

Herald-Tribune

EOD expanding its 'Ambassador' program in Sarasota-Manatee

June 5, 2026, 6:45 a.m. ET



EOD expanding its 'Ambassador' program in Sarasota-Manatee

Embracing Our Differences is expanding its Education Ambassador Program across Sarasota and Manatee counties thanks to a \$350,000, three-year grant from the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation.

The yearlong school district-supported leadership program helps teachers, administrators and school-based professionals to become champions for inclusion within their schools and communities through collaborative learning and project-based leadership experiences designed to inspire cultural change.

Since the program launched in 2018, 190 educators from 78 schools in Sarasota and Manatee counties have participated. The program is also expanding into Pinellas County.

“Educators have an extraordinary ability to influence how students experience belonging, connection and respect within a school community,” said Patrick Arthur Jackson, EOD vice-president of learning and engagement. “This program gives them tools, support and inspiration to foster empathy, inclusion and respect in ways that ripple outward to students, families and entire communities.”

