HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2016-2017

Parent and Family Guide

Preparing students for life!
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**Hillsborough County Public Schools 2016-2017 School Calendar**

**Students’ First Day of School**
August 10, 2016

**Labor Day Holiday**
September 5, 2016

**End of 1st Grading Period**
October 7, 2016

**Non-Student Day**
October 10, 2016

**Veterans Day Holiday**
November 11, 2016

**Fall Break**
November 21-25, 2016

**Students Return to School**
November 28, 2016

**End of 2nd Grading Period**
December 16, 2016

**Winter Break**
December 19-30, 2016

**Non-Student Day**
January 2, 2017

**Students Return to School**
January 3, 2017

**Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**
January 16, 2017

**Florida State Fair Day**
February 10, 2017
(West Hillsborough Students ONLY)

**Presidents Day**
February 20, 2017

**Strawberry Festival Day**
March 6, 2017
(Area 6 Schools Only)

**End of 3rd Grading Period**
March 10, 2017

**Spring Break**
March 13-17, 2017

**Students Return to School**
March 20, 2017

**Non-Student Day**
April 14, 2017

**Seniors’ Last Day**
May 17, 2017

**End of 4th Grading Period**
May 26, 2017

**Last Day of School**
May 26, 2017

**Student Early Release Dates**
Each Monday - One Hour Early Release
Last Day of School - 2.5 Hours Early

This calendar and many others are available for viewing and sharing by visiting the Hillsborough County Public Schools website at sdhc.k12.fl.us.

**Other Important District Dates**

**AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK**
November 14-18, 2016

**Great American Teach In**
Thursday, November 17, 2016

**COLLEGE NIGHT DATES**

- Monday, September 26, 2016 – Sickles High School
- Tuesday, September 27, 2016 – Plant High School
- Wednesday, September 28, 2016 – Chamberlain High School
- Thursday, September 29, 2016 – Brandon High School
- Friday, November 4, 2016 – Florida State Fairgrounds - Florida Center
  3-7 p.m.
  Choice Information Line: 813-272-4692

**PASOS AL FUTURO**
(College Planning Nights conducted in Spanish)

**FALL 2016**

- Thursday, September 22, 2016 – Gaither High School
- Thursday, October 6, 2016 – Jefferson High School
- Thursday, October 20, 2016 – Plant City High School
- Thursday, November 3, 2016 – Lennard High School
- Thursday, November 17, 2016 – Alonso High School

**WINTER/SPRING 2017**

- Thursday, February 2, 2016 – Strawberry Crest High School
- Thursday, February 16, 2016 – Spoto High School
- Thursday, March 2, 2016 – Leto High School

**REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION DATES**

**Elementary**
October 24, 2016; January 13, 2017; April 3, 2017; May 26, 2017

**Secondary**
October 28, 2016; January 23, 2017; April 7, 2017; June 10, 2017

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**Mission:**
Preparing students for life.

**Vision:**
To provide an education and the support that enables each student to excel as a successful and responsible citizen.
Parent Checklist

Are you using good parenting skills? Answer these questions to see how you are doing. Do you follow these guidelines always, sometimes or never?

ATTENDANCE
- I expect my child to go to school every day, be on time and stay for the entire day.

COMMUNICATION
- I call the school's attendance line to report my child's absence.
- I attend scheduled conferences.
- 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 call the school's attendance line to report my child's absence.
- I talk with my child and know what he or she is doing and with whom.
- I talk with my child and help him or her set goals.

HEALTH
- I schedule visits to the doctor and dentist.
- I set a bedtime that lets my child get nine hours of sleep.
- I provide healthy meals and snacks.
- 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 set high expectations for my child's behavior and achievement at school.
- I expect my child to ask for help when he or she needs it.
- I expect my child to finish all class and homework assignments.
- I expect my child to respect others.
- I expect my child to get a high school diploma and seek additional education.

VOLUNTEERISM
- I set a good example for my child by helping at my child's school and in the community.

ENCOURAGEMENT
- I praise my child for his or her good behavior and effort.
- I display my child's schoolwork on a wall, refrigerator or bulletin board.

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Hillsborough County School Board Members

Front Row: Jeff Eakins, Superintendent; April Griffin, Chair; Cindy Stuart, Vice Chair
Back Row: Sally Harris, Melissa Snively, Susan L. Valdes, Carol W. Kurdell, Doretha W. Edgecomb

A Message from Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent and School Board

Dear Families,

In Hillsborough County Public Schools, we are focused on giving students the skills and resources they need to be successful in school and in life. We also strive to provide our families with the tools necessary to ensure they can help their children. This Parent and Family Guide is the perfect way to provide all of the information offered by the district and our partners in one handy tool.

As part of our Strategic Plan, we are tackling the graduation rate. Our goal is to increase our graduation rate to 90 percent by the year 2020. All of our employees know they are advocates for every student and we all have a role in ensuring students' success.

In this guide, you will find valuable information on important school dates, school choice options and ways you can help your child do well in school. We provide a student-centered learning environment that engages every child. We thank you for allowing Hillsborough County Public Schools to be part of your child's education and future. It is our goal to prepare our students for life with experiences and opportunities that will benefit them now and for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeff Eakins
Superintendent

April Griffin
School Board Chair

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Newspaper in Education

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education (NIE) program is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources. Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text.

Since the mid-1970s, NIE has provided schools with class sets of the Times, plus our award-winning original curriculum, at no cost to teachers or schools. With ever-shrinking school budgets, the newspaper has become an invaluable tool to teachers. In the Tampa Bay area, the Times Publishing Co. provides more than 5 million free newspapers and electronic licenses for teachers to use in their classrooms every school year.

The Times and our NIE curriculum are rich educational resources, offering teachers an up-to-the-minute, living text and source for countless projects in virtually every content area. Teachers, email ordernie@tampabay.com to become an NIE teacher. For information about how you can donate to NIE, call 800-333-7505, ext. 8138 or visit tampabay.com/nie.

Learn more about NIE on our website: tampabay.com/nie. Keep in the know about the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program by following us on Twitter: twitter.com/TBTimesNIE.

Newspaper in Education

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Credits

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Family and Community Engagement

In Hillsborough County Public Schools we are embracing new ways to help every child succeed. As the eighth largest school district in the nation, we understand that when families, communities and schools work together, students are more successful and the entire community benefits. Research tells us that students with engaged families earn higher grades and test scores; enroll in higher-level academic programs; are promoted on time and earn more credits; adapt better to school and attend school regularly; have better social skills and behaviors; and graduate and go on to postsecondary endeavors that will prepare students for life.

