



Executive Summary for South Plantation High School

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. Use this template to complete the responses to the various questions below. The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section.

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?

South Plantation High School, commonly referred to as "South," is a four-year public institution within the Broward County School District—the sixth largest school district nationwide. The school currently serves 2,303 students and features Broward County's only Deaf and Hard of Hearing program integrated into its Theatre for the Deaf initiative, ensuring ongoing accessibility for all students and members of the community.

South Plantation High School holds an "A" rating and reflects a diverse student body: 38% Black, 40% Hispanic, 17% White, 2% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 3% Multiracial. The school offers county-wide programs including the Environmental Science Everglades Restoration Magnet; Cambridge academic curriculum; and multiple Career and Technical Education pathways such as Culinary Arts, Engineering, Allied Health Assisting, Marketing Management and Entrepreneurial Principles, Animal Science and Services, Horticulture Science and Services, Digital Design, and Game/Simulation/Animation Programming. Partnerships with Broward College, Florida International University, and the University of Florida support dual enrollment opportunities both on campus and offsite.

Staff members—both instructional and non-instructional—are highly qualified and certified, engaging in continuous professional growth through Professional Learning Communities, District Trainings, School-Based Professional Development, Teacher Recognition, and incentive programs. The school is located in the City of Plantation, a substantial suburb of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, situated within a residential area and bordered by the Florida Turnpike. Its proximity between the Atlantic Ocean and the Everglades affords unique research opportunities for magnet program participants.

Plantation is recognized for its extensive tree coverage, welcoming neighborhoods, superior recreational amenities, and a stable business environment. As the sixth largest city in Broward County, incorporated in April 1953, Plantation supports a population of 94,000, blending urban convenience with a "hometown" atmosphere fostered by proactive governance and volunteer involvement. Much of the city lies within or adjacent to a Special Flood Hazard Area. Plantation has been designated as "Tree City USA" and "Community Wildlife Habitat," received honors from America's Promise Alliance as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People," and attained Bronze Certified "Green Local Government" status from the Florida Green Building Coalition.

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.

South Plantation's mission is to inspire and develop all Paladins through positive relationships and meaningful high-quality instruction to reach their highest potential. Our vision is "Be your best self, be South." Our values focus around "The Paladin Way is **R.I.C.H.**," with the acronym meaning **R**elationship Focused, **I**nclusive Environment, **C**haracter Development, and **H**igh Expectations. We strive to provide high quality instruction and ensure that our students are college and career ready; engage in continuous improvement, and effectively communicate our mission, vision, and values with transparency. The philosophy of the school is to maintain a safe, nurturing, and inclusive learning environment with a common purpose of academic rigor, character development and global citizenry while encouraging our students to become lifelong learners using 21st century skills through teamwork, collaboration, and communication. With this common purpose in mind, South Plantation High School has increased its graduation rate to 95%, which is 6% higher than the county and state rates. Through the SMART program, we have significantly improved access to technology and increased the students to computer ratio. In the spirit of effective communication, our school website is updated with the latest information on scheduling, school events and other resources. We have a school calendar that is accessible to the public for extra-curricular activities, athletics, and events. Each week, an issue of **The Paladin**, our comprehensive booklet of school events and updates is released to the school community. The administrative staff presents a culture of student and teacher empowerment, as well as an acceptance of all. This year's motto is "**Raising the Bar!**" This theme perfectly captures our commitment to proactive engagement, relentless effort, and the pursuit of excellence in all we do. We have seen tremendous progress in recent years, and this year, we aim to build on that momentum by taking purposeful actions to achieve even greater heights.

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.

South Plantation High School has achieved numerous distinctions throughout its history. Our Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program was honored as a National School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America in 2025 and received School of Distinction recognition from 2008 through 2024. Following an extensive three-year research study, Metis Associates identified South Plantation as the leading magnet high school in Broward County in 2014. We have also been distinguished by having the top environmental teacher in Broward County for the academic years 2014-2015 and 2018-2019, and the top environmental student in 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, and 2025.

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program, introduced in the 2019-2020 academic year, is unique in offering students comprehensive preparation in pre-hospital patient assessment and care for a broad range of medical conditions and injuries. The curriculum covers emergency medical services systems, EMT duties and responsibilities, human anatomy and physiology, responses to medical and trauma emergencies, special scenarios encountered in prehospital environments, and protocols for patient transport.

Additionally, the Cambridge Program was successfully launched in 2019-2020, providing advanced academic opportunities to all students. This curriculum is designed to promote deep subject knowledge, conceptual understanding, and higher-order thinking skills, preparing students for post-secondary success. Upon completion of their coursework and examinations, students may qualify for a Cambridge diploma, Bright Futures Scholarships, and college credit recognized by over 600 colleges and universities. In its initial two years, our Cambridge assessment passing rates have met or exceeded both international and state averages.

Our facility enhancements include a new Single Point of Entry, significantly strengthening campus security.

The increased presence of security personnel and the addition of a second School Resource Officer have further enhanced supervision throughout the school grounds. Moreover, an extensive tutoring program is available across multiple academic disciplines, offering both remediation and enrichment on a weekly basis to support student achievement.

Additional Information

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

South Plantation High School provides a comprehensive academic program complemented by an engaging array of extracurricular activities. The school takes pride in the diversity and achievements within its athletics department, upholding values such as sportsmanship, self-discipline, and perseverance through interscholastic competition. Athletic teams offer students from varied backgrounds opportunities to develop teamwork, cooperation, and mutual respect. With 21 male and female sports teams offered throughout the year, numerous alumni have gone on to pursue athletics at collegiate and professional levels.

Mentoring initiatives are integral to nurturing the holistic development of students at South Plantation. These programs address students' social and emotional learning by fostering caring, supportive relationships between students. Our mentoring tomorrow's leaders program provides each participant with consistent guidance to promote success in both high school and future endeavors.

The school hosts over 30 clubs and extracurricular programs meeting weekly after school, including Latinos in Action, Astronaut Club, DECA, HOSA, Student Government, Black Student Union, Chess Club, JROTC, and Debate Club. Many students have earned recognition for their accomplishments through these various organizations.

South Plantation High School's environmentally conscious student body actively contributes to community improvement through service-learning projects. The campus beautification initiative involves all clubs and organizations maintaining designated areas around campus. Activities such as street and parking lot clean-ups, garden maintenance, and environmental advocacy are conducted regularly. Through these efforts, students help preserve local environments, minimize pollution, and encourage responsible waste management practices within the broader community.