



# DID YOU KNOW?



## REVEALING FACTS

## DISPELLING MYTHS

## EXPLAINING FIGURES

### MYTH #1

Inaccurately claiming that Collier County Public Schools allows policies and practices that promote gender dysphoria or distress to students.

### TRUTH

Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) does not have any policies and administrative procedures or practices promoting gender dysphoria. We strive to educate ALL children in a nurturing, supportive environment. The District takes the Parent Bill of Rights seriously and has incorporated those rights into policy along with training District administrators and staff. CCPS requires instruction aligned with Florida Standards and provides instructional materials and curriculum guides aligned with Florida Standards.

### MYTH #2

Inaccurately claiming Collier County Public Schools teaches Critical Race Theory (CRT) and uses it to train administrators.

### TRUTH

In June 2021, the District School Board of Collier County posted a Notice informing the community “the School Board and the Superintendent do not support the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT) in its classrooms, and CRT is not and will not be part of the District curriculum and teaching and learning framework.”

For a brief time in 2020, following the death of George Floyd, a book was used for administrators and a select group of school leaders in response to national and local dialogue regarding perceptions around the many facets of diversity. The choice of the book was not based on supporting CRT, but to understand the national discussion underway in the field of education. The District halted its usage when staff felt they understood the dialogue regarding perceptions around the conversation involving diversity. CRT is an ideologically driven approach to teaching and learning that the District neither supports nor permits within its curriculum and instructional process. The District does not and will not permit any ideology to drive instruction whether it be by CRT, Marxism, Fascism, or any system of ideas whose nature and content will distort (a) student learning; (b) American and World History; (c) literature; (d) character development; (e) civics, and so on.

### MYTH #3

Inaccurately claiming that 40% of the 48,000 Collier County Public Schools students cannot read or do math at grade level.

### TRUTH

Claiming 40% of all students cannot read or do math at grade level is simply not accurate and is misleading. Florida has high standards, as evidenced by statewide performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), where Florida is ranked #4 in math and #6 in English Language Arts (ELA) for Grade 4 student performance. CCPS is ranked #5 among all 67 districts in Florida, with 66% of fourth grade students scoring level 3 or better on the Florida Statewide Assessment (FSA) in reading, making CCPS a top ranked district in a top ranked state. When put in perspective, Grade 4 reading performance in the #1 ranked district in Florida, St. Johns County, is only 76%. This is further confirmation of Florida’s high standards, which allow our students to excel nationally and is reflected in the national rankings.

It is again misleading to state students not yet meeting the full expectation of the Florida Standards cannot read. The vast majority of these students read quite well. In a diverse school district such as CCPS, where 54% of students come from homes where English is not the primary language, and approximately 15% of students are English Language Learners, some students simply may not have fully developed the vocabulary and command of the English language to demonstrate full proficiency. That is where intensive support is provided, and in fact, many CCPS students who are from homes where English is not the primary language successfully graduate and attend the best colleges and universities in the country.

### MYTH #4

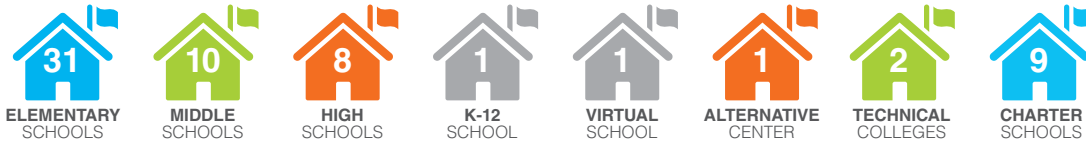
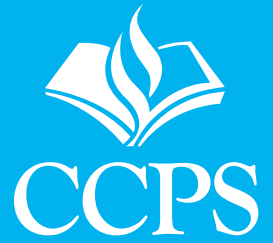
Inaccurately claiming CCPS allows sexually explicit and age-inappropriate materials in media centers.

### TRUTH

All CCPS media centers provide developmentally appropriate, highly engaging, and standards-based materials for students. To ensure that parents retain ultimate control over what their child is reading from the media center collection, we provide parents directions for accessing the online system in order to view books checked out by their child(ren). CCPS has also developed procedures to allow parents to object to media center books and follows Florida law on training media specialists.

Proud  
to be an  
**f**actsheet  
School District!

Collier County Public Schools



**OUR MISSION** is to provide exceptional educational opportunities that motivate and engage each student, so all students will complete school prepared for ongoing learning as well as community and global responsibilities.

**POINTS OF PRIDE**

- Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff have once again earned an **“A” district grade**, continuing a successful “A” streak dating back to 2017
- Collier County has a **92.7% graduation rate**, which is an increase of 20.2 percentage points overall since fiscal year 2011
- CCPS **outperformed the state in 100% of assessed areas** (21 of 21 tested areas) for the second consecutive year
- **District accreditation from Cognia** was renewed in 2022
- CCPS is the only school district in the United States with **advanced Cambridge curriculum** at elementary, middle, and high school levels
- **More than \$38 million** in scholarship funds were awarded to students in the 2021-22 school year
- CCPS offers **32 career academies** (vary by high school) including NAF academies of engineering, finance, health services, information technology, hospitality and tourism, and aerospace and aviation technology
- Students earned **4,304 industry certifications** in the 2020-21 school year
- **Entrepreneurship and engineering** offered at every elementary, middle and high school
- **Art and music** offered at all levels including band, orchestra, chorus, and theater
- **Superior-rated high school marching bands** that have participated in the 2017 Presidential Inaugural Parade, the 2016 Hollywood Christmas Parade, and the 2015 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
- **STEAM competitions** offered districtwide at all levels K-12 (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics)
- **Champion high school athletics** including football, soccer, swimming, wrestling, track and field, golf, volleyball, softball, and basketball
- **Career-in-a-Year** programs available at Immokalee Technical College and Lorenzo Walker Technical College
- Single point of entry and **Collier County Sheriff’s Office Youth Relations Bureau Deputies** keep CCPS school campuses as safe as possible

**48,000** students

52% male	52% Hispanic
48% female	34% White
	12% Black
	2% Other

64% Economically Needy  
54% from Non-English Homes

**6,927** employees

**3,165** teachers  
45.5% teachers with advanced degrees

**3,200** graduates

**360** buses  
12,360 bus stops  
6,200,000 miles driven yearly

**5,294,133** meals yearly  
7,879 breakfast meals daily  
27,762 lunch meals daily

**54,000** computers  
1 to 1 ratio (students to computers)

**6,027** active volunteers

Collier County covers  
**2,300** square miles

**115<sup>th</sup>** largest school district in U.S. (of more than 14,000)

