

Business

Dade Public Schools hosting job fair to hire teachers and fill other posts

BY SARAH MORENO
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Miami-Dade County Public Schools is hosting a job fair seeking to fill teaching positions from pre-K to 12th grade.

In Miami-Dade, teachers for English, reading, mathematics, science, social studies and special education are needed, as well as English as a second language. There are also job opportunities for librarians and multimedia specialists. The district is also hiring support staff, such as administrative assistants and accountants, as well as school-bus drivers.

The starting salary for teachers is \$52,470, and Miami-Dade Public Schools offers a 401k retirement plan and a pension.

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools job fair takes place on Saturday at Miami Northwestern Senior High School, NW 71st Street and 11th Avenue. Those interested in attending can

THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS JOB FAIR IS SATURDAY FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON AT NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 1100 NW 71 ST., MIAMI. THOSE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING CAN REGISTER AT APP.BRAZENCONNECT.COM OR IN PERSON AT 8:30 A.M.

register online at app.brazenconnect.com or in person at 8:30 a.m., half an hour before the start of the event, which runs until noon.

Candidates can ask about job opportunities and benefits. It is recommended to bring several copies of your résumé and certifications or documents that prove your skills.

Job applicants must be authorized to work in the United States, and priority is given to military veterans, according to a district announcement.

If immigrants do not yet meet the requirements to work as teachers in Miami-Dade public schools, those with a degree from their country can take intensive courses to become teachers. The classes are offered by the Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) from Miami Dade College. They can complete the courses in eight or 10 months and then can be hired by the county's public-school system.

Another option is to obtain the foreign-credential equivalence at the office of Josef Silny & Associates, authorized in South Florida to determine the U.S. academic equivalent of studies completed outside the United States.

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Courtesy of United Way Miami

United Way Miami CEO Symeria Hudson speaks at Miami-Opa-locka Executive Airport. Hudson says: 'To be able to pull folks from the community into this will put them on a path to even more professional development.'

Earning less than \$35,000 and interested in aviation? This training program in South Florida can help

BY MICHAEL BUTLER
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When he was a kid, Florida Memorial University graduate Barrington Irving met a Black man who was wearing a fancy watch, a sharp blazer and slacks. When Irving asked what his job was, the man said he was a pilot. The nice clothes were his uniform.

Irving immediately knew that he wanted to be a pilot when he grew up.

With a tenacity for learning, Irving found success in the aviation industry. He became a pilot as an adult and set two records in 2007

when he became the youngest person and the first Black pilot to fly solo around the world. In 2023, he started a technical training school in Opa-locka to prepare young people for careers in aviation.

At an event Tuesday, United Way Miami announced a partnership with his Barrington Irving Technical Training School at the Miami-Opa-locka Executive Airport. The training program offers 12- to 16-week courses and targets people of color, female heads of household, veterans, youth ages 18-24 and teens aging out of foster care.

United Way CEO Syme-

ria Hudson said she believes the partnership will help participants access one of the 275,000 aviation jobs in South Florida. Applicants must either earn less than \$35,000 or be unemployed.

Upon completing the program, graduates can expect to work full-time within the aviation industry at an average hourly rate of \$20, with opportunities for overtime and growth.

"We've always been seen as the go-to resource for people working hard in the community or who can't make ends meet," Hudson said. "To be able to pull folks from the community

into this will put them on a path to even more professional development."

In a humid hangar at the airport, Irving talked about his career journey and how he hoped to train others for a path in aviation.

"There are a massive amount of individuals in South Florida that ask themselves how they will survive and may not have the skills or training," Irving said. "This partnership with United Way will allow us to train more individuals within the community."

Through the initiative, participants complete 160 training hours at the Opa-locka airport. Program

“THERE ARE A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUALS IN SOUTH FLORIDA THAT ASK THEMSELVES HOW THEY WILL SURVIVE AND MAY NOT HAVE THE SKILLS OR TRAINING. THIS PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED WAY WILL ALLOW US TO TRAIN MORE INDIVIDUALS.

Barrington Irving about the partnership between his training school and United Way Miami

participants practice with mechanical equipment and work with flight simulators. The training will also prepare participants who decide to pursue flight training.

The first class of graduates completed the program in December, and all 15 graduates have aviation jobs. They include mechanic, air-traffic controller and other positions.

Hollywood resident Jevon Jackson, 23, is a graduate of the program and said it changed the trajectory of his life. Before the aviation training, he was in a disciplinary boot camp.

