

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**BROWARD VIRTUAL SCHOOL**  
**2018-2019**

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision as well as strengths and challenges within the context of continuous improvement.

The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section. It is recommended that the responses are written offline and then transferred into the sections below.

**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?**

Broward Virtual School (BVS) has offered students quality online learning opportunities since 2001. BVS is the largest virtual instruction program in Florida's 67 public school districts, offering both a part-time and full-time enrollment option to students in grades K-12. Our mission is to provide students with flexible access to uniquely individualized instruction through e-learning technology. Virtual (or online) learning provides students with conveniences of time and location so students may learn at their own pace. BVS "classrooms" are everywhere (locally and internationally). Our vision is for every Broward County student to pursue career and post-secondary academic opportunities fully equipped with e-learning strategies.

In school year 2012, BVS served approximately 600 students and included 30 faculty and support staff members. In 2013, SBBC significantly invested in the BVS teaching and learning model to provide students with multiple opportunities to satisfy the state online learning graduation requirement. As a result of the investment, BVS scaled up its instructional capacity by 300 percent and successfully awarded high school credits to over 20,000 individual students between school years 2013 and 2015. Today, BVS is comprised of over 80 teachers and support staff members and continues to be the largest K-12 school in the district (by enrollment). BVS has expanded world language options to include Japanese I and II and launched a full catalog of high school credit recovery courses designed to increase district graduation rates. Our Full Time Program enrollment program stands at 400+.

One of the challenges Broward Virtual teachers face is adapting district requirements to meet the needs of the digital learning environment. This challenge has been met by teachers participating in district professional development and collaborating in professional learning communities (PLCs). Using the CARE Cycle and BEST Blueprint for Success, BVS utilizes a leadership framework that provides structure for our large faculty and student population. Administration facilitates the leadership team, comprised of multiple team leaders. Team leaders represent different subject areas and facets of the school and facilitate their Professional Learning Communities. The School Advisory Council (SAC) operates as the governing body of the school improvement process. SAC is comprised of students, parents, school staff, community members and business partners. Feedback from SAC stakeholders is used to foster a continuous improvement model for ongoing success and to enhance our students' learning experience.

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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.

Broward Virtual School is committed to cultivating a personalized learning model through innovative teaching and evolving educational technologies to prepare students for college and career success. The BVS learning experience provides students with an individualized, rigorous and engaging instructional model through a technology driven, interactive format. Teachers and school counselors live locally in South Florida and are sensitive to the diverse needs of Broward County students. Our teachers consistently demonstrate the highest successful student completion rates in Florida. BVS is proud to be the top performing Florida Virtual School franchise partner in Florida.

BVS partners with nationally renowned Florida Virtual School for middle and high school curriculum. Through our partnership, BVS teachers have access to quality professional development from FLVS facilitators. BVS teachers learn cutting edge digital educational tools and effective online teaching methodology. Other examples of unique professional development include engaging students in live lessons and discussion based assessments designed to elicit individualized and authentic student feedback.

BVS partners with K12 Inc. for its full-time elementary school program. In addition, BVS offers Japanese language and cultural studies to more than 1,000 students via interactive video conference technology. Teachers and students from multiple elementary schools participate in the "Tomodachi" program for weekly enrichment activities. To enhance the distance learning model, the BVS Japanese teacher visits participating classrooms around the district throughout the school year. Hands-on immersion activities such as origami, calligraphy, and sushi making are offered during the face-to-face visits.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT AND AREAS OF PURPOSE**

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.

Broward Virtual School has been recognized nationally for its accomplishments. Some accolades include being recognized by US News and World Report as a Bronze Medal Winner for the Nation's Best High Schools for school years 2014, 2015 and 2017. BVS graduates move on to attend various universities around the nation, including Ivy League schools.

The 2015 Florida Standards Assessment and end of course exam proficiency rates exceeded state and district averages (10th grade English Language Arts, Algebra I, US History, Biology, and Civics). Most notably, over the course of a three- year period, English Language Arts proficiency rates have improved from 69% to 89%, even with the more challenging and rigorous Florida Standards Assessment. This improvement was made by teachers enhancing the online learning model with hands-on, face-to-face instructional seminars delivered on campus. For example, Academic Seminars are offered by BVS language arts teachers on campus five times throughout the school year prior to the state assessments. The Math

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Department has also seen a three- year growth trend with proficiency rates improving from 60%-75% on Middle School FSA Math assessments. They joined the ELA Team in providing face to face seminars.

Perhaps the most unique aspects of BVS is our focus on extra-curricular activities. Full-time students have opportunities to participate in a myriad of organizations such as Key Club, National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Audubon Society, Florida Future Educators of America, Photography Club, Chess Club, Math Club and Literature Club. Our clubs are sponsored by highly enthusiastic faculty members. Our extra-curricular activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to collaborate with their peers to attain a well-rounded educational experience.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

There are so many facets to Broward Virtual School. BVS has evolved into a valuable utility player in our school district. Our main challenge is to provide capacity to nearly 20,000 Broward County high school students to accommodate their online learning needs. To meet the demand systematically, virtual learning labs (or blended learning labs) were implemented in all Broward County high schools in August 2013. Students are scheduled into computer labs during the school day for one period where they receive blended instruction. Students also have access to their courses and teachers after school hours and on weekends. This requires ongoing collaboration between BVS leadership and traditional high schools. BVS teachers visit their students on a weekly basis to provide live lessons and collaborate with the school's lab facilitator. In our fourth year of implementation, the result is a successful co-teaching blended learning model.