This is why Hillsborough County Public Schools is committed to building greater support and capacity to increase parent and family engagement throughout the district. We are prepared to cultivate and sustain positive relationships with our families and develop stronger partnerships of shared responsibility for children's outcomes between home and school. Our goal is to strengthen the collaborative network with district and school personnel, families, community and faith-based organizations. We do this through several mechanisms, such as the Parent Consortium, Academic Parent Teacher Teams, School Advisory Committees, PTSA/PTA meetings and many other training opportunities. Please contact your child's school to learn how to become more involved.

Immunization Requirements for Entry into Florida Schools

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade who are coming into a Florida school for the first time must present a record of a physical examination completed within the last 12 months. Contact your physician or the Hillsborough County Health Department. The immunization record must show that the student has met the minimum state requirement. Immunizations are provided for free at the Health Department. For more information, visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go health” in the search box.

**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR ENTRY**

For students entering Kindergarten*, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, the immunization record must show that the student has met minimal state requirements for vaccines.

- 4-5 doses DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis)
- 4-5 doses Polio (Kindergarten)
- 2 doses MMR (measles-mumps-rubella)
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- 2 doses Varicella (chicken pox)

- KG — 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 by the health care provider.
- 1 dose Tdap (tetanus- diphtheria- pertussis) for seventh grade
- An updated DH 680 form to include Tdap must be obtained for submission to the school.
- ** The final dose of the polio series should be administered on or after the fourth birthday regardless of the number of previous doses.

For students entering ninth through 12th grades, the record must show that the student has met the minimal state requirements.

- 5 doses DTaP (diphtheria-pertussis- tetanus)
- 4 doses Polio
- 2 doses MMR (measles-mumps-rubella)
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- 1 dose Tdap (tetanus- diphtheria- pertussis)
- 1 dose Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or have had the disease

**NOTE:** 7th–12th, Three vaccines which may not be mandated for your child's grade level, but are recommended to be discussed with your physician, are meningococcal meningitis, hepatitis A series and the HPV series. (The HPV vaccine has been approved for both males and females.)

9th–12th, Two varicella vaccines are not mandated for your child's grade level, but are recommended to be discussed with your physician. **If a child has had the chicken pox disease, documentation (the year the child had the disease) as verified by a physician should be given to the school.**

If you have private health insurance or Medicaid, contact your physician or 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.

**MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE**

Although not required, a dose of MCV4 is recommended for children and adolescents 11-18 years of age. Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States. For those who have never gotten MCV4, a dose is recommended at high school entry but not required. Many colleges and universities require this vaccine. Please check with the college or university admissions office. MCV4 is the preferred vaccine for people 2—55 years of age.

Hillsborough Healthy Students — A Partnership With Florida KidCare

In a partnership created through the Family HealthCare Foundation, Florida KidCare and Hillsborough County Public Schools are working together to educate families about this affordable program. Florida KidCare provides comprehensive health insurance coverage for children from birth through age 18. Florida KidCare provides coverage for doctor’s visits, immunizations, surgery, vision, mental health checkups, hospitalization, prescriptions, hearing exams and more. Eligibility and premiums are based on household income and family size.

Florida KidCare application assistance is available through School Social Work. For more information, call 813-362-1413.
MENTORING
Mentoring helps students succeed, achieve and graduate from school. The role of a mentor is to provide a listening ear, valuable guidance and academic assistance to help students experience greater success. As students begin to realize that their mentor cares, school absenteeism decreases, academic performance improves and self-esteem increases. Any responsible adult who is willing and able to share time with a student on a consistent basis can be a mentor. All you need is one hour a week. Mentoring opportunities are provided in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, 813-287-2210 or bbsbstampabay.org; and the Hillsborough Education Foundation, 813-574-0260 or educationfoundation.com.

PARENT UNIVERSITY
Parent University
Parent University is a program designed by the Alliance for Public Schools in partnership with Hillsborough County Public Schools. This program is presented in conjunction with the United Way Suncoast and the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association (HCTA) to provide information to parents and other caregivers as they strive to support their child’s academic life. Sessions focus on academic and support programs of Hillsborough County Public Schools, effective strategies that families can use to help every child succeed, and ways to advocate for the resources necessary for our public schools.

For information about future events, please visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “Parent University” in the search box. Or you may refer to the Parent University website at all4schools.org/hillsborough.

PTA/PTSA
Parent Teacher Associations/Parent Teacher Student Associations provide a way for parents, teachers, administrators, students and community members to advocate for better laws and programs to support student achievement and help prepare them for life. PTA/PTSAs work to bring home, school, community and place of worship together, to improve the school and community that supports all of our children: “Every Child, One Voice.” Contact your child’s school for more information.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)
The responsibility of the school advisory council 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.

School Advisory Council (SAC) members are very important people. Council members are entrusted with the improvement of public schools. Underlying the law that created these councils is a belief that all children can learn, and that the public schools can and will change to better prepare students for today’s and tomorrow’s workplace. Each public school is unique. It has its own community setting, resources, challenges and, most importantly, a student population unlike any other. The people best suited to decide what will be effective in helping our students learn are the people closest to each school: the principal, faculty and staff, parents, students, local business people and community members. These “stakeholders” are represented on your advisory council.

SCHOOL-BASED PARENT/ FAMILY WORKSHOPS
A variety of workshops are offered by each school to deepen parents’ knowledge and skills to help students succeed socially and academically. Please look for information in the school newsletter or contact your child’s school.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES
Volunteers and community partners are saying Y.E.S. (You Empower Students) every day to empowering students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes that are necessary to prepare students for life. The Volunteer Services Department is committed to linking volunteers and community partners with schools. Opportunities to say Y.E.S. include school-based volunteers, mentors, speakers/classroom presentations, enrichment programs, days of service, and business and community partnerships. Individuals interested in volunteering in Hillsborough County Public Schools are screened and registered by Volunteer Services.

For information or to apply for free/reduced meal benefits, visit us online at sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go SNS” in the search box.

For more information about future events, please visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go volunteer” in the search box. Make this your year to say Y.E.S. to becoming a volunteer in HCPS!
How Can I Help My Child Do Well?

You can help your child get ready for school by doing these simple things at home:

- Encourage your child to read different kinds of fiction and nonfiction, including books, newspapers and magazines.
- Encourage your child to read at least 30 minutes a day without a break.
- Take your child to the library regularly to check out and read books and magazines.
- Ask your child to retell stories he or she has read.
- Ask your child “why” questions about what he or she has read.
- Ask your child to compare and contrast stories and characters.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home.
- Find ways for your child to practice writing at home, such as by writing notes to family members.

What If My Child Is Not Doing Well in School?

