2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT





Proud to be an A School District





Hillsborough County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for Life

Content

3 Message from the District
4 District Snapshot
6 District's Report Card
7 2026 Graduates
8 Career & Technical Education
9 Student Success: Academics
10 Student Success: Athletics
11 Funding & Workforce
12 Facilities & Infrastructure
13 Community Investments
14 Community Partnerships



Message from Hillsborough County Public Schools

LEADING *the way*

The 2025–2026 school year was one of the most successful in the history of Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Together, we **earned an A district grade**, achieved **a record 92.8% graduation rate** at our traditional high schools, and celebrated outstanding gains in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our students, educators, staff, families, and community.

They also reaffirm what we know to be true: when we maintain high expectations, provide strong support, a safe learning environment, and focus on student success, extraordinary outcomes follow.

This report highlights the people, programs, and achievements driving our progress and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Hillsborough County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for Life

2025-2026 School Board



Karen Perez, LCSW
District 6,
Board Chair



Nadia Combs
District 1,
Board Vice Chair



Stacy Hahn, PhD
District 2



Jessica Vaughn
District 3



Patti Rendon
District 4



Henry Washington
District 5



Lynn Gray
District 7



Van Ayres
Superintendent

District Snapshot

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) is the third-largest school district in Florida and the seventh-largest in the nation. The district continues to be the number one choice for families across the county.

Proud to be an A School District

212,000
Hillsborough County Public School students

24,000
Employees, including more than 13,500 teachers

233
Total K-12 public schools

80,000
Students transported to and from school each day

1,600
Hillsborough County Public School Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) seats

88%
of HCPS VPK students are Kindergarten ready



K-12 School Sites

131 Elementary Schools	**8** Exceptional Student Centers
39 Middle Schools	**3** Career Center High Schools
14 K-8s	**2** Success Centers
29 High Schools	**6** Youth Services

1 HILLSBOROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Post Secondary

4 Technical Colleges

8 Adult & Community Centers

Additional Programs

- Teen Parent
- Home Education
- Hospital Homebound
- Nature's Classroom

One District, Endless Opportunities.

We proudly offer high-quality traditional K-12 schools plus additional choice programs that give students the opportunity to explore educational pathways tailored to their interests and future goals.



Magnet Programs

Learning built around student interests

Available at elementary, middle, and high schools across the district

- Biomedical & Health
- Engineering & Robotics
- Performing & Visual Arts
- Environmental Sciences
- Culinary & Hospitality

Why Families Choose

- Theme-based, hands-on, real-world learning
- Countywide access (application-based)
- Builds creativity, confidence & critical thinking



Career & Technical Education

Skills for college, career, or workforce

Programs prepare students for high-demand careers while still in high school

- Health Sciences
- IT & Cybersecurity
- Engineering & Trades
- Construction
- Hospitality & Tourism

Why Families Choose

- Hands-on learning
- Industry-recognized certifications
- Career-ready skills before graduation



Accelerated Opportunities

College credit while still in high school

Rigorous programs that challenge students and help families save on college costs

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Cambridge AICE
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Dual Enrollment
- Collegiate Academies

Why Families Choose

- College credit earned
- Strong preparation for postsecondary success
- Nationally recognized programs

Learn more: HillsboroughSchools.org/Choice

District Success: Academic Achievement

Proud to be an **A** School District

127 schools earned an **A** or **B**

40 schools improved **ONE** letter grade

2 schools improved **TWO** letter grades

1 school improved from a D to an **A in four years**!

All Transformation Network schools earned an A, B, or C! *First time in district history!*

Earning our first A district grade in more than 10 years marks a defining moment for HCPS and demonstrates the power of sustained focus, strategic investments and a shared commitment to student achievement.

