



August 2023

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Welcome to August!

School is back in session this month, with classes slated to begin on August 21st for Broward County Public School students. I hope you enjoyed your summer break and wish all the students, faculty, and administrators a successful school year.

Families are encouraged to stop by the MountMentum Back 2 School Backpack Giveaway on Saturday, August 5th, at the Mt. Hermon AME Family Life Center, 404 NW 7th Terrace, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and offers families a chance to get their students haircuts and hairstyles, immunizations, school-ready physicals, and more. Plus, enjoy local food and health vendors.

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 5TH
10am-1pm**

BACK² SCHOOL

with **MOUNTMENTUM**

Location: Mt. Hermon AME Family Life Center
Address: 404 NW 7th Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

SPONSORS

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY
HAIRCUTS AND HAIRSTYLES
FOOD AND HEALTH VENDORS
IMMUNIZATIONS
SCHOOL READY PHYSICALS

Logos for sponsors: Mount Hermon AME Family Life Center, Mount Olive Baptist Church, CMG, and others.

The back-to-school sales tax holiday is going on until Sunday, August 6th, helping shoppers save taxes on school supplies, clothes, shoes, and personal computers. You can take advantage of the tax break to tackle all your back-to-school needs.

Back to School Sales Tax Holiday
July 24 - August 6, 2023
January 1 - 14, 2024

Qualifying items are exempt from tax • Click to learn more

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Impacting Immigrants



The information below is reprinted from an email from the Hispanic Unity of Florida.

**Disclaimer: The information provided does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Any unclear on whether this law's provisions apply to them should consult with a licensed, skilled immigration attorney.*

On July 1st, HB1617/SB1718 Florida Immigration Law went into effect. Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF) has been actively engaged informing clients, community partners, small and mid-sized businesses, stakeholders, elected officials, and the broader community the facts around the immigration law and its provisions.

New laws are sometimes difficult to understand, and we have received many questions about what this law may mean to immigrants. We have broken down to **what the law DOES NOT do** regarding some of the provisions we heard from the community to be most impactful:

- It will NOT be a crime to live, provide shelter, or rent space for family members, friends, or neighbors who have an irregular immigration status.
- It will NOT be a crime to provide transportation within the State of Florida to any person with an irregular immigration status.
- The E-Verify system will ONLY be required for employers with 25 employees or more.
- You do NOT need to provide your immigration status to hospitals. You have the right to decline to answer, regardless of your immigration status. No one should go without healthcare due to concerns about their immigration status.

At HUF, we firmly stand with immigrants and wholeheartedly support the immigrant community. We take great pride in recognizing their remarkable achievements and invaluable contributions to society and the economy. Furthermore, HUF remains committed to providing services to all immigrants and others in need of help. Our dedication to serving the community remains steadfast.

HUF is a non-political, non-partisan community organization. For more information and resources in English, Spanish and Creole, go to <https://immigrantfamily.org/floridas-2023-immigration-law/> SB 264 is to come.

U.S. Department of Education

The Biden-Harris Administration recently approved \$39 billion in Federal student loans to be discharged for nearly 804,000 borrowers in the upcoming weeks. The decision is intended to address historical failures in the Federal student loan program related to income-driven repayment (IDR) plans that had left some borrowers' payments unaccounted for. This decision is part of the Biden-Harris Administration payment count adjustment announced last year to tackle inaccurate payment counts that have impacted borrowers working hard toward their payments and loan forgiveness. The Department of Education will reach out to eligible borrowers that qualify for loan forgiveness, and discharges are set to begin 30 days after emails are sent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 1, 2023
District 32 Listening Party

DISTRICT 32 LISTENING PARTY

Join Senator Osgood and the Florida Senate District 32 Staff
Topic: Florida's New African-American History Curriculum

Julie Fishman
Chief Legislative Aide

Nijah Smith
Legislative Aide

Rubi Garcia
District Legislative Aide

August 1st, 2023
7 PM

Virtual
bit.ly/SenatorOsgood

Tune in to a virtual chat with our District 32 staff: Julie Fishman, Nijah Smith, and Rubi Garcia, to discuss the recent changes to the African-American History Curriculum. The listening party will be streamed live at bit.ly/SenatorOsgood.

Thursday, August 10th

Education Town Hall: New African American History Standards

EDUCATION TOWN HALL
New African-American History Standards

HOSTED BY

INVITED GUEST

Shevrin Jones
State Senator
District 34

Dr. Rosalind Osgood
State Senator
District 32

Dr. Steve Gallon III
Miami-Dade School Board
Member, District 1

Manny Diaz
Florida Education
Commissioner

AUG 10th
7:00pm

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
21311 NW 34th Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Eventbrite RSVP: fidoetownhall.eventbrite.com

Please join me and Senator Shevrin Jones (SD-34), Miami-Dade School Board Vice Chair Dr. Steve Gallon III (District 1), and Florida Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr. on Thursday, August 10th, for an education town hall regarding Florida's newly adopted curriculum standards. The event is open to the public, and I invite you to attend to ask questions and voice your concerns. Registration for the event is available at fidoetownhall.eventbrite.com.

SENATOR OSGOOD IN THE COMMUNITY

7th Annual Emerge Conference at Florida Memorial University

Photo of Senator Rosalind Osgood with Dr. Phillip Hariss, President of the South Florida Chapter of Black Public Administrators (left), and Doug E Fresh, Hip Hop Legend and Honorary Board Member of Hip Hop Public Health (right)

Music and culture are a bridge to health equity. How we express ourselves through music and culture can profoundly affect our physical and mental well-being. By exploring the role of music and culture in health equity, we can better understand how these elements can promote positive health outcomes for all. I enjoyed joining Dr. Phillip Harris and Hip Hop Legend Doug E Fresh for a very informative and inspiring forum in which Doug E. Fresh shared music and cultural resources to help adults and children live healthy and fulfilling lives.



