



Families First

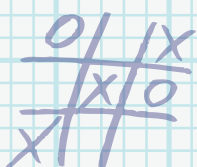
The Family Guide to Pasco County Schools

2014-2015



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY

Tampa Bay
Times
NIE
newspaper in education
tampabay.com/nie



A+





School calendar

August 18	First Day of School for Students
September 1	Labor Day: Holiday for Teachers/Students
October 20	Teacher Planning Day (No Students)
October 27	Report Cards
November 24 – 28	Thanksgiving: Holiday for Teachers/Students
December 22	Winter Vacation Begins
January 5	Teacher Planning Day (No Students)
January 6	Students Return to School
January 12	Report Cards
January 19	Holiday for Teachers/Students/ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 16	Presidents Day: Holiday for Teachers/Students
March 16 – 20	Spring Vacation
March 23	Teacher Planning Day (No Students)
March 30	Report Cards
April 3	No School for Students/Teachers
May 25	Memorial Day: Holiday for Teachers/Students
June 3	Last Day of School for Students
June 4 – 5	Teacher Planning Day (No Students)
June 11	Final Report Cards

Newspaper in Education staff
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Credits
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Fluid Graphic Design, LLC

The Pasco County School District has made major shifts in the way we do our business. These shifts have been made for the sole purpose of positioning our district to be the best district in the state.

As parents, we want the very best for our children. We also want the very best for the children we serve.

We know that what was done in the past wasn't getting us where we need to be We have data to prove it. We believe that the changes we are making will get us closer to providing that world-class education for each one of our students.

To succeed, we must be caring, responsive and supportive. I want our students to achieve greatness. I want our schools to have the best technology, and I want our teachers and students to take advantage of technology to improve academic achievement. Our lessons must be relevant, and our students must take charge of their learning.

In the following pages, you will find information about the programs and services we offer in this district. We continue to develop new, more challenging courses and programs, including the Cambridge Education program, the Infinity program and the aviation academy partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

We also continuously strive to provide the best possible services to students with special needs. We include information about programs for students for whom English is not their first language, services for disabled students and guidance to help parents advocate for their children.

Parent involvement is crucial to student achievement. There is nothing more important than engaged parents who take an interest in their children's education. If parents are engaged, students will be engaged. If students are engaged, students will be successful.

Thank you for letting us serve you and your students. I hope you have a successful school year.

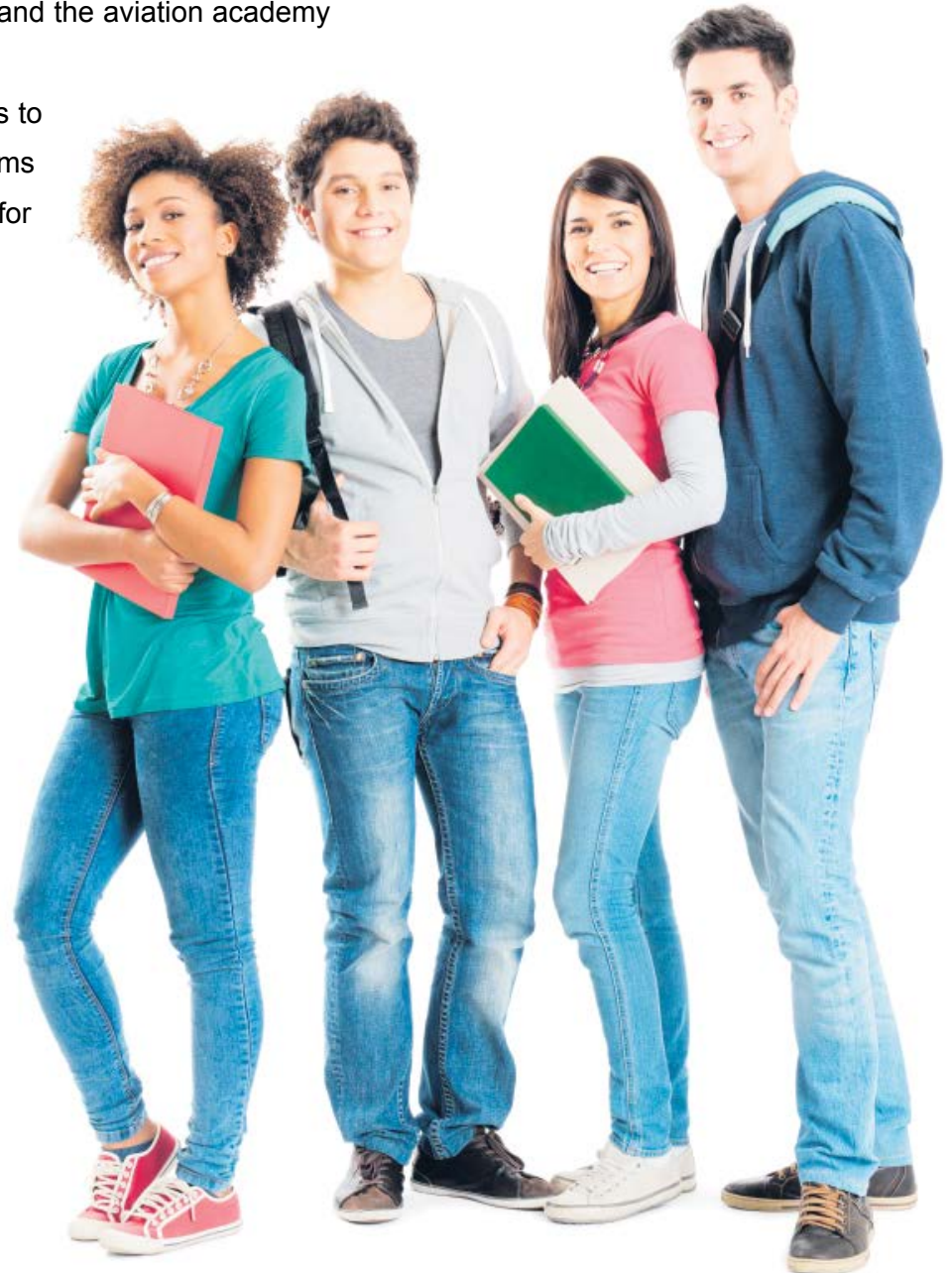
Sincerely,

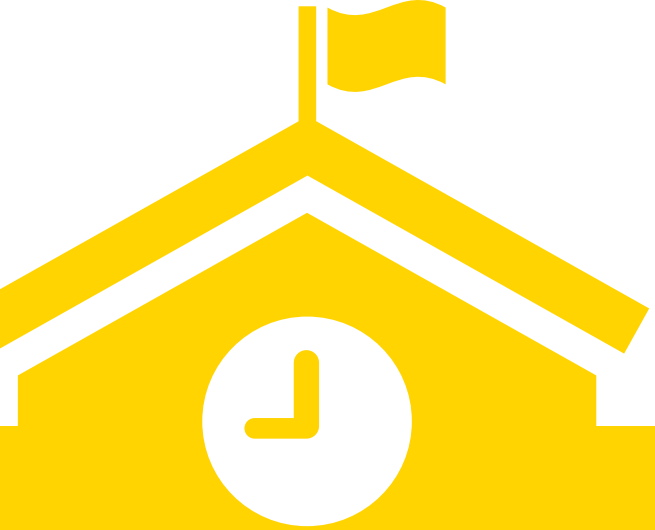


Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent of Schools



Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent of Schools





The District School Board of Pasco County
7227 Land O'Lakes Blvd.
Land O'Lakes FL 34638

**District School Board of Pasco
County Phone Numbers**

Replace XXXX in the numbers below with the
extension you would like to reach.