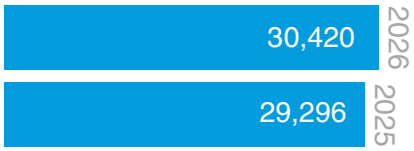
Accountability Measures	School Year		
	25-26	24-25	23-24
Grade 3 ELA	57	56	54
ELA Achievement	59	56	53
ELA Learning Gains	60	58	57
ELA Learning Gains (lowest 25%)	54	52	52
Mathematics Achievement	59	57	56
Mathematics Learning Gains	59	58	58
Mathematics Learning Gains (lowest 25%)	49	50	53
Science Achievement	60	57	54
Social Studies Achievement	74	70	69
Middle School Acceleration	85	81	76
Graduation Rate*	91	88	86
College and Career Acceleration	71	68	63
Total Points	**778**	751	731
District Grade	**A**	B	B

**This number includes charter schools. Traditional Schools' graduation rate is 92.8%*

Advanced Academics & Acceleration

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams Taken

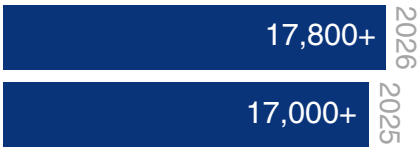




An **increase of 1,142 exams** from previous year.
71% earned a passing score! Highest in history!

Dual Enrollment Courses Taken

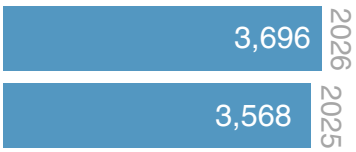




267 AA degrees earned.
206 through our Collegiate Academies!

International Baccalaureate (IB) Assessments Taken

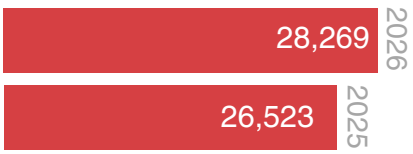




416 IB diplomas earned.
3.6% increase over previous school year.

Cambridge AICE Diplomas





500 Cambridge AICE diplomas earned.
3,784 more exams taken over previous school year.

Student Success: The 2026 Graduating Class

The Class of 2026 left an impressive mark. Graduates earned over $870 million in scholarships, were recognized statewide and nationally for their academic achievements, gained acceptance to top universities, launched into high-demand career pathways, and gave back through thousands of hours of service and leadership.





14,000+
Hillsborough County Public School Graduates

416
International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas

500
Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diplomas

1,701
Graduates earned their Biliteracy Seals

267
Students earned their Associate of Arts (AA) degree

$870M
college scholarships earned by the 2025-2026 senior class

LEADING the way

Career & Workforce Readiness

Students learn best when education connects to their future goals. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE), workforce training, and adult education, HCPS is preparing students of all ages for high-demand careers and lifelong success.

Career & Technical Education (Grades 6 to 12)



16,000+
industry certifications earned each school year

Our 6th to 12th-grade students can choose from 70 programs of study and potentially earn industry certifications.



CTE Program Locations

12 K-8s **38** Middle Schools
29 High Schools **3** Career Centers

Hillsborough Technical Colleges (Post Secondary & Adult Education)



4,000+
post secondary students participated in one of 32 registered apprenticeships

HCPS operates four accredited technical colleges offering accelerated, debt-free pathways to the workforce.

Technical College Locations

Aparicio-Levy
10119 E. Elliott St., Tampa, FL 33610

Brewster
2222 N. Tampa St., Tampa, FL 33602

Erwin
2010 E. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa, FL 33610

Rick Lott
1690 E. Park Rd., Plant City, FL 33563

Every year, many of our technical college graduates become part of our community's first responders.

190 EMTs **140** Firefighters **80** Nurses

LEADING the way

Student Success: Academic Accomplishments



Academic Excellence

61 National Merit® Scholars

1 Florida Dairy Farmers Academic All-State Team Member

Innovation & STEM Leadership

4 Technology Student Association (TSA) State Champions

8 Congressional App Winners
Districts 14, 15, and 16

15 Florida Invention Convention Winners

2 National Invention Convention Winners

Fine Arts & Music

8 Congressional Art Winners
Districts 14, 15, and 16

4 Scholastic Art Competition Winners

201 Students Earned Placement in Florida Music Educators (FMEA) All-State Ensembles

Leadership, Agriculture & JROTC

1st Place U.S. Navy JROTC State Competition
Gaither High School

1st Place Masters Elite Division, U.S. Army Cadet Command National Raider Competition
Newsome High School

Highest Honor National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) JROTC Award
Middleton High School