As a parent, you may be disappointed and frustrated when your child brings home bad grades or does not score well on standardized tests. There are many possible reasons your child is not doing well in school. You and your child’s teacher can work together to figure out the best way to help your child do better.

Here are a few tips for dealing with poor school performance:

- Try not to become too emotional about your child’s situation. Instead, try to learn how you can best help your child make a change for the better.
- Meet with your child’s teacher and commit yourself to working together as a team.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place to study at home.
- Provide regular encouragement to your child, especially when he or she has done well.

Tips To Reduce Test Anxiety

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) defines test anxiety as “excessive worry about doing well on a test.” This can be very bad for a student. Ultimately, the student becomes so upset about the test that he or she panics and then feels helpless about the subject matter. For some information on handling test anxiety, visit the USDOE at www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/succeed/part9.html. Here are a few more things you can do as a parent right before a test:

- Keep a positive attitude toward the test.
- Help your child relax.
- Make sure that your child has a good night’s rest.
- Give your child a good breakfast.
- Keep a normal routine at home.

Helping Your Child Do Well On Tests

You can be a great help to your child if you will observe these tips for test taking provided by the U.S. Department of Education:

- Talk to your child about testing.
- 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.
- Tell your child that occasionally, he or she will take “standardized” tests. Explain that these tests use the same standards to measure student performance across the state or even across the country.
- Encourage your child. Praise your child for the things he or she does well.
- Meet with your child’s teacher as often as possible to discuss his or her progress.
- Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and to improve your child’s understanding of schoolwork.
- Make sure that your child attends school regularly. Remember, tests reflect children’s overall achievement.
- 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.
- Help your child avoid test anxiety by planning ahead, studying in advance and making sure your child understands the material.

Special Testing Accommodations

If your child is enrolled in an Exceptional Student Education or English Language Learner program or has a 504 accommodations plan, he or she may be eligible for special testing situations or accommodations. You may want to check with the school for more information well in advance of testing dates.
Anti-Bullying District Policy/Rules

Hillsborough County Public Schools is committed to providing an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying for all of its students and school employees. The district has a policy as part of a comprehensive plan intended to prevent bullying and harassment. You may view that policy by going to the district website and typing “go no-bullying” in the search box.

There are several ways for students and/or parents to report acts of bullying in our district:

- Verbally to an adult at school
- On a Bullying Reporting Form available in every school
- Via email or phone call to a school administrator or district office
- Online at the district’s website at sdhc.k12.fl.us, then type “go no-bullying” in the search box and click on the link next to the red stop sign
- Crime Stoppers (1-800-873-8477)

All reports go directly to the principal or assistant principal of the respective school to investigate and resolve. You may also find additional information by visiting the following websites:

1. kidshealth.org/en/parents
2. fldoe.org/safeschools
3. loveourchildrenusa.org
4. education.com/topic/school-bullying-teasing
Early Childhood Learning Programs
Preparing Children for Success

PRE-K EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION
Special instructional services are provided for approximately 3,100 children ages 3 to 5 with developmental delays or other disabilities. The Pre-Kindergarten Exceptional Education program offers early intervention to improve each child’s level of functioning and enhance successful entry into kindergarten, with appropriate support based on individual need. To make a referral, contact Child Find at 813-837-7777.

HEAD START
The School District Head Start program is federally funded and promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of 3- and 4-year-olds. Eligibility of students is determined by age and income guidelines. Comprehensive services are offered in the areas of health, nutrition, education, family services and parent engagement. The state Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program also is offered during the school year at selected sites. The district program is a delegate of the board of county commissioners. For more information, visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go headstart” in the search box, or call 813-740-7870.

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM
Funded by the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County, the School Readiness program provides financial assistance for child care and early education to low-income working parents and families referred by partner agencies. The goal of the School Readiness program is to provide safe, healthy and quality early educational experiences that support enhanced outcomes for children, their families and the surrounding communities.

VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM (VPK)
The VPK program is designed to prepare children for kindergarten and build a foundation for their educational success. It is a state-funded program that is free for all 4- and 5-year-old children who will be eligible (for the first time) to attend kindergarten in the fall of the following school year. Hillsborough County Public Schools offers both school-year and summer-session options. VPK programs are also available at eligible private facilities for both the school year and for the summer program and for specialized instructional services. For more information on the HCPS VPK program, parents may call the VPK office at 813-272-4840 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go vpk” in the search box. Parents must register online for VPK at elchc.org/sp_vpk_parent.html; an email address and the ability to scan and upload documents are required.
STATE AND DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS
The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Florida Standards for all elementary, middle and high school content areas can be found at the Florida Department of Education website, flstandards.org, and at the district website, sdhc.k12.fl.us. Type “go fsa” in the search box. If you don’t have access to a computer, you can call or visit your child’s school to set up a time to view a copy of the standards.

PERSONALIZED ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLAN
Students will begin career exploration and educational planning during their middle school years. These students will develop a four-year academic and career plan for high school that will be shared with their parents. Prior to the beginning of the ninth grade year, students will select a graduation plan. This selection is indicated on each student’s career and education plan. The parent must sign the plan. This plan will be reviewed annually for any necessary revisions.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
Every graduate earning a standard high school diploma must:
• earn the required 18 (ACCEL) or 24 credits.
• earn a cumulative unweighted state grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0.
• achieve a passing score on the required state assessments.
For more detailed information, refer to the graduation requirement charts posted on the district website: sdhc.k12.fl.us.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS / STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN
Hillsborough County Public Schools’ mission is to provide an education and the supports 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 individual school’s professional staff. 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. These standards, known as the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Florida Standards, are incorporated into appropriate courses in all subject areas in grades kindergarten through adult.
• Instruction addressing career awareness will be offered in each school.
• Provisions shall be made for all students to participate fully in classroom instruction and extracurricular activities. No student will be denied participation because of age, sex, race, disability, religion, national origin or any other reason not related to his or her individual capabilities.

• Instruction in comprehensive health education and substance abuse prevention shall be offered.
• When exceptional abilities and skills are demonstrated, the student may be considered for advanced academic opportunities.
• In exceptional cases, a student will be referred to a county-level special placement committee for placement in a grade level other than the grade assigned, in accordance with school board policy.

* Pending state legislative changes

Reporting Student Progress
When used as part of an assessment plan, traditional tests may lend themselves to a percentage grading scale. When appropriate, teachers of grades K-5 will use the same grading scale identified for grades 6-12. Scores generated from tests and data from other forms of assessment should be combined to evaluate student progress.