- 727-774-XXXX (West)
- 813-794-XXXX (Central)
- 352-524-XXXX (East)

Superintendent/Staff/School Board	
Members	2000
Athletics	7939
Educational Options	2686
Communications and Government	
Relations	2717
Career and Technical Education	2204
Employee Relations	2322
Exceptional Student Education	2600
Food and Nutrition Services	
(Free and Reduced Price Lunch)	2439
Human Resources and Educator Quality	
(Employment Opportunities)	2353
Pasco Education Foundation Inc.	2705
Pasco Educational Television (PETV)....	2298
PLACE – District Office	2180
Early Childhood Programs	2730
Accountability, Research and	
Measurement (Testing)	2343
Spanish Language Assistance	
Ayuda en Español.....	2245
Student Support Programs and Services..	2600
Teaching and Learning	2246
Transportation	0400
Volunteer Services	2207



Pasco County School Board Members

- Kurt Browning, Superintendent
- Allen Altman, District 1
- Joanne Hurley, District 2
- Cynthia Armstrong, District 3
- Alison Crumbley, District 4
- Steve Luikart, District 5

Multi-Tiered System of Support

A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is designed to engage all students and staff in learning, using standards-based instruction, professional learning communities and a professional growth system with the goal of preparing all students for postsecondary college, career and life. Integrated systems of support involve planning for, differentiating and teaching students academic, behavioral and social-emotional skills as well as monitoring student and staff growth over time.



Specifically, Pasco's MTSS efforts focus on:

- 1 analyzing data at school and student levels to identify students at-risk for not graduating (grades pre-K through high school) as well as system trends;
- 2 collaborating among school, family and community members to match research-based instruction and interventions to student and system needs;
- 3 continuous monitoring of student progress toward identified academic and behavioral milestones and individualized learning goals; and
- 4 facilitating professional development of staff and parents in order to create dynamic, personalized and technology-enhanced learning environments.

Program Overview



Head Start / Early Head Start

The District School Board of Pasco County is a Head Start / Early Head Start grantee. Through this federally funded grant, we offer high-quality early childhood services promoting school readiness to families and enrolled children from pre-birth through age 5.

Program Description

The Head Start program provides grants to local public and private nonprofit, and for profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. In 1995, the Early Head Start program was established to serve children from birth to age 3 in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to children's growth and development.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning, with significant emphasis



on parental involvement in the administration of local Head Start programs, and help them make progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.

The Head Start program serves 3- and 4-year-olds. Early Head Start serves expectant mothers, infants and toddlers. The District School Board of Pasco County offers **free** Head Start / Early Head Start Programs to all eligible applicants as space is available. Preference for Head Start is given to children who turn 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the program year. Children who are turning 3 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the program year also may

apply.

Eligibility is based on family need and income. Children with documented disabilities or special needs are given additional points and are encouraged to apply.

VPK

Since 2006, our school district has participated in the state's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program for all 4 year olds through a blended model with Head Start and Summer VPK offerings.



Healthy Schools



In the 2014–2015 school year, Pasco Schools is partnering with Healthy Schools LLC to provide flu mist vaccines to students with parental consent. Healthy Schools LLC works with the county health department and the school district to provide no-cost flu vaccinations at schools. Qualified health professionals administer the inhaled influenza vaccines, which are safe, do not contain preservatives and do not cause recipients to contract the flu.



Additional Services Available to Students

Homeless Services

Two district social workers are specifically assigned to help identify and meet the needs of homeless children and youths. They work closely with shelters and domestic violence centers to provide services to these children and families. Children are eligible for homeless services if they are residing in emergency or transitional housing (e.g., staying in motels, hotels or a vehicle or structure that is not a permanent nighttime residence), awaiting foster care placement, or staying with family or friends due to the loss of housing and economic hardship.

School Psychological Services

School psychological services are available at all public school sites in the district. All school psychologists have advanced degrees and are specially trained to link mental health to learning and behavior. These professionals deliver a broad scope of comprehensive services that are tailored to the particular needs of each child, family, school and situation. As members of the school-based intervention teams, school psychologists play a critical role in problem-solving, assessment, mental health, coaching, and crisis prevention and intervention. School psychologists work with parents, educators and other mental health service providers to develop, implement and

evaluate services. They use research-based and results-based strategies to promote good mental health, high academic achievement, positive social skills and behavior, tolerance, respect for others, and safe and supportive learning environments. These professionals also are available to support staff and parents through consultation, coaching and evaluation activities, including intervention during times of crisis.

Social Worker Services

Professional social workers have the appropriate education, experience and dedication to help people help themselves whenever and wherever they need it most. Social workers provide supportive counseling to children and their families. In addition, social workers possess knowledge of community services and are able to connect people with the resources they need. There are more than 30 professional social workers employed in our school system.

School Counselor Services

School counselors follow a planned and comprehensive program that delivers prevention and intervention services to all students. In addition to planned classroom guidance and targeted group counseling, school counselors provide individual

counseling to students for academics, personal needs and crisis situations. The program is research-based, outcomes-driven and specific to each school's needs, and uses data to focus on issues of students at each age and level.

PLACE Before and After School Child Care

Pasco's PLACE program provides enrichment activities for children before or after school, and for those who require full day supervision during most school holidays. Trained, professional staff cares for more than 5,000 students daily beginning at 6:30 a.m. and in the afternoon until 6:00 p.m. For enrollment and fee information, contact your child's school.