"Getting into the BITTS program completely changed my life around," he said. "I see myself taking advantage of all the opportunities that come to my mind. I want to put that into my family, my generation and my future kids."

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Disney plan calls for investing up to \$17 billion in Orlando, DeSantis-backed district says

BY SKYLER SWISHER
Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO

Florida's tourism oversight district is poised to adopt a new development agreement that officials say will bring up \$17 billion of investments at Disney World during the next 10 to 20 years.

The district's board will take up the plan on Wednesday, addressing a key source of contention between Gov. Ron DeSantis and Disney.

"With Walt Disney World's substantial investments, we anticipate economic growth, job creation, and support for local businesses, alongside environmental stewardship and workforce housing initiatives, benefitting Central Florida's community," Stephanie Kopelousos, administrator of the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District, said in a prepared statement.

In the 15-year agreement, Disney pledges to fund at least \$10 million in affordable-housing projects and create a program that would award a minimum of 50% of the value of all construction work to Florida-based businesses.

District officials say they have agreed to continue providing infrastructure to support Disney's growth.

Both parties would have to consent to changes to the plan, according to the district.

Disney did not immediately respond to a request for comments Wednesday.

The agreement covers about 17,300 acres owned by Disney, according to a legal announcement. It authorizes a maximum of five major theme parks, one more than Disney operates in Central Florida now. Company officials have not announced a fifth theme park.

It also allows a maximum of five minor theme parks, such as a water park, nearly 1.3 million square feet of office space, 1.7 million square feet of restaurant/retail space and 53,467 hotel rooms.

The proposed plan comes after Disney and the district agreed in March to settle a lawsuit in state court over development issues.

The settlement said development agreements and covenants approved by a Disney-friendly board shortly before a state takeover in February 2023 are null and void.

The district agreed to "consult with Disney" while reviewing and amending a 2020 plan, according to the settlement.

Disney recently announced it will invest \$60 billion into its cruise lines and theme parks around the

world, setting off speculation that the entertainment giant could be eyeing a fifth Orlando theme park. Disney's competitor, Universal Orlando, is set to open a new theme park, Epic Universe, in 2025.

After the settlement, both sides signaled they were ready to work together on economic development.

The proposed plan seems to be a positive for Central Florida, said Richard Fogle-song, a Rollins College professor and author of the book "Married to the Mouse" on Disney World's origin story.

"We're possibly seeing CFTOD starting to do what they're supposed to do: building things, not just complaining about things," he said of the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District. "Central Florida will be better off for it."

State Sen. Linda Stewart, a critic of the district, said her concerns have lessened as of late, and the development agreement appears to be another sign of improved relations between Disney and state officials.

"Things have been a little smoother over there," the Orlando Democrat said. "The board hasn't decided on their own without consultation we are doing this and that. That's not what is happening now. There is more cooperation."

The Central Florida Tou-



JOE BURBANK Orlando Sentinel/TNS | Oct. 1, 2021

People fill Main Street USA at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista. A new agreement covers about 17,300 acres owned by Disney, according to a legal announcement. It authorizes a maximum of five major theme parks, one more than Disney operates in Central Florida now. Company officials have not announced a fifth theme park.

rism Oversight District has played a starring role in DeSantis' nationally watched battle with Disney. Formerly known as the Reedy Creek Improvement District, Disney used it for decades to effectively self-govern its Central Florida theme parks and resorts. A 1967 arrangement allowed Disney to elect the district's five-member board, giving it control.

The Disney-DeSantis feud started in 2022 when the company opposed what critics called the "don't say gay" law, which limits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation.

DeSantis attacked Disney as a "woke" corporation and vowed to end what he called "special privileges" that the company enjoyed in Florida. Disney vowed to work to get the law overturned and paused its political giving in Florida.

Last year, the Legislature upended that arrangement and gave the governor the power to appoint the district's board members. In February 2023, DeSantis replaced Disney loyalists on the board with Republican allies.

When the new DeSantis-aligned board members took over, they discovered their predecessors had approved agreements and covenants limiting the new board's authority over development. That sparked a power struggle and led to the lawsuit seeking to undo the agreements.

A separate lawsuit filed by Disney against DeSantis and state officials is pending in federal court. Disney asked an appeals court for a delay in that case to "facilitate" negotiations.

The deadline to file an opening brief was pushed back from April 17 to June 17.