



Executive Summary

Lanier-James Education Center

Broward County School District

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Lanier-James Education Center (LJEC) formerly known as South Area Alternative School is located in the heart of Hallandale Beach, Florida within Broward County Public Schools. Students are placed at Lanier-James by way of the Expulsion Abeyance Program or through the Behavior Intervention Placement Committee. We also serve as the Alternative to External Suspension (AES) site for the southern portion of Broward County. Serving as one of only three behavior centers in the district our goal is to provide students with the social, emotional and behavioral strategies necessary to be successful at their traditional school. There are currently 96 students enrolled at Lanier-James Education Center (12 students Grade 7, 17 students in Grade 8, 19 students in Grade 9, 15 students in grade 10, 22 students in grade 11, and 13 students in grade 12). We have a total of 29 middle schools students and 69 high school students. Of the 96 students, 17 are White (11%), 74 are Black (84%), 2 are Indian (2%), 1 is Asian (1%), and 2 are Multi-racial (2%).

During the 2014-15 school year, Lanier-James transitioned from a K-12 behavior center to 7-12. Our boundaries were also redrawn to encompass all schools south of Sunrise Blvd. We initially serviced schools south of Davie Blvd. With the change in boundaries came a change in the demographic of our student population. We increased the number of at risk students and gained a large portion of students from the schools east of I-95. Challenges were presented in mixing students from "rival" neighborhoods requiring the need for immediate attention to student class scheduling.

Our school social worker and behavior specialist's work together to develop and implement mentoring programs to meet the needs of our student's, through our girl's group Ladies of Distinction the female students are provided the opportunity to hear motivational speakers, and to learn empowerment and self-esteem strategies. Our program T.O.T.A.L. (Touch One Touch All Lives). T.O.T.A.L. is designed to reach all male students by providing mentoring and interventions to be successful at their traditional schools. We also have an ESE specialist and ESE support facilitator providing ESE supports to students and teachers. In addition, our teachers receive support through our literacy coach and math receives their support through the behavior specialist. We also provide educators with weekly professional learning community (PLC) to further their professional growth and development to better service our transient population.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Lanier-James Education Center is a behavior change center designed to meet the needs of at risk students who have not been successful in the traditional school setting. All students are placed at Lanier-James Education Center through an administrative process. Students are placed into either the Expulsion Abeyance Program or Behavior Modification Program by way of the District's Behavior Intervention Placement Committee for a period of 90 to 180 days. Our goal is to provide our students the academic and behavioral skills necessary to successfully transition them to their home school upon completion of their designated program.

In addition to the Expulsion Abeyance and Behavior Modification programs, we also offer the Alternative to External Suspension program (AES). Students attending this program are provided the opportunity to participate in an educational setting while completing an external suspension from their assigned school. Students are placed in the AES program for a period of 1 to 10 days.

All Lanier-James students participate in and complete a school level point system. The students in the Behavior Modification Program are required to earn a specific amount of points to be eligible to return to their home school. Student's begin at level one and then move through three additional levels. The point system is as follows: level one 0-325 points, level two 326-1025 points, level three 1026-1675 points and Golden Knight status is 1676 points and above. Students are given point sheets on a daily basis with points being totaled at the end of each week. Their goal is to earn 150 points a week by displaying positive behaviors such as attending class on time, complying with directions for the first time, staying on task and using appropriate language.

Students who earn at least 120 points or more each week are provided incentives such as: ice-cream socials, the ability to participate in intramural activities and are entered into gift card drawings.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

The stakeholders of Lanier-James Education Center take great pride in ensuring that each of our students is afforded the opportunity of a quality education and are provided the skills necessary to thrive upon the return to their traditional school. We are constantly thinking "outside of the box" and implementing strategies and procedures that can be used by every member of our staff to assist in the success of our student's.

We offer students career counseling, college visits via skype, and a chance to work in our vegetable garden where we've planted sunflowers, lettuce, green beans, and thyme. Our students have also been introduced to Robotics. All of our students have mentors which track student progress and meet with students regularly to insure they are being successful at our school.

In the next three years we will strive to increase our student achievement and attendance. We will work on collaborating with like schools to share best practices and continue to develop innovative ways to reach our students. We will continue to promote healthy behaviors and celebrate academic achievement. The RTi process will remain under constant review and evaluation to deem the effectiveness of implemented strategies and revise strategies when needed.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Our school participated in and earned in overall 3rd place finish in the first annual "How Low Can You Go Energy Challenge" which was a collaboration between BCPS and the Miami Heat. Most recently our school was selected to participate in the "Shop with the (Miami) Dolphin's" Thanksgiving shopping spree. Twenty-five students were given \$100 gift cards to purchase dinner for their families. We were also visited by radio personality Rickey Smiley and 99 JAMZ radio station.