

Local elementary schools to host fourth annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day

Alachua County elementary schools will be welcoming fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles and other father figures during the district's fourth annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day on Wednesday, September 27.

The event was introduced to Alachua County Public Schools in 2014 by then-Interim Superintendent Hershel Lyons and modeled on similar programs held in other states. Lyons is now Chancellor of K-12 Education for Florida and has expanded the program statewide.



The goal of Dads Take Your Child to School Day is to encourage men who serve as father figures to local children to come early to school with their child, share a light meal with other participants and students, then walk the child to his/her classroom and meet the teacher.

From its beginning, the program has been overwhelmingly popular in Alachua County. Last year nearly 3000 dads and other father figures and more than 6400 students had breakfast together for Dads Take Your Child to School Day.

"It's a wonderful bonding experience, and it shows our students that these important adults in their lives really value education," said Jackie Johnson, the district's Director of Communications.

Schools will be holding the event in their cafeteria, with the district's Department of Food and Nutrition Services providing cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit, juice, milk and coffee for adults. Participants should plan to arrive at the school between 7:15 and 7:45.

####