



Executive Summary for **Fort Lauderdale High School**

Fort Lauderdale High School is the oldest, continuous-functioning school in Broward County and sits on approximately 25 acres of land. The school has served the many stakeholders of Fort Lauderdale for over 100 years. This historical landmark is located in downtown Fort Lauderdale and the high-rise buildings of the city can be seen from the school's patio. The school has brought about two successful magnet programs which have increased enrollment: Cambridge AICE Magnet and Pre-Law Magnet. The racial make-up of the campus is extremely diverse. Students bus in from across Broward County to take advantage of the school's unique educational experiences. In addition, Fort Lauderdale High is the home school for a culturally diverse group of students. Some students at the school face difficult obstacles including poverty and violence. There are students that attend our school who reside in some of the lowest income zip code sectors in South Florida. Our students trust in the school for a diverse array of programs that cater to their social and emotional wellbeing with a strong academic focus. Fort Lauderdale High School's current enrollment sits at 2,301 students. These students are as diverse as the community we serve. The many different ethnicities that make up our school make our school one that encourages acceptance and kindness. The area is rich in ethnic diversity with families from the Caribbean, South America, and Anglo-European backgrounds. The demographic breakdown of our school is 45% African American, 24% White; 24% Hispanic, 2% Asian, and 5% other. The school's success over the past years is evidenced by the increase in enrollment over the past few years, which jumped from 2,245 in 2020 to 2,325 in 2021, 2178 in 2023 and now 2,293 in 2024. Year after year around 1,100 students applied for 300 available magnet seats. Recently our challenge is finding additional space for the growing enrollment that wants to attend Fort Lauderdale High School.

The faculty has been extremely stable over the past decade and includes over 100 teachers, more than 55% of who have earned masters or doctorate degrees. The school currently has five assistant principals who oversee the school's operations and instruction, four guidance counselors, three magnet coordinators, a BRACE advisor, an ESE Specialist as well as other support professionals.

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 school's vision is to prepare today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world and always to put students first. The mission statement further communicates the school's belief in preparing students for productive lives in the future global marketplace: With a safe, creative, and nurturing environment, we provide students with a personalized educational experience, fully enabling them to become productive members of tomorrow's global economy. To achieve these goals, the school has embraced a rigorous international curriculum that focuses on enhancing a student's 21st century skills including collaboration, communication, research, and writing.

Each student's coursework considers their individual academic level in order to optimize student learning and college and career readiness. The school's culture focuses on the importance of an academically rigorous curriculum and it is an unwritten rule that every child will be placed in a personalized, yet rigorous course schedule. Students are energized with the opportunity to earn a Cambridge Diploma and be eligible for a full Florida Bright Futures scholarship and they work to achieve that goal. The number of students who took a college-level course has more than doubled over the past five years as well. Moreover, access to college level coursework has been equitable across all major subgroups. Students also have the opportunity to earn industry certification through a variety of career themed coursework and we continue to add CTACE programs to meet our students' and the communities needs. Empowering our students for the demanding job market and fine-tuning their technical skills is additionally important. Our school has increased our graduation rate from 95% to 100% to 99% over the past three years.

Achievement gaps have been closed among traditionally underserved subgroups. The school completed a major phase of renovation that lasted more than a decade and acquired a new state-of-the-art aquatic center, three-story administration building, three-story STEM classroom building, and a new science facility. In addition, our bond funds supported the school in getting a brand new state-of-the-art marquee for community communication. Even with the advantages offered by these projects, the school continues to confront barriers associated with the exceptional growth spurred by its extensive popularity. Currently, the school is overenrolled and must confront the obstacles that coincide with that including instructional staffing and facility issues.

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.

In 2012, Fort Lauderdale High School was one of three schools in the nation to receive the College Board's prestigious Gaston Caperton Award for excellence, access, and success in Advanced Placement Programming. The school has been rated an A+ school by the Florida Department of Education for many years including after the pandemic. We are also recognized year after year by the US News Report and Jay Mathews Challenge Index ranking the top school in the district and top in the nation in its social-economic band. Last year, Fort Lauderdale High School was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of America's Best High Schools, and a Magnet School of Excellence as well as a Top School in America by Magnet Schools of America.

We were also awarded the gold medal of excellence for our MTSS and Positive Behavior Incentive System. In the next three years, we are working on improving our CTACE offerings for our students. Last year we brought in the Computer Science Principals program, giving our students the opportunity to explore jobs opportunities in AI in this high demand field. By providing our students with more options to earn industry certifications in personalized pathways, as we currently have in Pre-Law magnet, will assist all students in finding a career associated with their interests and hopefully help to meet the demands of the job market. Finally, Fort Lauderdale High School is home to a nationally ranked NJROTC and Debate program.

Additional Information

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

Fort Lauderdale High continues to advance our academic programming for the benefit of students. We have expanded our course offerings to include a complex array of core and elective Cambridge Course work. In addition, we have partnered with our Innovation Zone schools to help facilitate the Cambridge program at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. We continue to research ways to optimize school improvement, programming, and excellence in order to enhance 21st Century Learning for all students. We pride ourselves in giving all students the opportunity to take advanced course work and opportunities for college and career readiness.

