



**HERNANDO  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Learn it. Love it. Live it.**

**Proclamation No. P24-001  
Disability History and Awareness Weeks  
October 2023**

*WHEREAS, Disability History and Awareness Weeks were created to highlight the efforts, and important contributions and achievements of individuals with disabilities and recognized by the Florida Legislature under the Florida Statutes Section 1003.4205; and*

*WHEREAS, Florida continues to foster economic growth through the development of a talented and diverse labor force, and the active and meaningful participation of individuals with disabilities as students, parents, employees, employers and policy-makers is essential to providing equal opportunity to all Floridians; and*

*WHEREAS, during the 2022-23 school year, there were over 400,000 plus students with unique abilities enrolled in the Pk-12 Education System, and in 2021-22 over 20,000 plus students with unique abilities enrolled in the Florida College System and over 22,000 plus students with unique abilities enrolled in the State University System; and*

*WHEREAS, in 2021-22, the Division of Career and Adult Education enrolled over 3,600 plus adults with unique abilities in Adult General Education and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education programs and more than 110,000 plus students with disabilities in Secondary Career and Technical Education programs; and*

*WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation helps individuals with unique abilities become part of America's workforce, and serves and assists Floridians with finding or keeping jobs; and*

*WHEREAS, The Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS) is dedicated to ensuring that Floridians who are blind or visually impaired have the tools, support and opportunity to achieve success, and helps individuals achieve successful employment outcomes in becoming more successful in school, community and work; and*

*WHEREAS, the Florida Youth Council, a group of youth and emerging leaders with disabilities that advocated for the creation of Disability History and Awareness Weeks, remains dedicated to ensuring that all youth within the state of Florida are empowered to realize their potential, and are educated regarding the history of individuals with disabilities and the positive examples represented by their valuable contributions to their communities; and*

*WHEREAS, it is important to continue encouraging individuals with disabilities to realize their abilities in their education, employment and communities, and reaffirm our commitment to the full inclusion of and equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities;*

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hernando County School District is pleased to commemorate the first 2 weeks in October 2023 as "Disability History and Awareness Weeks" and encourages Hernando County teachers to bring disability awareness and instruction to their students.

*Adopted at the regular meeting session of the Hernando County School Board  
On this 19th day of September, 2023.*

Gus Guadagnino, Board Chairperson

John Stratton, Superintendent