



# **Executive Summary**

**Blanche Ely High School**

**Broward County School District**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	3
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	4
Additional Information .....	5

## **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?**

Blanche Ely is an urban high school located in the heart of Pompano Beach, FL. Over the past four years, the school has experienced a steady increase in population, with our current school enrollment sitting at 2051. The demographic break down of students is: 82% Black, 12% Hispanic and 4% White. 10 % of the students are ELL learners, (a steady increase in ELL students over the past 3 years). The school has also seen ongoing growth in the magnet program, and there are over 240 ESE students currently enrolled. The computer to student ratio is 942/2051.

The grade level breakdown is as follows: 9th Grade 597, 10th Grade 527, 11th Grade 447, and 12th Grade 480. The school is comprised of 46% male and 54% female students. 89% of students receive free or reduced lunch. The graduation rate is 91%, showing incremental increases over the past three years. Blanche Ely currently has 98 teachers, 5 of which are first year educators. Two teachers hold their doctoral degree, and the school has approximately 5 National Board Certified teachers.

The school's aim is to see every student graduate and prepare them for career and college readiness. In support of this goal, several programs and opportunities are available to students. These programs include; industry certification paths supporting vocational learning, a rigorous magnet program that supports STEM careers, and numerous Honors courses and Advanced Placement offerings for students. Additionally, the school boasts numerous award winning extracurricular organizations, with band, JROTC, STEM Racing and basketball programs to name a few.

Many challenges within the school's community have links to the low socio-economic environment. As a result students are often compelled to address family need issues, and/or work long hours in addition to their school responsibilities. This can impact attendance, behavior and aspects of student achievement. Other challenges are inequitable access to technology, lack of proper nutrition and minimal access to community support services due to transportation concerns.

## **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 Blanche Ely High School is to provide opportunities that will meet the educational needs of all students in a safe learning environment.

The Blanche Ely philosophy is as follows: "We, at Blanche Ely High School, believe that the responsibility of the school is to provide a stable atmosphere with a flexible educational program. This program strives to meet the needs and interest of the students, whether these needs and interests are academic, vocational, social, emotional, physical, or aesthetical. Our fundamental goal is to prepare each student to become an informed, self-directed, contributing and productive citizen in an ever-changing society. We help the student to experience success in building a strong self-concept. We instill in him/her the understanding that he/she must make his/her own responsible decisions. Furthermore, we teach by example that all persons have the right to be treated fairly and to be respected as individuals and we elicit cooperation from all sectors of the school community to further these educational goals. We are committed to the belief that education is a preparation for life." Students are provided an array of course offerings to prepare them for Career and College Readiness. These courses include a Practical Nursing Licensure Program, Electrocardio Certification Program, and other Premed supplementary courses. Additional career based course offerings include Hospitality & Tourism, Culinary Arts, a variety of Business Courses, Principles of Engineering, Dual Enrollment, JROTC, drafting, robotics, and a spectrum of Advanced Placement courses. Data driven decisions are made to ensure achievement across the curricula. All staff members participate in multiple arenas to foster student achievement. These programs include Professional Learning Communities for collaboration and instructional growth. Blanche Ely is in the 4th year of implementation with PASL (Personalization of Academic and Socio-Emotional Learning). This is a pilot program in partnership with Vanderbilt University and the Scaling Up of Effective Schools initiative designed to meet the individual needs of each student. Additionally, regular grade level teaming and department meetings are held to share best practices, review data, and design and modify lesson plans. Teachers and students are encouraged to involve themselves in academic clubs and sports beyond the school day. The success of Blanche Ely High School will continue to rely on leadership stability and tenure along with community support from the School Advisory Forum and School Advisory Council. The school strives to bring all community members into the fold by providing interpreters for parents at meetings to facilitate meaningful dialogue between all participants.

## **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.**

Blanche Ely High School has gone from a "C" school rating to a "B" this year with a goal to strive to receive and maintain the "A" rating. Our graduation rate is up to 91%. Student participation in Dual Enrollment has increased. The Advanced Placement passing rate has increased over the past three years as well. As a result Blanche Ely High School's enrollment continues to grow. Enrollment in vocational programs continues to increase. There is an outstanding passing rate in vocational certification programs, ranking among the highest in the State. Student reading proficiency has continued to increase for the past four years. This increase includes 9th and 10th grade as well as at-risk students. Over 85% of students participate in extracurricular activities. The school offers three meals a day for students during the school year and two meals a day during the summer. Through continuous development of the Positive Behavior Plan, the school has experienced a reduction in behavioral infractions over the last two years. There has been a progressive increase in the Guidance and BRACE department offerings, increasing their services to allow more students to be accepted into major universities and receive scholarships. Blanche Ely is working to increase parent participation and support by developing a plan to establish a Parent Teacher Association and to encourage more community involvement in school initiatives. Blanche Ely intends to incorporate the new "Naviance" program to help students determine suitable career paths and help track the success of our students after they graduate. The school continues to focus on the acquisition of additional technology to develop student skills in computer programming, coding, and other computer engineering aspects to better prepare them for the global marketplace.

## **Additional Information**

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

Blanche Ely High School has been involved in several pilot programs over the last few years. These include the MAPS assessment (Northwest Evaluation Association) to monitor student growth in Math and Reading over the course of a school year. The school has also been involved in Personalization of Academic and Social Emotional Learning (PASL). This is a program to personalize and meet the needs of all students to ensure they have at least one adult on campus that will serve as a mentor for their success. Blanche Ely is implementing the ACE (Architectural, Construction & Engineering) Mentoring Program and will roll out an engineering internship program for the 2016-2017 school year where students will be able to get on the job training while still in school.

Discussion has begun around the development of a Zone Curriculum Council to create a more fluid curriculum alignment and a common set of expectations among the K-12 feeder schools in our zone.

Finally, Blanche Ely would like to establish additional community partnerships, mentoring and internships with local businesses, to support opportunities and prospects within the local work force.