Doug E Fresh's vision inspired him to pair up with Dr. Olajide Williams, a New York neurologist and health behavior change professional at Columbia University. Together, they formed Hip Hop Public Health, a nonprofit dedicated to reaching marginalized communities to promote health education and empowerment. This mashup has allowed the organization to improve health outcomes in underserved communities through the power of music. To learn more about Hip Hop Health, visit www.hhph.org.

The Fort Lauderdale Black Police Officers Association Teen Summit 2023

I joined Captain Cecil Stone, President of the Fort Lauderdale Black Police Officers Association, Cheryl Davis, Mistress of Ceremony, Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony, and other distinguished guests for a day of community, education, and fun dedicated to our local teens. The Teen Summit offers kids a chance to connect with local law



enforcement positively and discuss issues affecting our inner-city youth.

Channel 4 CBS Miami Interview



I traveled to Miami to respond publicly to the Department of Education's recent approval of African American History Curriculum. To view the news clip, visit <https://bit.ly/44K17dC>.

Launch of the For Members Only Federal Credit Union



Congratulations to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the United States' oldest Black sorority for launching the For Members Only Federal Credit Union and placing ownership in the hands of its members. For Members Only Federal Credit Union is the FIRST, Black-owned, woman-led, sorority-based, digital banking financial institution in the history of the United States.

NEW BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



WELCOME OUR STAFF



I'm happy to introduce two newest members of our Senate District staff, Rubi Garcia and Janity Striggles. Rubi serves as District Legislative Aide and joins us from the City of Tamarac where she assisted Mayor Michelle J. Gomez as a Community Engagement Liaison for nearly 3.5 years.

Rubi has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Miami and a Bachelor's Degree in Literature from Nova Southeastern University and is passionate about public service.

Janity is serving as District Intern and recently graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School as a Pre-Law magnet student. Janity aspires to become a Social Worker and help children in the near future.

Welcome to the team ladies!

Our Staff in Washington, D.C.

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish, whether that's in politics or other fields."
- Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama

Franceska Edouard, Tallahassee Legislative Aid for Senator Osgood writes:

This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to work in the United States Congress as the first intern for Congressman Maxwell Frost (FL-10). @repmaxwellfrost is the youngest member of Congress and the first member of Generation Z to be elected to Congress. I am proud to know I will forever have him as a mentor. By God's grace, this was an incredibly rewarding experience, especially given that I am the first person in my family to graduate college, and I immediately entered the realm of politics and government.

Working in our nation's Capital at the United States House of Representatives was more than just an achievement; it was significant for me as a young person and even more so as a Black and Haitian woman. Representation matters, and my presence in Congress as an intern showed that young people can take up leadership roles and make their voices heard in spaces that impact our nation.

Throughout my internship, I felt a strong responsibility to pave the way for others like me, breaking barriers and proving that diversity and inclusion are essential in government. It was empowering to know that I am part of a growing movement of Black leaders entering public service and contributing to a more equitable and representative democracy.

As I engaged in the day-to-day workings of Congress, I further recognized the immense power and influence that government has



Franceska Edouard, Legislative Aid for Senator Osgood (right) with Congressman Maxwell Frost (FL-10) (left)

on people's lives. This experience further fueled my passion for making positive changes in my community and advocating for policies that address systemic issues. My internship in Congressman Frost's office was a transformative experience, reinforcing the importance of diversity in government and inspiring me to continue advocating for a more inclusive and equitable society. I am proud to have been part of this historical journey. I look forward to seeing more young people, especially Black women, step into leadership roles within our government.



National Eye Exam Month



Did you know that August is National Eye Exam Month? According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 90 million Americans over 40 years old have vision and eye problems, and nearly 6.8 % of children below 18 years of age have a diagnosed eye and vision condition. Qualifying public school students in Florida can get free comprehensive eye exams and glasses under the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. Families can apply online at <https://mobile.floridaheiken.org/>. For more resources, visit Prevent Blindness website at

<https://preventblindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information/>.

Heat Safety



This summer season has brought record-breaking temperatures to South Florida. The National Weather Service has already issued heat alerts for the region, with some heat index values reaching 105 degrees!

Heat poses a significant threat to everyone, killing more Americans yearly than tornadoes and flooding. Extreme heat can result in heat exhaustion, heat stroke, organ failure, and even death. Some signs of heat exhaustion include excessive sweating, dizziness, muscle cramping,

and vomiting. If your symptoms persist for over an hour, the CDC recommends that you seek assistance. Staying indoors is essential, but if you don't have access to air conditioning, taking cool baths, hydrating regularly, and keeping a fan nearby can ease the heat. Schedule outdoor time during cooler parts of the day, including walks with your pets to avoid harm. Also, double-check your vehicle before exiting to ensure no children or pets are left behind, as indoor temperatures can be fatal for anyone unattended.

Warm Regards,

Rosalind Osgood

Rosalind Osgood, DPA
Senator, District 32

District 32 Consists of the Following Cities:

Portions of Fort Lauderdale | Portions of Sunrise | Lauderdale Lakes | Lauderhill | North Lauderdale | Oakland Park | Plantation | Tamarac

Reach my office for help on any state issue at (954) 321-2705 or via email by [clicking here](#).