Top Honors National FFA Convention
Plant City, Durant, and Sickles high schools

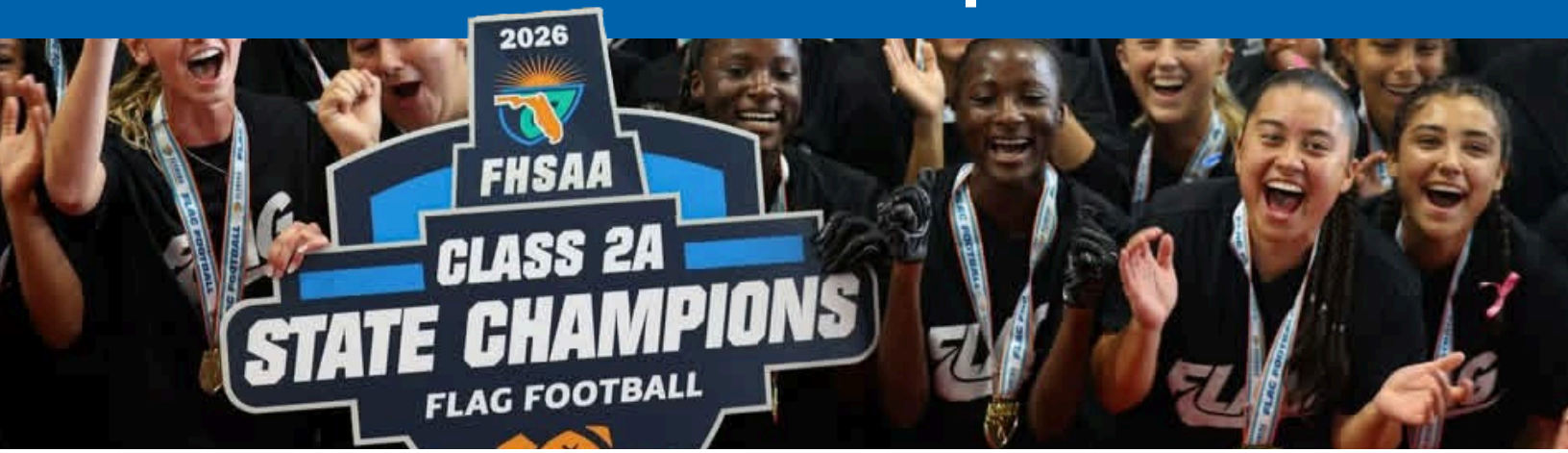
Career & Technical Excellence

1st Place Florida ProStart Culinary Competition
Strawberry Crest High School

National Champ National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Leadership Conference
Williams IB Middle Magnet School

LEADING the way

Student Success: Athletic & Club Accomplishments



Athletic Accolades

Cheerleading National Championships (NHSCC)



Bloomingdale High School
All Girl Large Team



Plant City High School
All Girl Medium Team



Strawberry Crest High School
Co-Ed Team & Game Day Team

State Championships (FHSAA)

Lennard High School
Girls Flag Football
Class 4A State Champion

Robinson High School
Girls Flag Football
Class 2A State Champion
(10th consecutive)

Alonso High School
Cheerleading, 2A Small Non-Tumbling State Champion

Bloomingdale High School
Cheerleading, 2A Large Non-Tumbling State Champion

Plant City High School
Cheerleading, 2A Medium Non-Tumbling State Champion

Strawberry Crest High School
Cheerleading, 2A Medium Co-Ed State Champion

State Academic Championships (FHSAA)

Plant High School
Class 7A Overall Academic Team Champion (All Sports)

Plant High School
Girls Soccer Team
Class 6A Academic Champion

Plant High School
Competitive Cheer Team
Class 2A Academic Champion

Newsome High School
Baseball Team
Class 7A Academic Champion

Newsome High School
Boys Soccer Team
Class 7A Academic Champion

District Champions: Middle School

Walker Middle School
Girls Basketball

Eisenhower Middle School
Boys Basketball

Martinez Middle School
Girls Volleyball

Martinez Middle School
Boys Volleyball

Greco Middle School
Girls Track

Sligh Middle Magnet School
Boys Track

Martinez Middle School
Girls Soccer

Wilson Middle School
Boys Soccer

Franklin Middle School
Boys Flag Football

Coleman Middle School
Girls Flag Football

LEADING the way

Exceptional Workforce & Fiscal Stewardship

We are committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring resources are used effectively and aligned to student achievement, safety, and long-term stability.