Hillsborough County Grading Scale

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\begin{align*}
A &= 90 - 100 \\
B &= 80 - 89 \\
C &= 70 - 79 \\
D &= 60 - 69 \\
F &= 0 - 59
\end{align*}
\]
Attendance
Research shows that student grades and achievement are directly related to being in school every day. Students with higher achievement attend school more often. Help make your child’s school years successful by supporting attendance policies. The compulsory attendance law in Florida requires that students ages 6-16 attend school regularly and be on time. If a student who is required to attend school develops a pattern of nonattendance, the staff at the school where the child is enrolled will make every effort to assist parents in resolving school attendance issues. Call 813-273-7345 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go attendance” in the search box for more information.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 was passed by the United States Congress as part of Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty. The law is an extensive statute that provides funding for primary and secondary education. These federal funds are authorized for professional development, instructional materials and resources to support educational programs and parental involvement promotion. The original act of 1965 was reauthorized by Congress in 2001 under the No Child Left Behind Act, and the most recent legislation is now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). The following federal programs are the current provisions under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015:
- Title I, Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Title I, Part C: Migrant Education
- Title I, Part D: Neglected and Delinquent
- Title I, Part A: Preparing, Training and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers and Principals
- Title II, Part B: Mathematics and Science Partnerships (University of Tampa)
- Title III, Part A: Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students
- Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Title VI: Rural Education Achievement Program
- Title VII: Native American / Alaskan Native Education Program
- Title X, Part C: Education of Homeless Children and Youth Project
- Carl D. Perkins Grant
- School Leadership Program

Some of the programs listed above are criteria-based, discretionary and/or competitive programs. As a result, Hillsborough County Public Schools may not qualify as a participant based on the guidelines of these federally funded programs.

The Academic Support and Federal Programs division provides services under various federal grants to all students attending public and private schools that meet specific criteria with the funding that is made available. Private school students, their parents and their teachers may receive benefits, services and materials from these programs.

Elevate Schools
Our priority schools, known as Elevate schools, embrace out-of-the-box strategies and teaching tools to reach students. At Elevate schools, administrators, teachers and staff support each other to elevate the school culture. Each Elevate school is a community of learners who pride themselves in elevating their education through commitment, focus and collaboration.

Every Student Succeeds Act
A provision of the Every Student Succeeds Act requires schools to develop meaningful opportunities for parent and family engagement to improve the education of children. Research shows that when parents and families are involved in the learning process, student achievement is increased. In fact, according to the U. S. Department of Education, many studies show that what the family does is more important to a child’s school success than how much money the family makes or how much education the parents have. By showing interest in their children’s education, parents and families can spark enthusiasm in them and lead them to a very important understanding that learning can be enjoyable as well as rewarding and is well worth the effort required.

External Parent Resources
- Khan Academy khanacademy.org, offers a free online collection of video lectures and tutorials.
- Just for Parents: parents.fl doe.org/home
- Project Appleseed: parents.fl doe.org/home
- FloridaStudents.org includes hundreds of interactive resources to support student learning in language arts, mathematics, science and civics.

Family Literacy Services
The Adult Education program provides educational opportunities to more than 30,000 adult students 16 years of age or older in the areas of adult basic education (ABE), general educational development (GED), adult high school credit, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), citizenship, vocational preparation instruction, workplace readiness skills, family literacy and career/technical educational opportunities. The CARIBE program provides free English language classes and vocational/career training to adult foreign nationals who enter the United States with refugee status. For more information, call 813-231-1972. Short-term, customized courses are offered to address community interests and needs, such as workforce development and recreation/enrichment classes. Call 813-740-7750.

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS)
FDLRS is a statewide network that provides support services to educators, families of students with exceptionalities and community agencies throughout Florida. FDLRS centers provide services in the areas of Child Find, human resource development, parent services and technology; call 813-837-7777. For parent services, call 813-837-7732 (English) 813-837-7728 (Spanish).

FloridaShines
FloridaShines provides free resources for students to learn about degrees, access their transcript, register for online class, and/or check out a book from any of Florida’s 40 state colleges or university libraries.
To view a transcript, please visit floridaschines.org/go-to-college/get-ready-for-college-careers#
- High School Academic Progress Evaluations
- Click on “Check Now” button
- Select Hillsborough
- Enter student’s last name

Florida State Standards
The Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS) and the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) were designed to improve educational outcomes for students by developing a set of consistent, clear K-12 academic standards in English language arts and mathematics. These standards are relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills young people need to be prepared for both college and work in a global economy.
Hillsborough County Public Schools, along with schools throughout Florida, is implementing instruction in mathematics centered on a more focused set of major math concepts and skills.
This allows students time to master key math concepts and skills in a more organized way throughout the year and from one grade to the next. It also provides thought-provoking math content in order to engage students in solving real-world problems in order to encourage greater interest in mathematics.

In English language arts and literacy, students read and write in response to stories, literature and informational texts that provide facts and background knowledge in content areas, including science and social studies. They read challenging texts and are asked questions that require them to refer back to what they have read. There also is an emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that students can read and understand challenging material. For more information on the Florida Standards, visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go fsa” in the search box.

### Math Homework Hotline

Assistance with math homework is available Thursday nights from 6 to 7 p.m. on the Education Channel. Tune in to Bright House (Spectrum) Channel 635 or Frontier FIOS Channel 32. Tutors will begin taking calls at 5:30 p.m. at 813-840-7260. Visit mhh.mysdhc.org to learn more.

### Multi-Tiered Systems Of Support (MTSS) — Response To Intervention (RtI)

MTSS - RtI is a formalized statewide effort to promote school-wide practices that ensure the highest possible success for all children. The MTSS - RtI framework helps schools take a positive and proactive approach to educating each and every child. It also encourages schools to provide early intervention services to help prevent academic, social-emotional and/or behavioral difficulties early. The district has developed a brochure titled “What Parents Should Know About Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).” You may access a copy by visiting sdhc.k12.fl.us and typing “go mtss” in the search box. For additional information, contact your child’s school directly.

### MyCareerShines

MyCareerShines is a comprehensive education and career planning system that will help students succeed in the increasingly competitive global economy. They will learn about themselves, discover the many options and opportunities for their future, and gain access to information and tools to achieve their goals. Visit floridashines.org/find-a-career/mycareershines.

### mySPOT

Have you visited mySPOT? Visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go myspot” in the search box to connect to mySPOT, our student-parent online toolkit with connections to many HCPS resources, including Edsby, MyOn Reader, the HCPS Student Handbook and many others.

### Hillsborough Out-Of-School Time (HOST)—Before- And After-School Programs

The district offers fee-based before- and after-school and summer programs for children and youth attending elementary and middle school. Call 813-744-8941, extension 3 for information. For additional information, inquire at your child’s school or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go host” in the search box.

