



Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association

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For Immediate Release

Statement Re. Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association PERC Renewal Reaffirming the Voice of Educators

“The message from educators to anti-union lawmakers is clear; our union and our collective voice is the pathway to creating a better life for ourselves and the students we serve. That is every bit as true today as it was over 100 years ago when Hillsborough educators first joined in union to form HCTA.”

TAMPA, FL (May 17, 2024) – Today, the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association (HCTA) released a statement regarding discriminatory legislation passed by Florida Legislators targeting public school employees and their right to collectively bargain.

“Last year anti-union legislators failed in their attempt to get rid of our union and other FEA affiliated local unions across the state Florida, so the same legislators behind that bill pushed through more attacks on educators this year by filing and passing SB 1746, which doubled down on last year’s SB 256.

“The bill added additional hurdles to overcome in order to remain the certified bargaining agent for public school instructional staff and education support professionals in Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS), by requiring union members to sign, and HCTA to collect, an egregious 3-page long, government-mandated “membership authorization form.” This form will now be tied to showing the 60% membership threshold required for recertification, creating additional paperwork for already overburdened teachers, and forcing HCTA to spend time and resources on administrative burdens instead of advocating for and representing our members.

“Educators in Hillsborough have seen these attacks for what they are and have responded with a show of defiance to these anti-union legislators. HCTA membership has skyrocketed to over 7,000+ members strong in just 10 months and is growing every day. The message from educators to anti-union lawmakers is clear; our union and our collective voice is the pathway to creating a better life for ourselves and the students we serve. That is every bit as true today as it was over 100 years ago when Hillsborough educators first joined in union to form HCTA.

“HCTA filed for recertification on April 22, 2024, and received the final order from PERC on May 8, 2024, granting our registration for one year. We remain the registered and certified bargaining agent for the Clerical, Paraprofessional and Instructional employees of HCPS. However, because HCTA did not collect 60% of the new PERC membership authorization forms, more than 8,300+ teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerks, and other educational employees signed “Showing of Interest” cards in a matter of weeks. These cards reflect a clear mandate from employees that HCTA is the desired bargaining agent for employees in the school district. President Rob Kriete will be delivering these cards to PERC this morning, which will trigger an election for employees to vote in favor of HCTA keeping our bargaining agent certificate at a later date.

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Affiliated with FEA, NEA, AFT, & AFL-CIO

Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association is the certified bargaining agent for over 16,000 teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerks, and other educational employees of Hillsborough County Public Schools. Connect with Hillsborough CTA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and at <https://www.hillsboroughcta.org>.