12 refugee, immigrant, and English Language Learner (ELL) populations.** In addition, bilingual school counselors directly assist school-based counselors and staff in coordinating and delivering school counseling services to international students and their families.

Services may include:

- Evaluation of international credentials for K-12 student placement
- Spanish language educational forums for students/parents
- Vertical collaboration in advocacy efforts for K-12 immigrant students and families
- Participation in community and district-based groups that address the needs of the Hispanic community in Hillsborough County
- Development of in-service training for K-12 school counselors and other school personnel on international education trends and proven practices when serving our district's diverse population of students

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN ESPAÑOL



<https://www.facebook.com/HillsboroughSchoolsEspanol/>



[https://twitter.com/hcps\\_espanol](https://twitter.com/hcps_espanol)



<https://www.instagram.com/hillsboroughschools/es/>





# PARENT RESOURCES

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD BEFORE TESTING

FloridaShines is our state's Student Hub of Innovative Educational Services, offering an array of FREE online tools and resources designed to help students succeed in school, earn a college degree, and embark on a rewarding career. **For test-taking strategies visit [floridashines.org/testingstrategies](https://floridashines.org/testingstrategies) to download a useful guide.**



## HELPING YOUR CHILD DO WELL ON TEST DAYS

1. Do talk to your child about testing, so they know the different kinds of tests they will take.
2. Explain that tests are yardsticks that teachers, schools, school districts and even states use to measure what and how they teach and how well students are learning what is taught.
3. Tell your child, that occasionally, they will take “standardized” tests. Explain that these tests use the same standards to measure student performance across the state or even across the country.
4. Do encourage your child. Praise them for the things they do well, it helps build confidence and ease anxiety and fears that lead to testing mistakes.
5. Do meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests.
6. Do make sure that your child attends school regularly.
7. Do provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially on the day of a test.
8. Do provide books and magazines for your child to read at home.
9. Don't get upset because of a single test score. Many things can influence how your child does on a test.
10. Don't place so much emphasis on your child's test scores that you lose sight of their well-being.
11. To learn more about Florida assessments, including the FAST assessment, which is new for the 2022–2023, go to [flfast.org](https://flfast.org).

## SCHOOL CHOICE

Our families can choose from various schools based on their child's interests and way of learning. Options can be based on location, curriculum, interests, or system of learning. Parents and legal guardians may choose from a list of schools with space available during open application windows. Visit [hillsboroughschools.org/choice](https://hillsboroughschools.org/choice) to see when application periods are open to explore your options. **Questions? The Office of Student Planning and Placement is here to help. Call with questions at (813) 272–4692.**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Florida provides a variety of school choice options, including six scholarship programs. These programs allow parents unprecedented educational choices. To learn more about K–12 Scholarship Programs or if you have questions regarding Florida School Choice Programs call the Toll-Free Information Hotline at 1–800–447–1636.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) IN SCHOOLS

The STEM Education Department facilitates STEM education for ALL students in our district. Our approach to STEM education includes a network of collaborating partners, including institutes of higher education, business partners, philanthropic organizations, and many science-rich institutions. Through the use of experiential, hands-on learning, a constructivist approach to education, and cross-curricular collaborations between STEM and CTE we ready our students for college and career success—preparing them for life. **To learn more about STEM programs in our district, visit [hillsboroughschools.org/stem](https://hillsboroughschools.org/stem).**



## TITLE I: IMPROVING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

Title 1 provides supplemental funding that may be used for additional instructional staff; professional development, expanded learning time, and other strategies for assuring all students meet or exceed State academic standards.

### Critical program elements are but not limited to:

- Comprehensive needs assessment and school-wide plan
- Support for Turn-Around and Transformation Schools
- Support for neglected, delinquent, and migrant students
- Coordination of services for homeless students in non–Title I schools
- Recruitment and retention of highly effective teachers and paraprofessionals
- Ongoing professional development

Each Title I school receives a parent and family engagement allocation to support a comprehensive parent and family engagement program and should provide families an opportunity to give input in determining how the Title I funds will be expended.

