



## Hillsborough County Public School Head Start Teacher Receives State Award from the Florida Head Start Association

For Immediate Release

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**TALLAHASSEE, FL – November 1, 2022** – Azza Tawadros of Hillsborough County Public School Head Start program in Tampa, FL, receives top honors from the Florida Head Start Association (FHSA), Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Tawadros has been a Head Start teacher since 2011 and currently teaches 3-to-5-year-olds at Town' n Country Elementary, part of the Hillsborough County Public Schools Head Start program. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Education in Cairo, Egypt, as well as a Florida state-recognized credential in Early Childhood Education. She's attended various Head Start and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) training courses.

Supervisors and peers alike recognize Ms. Tawadros' exceptional talent for teaching; she has a reputation for her relentless work ethic and setting high expectations for students and for herself. A devoted teacher, she creates personalized learning plans for each student. Twice a year, she makes home visits to provide parents with the opportunity to be involved in those plans, and to discuss their child's performance. On a visit to Ms. Tawadros' class, Regional Superintendent Ms. Julie Scardino noted that she, "observed pre-school aged children engaged in rigorous academic tasks, conversing with classmates at levels that I did not expect to see, and when I would stop to talk with the children about what they were learning or doing, every single child could explain it to me."

Seeing her students thrive is extremely rewarding to Ms. Tawadros, who says, "After completing the 2018-2019 year, our 20 students progressed to kindergarten classes across the county. That year, my students scored well in the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)], leaving me with the highest average over the entire county. I was blessed to witness the fruit of this additive impact."

The Head Start Grantee Recipient selects nominees and is evaluated by a panel of peers and chosen by the FHSA awards committee. Recipients will be honored during the FHSA annual awards luncheon at the Hard Rock Hotel in Daytona Beach, FL, on February 9, 2023. Full details about the event can be found at [www.FLHeadStart.org](http://www.FLHeadStart.org).

### **About FHSA**

*The Florida Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 43,000 children and families in Florida. Head Start is an innovative federal-to-local program delivering services from school readiness, comprehensive health, and family support services. The Head Start Program Performance Standards drive programs to strengthen and improve the quality to ensure that all children start school ready to succeed. FHSA has been the voice for Florida's most vulnerable children and families since 1999*

*and is committed to enhancing and supporting the capability of local Head Start programs in the delivery of high-quality services for our children and families.*

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