

Bounce Back to School Event brings together thirty community agencies to support students' success

As families enjoy the last weeks of summer vacation, community organizations gather to help families “Bounce Back to School” with an event this Saturday, July 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Peck Center in Fernandina Beach. Youth deserve to start off the new school year with good health or good attention on ways to be healthier.

This event started as *Back to School Physicals Day*, a collaborative venture between CREED and the health department, and has evolved. This year four sponsoring organizations are engaging many others.

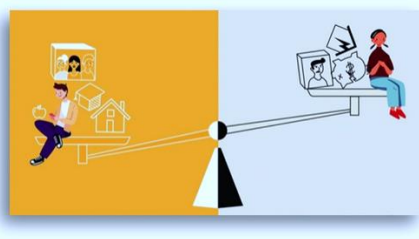


The “Bounce Back to School” event will bring together under one roof, 29 organizations with a shared interest: to support families and promote a home and family environment that helps students flourish.

“Bounce Back to School” will offer required health screenings for students entering FL schools for the first time. Child immunizations and vision screening will be available to any youth present. Oral (mouth) health screening is open to all attendees regardless of age. WIC staff will be there with tips on food for the brain.

Books, backpacks, and school supplies will be distributed. Every family can receive a Child ID kit for their children. A “walking Baby Shower” should entice expecting moms to stop at Healthy Start and CREED Booth. Ten youth haircut vouchers will be raffled, Other services include information on mental wellness support services, hands-on CPR, poison control education, transportation option via Nassau Transit, and more.

Creating positive environments promotes well-being and that affects how students and their parents or guardians think, feel, and behave. It also helps determine how well we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Having to make choices is something students and parents face every day at school and at home.



The organizing agencies for this year's event are Elm Street Sportsman Association, CREED, the City of Fernandina Beach Parks and Recreation Department, and the Florida Department of Health – Nassau.

Creating positive environments promotes well-being and that affects how students, and their parents or guardians think, feel, and behave. It also helps determine how well we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. “Having to make choices is something students and parents face every day at school and at home”, emphasized Rev. Bernard Thompson, one of the officers of Elm Street Sportsman Association (ESSA). He continued by saying “We (ESSA) are peacock proud and honeymoon happy to be part of this Bounce Back to School event. That proves that great things happen when people come together”.

According to Jennet Baker, Coalition for the Reduction Elimination of Ethnic Disparities (CREED) in Health founder and Executive Director, this is all about offering different types of support and services that impact youth education.

Like physical health, social network of support and positive mental health promote success in life. As defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being”.

When asked why the Health Department is involved, Kerry Waldron, Interim Health Officer of Florida Department of Health – Nassau stated: This event aligns with our overall public health mission. We are pleased that many agencies have accepted the invitation to participate and offer support in many areas. He noted that “Education matters to health. Good education keeps them better informed about how to take care of their health. Good education also gives young people a chance at career mobility and rising, which then offer financial stability to access quality health care.”

As per John Coverdell, Recreation Program and Community Center Supervisor of the City of Fernandina Beach Parks and Recreation Department “students who have access to quality education and networks of support and activities that helps them stay healthy, like sports, swimming and biking throughout their lives tend to stay healthier than people who don't”.

Education must stretch from crib to career and incorporate the range of support necessary to close the opportunity gap and ensure success for all children. The four-event organizing agencies have pledged to continue working together to **create increased collaboration for that to happen.**

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