



# Advocacy Priorities

Hillsborough Education Foundation Supports Hillsborough County Public Schools

➡ 7th largest school district in the country • 3rd largest school district in Florida • 24,000+ teachers & support staff • 225,000+ students ←

## INVEST IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Increase funding to provide equitable educational opportunities within safe and secure learning environments and meet rising operational costs

## INVEST IN OUR TEACHERS

Prioritize teacher compensation and fund innovative ways to attract and retain quality teachers for at-risk students

## STUDENT SUCCESS

## INVEST IN EARLY LEARNING

Increase access to early childhood learning and fund high-quality instructional programs

## INVEST IN MENTORING PROGRAMS

Increase funding to expand quality youth mentoring programs for at-risk students

**OUR MISSION** is to strengthen public education in Hillsborough County through advocacy, investment of resources and programs that empower every student to achieve both academic and personal success.

### | CORE BELIEFS |

Every Student Matters | Equity of Opportunity | Effective Teachers are Foundational to Student Success  
Education is Key to a Prosperous Community | Success Relies on Relationships | Continuous Improvement

## Invest in Public Education: Increase K-12 Education Funding

### ➡ Increase the Base Student Allocation

Increase general operating dollars for school districts to maximize student learning, ensure equitable educational opportunities for all students, provide affordable wages for all personnel and cover increased fixed costs.

### ➡ Support infrastructure that provides a safe and secure learning environment for students, staff and families.

**\$\$\$ Return on Investment:** When we invest in our students and schools, our entire community benefits—resulting in higher incomes, better jobs, rising property values, a healthy economy and a reduced impact on state assistance programs. Education is key to a prosperous community and is critical for a strong workforce and sustainable prosperity.



Florida ranks **45th** in the country for state education funding according to *Education Week*, however Florida is the 3rd most populous state and has the 4th largest state economy.

## Invest in Early Learning: Access to Early Learning Programs & Quality Instruction

### ➡ Fund initiatives that increase access to early childhood programs with high-quality instruction.

**\$\$\$ Return on Investment:** Research shows high-quality early childhood programs can yield up to a \$9 return on a \$1 investment providing better outcomes in education, health, employment and social behavior for students and remove employment barriers for parents.

**52%**

In Hillsborough County, only 52% of students enter school ready for Kindergarten.



**3X**

Children who enter Kindergarten ready to read are three times more likely to be on a successful path to graduation.

## Invest in our Teachers: Increase Teacher Salaries

### ➡ Prioritize our educators by continuing to invest in teacher compensation and fund innovative approaches to attract and retain high-quality teachers and address the historic teacher shortage.

**\$\$\$ Return on Investment:** Research shows there is a direct link between experienced teachers and increased student learning gains. Without elevated focus on valuing this profession, Florida will continue to see 40% of new teachers leave the classroom within the first 5 years. Effective teachers are the foundation for students' academic and economic welfare.



Florida has a serious and growing teacher shortage: As of January 2020, more than **2,200** teacher positions remained unfilled—a 10% increase from the same time last year.

## Invest in Quality Youth Mentoring Programs: Mentoring Makes a Difference

### ➡ Increase funds for mentoring programs focused on academic achievement and personal success for at-risk students.

Our Take Stock in Children mentoring program is changing the lives of our most vulnerable students—providing a caring mentor, college success coach and opportunity for a Florida Prepaid Scholarship.

**\$\$\$ Return on Investment:** Mentoring is a proven dropout prevention strategy. Studies show students with a mentor have better school attendance, better attitudes toward school and are more likely to enroll in college. Mentoring programs help maximize student success and build a sustainable, thriving workforce of tomorrow.

### 2019 Graduation rates of at-risk students:



Florida: **69%**  
Florida Take Stock in Children mentees: **98%**