



# **Executive Summary**

West Broward 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.

## **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?**

The City of Pembroke Pines is located in southern Broward County, Florida and encompasses a 35-square mile region nestled between the metropolitan areas of Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. Suburban Pembroke Pines, whose western edge borders the Everglades, abounds with thriving residential communities, businesses, restaurants, high-performing schools, state-of-the-art hospitals, vibrant parks, and family-oriented recreation centers. According to the most recent United States Census, today more than 164,646 people call Pembroke Pines home. Although it ranks as the second most populous city in the county and the eleventh most populous in Florida, Pembroke Pines maintains a small-town feel. In 2008 and again in 2010, BusinessWeek named Pembroke Pines the "Best Place to Raise Your Kids" in Florida. In past years, the city has received various other prestigious distinctions including the National Civic League's coveted "All American City Award" and the U.S. Conference of Mayors "City Livability Award".

In response to the astronomical population increase and the subsequent growth of enrollment in western schools in Broward County, West Broward High School was opened in 2008 to reduce the numbers between Everglades and Cypress Bay high schools. WBHS has significantly increased enrollment over the past eight years, and since the school's inception, the enrollment has grown from 1,919 students to 2,700 students on average from year to year.

Pembroke Pines, like other neighboring South Florida cities, embraces its cultural diversity. Hispanics comprise 41.4% of the population, followed by 32.9% White, 19.8% African-American, and 4.9% Asian. The median resident age is 39.5, the median household income is \$62,116, and the median home property value is \$207,500. Of the residents over the age of 25, 90% have completed high school and 32.4% have earned a Bachelor's degree or higher.

The demographic data of WBHS students closely mirrors that of the city: Hispanics comprise 49% of the students, African Americans 13%, Whites 25%, Asians 5%, Indian 3%, and other 5%. Of the student population, 30% receive Free and Reduced Lunch, 17% are in Exceptional Student Education, and 4% are English Language Learners. The WBHS faculty consists of 129 instructional and administrative staff members, with a demographic breakdown of 58% Whites, 28% Hispanics, 12% African Americans, and 2% Asian. All instructional staff adhere to state guidelines for certification, and all staff are Highly Qualified as mandated by the No Child Left Behind legislation. WBHS teachers strongly value continuing education with 46.4% obtaining a Master's Degree, 4% a Specialist Degree, 2% a Doctoral Degree, and 7% National Board Certification.

West Broward High School is proud to offer a wide-range of college and career readiness options. From the current 24 Advanced Placement courses to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, WBH has an educational opportunity for any student learner working towards a high school degree.

WBH consistently maintains AP passing rates far exceeding the state and national averages and proudly ranks in the Top 3 Broward high schools with the most students enrolled and successful in AP curriculum and assessments. To continue to expand our AP opportunities, WBH implemented the AP Capstone program at the start of the 2015 school year. This innovative diploma program allows students to participate in rigorous scholarly practices that equip students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. Additionally, WBH has a thriving dual enrollment population of upper-classmen, with an average of 250 students per semester taking local classes at Broward College and University of Florida online.

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The CTE programs are designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in a variety of careers. These programs emphasize math, science, communications, and technical subjects related to career interests. West Broward High School offers premier programs in the areas of Early Childhood Education, First Responder, Culinary, TV Production, Digital & Multimedia, Vet Assisting, Marketing, 3D Animation Tech, and Engineering. Several of these programs include a minimum of 3 years of study and an Industry Certification Exam, certifying students to be employable upon graduation.

## 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 vision of West Broward High School is to build a spirit of collaboration and pride, while growing a community of self-reliant young adults who will explore and challenge their individual talents for future success. It is the school's mission to promote integrity, respect, and dignity by creating lifelong learners in a safe and trusting environment. West Broward holds firm to the belief that when students are treated with dignity and respect and are provided a well-rounded rigorous curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment, they are able to maximize their potential academic, social, and emotional growth. West Broward also believes that student success is directly correlated to three main components: continual collaboration among all stakeholders, a highly qualified and dedicated staff, and high expectations for academic success.

