



APPRENTICESHIP INSIDER

August 2026, Vol. 10

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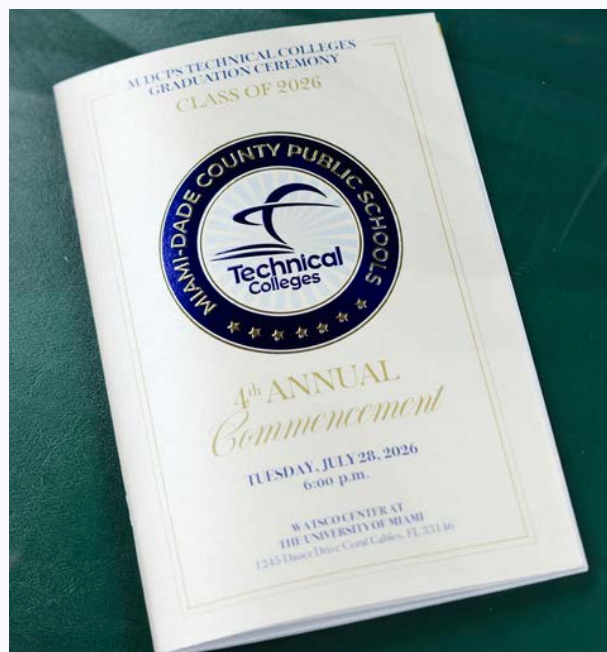
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Nearly 800 M-DCPS Graduates Celebrate Career and Apprenticeship Success



Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Technical Colleges celebrated a total of 779 graduates from the Class of 2026 during the Fourth Annual Technical Colleges Graduation Ceremony, held on July 28, 2026, at the University of Miami's Watsco Center.

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Nearly 800 M-DCPS Graduates Celebrate Career and Apprenticeship Success



Surrounded by proud families, instructors, administrators, employer partners, and community leaders, graduates were recognized for the dedication and perseverance required to successfully complete rigorous Career and Technical Education and Registered Apprenticeship programs.

The Class of 2026 represented a wide range of high-demand industries and occupations, demonstrating the breadth of career pathways available through M-DCPS Technical Colleges. Among those recognized were Registered Apprenticeship graduates who successfully completed their Related Technical Instruction and thousands of hours of paid, supervised on-the-job training.

For many graduates, the ceremony represented far more than the completion of a program. It marked the beginning of a new career, the attainment of an industry-recognized credential, increased earning

potential, and a pathway toward long-term economic opportunity.

The celebration reflected the collective impact of students, instructors, employers, families, and community partners working together to transform education into employment. M-DCPS proudly congratulates the Class of 2026 and looks forward to seeing where their skills, determination, and hard work take them next.



Warren Henry Celebrates Sixth Graduating Cohort & Industry Achievements



Warren Henry Automotive Group proudly celebrated the graduation of 15 apprentices from the sixth cohort of its Automotive Service Mechanic Registered Apprenticeship Program, marking another milestone in workforce development and automotive excellence.

Among the graduates, three achieved Master Mechanic status, while the remaining graduates earned at least four Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications, demonstrating advanced technical knowledge and a strong commitment to professional growth. The cohort also included a female apprentice who successfully completed the program, representing continued progress toward expanding opportunities for women in the automotive industry.

The apprenticeship is delivered entirely on-site at Warren Henry Automotive Group. Apprentices work full-time at Warren Henry dealerships while receiving M-DCPS-provided Related Technical Instruction, paid on-the-job training, and mentorship from experienced automotive professionals. This integrated approach

allows apprentices to apply their classroom learning immediately within a real-world service environment.

The achievements of this sixth graduating cohort reflect the strength of the partnership between Warren Henry Automotive Group and M-DCPS. Together, the organizations are developing highly trained automotive technicians, addressing industry workforce needs, and providing employees with a direct pathway to advanced skills and long-term careers.

M-DCPS congratulates all 15 graduates and thanks Warren Henry Automotive Group, its leadership, instructors, and mentors for their continued investment in Registered Apprenticeship. ■



Production Cook Apprenticeship Approved for



**Baptist Health
South Florida**

M-DCPS has received approval for a new Production Cook Registered Apprenticeship Program developed exclusively for Baptist Health South Florida. Offered through Baptist Health Academics in partnership with Robert Morgan Technical College, the program will create a direct pathway for aspiring culinary professionals to prepare for careers as Production Cooks at Baptist Health.

