



Executive Summary

McArthur High School
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.

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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?

McArthur currently has a total of 2207 students enrolled for the 2015-2016 academic year. These students come from a diverse community and make up a student body of 42% white, 37% Hispanic, and 21% black. With 100 teachers on staff the demographics of McArthur's faculty resemble that of our student population. As a community, many of our families are transient resulting in a small percentage of our students attending multiple schools over the four years. As a result of this challenge, McArthur's objective is to partner with local outreach programs to provide assistance for our families as well as mentoring and guidance for our students. One program in particular that has partnered with McArthur has been the 21st CCLC and YMCA of South Florida. Through a grant provided by these McArthur has been able to extend its academic school day by 2.5 hours/daily providing a safe environment after hours, additional classroom help, and dinner for hundreds of students. The impact has created a better working connection between home and school.

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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.

The mission of McArthur High school is to ensure an optimum teaching and learning environment which enables students to become physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally strong. The curriculum provides experiences that allow students to develop competencies in preparation for accepting the responsibilities and challenges of adults in a changing society.

The purpose of McArthur High School is to provide students with a 21st Century education and prepare them for both college and career readiness. As a result McArthur High School has implemented various District-Wide initiatives including LEEO, various other CTACE competitions, an extensive afterschool program, and multiple service learning opportunities. These programs offer students rigorous coursework and skills needed to be successful today as well as the next level. In addition, McArthur creates an environment of creating student leaders by embracing new ideas, allowing students to implement plans, and monitoring student growth. As a result McArthur has increased student activity on campus by growing from 40 clubs to over 65 current active clubs. This increase provides more opportunity for involvement.

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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.

McArthur has been an 'A' rated school three out of the four last years. Some of our faculty accomplishments include Ms. Beauchamp, our Debate teacher, who was the state of Florida Clais Nobles Teacher of the Year. Ms. Dolly Bembanaste, our ESOL teacher, who secured Broward County's character award. Our math teacher, Ms. Karen Picchiarini, who was the Cooperating Teacher of the Year.

Many of our students have received prestigious awards. Three McArthur students represented Broward County. Brandon Frantz was Broward County Student Government President. LEEO students presented to the White House Chief of Staff over Hispanic Excellence in Education. Two students were Silver Knight honorable mention award winners. Eight students were Silver Knight finalists.

In Athletics, our Varsity Basketball team went to the state championship and six seniors signed basketball scholarships. McArthur's girls' basketball team was the district runner up. Also, our girls' softball team was district champions. In other areas, McArthur's Band students had the opportunity to play at Carnegie Hall. Several band students received All-County Band and Jazz Band honors. Our National Honor Society, for the last 5 years in a row, have been honored as a Gold Medallion Chapter. McArthur's Dance Team have won 4 National Championships in a row. Ten of McArthur's Future Educators of America students received scholarships. One of our JROTC students was a Broward County cadet of the year finalist. For three years in a row a McArthur student has gone to state with our Sheridan technology program and gone on to compete in Nationals. Our Business Professionals of America students have won multiple awards. McArthur's Student Government Association coordinated the Harvest Food Drive and fed over 125 families.

Our clubs support the Relay for Life and raised over \$35,000. And finally, last year's senior class accumulated over 71,000. Volunteer service hours. Our Literacy department utilizes "Monthly Think Tanks" Temporary Duty Assignment sessions to discuss curriculum, best practices, and data. Instructional staff provides professional development on an on-going basis on increasing rigor with an emphasis on Marzano's research-based strategies. Extended learning opportunities for Florida Standards Assessment/End Of Course exams and FCAT Retake preparation is provided through a 21st Century Learning Grant. Leadership teams & core departments use Broward Assessment of Florida Standards and common assessment data to revise curriculum to address student learning needs. Core departments utilize Quia and USA Test Prep to facilitate common formative assessments. Math, English, and Science meet twice a month to discuss the instructional focus, assessments, and remediation/enrichment. The Administrative team monitors the implementation of BEST and CARE cycles with fidelity by collaborating as leadership to review areas of improvement, utilizing stakeholder meetings to communicate continuous improvement goals, Professional Learning Communities employed to share college and career best practices, and Technology team joins forces with content area teachers to develop strategies for increasing technology use. In terms of the text based writing, we have scaled up a Best Practice with a researched based reading interdisciplinary approach to improve the text based writing. We have combined social studies, reading, and English to form a literacy department with common learning goals that all three areas work on. There is essentially also a common curricular focus or skill base that we are using to address the gaps in writing. English classes focus primarily on teaching the structure, the rubric, and various components that incorporate the writing. The social studies and reading departments focus on supporting what English is doing. One of the things we have been doing in the infrastructure in terms of the teaching and learning was to have a PLC structure where all three areas meet on a weekly basis to share best practices, collaborate, and ensure that there is a line within the curriculum to address the based writing. In math, we have not combined any areas but we have implemented a PLC structure on a weekly basis to make sure that there is alignment to ensure that we are addressing the gaps in Algebra II.

Additional Information

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

McArthur High School has a long history of being an exemplary educational leader in this area. Its diverse population reflects the beauty of our South Florida community and its constituents. Our faculty and staff excel in providing rich learning opportunities as well as extra-curricular venues for a well-rounded educational experience. Its partnerships and local outreach programs provide assistance in multiple areas for our families as we strive each day to make everyday a "Great Day to be a Mustang".

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