West Broward firmly believes that a sense of community, character education, and a diverse curriculum are the foundational pillars of a highly effective school. Cognizant that character development is paramount in achieving the school's mission, West Broward has established a framework that fosters personalization for academic and social emotional learning. The school's many mentoring programs, dedicated guidance department, and an abundance of extra-curricular opportunities ensure that students' emotional and social needs are met to reduce the anonymity of a student on the WBH campus. The variety of mentoring programs WBH students have access to range from academic to social in context, including: Best Buddies International, Latinos in Action, First Priority, Women of Tomorrow, Guide Right, and any of the various Honor Societies.

WBH's curriculum is based on high expectations and rigor. In alignment with the core philosophy that all students will maximize their full academic potential, curriculum is delivered using a variety of instructional strategies to accommodate varying learning styles. WBH adheres to a research-based curriculum aligned with the Florida Standards and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, which set forth clearly defined expectations for student learning and provide a measure of accountability for student achievement. Concentrating on every type of learner, the school has established 9 diverse career and technical programs. These programs align to both state and career industry standards, with instructional practices moving beyond the classroom and into directed studies through internship and apprenticeship opportunities.

To ensure curriculum alignment to state standards and the school's vision and mission, teachers are provided with a comprehensive variety of school-based, county, state, and national professional development trainings. WBH's professional development plan is embedded with student-centered instructional strategies including DuFour and Tomlinson's project-based learning practices, Marzano's "Super 7 High Probability Strategies", fostering curriculum alignment to standards-based assessments, and effective application of Dr. Dweck's Growth Mind Set instructional practices. Additionally, teachers collaborate through ongoing Professional Learning Communities, via data-driven and standards-based curriculum focused on increasing student achievement.

A School Improvement Plan is developed annually to identify strengths and weaknesses based on student data, which highlights instructional best practices via PLCs, delineates the RtI process, and documents stakeholder feedback and communication. In concordance with the SIP plan, WBH adheres to pacing guides established by the district, administers common assessments per department, and follows a unique schedule, all of which ultimately maximizes teacher effectiveness and promote student growth.

In alignment with the school's mission, WBH meets the needs of varying types of learners and exceptionalities. For students performing below grade level, additional support is provided through the Response to Intervention (RtI) process, Progress Monitoring Plans, small group

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intensive intervention, computer assisted instruction, and supplemental academic support beyond the school day. High expectations are set for all students, and the system provides the support services necessary for all to academically achieve. WBH has dynamic Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and English Language Learners (ELL) services, which ensure that the curriculum, instructional program, and accommodations align with the students' Individual Education Plan, Educational Plan, and/or the ELL matrix. ESE students are provided services through a support facilitation model, and ELL students are provided interventions and strategies that support language acquisition. WBHS is committed to fostering a sense of community where all students are encouraged to be active participants in their learning as a process and engaged in maintaining the school's culture through extra-curricular and athletic activities. WBH's mission ensures that the school is a place where the staff and community work together to provide a safe and secure learning environment for the students, while embracing a rigorous curriculum and diverse educational components so that each child benefits academically, personally, and socially. Through a collaborative process amongst all stakeholders, the school prepares students for success beyond high school and into college and career in this highly competitive and ever-changing global society.

## **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.**

West Broward High School proudly holds the reputation for being a school of distinction for its high performing standards and its continual recognition at the national, state, and district levels for its achievements in both academics and extracurricular performances. The success of WBH is evidenced by recognition from prestigious educational organizations, teacher accomplishments, student performance on standardized tests, graduation rates, college enrollment, and acclaimed programs through which students have achieved excellence at district, state, and national level competitions.

