



# **Executive Summary**

**J. P. Taravella High School**

**Broward County School District**

Dr. Jason Nault, Principal  
10600 Riverside Drive  
Coral Springs, FL 33071-7901

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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?**

J. P. Taravella is a community high school located in Coral Springs, Florida in an average middle class neighborhood near the Tamarac city limits. The total enrollment of the school is three thousand eighty-nine students. There are one thousand five hundred fifty-two Females consisting of 50% of the school population and one thousand five hundred thirty seven males consisting of 50%.

There are nine hundred twenty seven white students that make up 30% of the school population. There are nine hundred ninety five Black/African American students that make up 32% of the student population and nine hundred thirty six Hispanics/Latinos that make up 30% of the student population. According to the data, the school population is roughly the same across all three ethnic groups. The remaining 8% consist of one hundred eighteen Asian students, one hundred seven Multi-Ethnic students and six Native- American students.

The school has a good population of students that are reassigned from the neighboring Piper High School area in Sunrise, FL, as well as Coconut Creek High School in the Coconut Creek/Pompano Beach areas. One thousand six hundred ninety-eight or 55% of the students are considered Economically Disadvantaged and are eligible for free and reduced lunch and 6% or 185 of the students are English Language Learners (ELL).

The instructional staff at J.P Taravella is relatively low for a school this size. The ratio of students to teachers is roughly twenty-two to one, or one hundred thirty nine instructional staff members. This ratio is relatively high based on the average ratio for students to teachers of the state which is fifteen to one.

Over the years, due to rezoning, school choice, and McKay scholarships, the student population now includes a higher number of minority students from lower socioeconomic areas including Tamarac and Lauderhill. This has impacted some of our attendance and tardy issues of our students. In addition, this has impacted the culture of the school requiring teachers to remediate and enrich students more.

## **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 Taravella High School is, "Building relationships to make lasting impressions while motivating, educating, and graduating our students."

We believe all students are capable of learning and succeeding at their own level, regardless of their individual differences. We do this with a variety of instructional approaches and accommodations by integrating a diverse offering of curricular and extracurricular courses and activities. The teachers, guidance counselors, support staff and administration make a positive difference in our students' lives and contribute to the achievement of each student by setting high expectations and believing our students can succeed.

We believe that excellence in education requires a partnership that engages all of the community, teachers, guidance, administrators, support staff, parents and students because we all share the responsibility of the schools mission. Understanding the socioeconomic, racial, and cultural needs of our community is essential to student success.

Taravella embodies its purpose through its mentoring and peer counseling programs. Through the mentoring and peer counseling programs students are able to work together to build relationships with their peers and adults. They are able to learn techniques to better prepare themselves for their future after graduation.

In addition, career and technical programs such as Prostart Culinary, Fashion Design, Engineering, Marketing, Police Academy, Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA), and Early Childhood Education allows the students to be motivated and enable them to graduate successfully being career and college ready.

Through these programs, J.P. Taravella High School encourages the use of varied teaching and learning strategies that will recognize and meet the needs of diverse learning styles, as well as, enhance school spirit by planning school activities that promote school pride and school involvement along with promoting school wide attendance is able to motivate all students to graduate and succeed.

## **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.**

According to the Florida Department of Education Accountability Report, Taravella High school has earned a grade of an "A" for the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 school years. In 2013-2014 the school earned a "B." Over the past three years, Advanced Placement (AP) performance, Reading and Math scores, and Industry Certification, has improved as evidenced by the 2014-2015 school grade of an "A." The ProStart Culinary program has received a plethora of awards such as ProStart State Champions, Top 5 Achievements in the last 3 years in the State ProStart Competition, School selection for the International Culinary Exchange Trip to France, and ProStart teacher for the year for the FRLA Broward Chapter.

The Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) have made it to the Nationals for the past 3 years. Science, Engineering, Communication, Mathematics, and Enrichment (SECME) finalist and winners. VEI were the State Champions. JPTV have attended and received awards in National Competitions. Fashion Design placed 2nd in the International Quilton Competition.

Although we have had some very notable achievements, there are areas to improve. These include improving the graduation rate and developing programs such as Police Academy, Early Childhood Education, and Advance Placement (AP) Capstone offerings.

In order to help with graduation rate, we will begin mentoring our incoming 9th grade cohort from our feeder middle schools. The program is titled, "Trojans in Transition." They will receive a mentor at the school that will monitor them and assist them with the transition into high school. The idea behind this mentoring program is to begin the transition process of the incoming freshmen when they are still in eighth grade by meeting their mentors and becoming acquainted and friends with them in the spring and the summer prior to becoming freshmen. Therefore when they do begin their freshmen year they have a familiar face who will help out with any questions or concerns the freshmen may have. The mentors will be there to guide them through the early transition period and also be there to be a tutor and or friend. This will allow our future students to be "graduation ready" further assisting with our graduation rate. In addition, we offer free afterschool peer tutoring Monday through Thursday.

Currently, we are interviewing highly effective teachers for the AP Capstone program we are developing at Taravella. The teachers will attend several trainings over the summer in order to better prepare themselves for their schedule in the 2016-2017 school year.

## **Additional Information**

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

Taravella High School's Orchestra has earned straight superior ratings on stage at the Florida Orchestra Association Music Performance Assessment. These are the highest possible rating our school could earn and maintain this level of excellence for 9 years.

Taravella's Drama has also won a plethora of awards. Most recently, *Will I?* was selected to represent District 7 Thespians at the State Thespian Festival.

In an effort to improve the school, Taravella is using the bond money from last year's bond referendum for capital improvements such as improving air quality throughout the main buildings by replacing air-conditioning units and air ducts. In addition, we will be improving security cameras throughout the school, as well as increasing the number of cameras. Technology such as additional Lenovo computer carts and teacher computers have been purchased. Lastly, Taravella had replaced the entire telephone system and will also look into replacing the PA system for emergencies.

JP Taravella High School offers a multitude of courses and extracurricular activities to meet the needs of every student on our campus. We strive to build a culture of community and education. We offer assistance to the struggling student and the top students. There's something here for everyone.