The paid, full-time, 12-month apprenticeship combines employment at Baptist Health with structured, supervised on-the-job training and 300 hours of Related Technical Instruction provided by M-DCPS. Apprentices will develop practical skills in food preparation, kitchen operations, food safety and sanitation, equipment use, and large-scale meal production within a healthcare environment.

Baptist Health will fully cover the cost of the program. Apprentices will receive pay and full-time employee benefits while completing their training, giving participants the opportunity to earn, learn, and build valuable professional experience at the same time.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a high school diploma or GED, and enroll in the applicable educational apprenticeship course.

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*Mini-ELITE Training
Reenergizes
Apprenticeship
Instructors*

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Built to Perform

EQUIPPING EVERY PROGRAM FOR WORKFORCE SUCCESS



ENROLLMENT



SKILLS



CERTIFICATION



EMPLOYMENT

M-DCPS apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship instructors came together on August 11, 2026, for a specialized Mini-ELITE professional-learning session designed to prepare them for a successful 2026–2027 school year.

The training provided a comprehensive review of the Florida Department of Education apprenticeship requirements, instructor responsibilities, program documentation, apprentice onboarding, Related Technical Instruction, on-the-job training, progress monitoring, and completion procedures.

A major highlight was the districtwide launch of BluAppl-RA and GoSprout, two technology platforms that will strengthen how M-DCPS manages apprenticeship programs. Instructors received hands-on guidance on using the systems to maintain apprentice information, document RTI and OJT

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M-DCPS Awarded \$578,973 Through the 2026–2027 PCOG

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been awarded \$578,973 through the Florida Department of Education's 2026–2027 Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant (PCOG). M-DCPS received 100% of the funding requested, providing critical resources to expand Registered Apprenticeship programs and prepare more individuals for high-demand careers.

The award will support major investments in industry-standard equipment, facility upgrades, and the creation of new training labs serving the southern, central, and northern areas of Miami-Dade County. Funding will also support a commercial-driving simulator trainer for the district's new in-house CDL-B/Bus Driver Registered Apprenticeship.

These investments will allow apprentices to train with the equipment and technology they will encounter in the workplace. They will also help M-DCPS expand program capacity, strengthen connections between Related Technical Instruction and paid on-the-job training, and respond more effectively to the workforce needs of employers throughout this county.

This year's PCOG award represents an investment not only in programs and equipment, but also in people. By expanding access to high-quality Registered Apprenticeship opportunities, M-DCPS is helping individuals earn while they learn, attain nationally-recognized credentials, and build pathways to long-term economic mobility.

This latest award reinforces M-DCPS' continued leadership in apprenticeship education and its commitment to transforming education into employment across South Florida. ■

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Production Cook Apprenticeship Approved for Baptist Health South Florida

This customized partnership will help Baptist Health develop a reliable pipeline of skilled Production Cooks trained according to its workplace standards and culture. At the same time, it will provide apprentices with technical instruction, hands-on experience, professional development, and a direct pathway into a culinary career with one of South Florida's leading healthcare organizations.

Upon successful completion, apprentices will earn a nationally-recognized Completion of Apprenticeship credential through the Florida Department of Education. ■

Baptist Health Academics

Culinary Apprenticeship

For more information, email:
AlliedHealthEducation@BaptistHealth.net



New In-House CDL-B Apprenticeship Will Prepare M-DCPS Bus Drivers



The Florida Department of Education has approved M-DCPS' newest in-house Registered Apprenticeship Program: CDL-B/Bus Driver.

The program will create a structured pathway for eligible participants to prepare for employment as full-time M-DCPS school bus drivers. Apprentices will receive classroom and technical instruction combined with supervised, hands-on training through M-DCPS Transportation Operations.

Training will focus on the knowledge, skills, and safety practices required to operate a commercial passenger vehicle, including vehicle inspection, defensive driving, student transportation procedures, regulatory compliance, and the safe loading and unloading of students.

The program will be supported by a part-time CDL-B instructor and a new commercial-driving simulator trainer funded through the district's 2026-2027 Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant. The simulator will allow apprentices to

practice critical driving skills and respond to challenging roadway situations in a controlled learning environment.

By developing its own workforce pipeline, M-DCPS will be able to recruit, train, and prepare qualified candidates according to district safety standards and operational needs while creating a direct pathway into full-time employment. ■

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Mini-ELITE Training Reenergizes Apprenticeship Instructors

progress, verify required hours, and improve the accuracy and consistency of program reporting.