School Health Services

School health services are available at all school sites in the district. Using clinical knowledge and judgment, registered professional school nurses provide health care to students and staff, perform health screenings and coordinate referrals to the medical home or private healthcare provider. The school nurse serves to strengthen and facilitate the educational process by improving and protecting the health status of children and by identifying and assisting in the elimination or modification of health-related barriers to learning. These professionals are members of the school-based intervention teams, providing health expertise, guidance and support and serving as a liaison between school personnel, family, community and healthcare providers to advocate for healthcare and a healthy school environment. School nurses also provide supervision and direction to clinic assistants, licensed practical nurses and other trained staff that provide health services to students in the school setting.



Language Translation Interpretation Services

The district offers language translation and interpretation services for translating documents that are to be used in an official manner. This includes, but is not limited to high-stakes documents, documents that ensure equal access to all programs and opportunities, documents with legal implications and documents that require parent signatures. For translation interpretation into languages other than Spanish, please submit a request to the district language translator/interpreter specialist in the Communications Department.



Requirements for the 2014–2015 School Year

The immunization record must show that the student has met the following minimum state requirements. (This website pasco.k12.fl.us/library/student_services/health/immunization_reqs.pdf, contains the immunization requirements in table form.)

Pre-K (age-appropriate doses as indicated):

- DTaP vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis)
- Polio vaccine
- MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Varicella vaccine (or date of contracting disease)
- Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevnar)
(Effective January 1, 2008, for children age 2 to 59 months)

Kindergarten through sixth grade:

- 4-5 doses of DTaP vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria and A-cellular pertussis)
- 3-5 doses of polio vaccine (last one after age 4)
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Hepatitis B (3 doses)
- 2 doses of varicella vaccine (or date of contracting disease as verified by parent or healthcare provider)

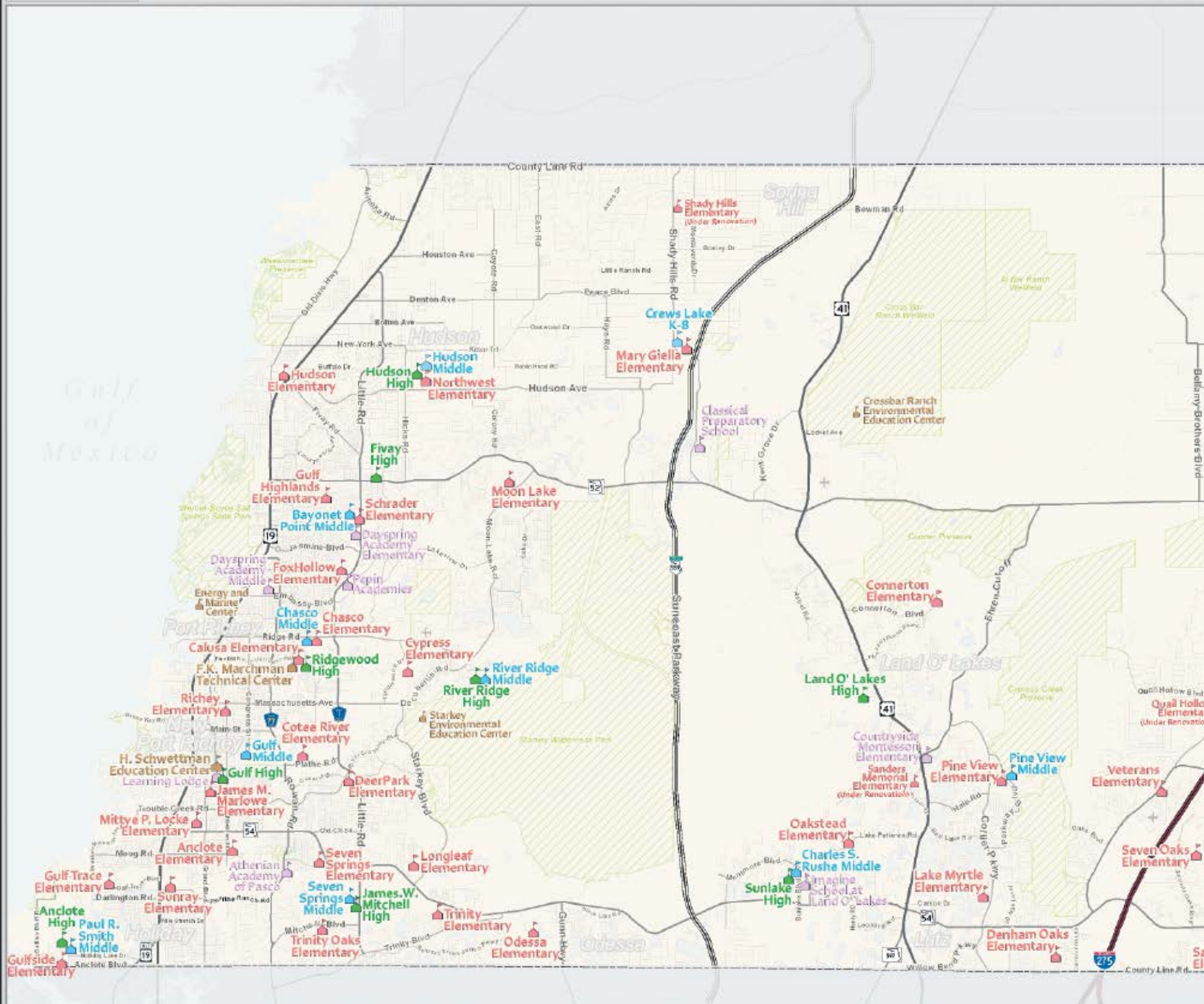
Seventh through twelfth grade students:





- 4-5 doses of DTaP vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis)
- 3-5 doses polio vaccine
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Hepatitis B (2-3 doses)
- 1 dose varicella or date of disease (year)
- 7th grade only: 1 dose of Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria and A-cellular pertussis)
- 8th - 12th grade: 1 dose of Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria and A-cellular pertussis) if 7th-grade requirement has not been met.





District School Board of Port St. Lucie School Site Location



 **High Schools**  **Middle Schools**  **Elementary Schools**  **Education Centers**

Pasco County School Map



Recommended Adolescent Vaccination

Meningococcal vaccine can protect against bacterial meningitis, which is a serious and highly contagious infection that can become deadly in a short period of time. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that adolescents receive initial vaccination at age 11 or 12 years, with a booster at age 16. For a special prevention message from the Florida Department of Health – Pasco, please visit: pasco.k12.fl.us/library/student_services/health/meningitis_letter_april_2014.pdf

You also can find additional information at Voices of Meningitis - a meningococcal disease prevention campaign sponsored by the National Association of School Nurses.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine can protect against the types of HPV that cause most cervical or anal cancers. The CDC recommends that this vaccination be given to both boys and girls at age 11 or 12 in a series of three doses over a period of six months. Teens and young adults who have not yet received the HPV vaccine, or who have not finished the series of shots, should talk with their parents and/or their doctor about getting those shots now.