West Broward's successes have been showcased at the national level and consistently listed in the Top 100 of Newsweek magazine's "America's Best High Schools". In 2015, West Broward High School was awarded a Silver Medal after being nationally ranked as number 944 out of 6,500 schools based on the U.S. News criteria. And locally, West Broward was featured in a "Brag" story by WTVJ Channel 6, where the school was recognized for its multiple Career Technical Education programs offering industry certification education to students who will be career-ready upon graduation.

West Broward prides itself on having a distinguished professional staff. Beyond the classroom, WBHS educators are actively involved at the state level by serving on various committees, such as Field Test, Advanced Placement/College Board Readers and Scorers, Rangefinder, and Content Advisory. Routinely, West Broward's instructional staff also participate and contribute to District level teacher committees that create and direct both curricular and assessment plans and professional development operations. West Broward High has earned an A+ rating every year since 2009-10, when the school received its first school grade in accordance with the State of Florida School Recognition Program.

West Broward High School's rigorous academic and CTE programs, as well as student commitment to community service have yielded graduation rates of 92% to 98% over the last three years, with over 90% of the 2015 graduates entering post-secondary education. Students from West Broward have moved on to attend such esteemed universities as Cornell, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Duke, Brown, Rutgers, and Johns Hopkins; in addition to the prestigious military academies in the U.S. In accordance with the mission of preparing West Broward's students to become responsible citizens, WBH's student body has made incredible strides in being recognized for its community give-back activities. West Broward's students have been recognized by the Broward County Supervisor of Elections Office for having the most registered student voters within the public school district, by One Blood for the most pints of blood collected during an EMR CTE Program donation drive, by the American Diabetes Association and the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation for donating over \$37,000, and by The Feeding Children Everywhere organization for holding community events that resulted in feeding over 80,000 homeless or orphaned children.

West Broward High weaves together a strong academic focus with abundant opportunities for involvement in leadership, career technical programs, fine arts courses, and extra-curricular clubs and activities for the student population. Through these programs, students have embraced the opportunity to be actively engaged in their high school experience, and have received recognition at the national, state, and district levels in band competitions, athletic events, JROTC, art contests, debates, brain bowls, robotics, and literary, science, and history fairs.

With all of WBH's successes, there will always be a need to address areas where growth is desired for continuous improvement. Where most comprehensive public high schools face the struggles of improving attendance and increasing positive student behavior and academic



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achievement, West Broward is working to do so through an innovative design focused on personalizing the high school experience for its students. Through the PASL initiative (Personalization for Academic and Social-emotional Learning), West Broward works on intentional points of contact and sustainable positive relationships between students and teachers. This program is working to develop comprehensive practices involving mentoring students, modeling positive relationships, accountability for self, and goal-setting practices for students. Components of West Broward's PASL initiative may be witnessed through its mentoring programs, including: Women of Tomorrow, Guide Right, and Latinos in Action. These programs create a forum for students to witness and engage in activities that foster a sense of community while building positive relationships with a variety of stakeholders who are working together to generate a student-centered plan for meeting their individual goals.

## **Additional Information**

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

West Broward is more than an institution of teaching and learning, it is an exemplar of facilitating global awareness for the 21st Century student. The classroom extends beyond the walls, and blends the boundaries between the campus and community by bringing the outside world in to an authentic educational experience. West Broward organizations, such as the National Spanish Honor Society and the Student Government Association, host annual community festivals in the winter and spring to celebrate Hispanic Culture and community engagement from the elementary to high school levels. These events highlight the students as leaders in the community, with music, food, dance, and cultural awareness.

On the broader spectrum, West Broward was the first public high school in South Florida to organize and host a TEDx Event! In the fall of 2015, West Broward High held a TEDx, inviting 10 "TEDx Talkers" who truly embodied forward thinking and shared great "ideas worth spreading" on the topics of Growth Mindset, failure as a necessity for success, and goal setting for personal achievement. The event was well-received, attended by over 500 guests, and will be posted to the TED website for worldwide viewing. With great enthusiasm, WBH is currently planning for this spectacular event to be held again next school year.