



Highlights of Opening Day and Summary of School Board Action

August 10, 2021

New - VPK opens at 8 schools!

- In its **first year** of offering Voluntary Pre-K, Hernando School District reports all 8 school sites are at capacity with 158 students currently enrolled in the VPK program.
- Coordinator Carrie LaBarge reports the first day went smoothly with parents, students and teachers excited to begin the year!
- The option of free VPK is an additional measure of the school district's commitment to early learning.

First Day - By The Numbers

- K-12 student attendance - 19,791
 - Total Employees - 2,890
 - Open Positions (Instructional) - 39 (Non-instructional) - 42*
- *Currently, each school has one opening for a custodian (funded through ESSER) to assist with cleaning protocols.

Summary of Board Action - New or notable.

New

- **Approval of Job Description for Registered Nurse Health Specialist and the Proposed Job Description for Licensed Practical Nurse**
 - Using funds from ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund), HCSD plans to hire 3 Registered Nurses and 24 Licensed Practical Nurses to assist all schools in reporting, monitoring and implementation of Covid-related responsibilities. These positions will be funded for 2 years.

Public Comment - Setting the Record Straight

- 18 of 40 individuals in attendance requested to address the Board
 - 15 public comments were on the topic of Critical Race Theory
 - Superintendent John Stratton addressed the concern: <https://youtu.be/J2CaQXSpOe0>