Flu vaccine protects against three influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming flu season. Most people sick with the flu will recover in a few days to less than two weeks; however, flu is unpredictable. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older receive a flu vaccine each year. Preteens and teens should get a flu vaccine in the fall or as soon as it is available each year.



Immunization Waivers

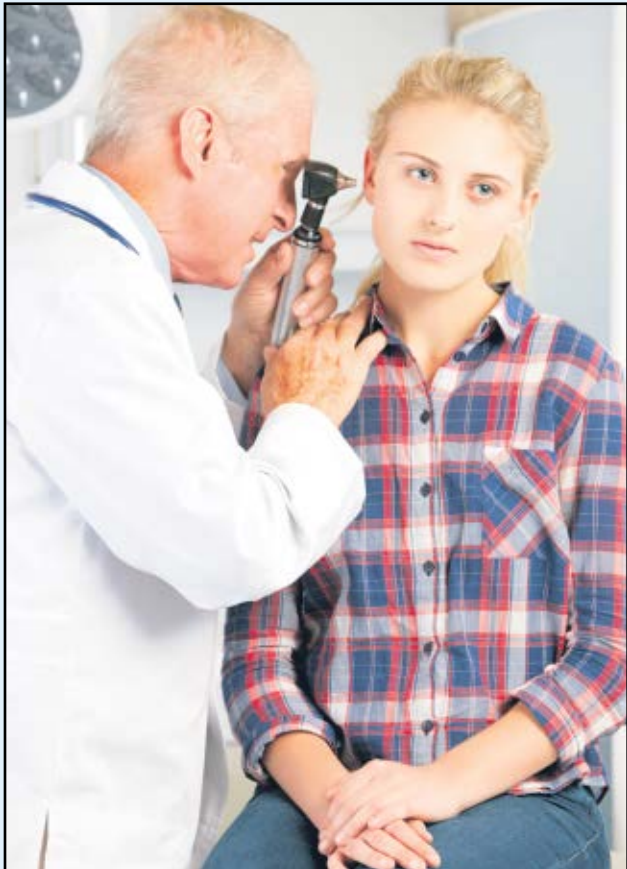
Students who are enrolling and who have previously attended school in Florida are granted a 30-day period of time for their previous records to arrive. Schools will have the parent complete a 30-day waiver form.[†] The parent/guardian agrees that when records from the previous school arrive and the vaccination record is incomplete or cannot be located that they must provide proof of immunization for their child.

[†] Thirty-day waivers are not applicable for first-time enrollees (i.e., kindergarten or prekindergarten) or grade seven. Homeless students are the only exception to this rule. Florida Statute gives homeless students a 30-day grace period to comply.

Physicals

A physical exam report completed no more than one year prior to enrollment is required for any student who has never attended school in Florida (i.e., kindergarten and out-of-state transfers). Homeless students are the only exception to this rule. Florida Statute gives

- homeless students a 30-day grace period to comply. Following are guidelines for physical exam reports:
- Include components of a general health examination.
 - Can be on any form; no specific legal requirements.
 - May be completed and signed by any licensed health professional: M.D., D.O., P.A., A.R.N.P. or chiropractor.
 - Must be completed one calendar year or less prior to enrollment.
 - May be from any state in the U.S.



Requirements for the 2014 -15 School Year

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTaP (4 - 5)	Age appropriate doses as indicated	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Polio* (3-5)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MMR (2)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hep B (2 - 3 doses)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varicella (single dose)									X	X	X	X	X	X
Varicella (two dose)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Pprevnar	X													
Tdap									X	X	X	X	X	X

*If the fourth dose of vaccine is administered prior to the fourth birthday, a fifth dose of polio vaccine is required for kindergarten.

Educational Rights and Responsibilities

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

This law allows parents and guardians to gain access to their child's school records. It requires the school to tell parents or guardians about the kinds of records it keeps and where they are kept. The federal law provides state guidelines regarding the amount of time a school has to answer a request to see a child's records and explain anything the parent does not understand. If a parent or guardian needs time to review his or her child's records, the school is required to provide copies for a reasonable fee.

If a parent or guardian finds something that is incorrect in his or her child's records, the parent or guardian has the right to ask that it be changed. If the school disagrees, a due process hearing may be requested. The outcome of the due process hearing determines whether or not the record will be changed. If the record is not changed as a result of the due process hearing, the parent or guardian has the right to prepare a statement explaining why he or she believes the information is incorrect. The statement is added to the child's school record.

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) is a federal law that affords specific rights to parents of minor students in relation to surveys that ask questions of a personal nature. As a result of this amendment, parents are notified prior to the administration of a survey that solicits personal information. Participation in such a survey is voluntary. No student is required to participate in such surveys if the student or the student's parent or guardian (if the student is a minor) objects to participation. Written notification must be given to opt out of survey participation.

Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is a civil rights legislative act that protects the rights of persons with disabilities. Under Section 504, school districts have the responsibility to identify, to evaluate and to afford access to appropriate educational services and procedural safeguards for these individuals.

Section 504 regulation requires schools to make reasonable accommodations to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual, that would enable the individual to participate successfully in the regular education school program.

The decision regarding eligibility and need for reasonable accommodations must be based upon information drawn from a variety of

sources and must be made by a group of persons knowledgeable about the student and the suspected disability. Under Section 504, courts have required reasonable accommodations that achieve "meaningful equal opportunity." As such, Section 504 accommodations need to take into consideration both the functional limitations of the individual and the alternative methods of performing tasks or activities.

If you believe your child has a disability that would entitle him/her to reasonable accommodations under Section 504:

- Inform your child's teacher.
- Discuss your concerns with the school counselor, school nurse, school psychologist or the administrator at your child's school.
- Request further information about Section 504 from the school counselor or from the Section 504 coordinator.

For further information, call the Office for Student Support Programs and Services.



Exceptional Student Education



Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services are available for students who have met eligibility criteria in one or more of the following areas:

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Intellectual disabilities
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Developmentally delayed (ages 3-5)
- Gifted
- Speech or language impairments
- Emotional behavioral disabilities
- Physical impairments
- Specific learning disabilities
- Health problems that hinder your child's energy or vitality in school

The Law Protects Students with Disabilities

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), all children with one or more disabilities listed are entitled to a "free appropriate public education" along with the appropriate related services required for the child to benefit from his or her education. If you believe that your child has a disability that keeps him or her from succeeding in school, you should ask that the child be evaluated for special services. An evaluation is necessary to ensure our school district is meeting the individual needs of every student.

