

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

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ISSUE 61



News for School Board Members and District Personnel

Dear Team Monroe County,

As we approach the close of this school year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your dedication to our students and our community. This document highlights just a small portion of the incredible work happening across our district—from academic gains and graduation readiness to outstanding achievements in athletics, career and technical education, and student support services.

This year, we have seen meaningful progress in expanding opportunities for student success, including increased pathways to meet graduation requirements and continued focus on academic excellence. At the same time, we have celebrated the people who make our district strong—our teachers, staff, administrators, and community partners—whose commitment creates a warm safe and supportive environment for our students.

I am especially proud of the collaborative efforts across departments that ensure our schools operate effectively and our students are supported academically, socially, and emotionally. Whether in the classroom, behind the scenes, or out in the community, each of you plays a vital role in shaping the future of Monroe County.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to continuous improvement, student success, and strengthening the connections that make our district such a special place. Thank you for your hard work, your passion, and your commitment to excellence.

Wishing you a strong finish to the school year and a well-deserved, restful summer!

**With appreciation,
Superintendent Tierney**

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Our schools have demonstrated exceptional diligence in administering this year's assessments and in supporting students throughout the testing process. To further expand opportunities for students to meet graduation requirements, the district introduced two additional assessments—the PreACT and the CLT10.

As a result of these expanded options, the district achieved 47 additional concordant passing scores in English Language Arts and 57 additional comparative passing scores in Algebra. These gains have contributed meaningfully to increasing the number of students who are on track for graduation.

CONTINUED ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Collectively, these efforts are projected to have a positive impact on graduation rates for the Class of 2026 across all three district high schools.

In addition to the assessments already administered, Monroe County School District will offer the Summer CLT10 Non-College Reportable (NCR) opportunity for juniors and seniors who still need to fulfill graduation requirements. This initiative will be led by the Curriculum Team, which will oversee test administration and provide students with targeted test-taking strategies and preparation support in advance of the assessment.

Through these continued efforts, the district reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all students are provided with comprehensive support and every possible opportunity to achieve academic success and prepare for their future endeavors.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Employee Recognition Banquet, held on May 1st, was an exciting and heartfelt evening honoring outstanding employees from across the district. Superintendent Ed Tierney opened the event with words of gratitude and appreciation, recognizing the dedication and impact of those being celebrated.

Teachers of the Year from each school—along with Beginning Teachers of the Year and Inclusion Teachers of the Year—were honored by their administrators and presented with beautiful plaques in recognition of their achievements.

Support Staff of the Year, Emory Carey, as well as the District Social Worker Ashley Funston, and Management Employee of the Year, Daliana Goins, were also celebrated for their exceptional contributions. The district's top honors were awarded to Paula Mercer of Key West High School as District Teacher of the Year, Darren Pais of Key Largo School as Principal of the Year, and Jacob Poelma of Coral Shores High School as Assistant Principal of the Year.

The banquet served as a meaningful opportunity to celebrate excellence, highlight dedication, and honor the remarkable individuals who help make MCSD a vibrant and successful district.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Congressman Carlos A. Gimenez visited Monroe County School District to present a \$3 million federal funding check to support the restoration of the historic Reynolds School. This restoration is a key step in MCSD's long-term plan to revitalize the building for Adult Education and the Maintenance Department, while also advancing the phased effort to prepare the Trumbo property for future workforce housing.

Board Members Darren Horan, Yvette Talbott, Sue Woltanski, and Superintendent Ed Tierney were on hand to receive the check and hear the Congressman's remarks. This investment marks an exciting milestone in preserving our history while building for the future.



Marathon High School senior Justice Lee, who will be attending FIU this fall, leaves Monroe County as the most decorated athlete in Keys history. Over her remarkable career, Justice earned 13 State Championship medals in Weightlifting and Track & Field, including four State Championship titles, and amassed an extraordinary 30 gold medals across District, Regional, and State competitions.



Justice is not only an exceptionally talented athlete but also a model of grit, dedication, and positivity—qualities that have inspired her teammates, coaches, and the entire Dolphin community. Her legacy will be felt for years to come as she moves on to the next chapter of her athletic and academic journey.



FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Internal Services

Contracts: Reminder that all Internal Services forms are stored on the District Website, and these should be downloaded each time a new contract is prepared. This is the best way to make sure you have the most current versions of our documents.

All Internal Services Forms can be found here:

<https://www.keysschools.com/documents/departments/finance-%26-performance/forms-management/contracts/758580>

Expiring Contracts:

<u>Expiring April</u>	
Contract With	Contract Expiration Date
Apple Contract 2025-2026 SY NOT RENEWED	4/30/2026
Gallagher Bassett Services - RFQ 2025006 - Environmental Consulting Services_2025-2026 – RENEWED 03/10/2026	4/22/2026
Gomez and Son Fence - ITB 2022003 - Fencing Districtwide - Renewal 3 of 3_2025-2026 – RENEWED 04/07/2026	4/12/2026
Navigate360 LLC. ALICE Renewal 3 of 3_2024-2025 – RENEWED 04/13/26	4/12/2026
Navigate360_LLC. EMS Renewal 3 of 3_2024-2025 - RENEWED 04/13/26	4/12/2026

Current Open Competitive Bids for April 2026:

- RFQ 2026010 - Districtwide Concrete Services - Opens 5/6/26 @ 9:00 AM

P-Card Purchases:

With the FY 2025-2026 school year ending next month, Internal Services would like to send a reminder that Pcard holders that are not 12-month employees are responsible for clearing all their transactions prior to the end of the school year. All P-card purchases should be processed within FIVE days of the purchase posting to WORKS, and all Department Leads should be processing their team’s expenses within THREE days of that. The timely entering of expenses is necessary to give the MCSD Board the most accurate expense numbers monthly.

Property Control and Records Management:

Neilany Garcia will be working on records destruction over the next few weeks, so please let her know if you have any records you’d like to include. If you need help with records or property management, feel free to reach out to Neilany. She is happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued dedication and teamwork!

CONTINUED FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE



Benefits: During Teacher Appreciation Week, the Monroe County School District Wellness Committee proudly recognized our dedicated teachers and paraprofessionals by providing special wellness appreciation bags to every school site across the district. These wellness bags were thoughtfully prepared as a small token of gratitude for the hard work, commitment, and care our educators provide each day. Members of the Wellness Team personally hand-delivered the bags throughout the week, giving us the opportunity to thank staff members in person for the positive impact they make on our students and school community. We appreciate all our teachers and paraprofessionals for their continued dedication and service to Monroe County School District.

The Monroe County School District Wellness Committee has also been actively promoting the BetterYou Wellness Showcases throughout the school year. Each showcase featured three informative videos focused on important health and wellness topics designed to encourage healthier lifestyles and overall wellbeing among staff members. Employees who completed the showcase and submitted their completion certificates to the district received a gift card as recognition for their participation and commitment to wellness. This year marked the first time the Wellness Committee hosted the BetterYou Wellness Showcase, and we are proud to announce that a total of 251 MCSD staff members successfully completed the program and received a gift certificate. The Wellness Committee appreciates the enthusiastic participation and continued support from our district employees as we work together to promote a culture of health and wellness throughout Monroe County School District.

Finance:

As we conclude the 2025-2026 school year, the Finance Department is proud to reflect on another successful year of financial stewardship, collaboration, and service to our District. This year, the team completed the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Budget Book, supported a productive budget season, maintained compliance with grant and financial reporting requirements, and continued to uphold the District's strong financial position. We are especially proud to share that the District received its 12th consecutive recognition of excellence in financial reporting, along with another positive audit season, reflecting the dedication and accuracy of staff across the District. We are grateful for the

CONTINUED FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Finance: Continued partnership and teamwork throughout the year in support of our students, employees, and community.

Risk Management:

As we conclude the 2025-2026 school year, Risk Management would like to extend its appreciation to our students and entire staff for their continued commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment. Throughout the year, we strengthened safety protocols, enhanced emergency preparedness, and worked collaboratively across departments to reduce potential risks. I remain dedicated to protecting the wellbeing of our school community and look forward to building on the 2026-2027 School Year.

