



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT- ENHANCED 911

Post Office Box 2340
LaBelle, Florida 33975-2340
Office (863) 674-5400 Fax (863) 674-4040
E911@HendryFla.net

July 7, 2023

The Honorable Manny Diaz, Jr.
Commissioner, Florida Department of Education
Turlington Building, Suite #1514
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Commissioner Diaz,

Over the past several years, Hendry County has experienced unprecedented growth and a sharp increase in population. This rapid expansion in our area has brought many opportunities to the County and the State of Florida in general, but has taxed the resources of our local governmental departments, and specifically our local school district.

With this in mind, in order to keep up with the rising demand for educational opportunities for new families calling Hendry County home, I would express my unconditional support for the Hendry County School District to work with the Department of Education to be able to access the funding possibilities of your Special Facility Construction Program for the construction of a badly needed high school for our area. This would not only provide a safe learning environment for our community but open the possibilities for a well trained local work force familiar with the needs of the county.

Within this project, we would also support the construction of an emergency shelter capable of providing much needed protection for the community during emergencies. Our current compliment of shelters are old, have limited capacity, and do not provide for the needs of the community. Construction of new shelters has always been a top priority of Emergency Management, and remains on our Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) priority project list. This would be an excellent opportunity for us to partner with the school district on a state of the art shelter adding an additional layer safety and security to our community.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Robert G. Pasqua
Director/E911 Coordinator
Hendry County Emergency Management

Emma Byrd
District 1

Emory Howard
District 2

Mitchell Wills
District 3

Ramon Iglesias
District 4

Karson Turner
District 5