Participants also engaged in occupation-specific training focused on the latest instructional platforms, curriculum updates, and resources for the programs they teach. These targeted sessions allowed instructors to strengthen both their technical knowledge and their ability to support apprentices throughout the program.

The Mini-ELITE session reinforced the important role instructors play in guiding apprentices from enrollment through successful completion. Participants left with renewed energy, clearer expectations, and additional tools to deliver high-quality, compliant apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs across M-DCPS.

"This year's Mini-ELITE training was designed to make expectations clearer for instructors, the apprenticeship experience more consistent for apprentices, and communication and progress monitoring easier for our employer partners and mentors."

-Frank Portuondo

M-DCPS Welcomes Two New Welding Apprenticeship Partners



Two new employer partnerships are expanding the range of industries and career opportunities available to apprentices in the M-DCPS Welding Registered Apprenticeship Program. George's Welding Services and JetAir Support will give apprentices the opportunity to apply their technical instruction in two highly specialized environments from major construction and public infrastructure to aviation engine-component repair.

Founded in 1984, George's Welding Services offers apprentices exposure to welding and fabrication projects across an exceptionally broad range of sectors. Its portfolio includes skyscrapers, shopping centers, industrial sites, federal and public facilities, transportation infrastructure, K-12 schools, university housing, mixed-use developments, recreational facilities, religious centers, and major sports venues.

For apprentices, this variety represents an opportunity to develop versatile,

transferable skills while learning how welding contributes to the structures and public spaces that shape South Florida's communities. Apprentices will gain experience in an organization recognized for precision, innovation, durability, efficiency, and safety.

George's Welding Services has received numerous industry honors, including two Eagle Awards at the 2025 Associated Builders and Contractors Florida East Coast Excellence in Construction Awards. The company was also named to Engineering News-Record's 2025 Top 600 Specialty Contractors list, and its work on The Estates at Acqualina earned a national Excellence in Construction Eagle Award in 2024. Its commitment to the next generation is further demonstrated through its support of initiatives such as the Builders of Tomorrow Summer Camp, presented in partnership with Florida International University.

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M-DCPS Welcomes Two New Welding Apprenticeship Partners



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR QUALITY SERVICE

TRUSTED JET ENGINE COMPONENT

OVERHAUL & REPAIR SERVICES

SINCE 1992

JetAir Support creates an entirely different and equally valuable pathway for apprentices interested in applying welding skills within the highly regulated aviation industry. Established in 2002, the company specializes in the repair and overhaul of components and parts for the JT8D, JT9D, CF6, and CFM56 families of jet engines.

At JetAir Support's secure, state-of-the-art facility, apprentices may gain exposure to specialized processes such as welding and brazing, plasma spraying, shot and glass-bead peening, nondestructive inspection and testing, and precision machining. Because all processes are performed on-site, apprentices can experience how multiple technical specialties work together to meet exacting aviation standards for safety, quality, and reliability.

JetAir Support is no stranger to M-DCPS. The company has previously recruited and

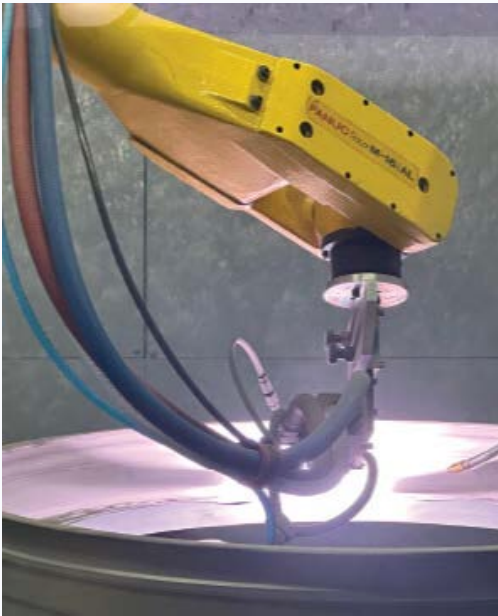
hired graduates from George T. Baker Technical College, demonstrating its confidence in the quality of M-DCPS technical education and its ongoing commitment to developing local aviation talent.

