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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

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Orange County Schools and Orange County Government Join Forces to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with 'Empoderando'

Fourth annual district wide celebration brings students, families and the broader Orange County community together through culture, connection and community

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. — Orange County Schools, in partnership with Orange County government, will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with its annual Hispanic cultural celebration, “Empoderando,” on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Orange High School. Now in its fourth year, the district wide event is open to the entire Orange County community.

“Empoderando” translates to “empowering,” capturing the spirit of an event designed to celebrate Hispanic and Latino culture while bringing people together. This year’s theme, “Conectando con Nuestra Cultura,” or “Connecting with Our Culture,” highlights the importance of honoring cultural traditions and creating connections across the community.

“Hispanic Heritage Month reminds us that there is tremendous strength in knowing one another’s stories. Empoderando gives us an opportunity to honor our Hispanic and Latino students and families while celebrating the many cultures that strengthen Orange County Schools and make our district a place where students can thrive,” said Dr. Danielle Jones, superintendent of Orange County Schools.

The evening will feature student and community performances, cultural displays, interactive experiences and local craft and food vendors. Free health services will also be available through El Centro Hispano and Walgreens, including vaccinations and health screenings for children and adults.

“Collaborating with Orange County Schools on this event gives us an opportunity to bring people together and celebrate the cultures that make Orange County stronger,” said Orange County Manager Travis Myren. “We serve a diverse community, and Empoderando reflects the power of connection and what we can accomplish when we create a sense of belonging for everyone.”

Empoderando is open to the public, and attendees do not need to have a child enrolled in Orange County Schools to participate. Guests are encouraged to [register in advance](#) for a faster check-in upon arrival.

Event Details

- **Empoderando–Conectando con Nuestra Cultura!**
- **Date:** Wednesday, Oct.14, 2026
- **Time:** 6–8 p.m.
- **Location:** Orange High School, [500 Orange High School Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278](#)
- **Registration:** orangecountyfirst.com/OCSEvent

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Orange County Schools' mission is to educate students in a safe, inclusive environment where we engage, challenge, and inspire them to reach their maximum potential. Orange County Schools serves approximately 6,600 students across 13 schools and is committed to fostering belonging, promoting academic excellence, and building strong partnerships with families and the community to prepare every student for lifelong success.