Determining If Your Child Is Eligible for Special Educational Services



If a parent/guardian believes his or her child needs to be evaluated for ESE services, these are the steps to take:

- Ask your child's school to implement an intervention or evaluate him or her.
- Once the intervention process and/or evaluation is complete, a determination will be made regarding eligibility for ESE. If the intervention has been successful, no further testing is necessary.
- If it is determined that your child is eligible for ESE services, the parent/guardian (and student, if appropriate) will be asked



to participate in a meeting to develop an Individual Educational Plan (IEP). There are several purposes of the IEP. They are to set goals for the child's learning, explain services the school district will provide, identify classroom accommodations the child needs, identify the standards the child will be following and identify testing accommodations.




If a parent/guardian is not satisfied with his or her child's educational services, he or she is encouraged to request an IEP conference at the school. If an agreement cannot be reached, there are several options. Procedural safeguards are in place to ensure that the student receives a free, appropriate public education.

-  **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to participate in the development of your child's Individual Educational Plan (IEP).
-  **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to be represented by an advocate or attorney to assist with your decisions for the educational program provided to your child.

- Parent participation in the IEP meeting is very important. The other people who attend the meeting include a Basic Education teacher and an Exceptional Student Education teacher from the child's school; the student, beginning at age 14 or younger, if appropriate; and other professionals who may work with the child, such as the school psychologist, speech therapist, occupational therapist or school counselor. Parents also may choose to ask someone else to attend the meeting. For example, a parent may choose to bring the child's therapist or counselor, or someone else who is familiar with educational laws. For additional information, please contact the Office for Student Support Programs and Services.



Your Rights

-  **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to ask the school to test your child for free if you think he or she might need special services or if the services he or she is already receiving are not working.
-  **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to request a free, independent evaluation of your child if you disagree with the results of the school's testing.
-  **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to receive copies of your child's school records.

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)

FDLRS is a discretionary project that assists school districts with locating children with special needs who are not enrolled in public school and who are potentially eligible for services under IDEA. Child Find services help to promote general public awareness of programs and services available for young children who have, or who are at risk of developing, disabilities. Free diagnostic services are available to determine whether a child is eligible for special preschool programs/ services that may be provided by the District School Board of Pasco County or another local agency.

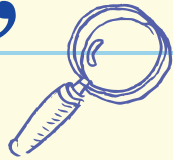
FDLRS also provides parent information, parent workshops and support to districts and families in order to promote effective parent participation in the education of children who are exceptional and/or have special needs. Parent services include assistance, training and support for families and their children with disabilities, and the support of partnerships between schools and parents to enhance student achievement.

Addressing Concerns with Your Child's Services

You or a member of the school's staff may ask for an IEP meeting at any time to make changes if there are concerns. Otherwise, the IEP is reviewed annually.



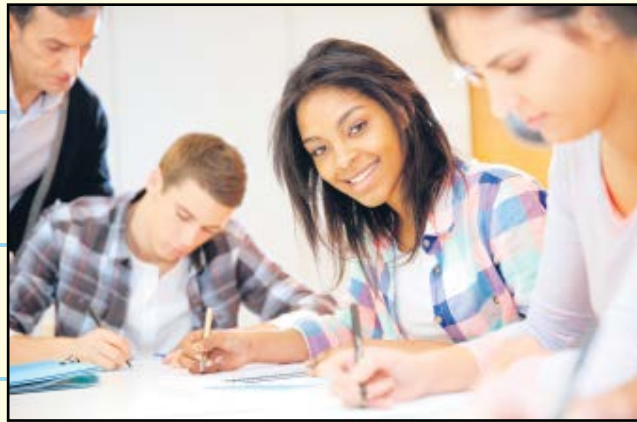
Preparing Students For College, Career and Life Readiness



Curriculum and Instruction

The District School Board of Pasco County provides access to a well-rounded curriculum to maximize personalized learning, including the arts, world languages, physical education, fitness and nutrition, science, social studies, English language arts, mathematics and technology, as well as innovative career-technical programs. Students are afforded many opportunities to engage in hands-on, collaborative and project-based learning. One example is our district's Environmental Education program, which accesses three off-site learning centers where students can explore natural habitats as they develop a sense of collective and individual responsibility for the preservation of Florida's precious ecosystem.

Pasco County schools are committed to the implementation of a Problem Solving/Response to



Instruction-Intervention (PS/RtI) approach to align efforts to improve educational outcomes and meet the academic/behavioral needs of all students. The district provides high-quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs and uses data over time to make important educational decisions, including promotion, acceleration, retention and remediation.

Pasco County also offers an array of extracurricular and co-curricular activities designed to develop students' skills, talents and abilities. Programs such as band, chorus, drama and athletics encourage creativity, innovation and exploration.

If you are interested in a specific service offered at your child's school,

please contact his/her principal. The Pasco County Schools website is also a great place to find information about district-wide programs. Visit us at pascoschools.org.

Florida Standards

Our goal is for every student in Pasco County to be prepared for college, career and life through daily access to high-quality instruction and a guaranteed and viable curriculum that leads to mastery of rigorous standards.

The Florida Standards require a different approach to teaching, learning and testing that focuses on providing children with a deep understanding of the most important concepts in the subjects they are studying so that they can apply that knowledge to other subjects and the real world.

Both the Mathematics Florida Standards and Language Arts Florida Standards will be fully implemented across all grades in the 2014-15 school year. These new standards clearly identify what students must know, understand and be able to do at each grade level and are embedded into all other content areas that are driven by the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Our teachers are prepared to support learners as they experience a more rigorous, relevant and integrated educational experience.

All Florida public education students will be taking a new form of assessment during the 2014-15 school year that will require students to demonstrate their reading, writing and math problem-solving skills while using technology.

To access the most up-to-date information regarding the implementation of the Florida Standards in Pasco County, please visit our website at pascoschools.org.



Middle School Promotion

Middle school students are required to successfully complete three courses each of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies in order to be promoted to the ninth grade. One of a student's social studies courses needs to be the middle school civics course. This course requires a student to take the state end-of-course (EOC) assessment. In addition, students must complete a course that includes a career exploration and educational planning component.

The middle school promotion requirement may be met by earning a passing grade in each of the above courses or by demonstrating mastery of course standards through the district's middle school promotion recovery process. If you feel your child is in danger of failing, please contact his or her teacher and guidance counselor to develop an action plan for successful transition to high school.



