

Walmart helping more workers attend college

Charisse Jones
USA TODAY

Walmart wants to keep schooling its workers.

Employees will now be able to get degrees in fields ranging from computer science to cybersecurity for the tuition tab of \$1 a day. Those who are in high school will be able to earn free college credits and other educational perks for the first time.

Those changes mark the expansion of the retailer's "Live Better U" initiative, launched last year, that enables employees to pursue degrees and also get college credits for on-the-job training.

More than 7,500 Walmart employees have taken part in the offering that initially enabled them to study at Brandman University, the University of Florida and Bellevue University. Purdue University Global, Southern New Hampshire University and Wilmington University are also participating.

The chance to get a degree for the cost of a dollar a day comes at a time when college tuition is soaring and collective student loan debt has topped \$1.5 trillion. Walmart said that in addition to helping employees attain higher education, the program will potentially help the company create and hold on to a better trained workforce.

"They wanted access to higher education to improve their lives," said Drew Holler, senior vice president of associate experience at Walmart. "What we know also is it's going to help us with retention ... and it's providing skills we need in the future."

In addition to adding 14 tech-oriented degrees or certificates to the program, Walmart is extending the college initiative to high school students in its workforce.

To pursue their studies, the high schoolers can have set shifts on specific days for up to 13 weeks. They can also get free prep for the ACT and SAT college entrance exams, and earn up to seven hours of free college credits.

"High school students face challenges when it comes to work and education," said Julie Murphy, executive vice president, people, for Walmart U.S. "The cost of college remains a significant barrier."

Less than 25,000 of Walmart's employees are high schoolers, but roughly 300 of the company's store managers began working for the retailer when they were in high school, Murphy said.

Any employee who had not previously earned college credits could win a \$1,500 scholar award after graduating. Up to 5,000 staffers will be eligible for the cash annually.

New York school district to use facial recognition

Carolyn Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCKPORT, N.Y. – A New York school district finished installing a facial recognition system intended to spot potentially dangerous intruders, but state officials concerned about privacy said they want to know more before the technology is implemented.

Education Department spokeswoman Emily DeSantis said Monday that department employees plan to meet with Lockport City School officials about the system being tested this week. In the meantime, she said, the district has said it will not use facial recognition software while it checks other components of the system.

The rapidly developing technology has made its way into airports, motor vehicle departments, stores and stadiums, but is so far rare in public schools.

Lockport is preparing to bring its system online as cities elsewhere are considering reining in the technology's use. San Francisco in May became the first U.S. city to ban its use by police and other city departments and Oakland is among others considering similar legislation.

A bill by Democrat Assembly Member Monica Wallace would create a one-year moratorium on the technology's use in New York schools to allow lawmakers time to review it and draft regulations. The legislation is pending.

Lockport Superintendent Michelle Bradley, on the district's website, said the district's initial implementation of the system this week will include adjusting cameras mounted throughout the buildings and training staff members who will monitor them from a room in the high school. The system is expected to be fully online on Sept. 1.

"Much to our dismay, school shootings continue to occur in our country," wrote Bradley, who did not respond to email and telephone messages Monday. "In many cases, these shootings involve students connected to the schools where these horrific incidents occur."

The \$1.4 million Canadian-made Aegis system, funded through a state technology bond, is designed to enable security officers to quickly respond to the appearance of expelled students, disgruntled employees, sex offenders or certain weapons the system is programmed to detect.

Only students seen as threats will be loaded into the database. Administrators have said it could thwart shootings like the February 2018 attack in which expelled student Nikolas Cruz is charged with killing 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

"This would have identified (Cruz) as not being able to be in that building," Tony Olivo, a security consultant who recommended the system for Lockport, told The Associated Press last year.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Martin County Local Planning Agency will conduct public hearings on June 20, 2019, beginning at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the items may be heard, to review the following items:

- Application CPA 18-10, CRA Text Amendments: A request to amend the text of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan (CGMP) to create a new Chapter 18, the Community Redevelopment Element, and amendments to Chapter 2, Overall Goals and Definitions, Chapter 4, Future Land Use Element, Chapter 8, Coastal Management Elements, and Chapter 9, Conservation and Open Space Element, of the CGMP.
- The proposed adoption of an ordinance related to Martin County Land Development Regulations. The title of the ordinance is:
AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING ARTICLE 12, REDEVELOPMENT CODES, DIVISION 1, GENERAL, AND DIVISION 2, JENSEN BEACH COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY CODE; DELETING SECTION 3.261, JENSEN BEACH COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA, AND MAKING AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ARTICLES, DIVISIONS OR SECTIONS OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL CONSISTENCY; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY, CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida. Written comments may be sent to: Nicki van Vonne, Director, Martin County Growth Management Department, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. Copies of the items will be available from the Growth Management Department. For more information, contact Irene Szedlmayer, Sr. Planner, Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.



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