### Now Is The Time Initiative

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) is dedicated to educating the youth of today in order to create successful leaders of tomorrow. HCPS was awarded three grants through the Now Is The Time initiative to address youth mental health awareness and safety within the schools. The design of these three complementary projects will create sustainable programs to better serve students in need of mental health or supportive services.

Project PREVENT seeks to bring awareness and knowledge about serving students exposed to pervasive violence and how to provide the resources necessary to ensure that they are receiving assistance by increasing the availability of interventions, as well as school-based and community mental health services. Project AWARE will promote and facilitate the positive mental health and emotional well-being that is critical to student success by training key personnel at the school sites and in the community that interact with our youth, to recognize the signs indicating mental or emotional health issues early, and provide the assistance necessary to address these issues proactively.

Project CLIMATE (School Climate Transformation) seeks to support schools in improving behavioral outcomes and overall school climate and safety by creating a seamless integration of existing behavior management initiatives utilized within the Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavior framework.

These three grants will work by personalizing student services and reducing overall disciplinary interactions, thus making positive impacts that can be felt throughout the district and community. For more information about the Now Is The Time initiative, please call 813-273-7136.
Parents’ Right To Know

Parents have the right to know and review the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals that instruct their children. Specifically, federal law allows parents to ask for the following information:

- Whether the Florida Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Florida Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of circumstances.
- The teacher’s college and major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and if so, the subjects and degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.
- The level of achievement of your child on each of the state academic assessments.

To request and receive information, parents should contact their child’s school.

School Health Services

School Health Services personnel are responsible for health, safety and wellness programs in our schools. School nurses are required to see that all students have a Florida physical and updated immunizations (shot record). The state designates students in certain grades to be screened for hearing, vision, scoliosis, height, weight and body mass index (BMI). School Health Services personnel identify needs in our student population and develop public and/or private partnerships to address student needs. To further improve wellness, all of our high schools and selected elementary and middle schools offer the Healthy Student program. The Healthy Student program provides medical services to students with the goal of identifying a medical home for students. School Health Services staff includes advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs), a medical doctor (MD), registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and health assistants (HAs). School Health Services personnel also provide training for CPR/ automated external defibrillators (AEDs), first aid, OSHA and other health programs. Medication, treatments, procedures and communicable disease information can be found in the Student Handbook. Call 813-273-7020 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go health” in the search box.

School Psychological Services

Psychological services are available at all public school sites within the district. School psychologists help children and youth succeed academically, socially and emotionally. They collaborate with parents, educators and other professionals to create safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for all students. School psychologists support strong connections between home and school. Services provided by school psychologists include providing assistance in developing interventions to assist students in both general and special education programs. They provide counseling and support activities that are tailored to meet special student needs, and they are available to support staff and parents through consultation activities. These professionals also complete individualized psycho-educational evaluations and behavioral assessments in order to improve student achievement and social/emotional functioning.

All school psychologists have advanced degrees and many have specialized training and skills in prekindergarten. Some are board certified in behavior analysis and some have advanced clinical training. Additional services offered through the department include consultation and intervention during times of crisis. For more information, call 813-273-7095 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go psychological” in the search box.

School Social Work Services

School social work services are available on an itinerant basis in all district elementary, middle and high schools and in special programs, including Head Start and School Readiness. Full-time services are available to select Title I schools. School social workers are highly trained mental health professionals. They provide leadership in areas of crisis intervention and psychosocial assessments. They provide students the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential. School social workers serve as liaisons between the school, family and community agencies. They provide outreach services to students and their families to help them address problems that interfere with student success. School social workers consult with educators to help students with attendance, behavior and/or learning difficulties. Call 813-273-7090 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go social” in the search box.

ParentLink

Principals use ParentLink all year long to communicate important information directly to parents and families. ParentLink is also used by the district to communicate important events, updates about the district and emergency information. The ParentLink system uses your contact information at your child’s school, so it is important to keep this up to date. For more information on how to update your contact information, or to learn more about ParentLink, contact your child’s school.

Peachjar

Peachjar is an e-flyer management system used by the district to distribute flyers electronically to families while automatically posting them directly to each school’s website. Parents receive district-approved e-flyers directly to their email inbox. Additionally, readers can forward e-flyers to friends and family or share them on social media to boost participation. Peachjar is just one more way the district communicates with the community while saving time, money and trees. For more information about Peachjar, call 813-272-4431.

Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarship opportunities are available for students at the district website. Visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go scholarships” in the search box.

School Counseling K-12

A comprehensive, developmental school counseling program is a vital part of the educational process to increase student achievement and ensure all students are college and career ready. School counseling programs are essential for students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values, set appropriate career goals and realize their full academic potential to become productive, contributing members of the world community.

School counselors work with students individually, in small groups and in classroom guidance settings, focusing on academic advisement, personal/social development and college/ career planning. School counselors collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators and outside agencies and organizations in order to provide the best educational environment and support for all students. For more information, contact the school counselor at your child’s school.

Schools’ Report Cards

Federal law requires school districts to annually review and report the progress of each school. The annual report card of all schools may be accessed through the School Public Accountability Reports on the Florida Department of Education website at schoolgrades.fldoe.org. In addition, the schools’ report cards are shared with all stakeholders and are made widely available to the public on the school’s website and through a variety of communication from the school, such as school newsletters, letters of notification and/or ParentLink messages.

Title I Schools

Does your child attend a Title I school? The purpose of Title I is to provide supplemental funding that is used to provide additional resources, such as instructional staff, professional development and extended learning programs and, to support other initiatives that raise student achievement in high-poverty schools. Title I schools conduct an annual Title I meeting at the beginning of the school year. This meeting provides an overview of the program; reviews the school improvement and parent involvement plans, school compact and Title I budget; provides opportunities and ways for parents and stakeholders to give input; and ensures that brochures and other informational resources are made available. As part of the Title I program, schools jointly develop with parents, staff and students a school compact. The compact is a voluntary agreement between the home and the school and outlines how parents, staff and students will share the responsibility for improving student achievement.

Wellness Integration For Students Of Hillsborough (WISH)

The WISH website, found by typing “go wish” in the search box at sdhc.k12.fl.us, includes a Parent Toolbox. A U.S. Department of Education grant integrating schools and mental health systems made the development of WISH possible. You will find user-friendly access to quality mental health services for our students and families by means of effective linkages between the school and mental health systems in Hillsborough County.