Challenging and Innovative Programs



High School Credit Options

Pasco County students are given a variety of academic opportunities to obtain high school credits. These options are based on the most recent laws and school board policy. They include the following programs.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)

The International Baccalaureate Diploma program (IB) offers challenging and rigorous courses to highly motivated students pursuing college credit during high school. The IB diploma affords students many benefits and is widely accepted at universities and colleges throughout the world. College credit may vary from one college to another; therefore, students are advised to plan with their chosen college admissions counselor. International Baccalaureate programs in Pasco County schools serve students throughout the county and are offered at Land O' Lakes High School and Gulf High School. The IB program consists of four years of in-depth study in English, mathematics, history and the social sciences, world language, experimental sciences and an academic elective. Students experience college-level work by participating in the Theory of Knowledge component, submitting a 4,000-word extended essay, taking the related

IB examinations, and contributing to and reflecting on at least 150 hours of service to the community through the Creativity-Action-Service component. For more information, visit ibo.org, or contact one of the above high schools.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement is rigorous, college-level coursework taught on the high school campus and accredited through the College Board. Students can earn high school credits by passing AP classes, and college credits by earning passing scores on AP exams. Each high school offers a selection of AP courses with exams across a multitude of subject areas.

College credit may vary from one college to another; therefore, students are advised to plan with their high school or chosen college admissions counselor. For more information, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com.



Today's Preparation...
...Tomorrow's Success



Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education Program (AICE)

The Cambridge AICE Diploma program emphasizes the value of broad and balanced study for academically able students. Its strengths lie in the flexibility and structure of the curriculum; encouraging in-depth, working knowledge of each subject; and essay-based examinations of knowledge and skill mastery. Cambridge AICE affords students many benefits and is widely accepted at universities and colleges throughout the world. College credit may vary from one college to another; therefore students are advised to plan with their chosen college admissions counselor. The Cambridge AICE program is located at Pasco High School and is supported by the Cambridge Secondary 1 program at Pasco Middle School, where students are engaged in a rigorous curriculum while developing the skills needed to be successful in their AICE coursework. For more information, visit cie.org.uk/ or contact one of the above schools.

Dual Enrollment (DE)

Students who meet the entrance requirements of Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) may take advantage of academic courses offered on their school campus, or if they are a junior or senior, they can take courses at any of the PHSC campuses. Those who successfully complete DE courses can receive both high school and college credit. Tuition and most required materials are free to District School Board of Pasco County students. Students who are considering taking dual enrollment courses should be socially mature, be able to handle the demands of college and have strong and consistent study habits. Coursework completed through

PHSC becomes part of the student's official high school and college transcripts. Interested students should see their school counselor for paperwork, enrollment deadlines and approval. PHSC academic advisors also are available to students.



Achievement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

AVID works to develop skills that better prepare students for rigorous classes such as honors, Dual Enrollment, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge AICE and Advanced Placement, and provides support through an academic elective class taught during the school day by trained AVID teachers. Though AVID strategies are used school-wide, the program works to identify students in the academic middle and develops their potential to be successful in college. AVID students participate in tutoring sessions twice a week, are introduced to college entrance requirements and become familiar with the college application process. The AVID program is offered at

Ridgewood, Pasco and Zephyrhills high schools; Pasco and R. B. Stewart middle schools; and Mittye P. Locke and Woodland elementary

schools. For more information, please visit avid.org/ or contact one of the above schools.

Infinity Academy



The mission of the Infinity Academy is to develop a blended learning environment that allows students to own their learning and education. Each student will be given a computer to use at school and at home while they are enrolled in the academy. Students will use a combination of an online curriculum and high-quality teacher-led instruction. The Infinity Academy is designed for students who are technology savvy, making learning accessible anywhere and anytime. Teachers customize the students' learning program to fit each student's individual needs. Our 21st century classrooms teach students to model excellence, integrity, loyalty, self-confidence and motivation. Infinity Academies are located at Paul R. Smith and Raymond B. Stewart middle schools and Zephyrhills High School.

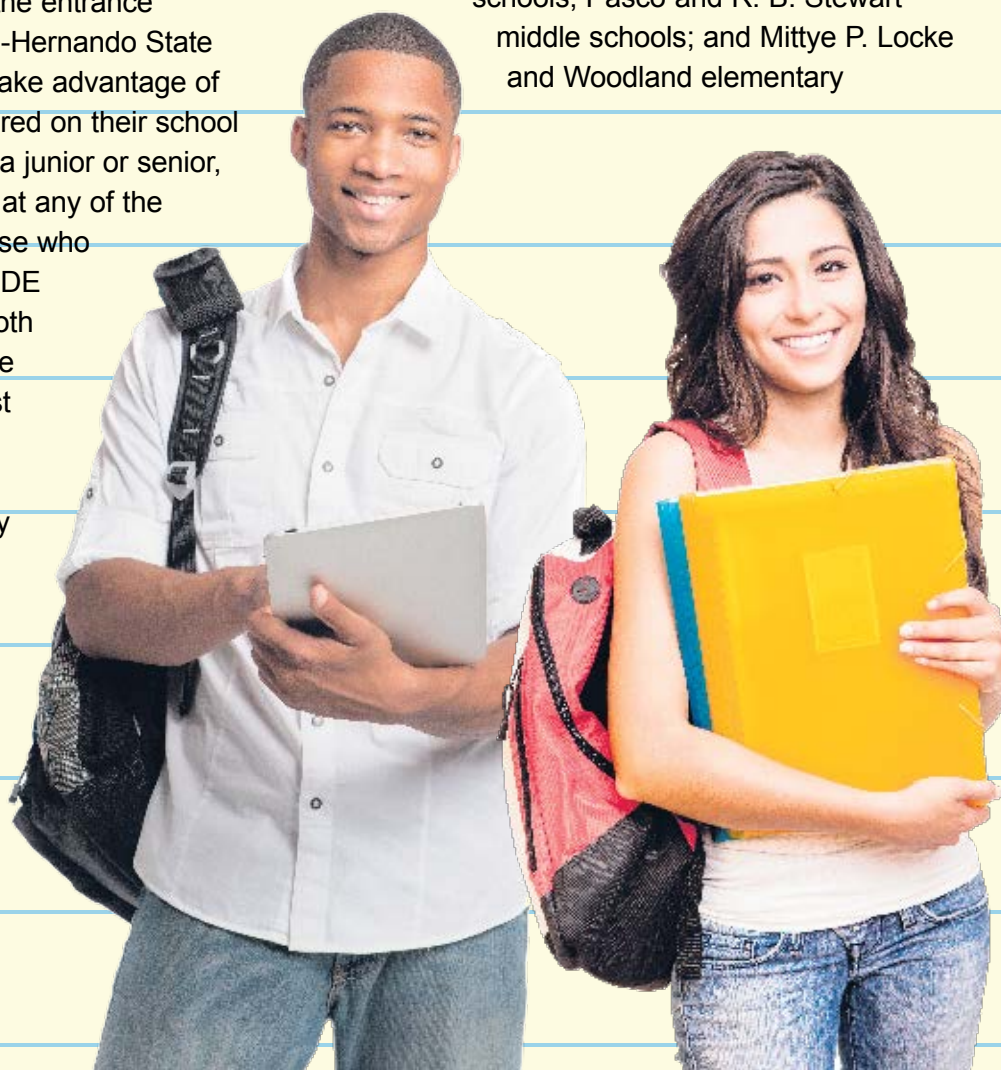
Career and Technical Education

Pasco Schools Career Technical Education (CTE) is helping our county and state address key challenges — from workforce development to student achievement, and from economic vitality to global competitiveness. With nearly 30,000 students district wide, CTE programs in middle schools and high schools are leading change, transforming expectations and making a difference.