Hillsborough Education Foundation

2026 Excellence in Education Awards



Christi Atkinson
Wharton High
Teacher of the Year



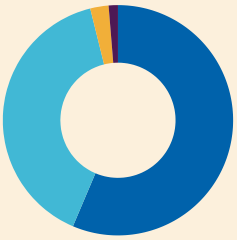
Ché Counce
Symmes Elementary
Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year



Mary Torres-Cerezo
Willis Peters ESC
Instructional Support Employee of the Year

2025-2026 District Staff

24,000 Employees



- Instructional Personnel - 56.4%
- Support Personnel - 39.7%
- Principals & Assistant Principals - 2.6%
- District Office - 1.3%

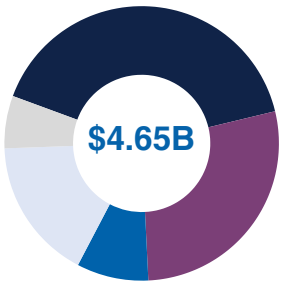
2025-2026 Workplace Awards

HCPS is honored to be recognized for our comprehensive health and wellness programs and for creating mentally healthy workplaces. These awards reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting the well-being of every employee and fostering a culture where staff feel valued and connected. This recognition underscores our belief that when employees are supported, schools are stronger, students are more successful, and communities benefit.

2025-2026 Budget

Preliminary, not final. As of August 2026.

Funding Sources



- Local - 40.62%
- State - 27.99%
- Federal - 8.46%
- Fund Balance - 16.74%
- Transfers In - 6.19%

Expenditures

65% General Fund
Primary operating fund used to account for all financial resources not accounted for in another fund

15% Capital Projects Fund
To account for expenditures for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets

5% Debt Service Fund
Funding for specific purposes, such as federally funded programs, state grants, or locally sourced funds

6% Internal Service Fund
To track the costs of services provided internally, from one department or agency to another, rather than to the public (health insurance, workers' comp)

5% Special Revenue Fund
To account for proceeds of specific revenue sources that are for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects

4% Student Nutrition Services Fund
To account for the financial activities related to providing meals to students

Fiscal Responsibility

Operating with a **balanced budget**

Fund balance **healthy and stable**

Clean financial statement **audit with NO findings**

A bond rated

Operational Excellence: Facilities & Infrastructure

Leadership Excellence



John Newman, Security & Emergency Management

Florida School Safety Specialist of the Year (2026) *by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)*



Shani Hall, School Nutrition Services

Director of the Year (2025) *by the Florida School Nutrition Association (FSNA)*

Facility Highlights & Awards

Aquilla J. Morgan High School, Wimauma, FL - *Opened Fall 2025*





National Architectural Award *by the Slag Cement Association (SCA)*

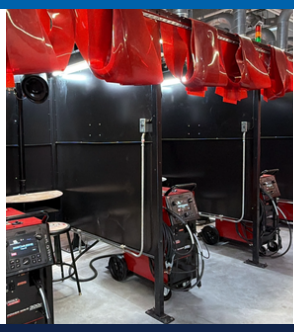
&

Outstanding Project *by Learning by Design Magazine*

Rick Lott Technical College, Plant City, FL - *Opened in 2026*







State-of-the-art campus that provides hands-on training in high-demand trades such as welding, HVAC, electricity, and construction. The college offers fast-track programs that lead to industry-recognized certifications and direct pathways to high-skill, high-wage careers.

89 district sites earned **HCPS Green Team Recognition** for environmental stewardship in communication & education, waste reduction, water conservation, energy efficiency, and air quality. *50 more than the previous school year!*

100
ENERGY STAR
certified school sites!

Community Investments: Delivering on Our Promise

The voter-approved Half-Penny Promise and millage referendum are transforming HCPS by improving learning environments, investing in our people, and expanding opportunities for students across the district.



