



# Pasco County Schools

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard • Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638

---

Follow us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/pascoschools](http://www.facebook.com/pascoschools), and Twitter, [www.twitter.com/pascoschools](http://www.twitter.com/pascoschools).

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Linda Cobbe or Spencer Pylant  
Communications & Government Relations  
813-794-2717 (w), 813-361-8349 (c) or 813-794-2259 (w), 813-388-0020 (c)

### **Pasco Schools Storm Update 2**

Land O' Lakes, FL – (August 31, 2016) – After consultation with the Pasco Emergency Operations Center and senior district staff, Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning has made the decision to cancel all after-school activities today, and to close schools and offices on Thursday, September 1. All PLACE before- and after-school programs also will be closed on Thursday. Employees who regularly work evening hours are expected to report to work today.

The decision to cancel today's after-school activities is precautionary due to rain and winds, and possible tornadic activity, associated with the leading edge of Tropical Storm Hermine. The decision to close school on Thursday is due to the predicted timing of tropical storm winds and rain during elementary school dismissal.

The National Weather Service predicts sustained winds in Pasco County associated with the storm's landfall of approximately 30 MPH and wind gusts of approximately 45 MPH. The first rain bands are expected to hit Pasco between 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Thursday, which coincides with elementary school dismissal.

"We cannot have buses on the road if winds exceed 40 MPH. More importantly, we would rather err on the side of caution than take chances with children's lives," said Superintendent Kurt Browning.

We anticipate that school will be in session on Friday, September 2. Parents and employees will be notified either way via phone message.

###

Pasco County Schools is the largest employer in Pasco County, Florida, with approximately 10,000 employees who serve more than 70,000 students. The district is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest in Florida and 50<sup>th</sup> largest in the United States. The operating budget is approximately \$572 million, and the overall budget is \$1.24 billion, which funds the operation and maintenance of 88 schools. Programs include traditional pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade standards instruction, virtual instruction, career academies, adult education, magnet themes, and charter schools. The district is governed by an elected superintendent and five elected school board members.