

Proclamation

P25 - 006

HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOLS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH APRIL 2025

WHEREAS, Florida's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of over 4 million children currently living, growing, and learning within our many diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, children are the community's greatest asset and should be educated, recognized, cherished, nurtured and acknowledged as such by all: and

WHEREAS, positive childhood experiences like loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships—can help mitigate trauma and the negative impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) to promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime and impact future generations of their family; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious problem affecting every community in the U.S., and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, children who live in families with access to concrete economic and social supports are less likely to experience abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, research also shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, Hernando County has seen an increase in the severity of child abuse cases over the last year, an increase in internet crimes against children and there were more than 3203 children in our county who were the subject of child abuse investigations, and

WHEREAS, You Thrive Children's Advocacy in collaboration with the Hernando County School District, has been providing Monique Burr's Child Safety Matters prevention curriculum in the elementary schools which educates and empowers children and all relevant adults with information and strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to all types of abuse, and digital abuse dangers, and

WHEREAS, during the month of April You Thrive Children’s Advocacy Center of Hernando County will be engaging communities throughout Florida in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and the types of concrete support families need within their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Hernando County School Board hereby proclaims the month of April, 2025, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Hernando County.

SECTION 2. The Hernando County School Board hereby encourage all residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

And seal at _____

Ray Pinder, Superintendent of Schools

Shannon Rodriguez, Board Chairperson