

# BACK to SCHOOL!

## What's NEW in Broward County Public Schools!

### Message from Superintendent Dr. Howard Hepburn



As we kick off a new school year, I'm filled with pride and excitement! Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is starting strong – celebrating our recent **"A" rating from the Florida Department of Education, a designation we have now earned for two years in a row!**

This achievement reflects the hard work and commitment of our students, teachers, staff, and families. We're building on this success by continuing to expand **world-class educational options** and staying focused on creating **safe, secure learning environments** where every student can thrive.

Thank you for being part of our BCPS community! Together, let's make it a great school year!



Dr. Howard Hepburn  
Superintendent, Broward County Public Schools



### Offering More Academic Options for Families

BCPS is expanding educational options for families with new programs and school models:

- **Broward Estates Early Learning and Resource Center:** Offers early childhood and adult education opportunities, plus community support services and resources.
- **Four New K-8 Schools:** Coconut Creek K-8 Academy of Excellence, Coral Cove Academy of the Arts K-8, Hollywood Central Preparatory K-8, and Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 (with a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Aviation and Math focus).
- **Pines Collegiate Academy 6–12:** Features programs in Cambridge, Culinary, Robotics, Aeronautics, Arts and more—plus free college courses allowing students to graduate with an Associate of Arts degree.

Families can explore the many high-quality learning opportunities available by visiting each school's website or contacting schools directly.



### Expanding Student Health and Wellness Services

Through a partnership between BCPS and Community-Based Connection, Inc. (CBCI), two new Health and Resource Hubs are opening this school year.

The Hubs are housed in renovated campus buildings at Blanche Ely High School and William Dandy Middle School and, through CBCI, will support the mental, physical and emotional well-being of students and families. The Hubs are also the first in the District to offer primary care health services through an on-site nurse practitioner. Grand openings for both facilities are set for Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

These Hubs join existing on-campus wellness centers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Deerfield Beach High School, McNicol Middle School and Parkway Middle School, which provide safe spaces for students to manage stress, build coping skills and strengthen overall well-being.

Learn more about resources available across the District by visiting [browardschools.com/mentalhealth](https://browardschools.com/mentalhealth).

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## Enhancing School Safety with New CrisisAlert™ Badges

BCPS is enhancing school safety by equipping all employees with **CrisisAlert™ badges** – a powerful new tool that builds on the District's Alyssa's Alert system.

These easy-to-use badges allow staff to quickly signal for help during medical emergencies, student altercations, or campuswide threats by pressing a button.

With this addition, BCPS now offers three integrated emergency alert methods: on desktops and mobile devices through the SaferWatch app and now **wearable badges** – ensuring faster, more coordinated responses to keep schools safe.



CrisisAlert™ Badge



## Launching Use of Artificial Intelligence Districtwide

BCPS is collaborating with Microsoft to bring the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) into every corner of our District. By adopting Microsoft 365 Copilot Districtwide – the largest K-12 adoption in the world – we are giving our educators powerful tools to enhance instruction, engage students and streamline daily tasks.

AI will support teaching and learning in meaningful ways:

- **Saving time for teachers** with tools that help generate lesson plans, rubrics and classroom materials—freeing up time to focus on students.
- **Personalizing student learning** with features like real-time feedback, language translation and support for multilingual learners.
- **Assisting school leaders** with data analysis to better understand trends in attendance, assessments and student needs.



## Offering Healthy and Nutritious School Meals

The BCPS Food and Nutrition Services Department provides healthy and tasty meals for students! Below are new menu items for the 2025/26 School Year:

### All Schools

- Breakfast Tacos
- Taco Crisps
- Chicken Caesar Salads  
(New for elementary and middle schools)
- Cheese Tortellini with Meat Sauce
- Guava Pastelitos and Bono Bites (cheesy bread)
- Chicken and Cheese Enchilada Empanada

### High Schools (Grades 9-12) Only

- Beef and Broccoli Bowls
  - Broward Bowls (Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Macaroni and Cheese, and Chicken Tenders)
  - Philly Cheesesteaks
  - Ham and Cheese Croissants (Coming January 2026)
- ### Supper Meals Only
- Pretzel Dogs

Learn about school menus, special diets and reporting food allergies at [browardschools.com/food-and-nutrition-services](https://browardschools.com/food-and-nutrition-services).

### Submit Your Family's Application for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Meals

This school year, BCPS families must apply to determine their students' eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches. Families can submit their applications online at [myschoolapps.com](https://myschoolapps.com). Students receiving SNAP or TANF, or who are enrolled in Head Start, foster care or homeless/migrant programs, are automatically eligible.

Reduced-price lunches cost \$0.40. Full-price lunches will increase by \$1 across all grade levels:

- \$3.00 in elementary school • \$3.35 in middle school • \$3.50 in high school

*All students will continue to receive free breakfast through the USDA's Universal Free Breakfast Program.*



## Browardschools.com Has a New Look

BCPS is excited to showcase a fresh new look for our website! The redesigned site makes it easier than ever to find important information.

Key features include a modern, mobile-friendly design that works seamlessly across all devices, simplified navigation, an improved search function and dedicated pages for every school in the District. These school-specific sections provide families with quick access to essential resources and updates.

Learn more at [browardschools.com/backtoschool](https://browardschools.com/backtoschool)