



***Proclamation No. P26-001
Disability History and Awareness Weeks
October 2025***

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, hundreds of thousands of students with unique abilities are enrolled in the Pk-12 Education System, and over tens of thousands of students with unique abilities enrolled in the Florida College System and the State University System; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Career and Adult Education enrolled thousands of adults with unique abilities in Adult General Education and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education programs and over 100,000 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 2025 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 23rd day of September, 2025.*

Shannon Rodriguez, Board Chairperson

Ray Pinder, Superintendent