



# Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association

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## For Immediate Release

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### **HCTA Statement on Employee Rights, Due Process, and Public Education**

Every day, our members focus on educating students, supporting their well-being, and ensuring their safety while they are in our care. That responsibility is central to their work and to the trust placed in public schools by families and communities.

Recent public commentary has attempted to create a false narrative that educators, school staff, administrators, the School Board, and/or unions are behind students organizing. That narrative is not supported by facts and only serves to politicize public education. The Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association (HCTA) does not organize, direct, or coordinate student protests or walkouts. We do not take positions on student political activity.

HCTA is made up and led by nearly 9,000 dedicated teachers, education support professionals, and school staff who are deeply committed to preparing Hillsborough County students for life beyond the classroom.

Our role is clear and unchanged.

Student walkouts are not new in Hillsborough County Public Schools or across the country. The School Board has established policies to ensure student safety during such events, and those procedures have existed long before the current political moment.

What *is* new is the attempt by state officials to place school employees in the crosshairs of political disputes. That approach puts educators and administrators at risk of being unfairly targeted for actions they did not initiate or control. HCTA's responsibility is to ensure that our members are treated fairly, protected from unfounded accusations, and afforded full due process under their contracts and the law. When investigations occur, HCTA's role is to ensure those investigations are lawful, fact-based, and free from political pressure.

Public schools should not be used by state officials and lawmakers as a battleground for political narratives. Educators and school staff deserve to focus on teaching, learning, and supporting students, not defending themselves against claims rooted in misinformation.

Our organization represents the rights, working conditions, and due process protections of the employees who serve our public schools every day and HCTA's work is grounded in our mission and vision:

**Vision:**

*To champion public schools in our communities where all are excited to teach, learn, and grow.*

**Mission:**

*Empowering our diverse membership to transform our education community by fighting for the rights, working conditions, and learning conditions of all Hillsborough County Public School (HCPS) employees and students.*

HCTA will continue to stand up for public education by doing what we have always done: supporting our members, protecting their rights, and ensuring that schools remain safe, professional environments for everyone who works and learns in them.

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

*Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association is the certified bargaining agent for over 17,000 teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerks, and other educational employees of Hillsborough County Public Schools. Connect with Hillsborough CTA on [Facebook](#), and at <https://www.hillsboroughcta.org>.*