The Parent Toolbox website provides information for educators, students, families, community agencies and others who serve children on a regular basis. These links include:

- Who Can Help at Your School, which includes school district resources
- Typical Concerns, which addresses most behavioral issues
- Local and community resources for directories, parenting classes and agencies by specialties
- State and national links for your questions on current prevention and mental health issues

We hope you will find answers to your questions regarding who, where and how to find the help you need when your child faces emotional, behavioral or development challenges that may interfere with learning and good relationships with family and friends.
SPRINGBOARD
SpringBoard, the official pre-AP curriculum designed by the College Board, is a unique, comprehensive program that enables students to build the skills and understanding they need for success in AP courses and postsecondary opportunities. SpringBoard provides rigorous English and mathematics curricula for all students in grades 6-12, and builds students’ critical thinking skills in reading, writing and mathematics. SpringBoard strategies are in alignment with the Florida Standards for Success. For additional information, please contact the school counselor at your child’s school. You may also log on to the district website at sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go springboard” in the search box. For more information about any of these programs, log on to the district’s website at sdhc.k12.fl.us or call 813-272-4221.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
International Baccalaureate (IB) is a rigorous pre-university course of study that meets the needs of highly motivated and academically talented high school students. It provides students with the intellectual, social and cultural preparation necessary for life. Entrance into a high school IB program is a competitive process that begins when a student enters middle school. Hillsborough County Public Schools also offers IB programs at elementary, middle and K-8 magnet schools. The IB program offered in kindergarten through eighth grade aims to teach the whole child through the process of inquiry, global education and project-based learning. Selection for elementary, middle and K-8 IB programs is done via computer selection. For more information, go to the district website and type “go choice” in the search box.

HILLSBOROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL
Hillsborough County Public Schools offers a full-time and a part-time program in grades K-12 with more than 110 online course options, including robust and rigorous Honors and Advanced Placement courses. All courses are taught by HCPS highly qualified and Florida-certified professional educators. The Hillsborough Virtual Instruction Program expects full-time students to take all standardized tests instituted by HCPS and the State of Florida. A full-time high school diploma option is available. Contact the Hillsborough Virtual School office at 813-983-7278 or visit online at virtual.mysdhc.org.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM
The Advanced Placement Program offered by the College Board provides an opportunity for students in grades 9-12 to earn college credit in certain subject areas. To receive college credit, students must earn a score of 3, 4 or 5 on the College Board examination in that subject area at the end of the school year. Students interested in this program should contact their guidance counselor for further information.

ACADEMICALLY GIFTED PROGRAM
Gifted program services are provided for students who meet the state’s criteria for classification as gifted. In Florida, students who are considered gifted are those with superior intellectual development who are capable of high performance. Services for gifted students are designed to provide enrichment and/or acceleration opportunities aligned with the student’s Gifted Education Plan (EP). The process for gifted identification includes screening, referral and evaluation. Parents who believe their child may be gifted may contact the school’s guidance counselor to initiate the identification process. For more information about the Gifted program, visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go gifted” in the search box.

ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID)
AVID is a national program that helps students reach their goal of entering a postsecondary institution. AVID’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID equips students with the necessary skills to be successful at the middle school, high school and college levels by enrolling them in rigorous college prep courses such as Advanced Placement and honors. The AVID elective class offers academic support for the students and provides key learning skills, such as organization, note taking, collaboration, test taking and reflective writing. AVID students also have access to tutors for all core academic areas. Currently, AVID is implemented in every high school and middle school. If you would like more information about the program, please see the AVID coordinator or school counselor at your child’s school. You also may visit the district website at sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go avid” in the search box.

EARLY ADMISSION TO COLLEGE
Early admission is a form of dual enrollment permitting eligible high school students to enroll in college courses on a full-time basis during the last two semesters of the student’s high school experience if accepted for admission by Hillsborough Community College or the University of South Florida. Students earn both high school and college credits for courses completed. Refer to the Hillsborough County Public Schools Student Handbook for more detailed information, including eligibility criteria.

DUAL ENROLLMENT
Dual enrollment is the process by which an eligible secondary student is enrolled in a college course and the credit earned applies toward both a high school diploma and a college degree or postsecondary career and technical certificate. Refer to the Hillsborough County Public Schools Student Handbook for more detailed information, including eligibility criteria.
Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

There are clues that can tell you your young child needs extra help and attention. For example, he or she may:
• have health problems;
• seem to have problems seeing or hearing;
• seem to have problems walking or moving;
• seem to have problems speaking; or
• seem to have problems understanding you.

Children with special needs can benefit from getting help when they are very young. If you think your infant or toddler has special needs, contact the University of South Florida Department of Pediatrics Early Steps program for children birth to age 3. For children ages 3 to 5, contact Child Find at 813-837-7788 to request information about services that can help your child and family.

Accommodations

Provisions will be made for students who have been determined eligible for Exceptional Student Education (ESE), and for Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) that document the need for accommodations, specially designed instruction and/or related services.
• Accommodations are the provisions that regular and special education teachers make to adjust for students with disabilities for instruction and testing/assessments.
• Accommodations involve a wide range of techniques and supports that help students work around the limitations placed upon them because of their disability.
• Accommodations change how instruction or assessment is delivered, as opposed to modifications, which change what is to be learned by the student.

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

• The IEP Team determines the accommodations, specially designed instruction and/or related services that are needed for a student.
• Remember, you don’t have to do it alone. Determining needed services and accommodations for students with disabilities is an IEP Team responsibility. Collaborate and consult with an ESE teacher, general education teacher, school psychologist, school social worker, ESE parent liaison and other school and district personnel. All services and supports required to serve the individual needs of each student are documented on the student’s IEP.
• The majority of students who have been determined eligible for ESE are expected to work toward the state standards for a regular diploma in a general education classroom setting with appropriate services, supports and accommodations. A small percentage of students with disabilities may be working toward the state standards for Access Points. The IEP Team determines these decisions, with the parent serving as a vital member of the team.

Keeping Good Records

Parents can help themselves, their child and the service providers by keeping their own records. This will make going to meetings and talking to the service coordinator much easier. It also will be helpful if the family ever moves to another county or state. Some families keep a folder at home that includes:
• evaluation and assessment results;
• the written family support plan and updates to the plan;
• letters you have received from public agencies or your service coordinator;
• records or reports from doctors or other people who have worked with your child;
• letters or notes from you to public agencies or your service coordinator;
• notes and dates of telephone calls, meetings, conferences and visits.

For more information, visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go ESE” in the search box, or call the ESE Hotline at 813-273-7221.
Hillsborough Choice Options

Hillsborough Choice Options are a variety of education opportunities parents can choose based on their child’s needs or interests. Call the Choice Information Line at 813-272-4692 for application dates and information, or visit the school district website at sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go choice” in the search box.