Management Information Systems (MIS):

The MIS Department has successfully finalized all Survey 3 student and staff state reporting submissions to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). This critical milestone ensures our district remains compliant with state data requirements to maximize FTE funding.

In addition to our reporting cycles, our team is actively engaged in the following initiatives:

- **Strategic Master Scheduling:** We are collaborating closely with school leadership teams to facilitate comprehensive scheduling and instructional planning for the upcoming academic year.
- **Operational Readiness:** Our staff is hard at work coordinating the technical infrastructure for Summer School with Focus SIS and completing essential Focus ERP rollover tasks to ensure a seamless transition between fiscal years.
- **Systems Integration:** We are providing dedicated technical support to streamline the district's transition to our new benefits carrier, ensuring our employees have reliable access to their resources.

As we approach the end of the term, we celebrate the collective perseverance of our faculty and staff, and we look forward to seeing our seniors cross the stage to begin their next chapters. Your dedication makes these technical successes possible.



HUMAN RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Human Resources Department is pleased to chair the NTO Planning Committee as preparations begin for the 2026 New Teacher Orientation. This year's event will be held on Monday, August 3, 2026, at Marathon Middle/High School. We invite local businesses and colleges to partner with us in welcoming our newest educators to the Keys community. Organizations interested in sponsoring or participating are encouraged to contact the Human Resources Department for additional information, as your support plays an important role in fostering meaningful connections with our incoming staff.

As the school year draws to a close, the Human Resources Department extends best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer. For those who will be traveling, we encourage you to do so safely. We look forward to welcoming you back, refreshed and ready for a successful 2026–2027 school year.

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

Just as one school year draws to a close, Transportation is gearing up for the next. “Summer break gives us time to complete our major maintenance and overhauls,” said Jose Herrera, Transportation Service Manager. From complete repower, transmissions and other major work, the Transportation Maintenance Team will be working hard preparing the entire fleet to start a new school year.

“Very humbling to work for this dedicated Team of professionals!” said Jason Thomason, Transportation Director. Rest assured, while many are enjoying the beach, fishing and spending quality time with family and friends, Transportation will be full steam ahead to hit the ground running for a successful start to an epic 26-27 school year!



UNDER MAINTENANCE



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Our team of school social workers have provided MTSS tiered intervention and crisis supports to over 2000 students this school year. They have an 82% intervention success rate. In addition to the work they do each day to support student behavior, mental health, and overall wellness, they also help link families to resources, run clubs, do home visits, coordinate care with community agencies, and maintain a high level of continued professional development to ensure they are using the most effective and innovative evidence-based practices.



This year, approximately 275 Head Start four-year-old and VPK students participated in end-of-year ceremonies held at each program site to celebrate their accomplishments and successful completion of the school year. Families, staff, and community members gathered to recognize the students' growth, learning, and readiness for kindergarten as they prepare for this important transition.



CONTINUED STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

In addition to the graduating students, our three-year-old Head Start students were also recognized for their participation, progress, and achievements throughout the year. These students will return next school year to continue building upon the strong educational foundation established through the program.

The ceremonies highlighted the dedication of students, families, and staff while celebrating the meaningful milestones achieved across all sites. These events served as a reflection of the positive learning experiences, school readiness growth, and supportive partnerships that define our Head Start and VPK programs.



CONTINUED STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Our Advanced Automotive teams delivered an outstanding performance at the Top Tech Challenge hosted by Universal Technical Institute, competing against multiple high school teams from across the region. Through their technical knowledge, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, our students rose above tough competition and achieved an incredible result—earning both 1st place and 2nd place overall.

This remarkable accomplishment highlights the strength of our Advanced Automotive program and the dedication of our students and instructors. Bringing home the top two awards is a testament to the students' hands-on training, industry-aligned skills, and readiness for real-world automotive careers. We are extremely proud of their hard work and success!



 1st Place Winners:
Brody Hodgson
Elijah Farrington



 2nd Place Winners:
Dante Malloggi
Kristopher Stevens



These students showed incredible skill, knowledge, and determination while representing Coral Shores with pride. We could not be more proud of these outstanding young technicians and the hard work they put in to achieve this amazing accomplishment.