The company serves major airlines, aviation maintenance and repair organizations, military customers, government agencies, and other clients around the world. Its expertise is supported by major certifications and approvals, including those of the Federal Aviation Administration, European Union Aviation Safety Agency, UK Civil Aviation Authority, Civil Aviation Administration of China, and the ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

Through both partnerships, apprentices will combine M-DCPS-provided Related Technical Instruction with paid, structured on-the-job training and mentorship from

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M-DCPS and Miami EdTech Pursue \$1 Million BlackRock Grant



M-DCPS collaborated with Miami EdTech on a \$1 million grant application to the BlackRock Foundation's Future Builders initiative. If awarded, the funding would support a major expansion of pre-apprenticeship, Registered Apprenticeship, industry certification, and employment opportunities across South Florida.

The proposed initiative would strengthen the South Florida Apprenticeship Network, connecting education, employers, workforce organizations, and community partners throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties. The project would focus on high-demand infrastructure occupations, including HVAC/R, Electrical, Welding, and Plumbing.

Over the grant period, the initiative proposes serving 100 pre-apprentices and 50 Registered Apprentices, supporting 150 employment placements, and helping participants earn 200 industry-recognized credentials. These outcomes would help create a stronger regional pipeline of skilled workers while providing employers with access to individuals trained for occupations experiencing critical workforce shortages.

A central component of the proposal is the establishment of M-DCPS' first NC3 Center of Excellence at William H. Turner Technical Adult & Continuing Education Center. The center would expand access to advanced, industry-aligned training and nationally recognized certifications while supporting apprenticeship programs throughout the region.

The proposal reflects the shared commitment of M-DCPS and Miami EdTech to creating scalable career pathways that connect education directly to employment. It also demonstrates the importance of collaboration among school districts, employers, workforce agencies, and community organizations in preparing South Florida residents for family-sustaining careers. ■

THE BLACKROCK FOUNDATION IS FUNDING A NATIONAL EFFORT TO TRAIN & SUPPORT 50,000 AMERICAN WORKERS AS THEY PURSUE CAREERS IN SKILLED TRADES.

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M-DCPS Welcomes Two New Welding Apprenticeship Partners

experienced professionals. In addition to developing welding proficiency, they will build essential skills in workplace safety, precision, quality control, problem-solving, teamwork, and professional responsibility.

George's Welding Services and JetAir Support are doing more than joining an apprenticeship program. They are opening doors to two distinct industries, investing in local talent, and giving M-DCPS apprentices opportunities to transform technical skills into meaningful, long-term careers. ■

M-DCPS Ranks Among Florida's Apprenticeship Funding Leaders

The Florida Department of Education's Apprenticeship Funding Transparency Tool confirms M-DCPS' position as one of the state's leading recipients of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship funding.

From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025, M-DCPS received \$11,349,635—approximately 12% of the \$94.4 million distributed statewide. The district ranked third in Florida during each of the three years reviewed and third overall for the full three-year period. M-DCPS funding grew from \$2,508,373 in 2022–2023 to \$4,193,337 in 2023–2024 and \$4,647,925 in 2024–2025, representing an 85.3% increase over three years.

District Workforce Development Funds and the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant accounted for 99.1% of the district's total. M-DCPS received \$8,647,345 in District Workforce Development Funds, ranking third statewide, and \$2,604,171 through PCOG.

M-DCPS' PCOG performance was especially notable. The district advanced from 11th statewide in 2022–2023 to

\$11.35 M
FDOE FUNDING
2022-23 to 2024-25

+85.3%
ANNUAL FUNDING
GROWTH

#1
PCOG RECIPIENT
\$2.60M OVER 3 YEARS

#3
STATEWIDE
EVERY YEAR + OVERALL

third in 2023–2024 and first in 2024–2025. Over the three-year period, M-DCPS ranked as Florida's number-one school-district PCOG recipient, receiving 27.9% of all PCOG funding awarded to school districts. Its three-year total exceeded the second-ranked recipient by \$720,013.

These results demonstrate M-DCPS' sustained success in securing and leveraging state resources to expand apprenticeship opportunities, strengthen instruction, invest in industry-standard training, and prepare more residents for high-demand careers. ■

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intentionally,
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our community.*

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Federal and State Laws

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information.

Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002 – no public school shall deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society).

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.

In Addition:

School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517 - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, citizenship status, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

For additional information contact:

Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC)

District Director/Title IX Coordinator

155 N.E. 15th Street, Suite P104E

Miami, Florida 33132

Phone: (305) 995-1580 TDD: (305) 995-2400 Fax: (305) 995-2047

Email: crc@dadeschools.net



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