- Attendance Area Schools
- Career & Technical Education
- Charter Schools
- Hillsborough Virtual School
- Home Education
- McKay Scholarships
- Magnet Schools and Programs
- School Choice

Attendance Area Schools
The school board has established attendance area schools for all students based on their residential address. A student’s residence is defined as the residence of his or her parent(s), legal guardian, legal custodian or other such person as defined by any order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction of the State of Florida. Periodically, the school board may update a school attendance boundary. Parents may check their student’s school attendance area by visiting the district website and typing “go locator” in the search box.

Hillsborough Virtual School
Hillsborough County Public Schools offers both part-time and full-time virtual programs for students in grades K-12. The application for full-time enrollment opens May 1. For more information, call 813-7278 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go HVS” in the search box.

Home Education
Home education, as defined by Florida law, gives parents the freedom to choose and direct the educational programs that best meet the needs of their child. Parents are responsible for all aspects of the student’s home education program. High school students do not earn a diploma as a home education student. Call the Home Education Office at 813-609-6816 for more information or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go home-ed” in the search box.

John M. McKay Scholarships
The John M. McKay Scholarship option is a state-operated voucher program for exceptional education students with Individual Education Plans and for students with 504 plans. For questions regarding the John M. McKay Scholarship program, visit floridaschoolchoice.org, call the Florida Department of Education Office of Independent Education at 800-447-1636 or call the school district’s Exceptional Student Education office at 813-273-7513.

McKay Scholarships
McKay scholarships offer theme-based curricula at elementary, middle and high schools. Themes include world studies; environmental studies; engineering; visual and performing arts; architecture; creative science; gifted/talented development; health professions; math, science and technology; international studies; collegiate academy; animal science; boys’ preparatory and girls’ preparatory academies; and International Baccalaureate. Call the Choice Information Line at 813-272-4692 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go magnet” in the search box.

Charter Schools
Charter schools are public elementary, middle and high schools that are independently operated and have a contract with the Hillsborough County School Board. To apply, the parent or guardian must contact the school directly. For information, call the Charter Office at 813-272-4049, or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go charter” in the search box. A current list of charter schools in Hillsborough County can be found within this publication.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)
Career and Technical Education instruction is taught from within Florida’s 18 career clusters. Students in CTE programs engage in relevant, rigorous and practical applications of academic and technical skills. In addition, career academies are small learning communities that consist of teams of academic and CTE teachers who share groups of students, monitor achievement and implement integrated curricula. Essential elements of Career and Technical Education involve earning industry certifications and creating strong partnerships with postsecondary institutions and the community. From middle school through high school and into postsecondary training, the unique support system in CTE prepares students for higher education, the workforce and adult life. For more information, call Career and Technical Education at 813-231-1860 or go to the district website at sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go CTE” in the search box.

School Choice
School choice provides parents and guardians with children who are entering grades K-11 an opportunity to choose three nonmagnet schools or career and technical education programs. Parents can choose from a list of schools with space available. Visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go choice” in the search box, or call the Choice Information Line at 813-272-4692 for application dates and information.

Magnet Schools
Magnet schools offer theme-based curricula at elementary, middle and high schools. Themes include world studies; environmental studies; engineering; visual and performing arts; architecture; creative science; gifted/talented development; health professions; math, science and technology; international studies; collegiate academy; animal science; boys’ preparatory and girls’ preparatory academies; and International Baccalaureate. Call the Choice Information Line at 813-272-4692 or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go magnet” in the search box.

Transportation Services
Each and every school day, over 85,000 Hillsborough County students board school buses to travel to and from school. The yellow bus is a nationally recognized figure of public education and it is more than just a ride. In truth, it provides a gateway to education for students all over Hillsborough County that otherwise could not get to and from school. Hillsborough County is blessed with a group of professionals who have made a commitment to be a positive influence in the life of the students they serve. We are over 1,600 strong who are stakeholders in the community that work every day to make a positive difference in our schools and our community with our organization. We are looking for dedicated individuals that want to join a team that has placed students first in the decisions it makes, preparing students for life. For more information about HCPS Transportation Services, please visit the HCPS website and type “go transportation” in the search box or call 813-982-5500.
Advance/Kids and Canines

Advance is a dropout prevention/truancy program for students who have difficulty with school attendance. The program is located on the school campus of the Dorothy Thomas Exceptional Center in North Tampa. For more information, please call 813-975-7355 or visit kidsandcanines.org.

District Bilingual School Counselor / Guidance Services

Bilingual school counselors address the needs of K-12 refugee, immigrant and English language learner (ELL) populations. Bilingual school counselors directly assist school-based counselors and staff in the coordination and delivery of guidance services to international students and their families. These services include, but are not limited to the evaluation of international credentials for K-12 student placement; Spanish language educational forums for students/parents; advocacy on K-12 school and district Parent Advisory Committees (PAC) and participation in community-based groups that address the needs of the Hispanic community in Hillsborough; and development of in-service training for K-12 school counselors and other school personnel on international education trends. For assistance, call 813-273-7336, 813-273-7552 or 813-273-7556.

ELL Programs and ESOL Services

Districts are required to provide appropriate educational programs and services for all students who are classified as English Language Learners (ELL). School districts throughout the state are mandated by federal and state laws to survey and screen all students who are new to the district to determine their levels of English proficiency. Districts are also required to provide appropriate education programs and services for all students who are classified as ELL. The district provides English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services to more than 25,000 students who are enrolled throughout the district. Students who have a language other than English spoken in their home and who, after assessment, are determined to be limited in their English proficiency are eligible for ESOL services. For more information, please call the ELL department at 813-273-7511.

Education, Prevention and Intervention Centers (EPIC)

EPIC Prevention Centers (Level 1) facilitate a Hillsborough County Public Schools alternative to out-of-school suspension for students committing infractions aligned with Disciplinary Response Stages of 3 or higher. EPIC Prevention Centers provide screening and early intervention supports to include individually administered universal behavior screening surveys and questionnaires to address needs for ongoing behavioral supports. Students who successfully complete the program will be counted in full attendance for their time in EPIC 1 and they will have the opportunity to make up any work that they missed upon returning to school. They must make arrangements to make up their work with their teachers within three days of returning to school. Their work must be submitted by the deadline set by the teachers. Students may be assigned to EPIC Prevention Centers for up to 10 consecutive school days. EPIC Prevention Centers (Level 1) are located at the following sites:

- Adams Middle School
  10201 N. Boulevard
  Tampa, FL 33612
  adams.mysdhc.org

- Buchanan Middle School
  1001 W Bearss Ave.
  Tampa, FL 33613
  buchanan.mysdhc.org

- Burnett Middle School
  1010 N Kingsway Road
  Seffner, FL 33584
  burnett.mysdhc.org

- Eisenhower Middle School
  7620 Old Big Bend Road
  Gibsonton, FL 33534
  eisenhower.mysdhc.org

