



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 • 217,000+ students ←

INVEST IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

INVEST IN OUR TEACHERS

Demonstrate the importance of our educators by increasing teacher compensation and funding innovative ways to prepare, attract and retain high-quality teachers

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.

➡ Increase funding to bridge the digital divide, closing the Homework Gap, to ensure all students have access to internet services and devices.

➡ 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 **42nd** in the country for state education funding and equity 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

➡ Demonstrate the importance of our educators by increasing teacher compensation and funding innovative ways to prepare, attract and retain high-quality teachers for at-risk students.

\$\$\$ Return on Investment: Research shows there is a direct link between experienced teachers and increased student learning gains. Schools serving larger proportions of low-income students and students of color are more likely to experience teacher shortage. Without elevated focus on valuing this profession, Florida will continue to see more teachers leaving and fewer teachers entering the profession. Effective teachers are the foundation for students' academic and economic welfare.

Teacher Turnover Costs Students and the District:
Hillsborough County Public Schools



- Cost to hire and train a new teacher: **\$8,000**
- Teacher Turnover Annual Cost: **\$6 million**

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.

2021 Graduation rates of at-risk students:



Florida: **80%**

Florida Take Stock in Children mentees: **97%**

Hillsborough Education Foundation's TSIC mentees: **100%**