Tampa Bay's local business leaders are teaming up with our high schools to create rigorous CTE programs that respond to the needs of the labor market. With the guidance and partnership of business and industry professionals, these programs ensure that students understand the realities of the workforce and the economy and are prepared with college and career ready skills necessary for success.

Career Academies

Career Academies are a part of a national reform initiative to increase all students' achievement and prepare students for a career path based on their interest, including



postsecondary opportunities. Pasco's career academies are organized around such themes as health sciences, business and finance, information technology, energy, hospitality and tourism, automotive service technology, robotics, building technology, aeronautics, law, communications and journalism, agritechology, veterinary assisting and engineering. Academy students take classes together, follow a curriculum that includes rigorous academic courses as well as career-oriented courses, and participate in work-based learning activities.

Career academies are supported by extensive research that indicates academy participation increases student achievement, attendance and college readiness if the academy theme requires a college degree, and increases student achievement at the college level.

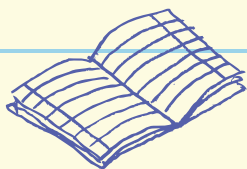
Diploma Options

Students may choose from a traditional 24-credit or an accelerated 18-credit option to earn their high school standard diploma. The primary difference between these two choices is that the 18-credit option reduces the number of elective credits that need to be earned. Parental permission is needed for students selecting the 18-credit path. Additional requirements apply. Contact your school counselor for more details.

College Planning Services

The Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) was created by the Florida Legislature in 2012. The State University System and the Florida College System have set up FLVC to work with Florida's public colleges and universities to ensure their students have access to tools and information that help them:

- find and apply for online courses;
- view their unofficial transcripts and other academic data;
- research Florida institutions and available degree programs and options;
- learn about scholarships and other financial aid; and,
- plan for careers.



Educational Options

School Choice Open Enrollment

The District School Board of Pasco County's School Choice Open Enrollment provides an opportunity for a Pasco County student to attend a public school outside the student's assigned boundary area, as well as public schools in neighboring counties, as long as the requested school is not critically overcrowded. The parent/guardian of a student wishing to attend a school outside his/her boundary area must submit a School Choice Open Enrollment application to the District School Board of Pasco County during the established open enrollment period. School Choice Open Enrollment applications for the following school year are accepted Feb. 1 - March 1 each year. Applications must be received electronically no later than March 1. Applications may be completed and submitted electronically at: pasco.k12.fl.us/ed_choice/school_choice/registration.

Pasco eSchool (Virtual Instruction)

Pasco eSchool is a fully accredited K-12 public virtual school that offers access to free virtual instruction for students in Pasco County and other districts. Pasco eSchool's full-time program

features a flexible educational setting that follows the traditional school year while offering families a chance to develop a partnership with highly qualified teachers who have extensive experience helping students succeed.

The school district is proud to offer a new elementary curriculum that emphasizes a student-centered interdisciplinary instruction designed to engage students in a learning experience that requires them to create content and projects. This innovative approach includes a blend of print and digital resources, on-site and online activities, and an exciting catalog of elective options that include robotics, computer coding, world language instruction and more. The elementary school program offers full-time and blended educational opportunities so that students can challenge themselves with accelerated learning experiences.

Through interdistrict agreements, families also may participate in a fulltime virtual instruction program featuring the renowned Calvert curriculum. It is a tuition-free program supported by Florida-certified teachers from cooperating districts.

Through participation in Pasco eSchool's secondary program, students can choose from

an extensive catalog of middle school and high school courses that meet promotion and/or graduation requirements. Secondary students may request courses at any time throughout the school year. Full-time students can earn a high school diploma. All of Pasco eSchool's courses provide outstanding curricula aligned with Florida's curriculum standards, and are delivered by Pasco County teachers who are Florida-certified and highly qualified in their subject areas. Currently, Pasco eSchool reports a 95 percent completion rate.

Courses are available to students in grades K-12 enrolled in public schools, public charter schools, nonpublic schools and home education programs. Neighborhood schools and the Pasco eSchool school counselors will assist families in determining academically appropriate courses for each student based on course prerequisites and the student's academic history and age. Parent approval is required for course registration, and there are limited enrollment windows for the full-time program. For more information about Pasco eSchool, please visit eschool.pasco.k12.fl.us. With Pasco eSchool, the future of education is here today.

Florida Virtual School

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is a fully accredited public virtual school that offers free online courses to middle and high school students in Florida. All FLVS teachers are Florida-certified in the subjects they teach, and all courses are aligned with Florida's curriculum



standards. Individual courses are available to Florida students in public schools, public charter schools, nonpublic schools and home education programs. The school determines whether a course is academically appropriate for the student based upon course prerequisites and the student's academic history and age. Parent approval is also required for course registration. FLVS began awarding a high school diploma to students in its full-time program in 2013. Credits earned through FLVS may be applied toward the graduation requirements of a high school diploma-awarding institution. Students and their families are

advised to work closely with the school district, charter school, non public school or home education program in which they are enrolled to determine the appropriate courses and policies for earning a high school diploma. The website for Florida Virtual School is flvs.net.

