



PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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Pasco County Schools' Employee Health Initiatives Earn Recognition from American Heart Association

Florida school district is among elite group of Platinum Fit-Friendly Worksites.

Land O' Lakes, FL – (January 23, 2015) – As the nation recognizes American Heart Month this February, the District School Board of Pasco County is celebrating news that it earned the Platinum Fit-Friendly Worksite Award from the American Heart Association for demonstrating a strong commitment to providing a healthy workplace.

"Physical activity and employee wellness are important priorities for us at the district, so we are honored and excited to be recognized by the American Heart Association," said Superintendent Kurt Browning.

The Fit-Friendly Worksites program is a catalyst for positive change in making employees' health and wellness a priority. Qualifications for the platinum-level include:

- Offering employees physical activity options in the workplace.
- Increasing healthy eating options at the worksite.
- Promoting a wellness culture in the workplace.
- Implementing at least nine criteria outlined by the American Heart Association in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and culture.
- Demonstrating measurable outcomes related to workplace wellness.

"We're committed to providing the best workplace environment possible. This will benefit our employees' health and produce even more positive results for our worksite overall," said School Board Member Cynthia Armstrong, who represents the board on the district's Employee Wellness Committee.

Pasco County schools also took an innovative approach to cut costs while enhancing healthcare for its more than 10,000 members by offering onsite care for employees, retirees and dependents.

"Employees, retirees and dependents visiting the onsite health and wellness centers enjoy free and convenient access to primary medical, screenings, lab work, X-rays, EKG, occupational health, wellness programs, disease management, and generic prescriptions," said Ray Tomlinson, president of [Crowne Consulting Group](http://www.crowneinc.com), which collaborates with



[CareHere Crowne LLC](#) to operate more than 30 health and wellness centers throughout Florida, including five centers for Pasco County schools.

Ocoee-based Crowne Consulting Group's management of the district's CareHere health centers, in combination with Tampa-based [Med-Vision's](#) health-data analytics for wellness planning, have proved valuable in helping the district's wellness committee create results-driven programs. For example, the district's incentive program rewards employees who complete a health-risk assessment, follow-up with a health coach, and complete a questionnaire. If an employee completes these three sections, he or she is awarded \$150. Employees can earn up to \$100 in additional incentive awards for completing a program on CareHere Connect, an online wellness portal, or attending three out of four onsite-wellness sessions.

These incentives resulted in approximately \$14 Million in savings over the past three years. These achievements were highlighted in the December 2014 issue of *District Administration Magazine* and have earned the district several local, state, and national awards in addition to the current honor from the American Heart Association.

About The District School Board of Pasco County: Pasco County Schools is the 11th largest school district in Florida and the 50th largest in the nation, with more than 69,000 students and nearly 11,000 employees. The district includes 45 elementary schools, 16 middle schools, 13 high schools, four centers, nine charter schools, and a robust eschool. Pasco is led by an elected superintendent and five elected school board members, who administer a \$1.2 billion annual budget. More than 93 percent of the general fund resources are committed to teaching and other school-level programs such as transportation, counseling, psychological services, school administration, and operations & maintenance..

About Crowne Consulting Group, Inc: Crowne Consulting Group, Inc., founded in 1986, consults and provides administrative oversight services for onsite health and wellness centers to employers and is a related company with The Crowne Group, an employee benefits consulting firm, specializing in employer solutions and personal lines of insurance. Crowne's experts have experience in serving public sector employers such as school boards, city and county government, as well as private organizations. Solutions for consumer-driven plans include health reimbursement arrangements, self-funded plans, onsite health and wellness centers, as well as risk management and human resources consulting. Call 407-654-5414 or visit www.crowneinc.com for more information.

About the American Heart Association: The American Heart Association is devoted to building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Our mission drives everything we do. To improve the lives of all Americans, we provide public health education in a variety of ways. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke.

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