Advocacy Priorities

Hillsborough Education Foundation Supports Hillsborough County Public Schools

7th largest school district in the country • 3rd largest school district in Florida • 23,000+ teachers & support staff • 220,000+ students

INVEST IN **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Increase funding to provide 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

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

INVEST IN **EARLY LEARNING**

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

INVEST IN **MENTORING PROGRAMS**

OUR MISSION is to ensure every student in Hillsborough County receives an outstanding public education that equips them for a fulfilling future.

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 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.

According to the National Education Association, Florida ranks 39th in the nation on per student spending ($13,584) compared to the national average of $16,990.

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.

According to the National Education Association's 2025 report, Florida ranks 50th in the nation for average teacher pay.

On average teachers spend $860/year out of their own pocket on classroom supplies.

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.

42% **of Hillsborough County students entered school ready for Kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year.**

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

INVEST IN 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.

2024-2025 Graduation Rates of At-Risk Students:

Florida: 72%
Florida TSIC Mentees: 98%
HEF TSIC Mentees: 98.5%