



**Charlie Crist**  
Governor

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Director

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**“JUMP INTO EARLY LEARNING”  
BENEFITS DESERVING CHILDREN**

*~AWI Director Brown and Representative Weatherford help deliver supplies~*

**DADE CITY** – Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Monesia T. Brown was joined this week by Florida Representative Will Weatherford for *Jump into Early Learning*, a school supply giveaway for hundreds of underprivileged children. The event, hosted by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, was held Monday at the [Redlands Christian Migrant Association \(RCMA\)](#) in Dade City.

More than 300 children received books, lunchboxes and backpacks filled with school supplies. Activities also included face-painting, character storytelling and a variety of educational entertainment.

“It was truly inspiring to see so many enthusiastic children eager to learn and hungry for knowledge,” said Monesia T. Brown, Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation. “Today we gave away supplies to more than 300 members of our state’s future workforce, to ensure they have a head start and to help keep them on the right path.”

Parents in attendance were also encouraged to register their children for Florida’s free Voluntary Prekindergarten program and received information about the School Readiness and Child Care Resource and Referral programs.

“It is essential to begin investing in our children’s education before they ever reach kindergarten,” said Representative Weatherford. “This event offered these bright children necessary supplies – and an advantage – they may not have otherwise received.”

The *Jump into Early Learning* event is the second of four; the next two are scheduled for Brooksville on July 23 and Port Richey on July 26.

The [Office of Early Learning](#) works to support families and ensure children have quality care and early learning opportunities. The Agency provides state-level support and direction for early learning professionals and practitioners. The state’s 31 early learning coalitions work within communities providing early learning support services to families and child care providers.

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The [Agency for Workforce Innovation](#) is Florida's lead workforce agency and directly administers the state's various workforce and unemployment programs, as well as the Office of Early Learning. Workforce development policy and guidance are provided by Workforce Florida, Inc. Partnering together, along with the 24 Regional Workforce Boards that deliver services through 87 One-Stop Career Centers around the state, they compose the Employ Florida network.

## Links to photos and captions for your convenience:

**Image 1:** [Mobile Outreach Van](#)

**Caption 1:** Children prepare to tour the Early Learning Coalition's Mobile Outreach Van.

**Image 2:** [Photo Lineup of Distinguished Speakers](#)

**Caption 2:** From left to right: Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties' Chairperson Lisa Hammond, AWI Director Monesia Brown, Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties' Executive Director Jim Farrelly, Hernando County Commissioner Rose Rocco, Florida Representative Will Weatherford

**Image 3:** [Representative Will Weatherford](#)

**Caption 3:** Representative Will Weatherford enjoys one of the event's giveaways while Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties' Executive Director Jim Farrelly (at microphone) and AWI Director Monesia Brown (between Weatherford and Farrelly) look on.