Florida Virtual Academy at Pasco (excerpted from their website)

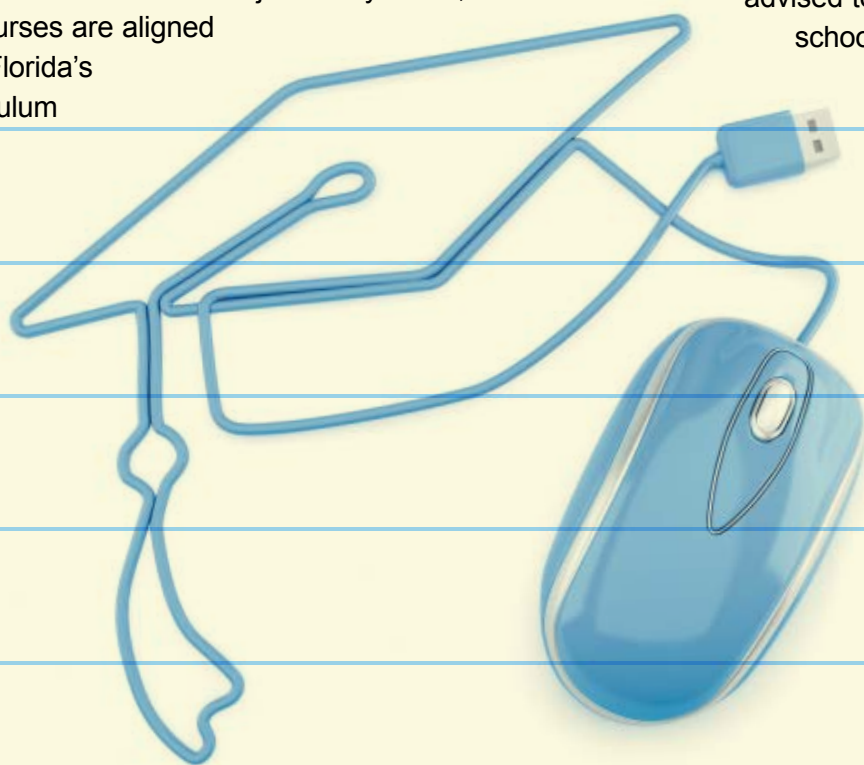
Operated by K12 LLC, a national online provider, Florida Virtual Academies offers Pasco students in grades K-9:

- The K¹² curriculum
- Full-time, tuition-free, online public school option
- Support from Florida-certified teachers
- A range of extracurricular activities
- A robust Advanced Learner program
- Books, materials and loaner computer system
- Ability for students to participate in their school district's extracurricular athletics and activities
- A high school diploma that meets all state requirements.

The website for Florida Virtual Academy at Pasco is: k12.com/flva/home#.U4-ePS_TZvQ.

Home Education

Home Education is a parent-directed option. The parent determines the path and plan for reaching the student's academic goals. The parent schedules instruction, which may take place in a variety of settings. When implemented according to the requirements set by Florida law, a home education program fulfills the state's mandatory school attendance requirement. To establish a home education program, parents must notify the school district in writing of the date the program began or will begin; and the student's name, date of birth, address and phone number. The notice must be signed by the parent and submitted



to the Department for Teaching and Learning, Educational Choice office within 30 days of starting a program. In addition, the parent must maintain a portfolio of the child's work and submit an annual evaluation to the school district documenting that the child is making progress commensurate with his or her abilities.

Charter Schools

Pasco County will have nine charter schools for the 2014-2015 school year:

- Academy at the Farm (K-8)
- Athenian Academy of Pasco (K-8)
- Classical Preparatory School (K-8)
- Countryside Montessori Charter School (1-8)
- Dayspring Academy (K-9)
- Florida Virtual Academy at Pasco (K-9)
- Imagine School at Land O'Lakes (K-8)
- Learning Lodge Academy (K-3)
- Pepin Academies, Pasco (3-10)

For more information, contact the district's Charter School Office at 813-794-2408.

McKay Scholarships

The McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, created in 1999, provides scholarships for eligible students with disabilities.

If your child meets all Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) McKay eligibility criteria, you may request enrollment in another public school or seek acceptance at a participating private school.

The child must have an Individual Education Plan or a 504 plan (not including a temporary 504 plan of less than six months).

The child must have been in attendance at a Florida public school and met FTE requirements for the preceding school year.

You must access floridaschoolchoice.org and file intent to participate with the Florida Department of Education.

For a public school choice option, an application must be completed by the parent/guardian with "reasonable notice" of no less than 30 days to participate.



Equitable Support Systems

Title I Programs

Each year, in accordance with federal guidelines, the district designates schools with the highest populations of economically disadvantaged students (based upon participation in the Free or Reduced Lunch-Price Program) as Title I Schools. The purpose of the federally funded Title I Program is to ensure that all children have a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. These schools receive additional federal funding to achieve the goals of this program. The primary goal of the program is to provide additional support and services to economically disadvantaged students in order to close the achievement gap. This support may come in the form of additional, supplemental support personnel, supplemental curriculum and materials, or additional learning opportunities such as before- and after- school programs and summer camps. Title I schools complete a Comprehensive Needs Assessment each year to determine the services that best meet their needs as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan to measure the effectiveness of each initiative.

As a parent of a Title I student, you are entitled to know the qualifications of the teachers at your child's school, including whether or not they are considered "Highly Qualified" by the Florida Department of Education.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact your child's school.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

English for Speakers of Other Languages services are designed to provide academic, cultural, social and support services to English Language Learners (ELL) who are enrolled in Pasco County schools. Comprehensive instruction is delivered in English by classroom teachers, helping students to actively participate in a student-centered learning process as they build their strengths in the English language and in academics. In addition, Bilingual ESOL instructional assistants provide students with heritage language support. Students participate in the services until they attain proficiency in English and reading. For more information, contact the Teaching and Learning Department or visit the ESOL webpage at pasco.k12.fl.us/cis/esol.





Parent Participation Opportunities

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School Volunteer Programs

Volunteer, community and business partnership programs are an important part of every school in Pasco County. The active participation of parents, business leaders and community members in the classroom and school improves the effectiveness of teachers and staff. Annually, volunteers donate thousands of hours of direct and indirect student service. Their encouragement and patience are immeasurable in importance to the growth and development of children. Volunteers also help the district deliver important supplemental services to students and schools that would not be possible without the support of the community. Volunteers are needed to work with students of all ages and levels.

Mentorship opportunities are available through the Take Stock in Children program. To become an approved volunteer, an applicant must complete the district's online application, which includes a background check. For additional information, please contact the district's Communications and Government Relations

Department at 813-794-2207, or complete an online application at pasco.k12.fl.us/communications/volunteer.



Parent Workshops

We offer classes and workshops for parents covering a variety of topics on an ongoing basis throughout the district each school year. The following offices offer parent education opportunities:

- Migrant Education Program
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL, Title III)
- Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
- Early Childhood Services
- Adult Education
- Student Services

Each office can identify resources to assist families. Workshops help families to guide their children to develop positive homework habits, build reading and literacy success, strengthen decision-making, gain self-esteem, and understand educational options and

opportunities. Parents should contact their child's school Guidance Department or the individual district departments for specific classes, workshop descriptions, locations, dates and times. Parent education and workshop classes also are promoted on school websites and Facebook pages; the district website, Facebook page and Twitter; in school newsletters; and through brochures sent home with students.



Parent-Teacher Communication

One of the best ways to become involved in your child's education is through effective communication. Parent conferences, phone calls, e-mails and attendance at school events are excellent opportunities to establish regular communication. By working together, you and your child's teacher can ensure your child achieves his or her highest potential.