



Executive Summary for Deerfield Beach High School 2025-2026

Description

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?

Deerfield Beach High School is an A-rated community school located in Deerfield Beach, Florida, serving 2,047 students. More than 70% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch, reflecting the economic diversity of the community.

For the 2025–2026 school year, the student population is 55.6% Black/African American, 44.9% White, 2% Asian, and less than 1% Native American or Pacific Islander. In addition, 37% of students identify as Hispanic/Latino. The school is home to a vibrant Haitian, Hispanic, and Brazilian immigrant population, with students representing more than 12 nationalities and languages. Deerfield Beach High has one of the largest English Language Learner (ELL) populations in Broward County, with more than 500 ESOL students, ranking second highest in the district.

The school also provides a safe and supportive learning environment for approximately 338 students with disabilities. Through inclusive practices and individualized accommodations, students are supported in achieving growth and meeting their IEP goals. Faculty and staff, who reflect the school's cultural diversity, collaborate to foster academic success, personal growth, and community engagement.

Key challenges include addressing the needs of an expanding ELL and Students with Disabilities (SWD) population, which requires additional systems of support. At the same time, overall enrollment has declined over the past three years, and data indicates a rise in student absenteeism between the 2022–2023 and 2024–2025 school years.

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.

Mission Statement

Deerfield Beach High School's mission is to promote academic excellence in a safe, supportive environment that fosters students' social, emotional, and personal growth. We are committed to preparing students to become critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and responsible, productive citizens.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to cultivate a collaborative learning community that embraces diversity, nurtures the whole child, and equips all students with the knowledge, skills, and character needed to thrive in a global society.

Core Beliefs and Values

Education must address the whole person—social, intellectual, emotional, and physical development are interconnected. All students are capable of high achievement when provided with rigorous, supportive, and engaging learning opportunities. A culturally diverse community enriches the educational experience and prepares students for global citizenship. Collaboration among students, staff, families, and the community is essential to student success.

Embodiment

Deerfield Beach High School fulfills its mission through a variety of rigorous academic programs, enrichment opportunities, and specialized pathways:

1. Cambridge International School: Offers globally recognized coursework that fosters academic excellence, international-mindedness, and college readiness.
2. International Baccalaureate (IB) Program: Provides a challenging, college-preparatory curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, global awareness, and service. IB graduates consistently advance to four-year universities, with many earning scholarships.
3. Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment: Enable students to earn college credit while still in high school, ensuring strong postsecondary preparation.
4. Communications and Broadcast Arts Magnet: Engages students in multimedia production, digital design, and journalism through professional studios and state-of-the-art technology.
5. Urban Teacher and Leadership Academy (UTLA): Prepares future educators through hands-on teaching experiences, mentorship, and community service, cultivating leadership and civic responsibility.

Together, these programs—along with extended learning opportunities and student enrichment activities—reflect our commitment to developing well-rounded individuals prepared for success in college, careers, and life.

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.

Over the past three years, Deerfield Beach High School has made measurable academic progress while maintaining a strong record in acceleration and career readiness. Most notably, ELA achievement has increased by 16%, while Math, Science, and Social Studies achievement have each increased by 20% or more. These gains reflect our faculty's commitment to rigorous instruction, targeted interventions, and aligned literacy support across content areas. While we celebrate these achievements, we recognize that learning gains in ELA remain an area for continued improvement, and we are strategically addressing this need through focused literacy initiatives.

Deerfield Beach High also earned the second-highest Acceleration Success points in the district, based on performance in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), Dual Enrollment (DE), and Industry Certification. Our comprehensive AP Program offers 24 courses, supplemented by Dual Enrollment opportunities through Broward College, Florida International University, and local technical schools.

In addition, the school offers 14 Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Academies, where students gain technical expertise and earn industry-recognized certifications. Among our award-winning academies are TV Production, Digital Media/Multimedia Design, Marketing Management, Allied Health Assisting, Culinary Arts, Finance, Digital Design, Digital Video Production, and Electronic Business Enterprise. These academies integrate soft-skill development and project-based learning, preparing students for college, careers, and internships.

To address reading-related learning disruptions, Deerfield Beach High has invested significantly in literacy programs and interactive reading centers. Faculty collaboratively designed a student-centered curriculum that re-acclimates learners, strengthens critical thinking, and provides consistent literacy instruction across disciplines. This alignment ensures that students receive reading and writing support throughout the day, enhancing both proficiency and confidence. These accomplishments highlight Deerfield Beach High School's commitment to academic excellence, career readiness, and whole-child development, while also identifying literacy learning gains as a key area for ongoing growth.

Additional Information

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

Beyond academics, Deerfield Beach High School offers a wide range of extracurricular and support programs that contribute to the whole-child educational experience. **Athletics:** With 25 interscholastic sports teams, our student-athletes learn the values of sportsmanship, discipline, perseverance, teamwork, and respect. Many alumni have advanced to collegiate athletics, with some progressing to professional sports. **Mentoring and Inclusion:** Programs such as Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders (MTL) and Best Buddies foster supportive relationships between students and caring adults, while developing older students as role models and peer mentors. These initiatives also provide inclusive opportunities for our students with disabilities, strengthening leadership and trust across diverse student groups. **Extended Learning and Enrichment:** Through our partnership with Unity 4 Teens, students engage in six academic and enrichment components from Monday through Wednesday after school, with free dinner and transportation provided. Unity 4 Teens also supports more than 80 students during the summer, offering academic enrichment, credit recovery, and recreational opportunities. **Clubs and Organizations:** DBHS hosts more than 50 student clubs and organizations, including Art Club, Black Student Union, Debate Club, Drama Club, GSA, MCJROTC, Student Government Association, and many more. These programs allow students to pursue interests, develop leadership skills, and engage with peers in meaningful ways. **College and Career Readiness:** Partnerships with community organizations provide strong postsecondary pathways. For example, College Tour, funded by the Jim Moran Foundation through the Urban League of Broward County, ensures all participating graduates attend a four-year university. Similarly, Trio-Upward Bound, funded by Broward College, supports first-generation students in accessing and completing higher education. **Wellness and Mental Health Support:** In response to community needs, the school repurposed an unused clinic into the "Beach House" Wellness Center, named by students. The center offers confidential therapeutic services, crisis and trauma support groups, food and clothing assistance, pregnancy counseling, and wraparound services through a multi-tiered system of support. This initiative addresses pressing challenges faced by many students, including homelessness, poverty, instability, social isolation, bullying, depression, and relationship issues. Through these programs and partnerships, Deerfield Beach High School continues to cultivate a safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive environment that supports academic success, personal growth, and student well-being.