### Under public law, Title 1 schools:

- Jointly develop a Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- Develop a Student–Parent–Teacher Compact or written agreement of what each party will do jointly to increase student achievement
- Sponsor an Annual Title I (Informational) Meeting for all parents of students enrolled in Title I schools.

For more information, please contact your child's school or the Family and Community Engagement Department.

## ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

Hillsborough County Public School Accelerated Programs Department is dedicated to ensuring all students accelerate their future by providing access to higher-level coursework and support as they thrive for college and career success. **Visit [hillsboroughschools.org/acceleratedprograms](https://hillsboroughschools.org/acceleratedprograms) for information regarding Advanced Placement, AVID, Cambridge AICE, Dual Enrollment, and more.**

# CONTACT US

## DISTRICT OFFICES

Main Line .....	(813) 272-4000
Adult & Career Services Center .....	(813) 231-1907
Career and Technical Education .....	(813) 231-1860
Charter Schools .....	(813) 272-4049
Communications Department .....	(813) 272-4060
Partnership Engagement & Philanthropy .....	(813) 272-4680
County Council of PTA/PTSA .....	(813) 272-4979
Early Childhood (Pre-K Exceptional Education) .....	(813) 740-7870
Elementary Education .....	(813) 272-4655
English Language Learners .....	(813) 273-7511
Exceptional Student Education .....	(813) 273-7025
Family & Community Engagement (FACE) .....	(813) 272-4831
FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System) .....	(813) 837-7777
FDLRS Parent Services	
English .....	(813) 837-7732
Spanish .....	(813) 837-7728
Head Start .....	(813) 740-7870
Health Services .....	(813) 273-7020
High School Education .....	(813) 272-4443
Hillsborough Virtual K-12 Program .....	(813) 983-7278
HOST: Hillsborough Out of School Time (K-12) .....	(813) 744-8941
Meal Status / Meal Prepay .....	(866) 544-5575
Middle School Education .....	(813) 272-4616
Migrant Title I .....	(813) 757-9331
Psychological Services .....	(813) 273-7095
School Boundaries .....	(813) 272-4896
School Counseling Services .....	(813) 273-7346
School Options Line & Magnet Programs .....	(813) 272-4692
(Student Planning & Placement)	
School Readiness Programs .....	(813) 515-2340
(Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough)	
Student, Family, and Community Engagement .....	(813) 273-7125
School Social Work .....	(813) 273-7090
Student Nutrition Services .....	(813) 840-7092
Student Record .....	(813) 605-8908
Application Center (Free School Meal Benefits) .....	(813) 840-7066
Student Services Mental Health .....	(813) 273-7136

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Teen Parent Program .....	(813) 272-4674
Title I Office .....	(813) 272-4875
Transformation Network .....	(813) 272-4845
Transportation (School Buses) .....	(813) 982-5500
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) – School District Programs .....	(813) 740-7870
Volunteer Services .....	(813) 272-4446
Workforce and Continuing Education .....	(813) 231-1860
(Hillsborough Technical Colleges)	

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

2-1-1 for Services and Resources .....	Call 2-1-1
Abuse Hotline (children, disabled or elderly) .....	2-1-1 or (800) 962-2873
Adult Emergency Services .....	(813) 272-2958
Crime Stoppers .....	(800) 873-TIPS (800) 873-8477 (crimestopperstb.com)
Children's Crisis Center .....	(813) 272-2882
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Inc .....	(813) 964-1964
Life Center of the Suncoast (support for grief counseling) .....	(813) 237-3114
Poison Information Center .....	(813) 844-4444 or (800) 222-1222
988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline .....	Call or text 988
The Spring (domestic violence) .....	(813) 247-7233

Visit [hillsboroughschools.org/backtoschool](https://hillsboroughschools.org/backtoschool) for additional resources to help navigate the through the 2023–24 school year.

The School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, disability or age in its programs, services, activities or hiring and employment practices. School Board Policy 1122 ensures equal opportunity for all in its personnel policies and practices. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding Title IX nondiscrimination regulations and requirements: Dr. Pansy Houghton, Executive Officer, Compliance, (813) 272–4000; pansy.houghton@hcps.net; 901 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33602.