Half-Penny Promise | Improving our Schools

$1.29 Billion invested in school improvements	**910** projects completed	**$704 Million** awarded to local businesses

As of April 2026, through the voter-approved Half-Penny Promise, HCPS has invested $1.29 billion in school improvements, including $704 million awarded to local businesses. This summer alone, the district invested more than $59 million in HVAC upgrades across nine campuses, improving air quality, energy efficiency and classroom comfort for students and staff.



Millage Referendum | Investing in People & Programs

92% funding dedicated to compensation for teachers and staff	**8% funding** dedicated to expanding academic programs

The voter-approved millage referendum invests in what matters most: people and programs. It includes a proposed $6,000 supplement for teachers and administrators and $3,000 for support staff, while dedicating 8% of funding to expanded academic opportunities, including full school day VPK, early literacy, college and career readiness, arts and athletics.

Citizen Oversight Committee

An independent Citizen Oversight Committee reviews all millage spending to ensure funds are used as promised to Hillsborough County voters.



Jose Valiente
Chair



Bonnie Carr, CPA & CFO



Tom Lee
Former Senate President



Rick Lott
Former Plant City Mayor



Ed Narain
Former State Representative



Andrew Ross
Mayor of Temple Terrace

Learn more: HillsboroughSchools.org/Referendums

Community Partnerships Supporting Our School Communities

2025-2026 Community Partner Engagement

Together with our partners, this is what we achieved in the 2025-2026 school year.

$15M

Received in philanthropic and in-kind funding

1,759,542

MEALS PROVIDED

during out-of-school time through partner feeding programs.
In-kind value over $7 million

159

Partner & district programs, events, and initiatives provided

85

Partnerships stewarded advancing school and district initiatives

$220,209

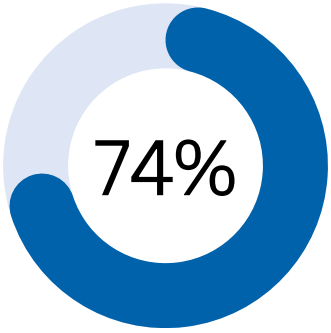
254 teacher classroom grants provided by Hillsborough Education Foundation

3,000

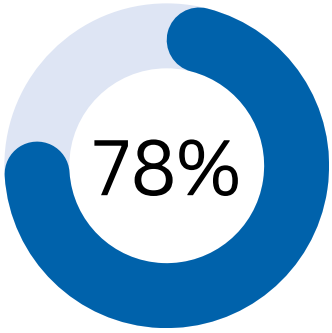
students participated in 76 enrichment camps offered before and after school

Winter 2026 Family Survey Results

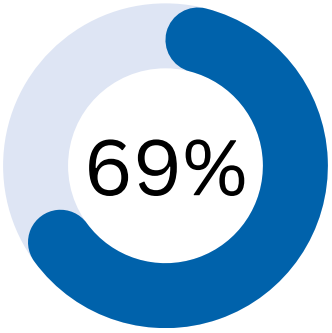
When students feel safe, supported, and connected, trust follows. Each year, we ask our students, staff, and families to share their experiences and we use their feedback to guide how we improve and grow as a district.



School Safety Favorability



School Climate Favorability



Anti-Harassment Favorability

Source: Winter 2026 HCPS Continuous Improvement Survey

Proud to be an A School District



"**Earning an A district grade is a milestone** that reflects the extraordinary dedication of our students, teachers, support professionals, school leaders, and families. These results show that our students are succeeding at higher levels than ever before, and we are committed to building on this momentum for each child we serve."

Van Ayres,
Superintendent of Hillsborough County Public Schools

LEADING *the way*

MISSION:

Our mission is to cultivate an educational environment that prioritizes a culture of accountability and support among all stakeholders, promotes growth and well-being for every individual within a safe, respectful, and collaborative community, and fosters a spirit of lifelong learning and excellence.

VISION:

Together, we strive to instill lifelong learning and success through our shared dedication to fostering each student's full potential.

CORE VALUES:



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for Life

hillsboroughschools.org

Follow us on social media:
@hillsboroughsch