- Guinta Middle School
  4202 Falkenburg Road
  Riverview, FL 33569
  giunta.mysdhc.org

- Marshall Middle School
  18 S Maryland Ave.
  Plant City, FL 33566
  marshall.mysdhc.org

- Monroe Middle School
  4716 Montgomery Ave.
  Tampa, FL 33616
  monroe.mysdhc.org

- Young Middle Magnet
  1807 E Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
  Tampa, FL 33610
  young.mysdhc.org

For information, please call the Adult and Career Services Center at 813-231-1907, or visit sdhc.k12.fl.us and type “go adult-ed” in the search box.
Literacy And Acculturation Center
The Literacy and Acculturation Center (LAC) is a division of the Office of Programs for English Language Learners (ELL). The mission of the LAC is to provide meaningful services to the immigrant refugee community through social services partnerships and the development of a systems navigation structure for academic, psychological and social supplementary services for school-age children and their families. For more information, please call 813-873-4779.

Programs For Specialized Populations
The Teen Parent Program is a voluntary program provided by Hillsborough County Public Schools. It is designed to meet the needs of expectant youth and teen parents.
- Teen Parent Program (TPP) Traditional Program
- Teen Parent Program (TPP) Center-Based Program
For information, please call 813-272-4652 or visit the district website and type “go teenparent” in the search box.

Virtual Library Resources
The Library Media Services department provides and maintains a “virtual collection” of resources to support the curriculum and develop students into effective life-long learners, readers and users of information. Some of the resources available include:
myON Reader digital library, AXIS 360 ebooks, an online encyclopedia, various electronic databases, Internet safety resources and information about various reading programs. Access to these resources begins by visiting sdhc.k12.fl.us and typing “go library” in the search box, then choosing the “Resources” tab. They are available at school or at home. Each student has a link to their grade-level virtual library within mySPOT as well. For all other login information, please contact your child’s school media specialist.

Hillsborough Technical Colleges

Workforce and Continuing Education provides 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 PROGRAMS
- Business & Marketing Management
- Health Science
- Industrial Trade Technology
- Public Service
- Early Childhood
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information Technology

For more information, visit HTC.net or call 813-231-1907.

DID YOU KNOW?
- Hillsborough Technical Colleges (HTC) are just one of several Hillsborough County Public Schools’ postsecondary options.
- 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 program advisor for details.
For a complete listing of Hillsborough County Public Schools, please visit the district website at sdhc.k12.fl.us and access the SCHOOL SEARCH slide-out on the right side of the page, or call 813-272-4060.
WHO TO CALL

For other District phone numbers, please call Hillsborough County Public Schools at 813-272-4000.

Helpline Telephone Numbers

2-1-1 Tampa Bay — 24 hours ......................................................... 2-1-1 or ** 813-234-1234
Abuse Hotline .................................................. 2-1-1 or 800-962-2873 or * 800-453-5145
(Children, disabled or elderly)
Adult Emergency Services .......................................................... 813-272-2958
Crime Stoppers ........................................................................ 1-800-873-TIPS (8477)
Children’s Crisis Unit at Mental Health Care .................................. 813-272-2882
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay Inc. .................................................. ** 813-964-1964
ESE Hotline .......................................................... 813-273-7221
Florida Substance Abuse Hotline ............................................ 2-1-1 or 866-762-2237
Hillsborough County Information Line ..................................... ** 813-272-5900
Kids Behavior Helpline (children with ADD, ADHD, EH, SED) .... 813-960-1010
Life Center of the Suncoast .......................................................... 813-237-3114
(Purpose: Support for grief counseling: suicide, death or dying)
Poison Information Center .................................................. 813-844-4444 or 800-222-1222
Suicide Prevention Services ...2-1-1 or 800-273-TALK (8255) or ** 813-234-1234
Teen Link Helpline .......................................................... 813-236-TEEN (8336)
The Spring (Domestic Violence) .................................................. 813-247-7233

* Text telephone (TTY) ** Voice or text telephone (TTY)

District Office Phone Numbers

Academic Support and Federal Programs .................................. 813-272-4875
Adult Education ........................................................................ 813-231-1907
Area Superintendents .......................................................... 813-272-4071
Career and Technical Education .............................................. 813-231-1860
Charter Schools ........................................................................ 813-272-4049
Chief of Schools, Administration ............................................. 813-272-4071
Chief of Staff ............................................................................ 813-272-4895
Choice Options (Student Planning & Placement) ..................... 813-272-4692

Choice Information Line
Communications .......................................................... 813-272-4060
Community Engagement and Philanthropy ................................ 813-272-4431
County Council of PTA/PTSA ................................................ 813-272-4979
Deputy Superintendent .................................................. 813-272-4047
Early Childhood (Pre-K Exceptional Education) ...................... 813-744-8941, ext. 291
Elementary Education .......................................................... 813-272-4454
Exceptional Student Education .............................................. 813-273-7025
FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System) .... 813-837-7777

FDLRS Parent Services
English ................................................................................. 813-837-7732
Spanish .................................................................................. 813-837-7728

Full-Service Parent Resource Centers
Delia Sanchez Full-Service School ............................................ 813-272-0673
Just Full-Service School .................................................. 813-274-7982

GED Testing ........................................................................... 813-231-1650
Guidance Services ................................................................ 813-273-7074
Head Start ................................................................................. 813-740-7870, ext. 379
Health Services ........................................................................ 813-273-7020
High School Education .......................................................... 813-272-4432
HOST - Out of School Time Programs: HOST (K-12) ............. 813-744-8941, ext. 3
Meals Status / Meal Prepay .................................................. 1-866-544-5575
Middle School Education .................................................. 813-272-4862
Migrant Title I ........................................................................ 813-757-9331
Parent and Family Engagement ............................................... 813-272-4462
Programs for English Language Learners .............................. 813-273-7511
School Administrative Center ............................................... 813-272-4000
School Boundaries ................................................................ 813-272-4091
School Readiness Programs (subsidized childcare) ................. 813-744-8941
School Social Work ................................................................ 813-273-7090
Security Services ....................................................................... 813-623-3996
Student Attendance ................................................................ 813-273-7345
Student Nutrition Services .................................................. 813-840-7092
Application Center (School Meal Benefits) ......................... 813-840-7066
Superintendent's Office .......................................................... 813-272-4050
Teen Parent Program ............................................................ 813-272-4652
Title I Office ............................................................................ 813-272-4875
Transportation ........................................................................ 813-982-5500
Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) - School District Programs ... 813-272-4840
Workforce and Continuing Education .................................... 813-231-1907

(Hillsborough Technical Colleges)

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