



Pasco County Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pasco Schools Update 6

Land O' Lakes, FL – (September 11, 2017) – Evacuees are clearing out of shelters, but if they get home and their home isn't habitable, we will keep five shelters open for them temporarily: Fivay, Mitchell, River Ridge, Sunlake and Wiregrass Ranch high schools.

Buses are on the way to Wiregrass Ranch and Wesley Chapel high schools to transport patients and assisted living facility residents. The transportation of special needs evacuees will likely take many hours, but the school district and Pasco Emergency Operations Center are working together to respond as quickly as possible to transport those without their own transportation.

Our tentative plan is to reopen schools on Thursday, and a final decision will be announced by noon Wednesday. In an effort to prepare schools for the return of students, we are mobilizing the return of custodians on Tuesday. Custodial staff that assisted with shelters will be given consideration when the clean-up schedule is developed. The plan is for all remaining staff to return to work on Wednesday, and a final decision on this return will be announced by 6:00pm on Tuesday.

Shelter cleanup has already commenced; however, the task is significant. We are also surveying our structural and operational needs like electricity, air conditioning, fuel for transportation, food, etc. If we are unable to restore schools to acceptable operational levels by Thursday, we will not resume classes on Thursday.

We will let everyone know the plan for making up these hurricane days as soon as a decision has been made. The district is weighing its options at this time, which may include holding school on the two hurricane days we have built into our instructional calendar on the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week or extending school hours for the remainder of the semester.

The school board meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 12, has been canceled. The public hearing on the budget will be rescheduled; details will be released as soon as possible.