

Executive Summary

Northeast 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?

Northeast High School is a magnet school located in the small community of Oakland Park, Florida. The institution is comprised of 1630 students and 87 instructional staff members. The student body consists of 850 males and 780 females with a 38% Black, 14% White, 42% Latino population and 4% other. Also, 16% of our students are enrolled in the Exceptional Student Education program. Northeast High School services the communities that create the city of Oakland Park, FL, which is a blue-collar community that has a high population of Latino and Haitian-Creole families.

A large number of Latino and Haitian-Creole students that attend the institution, one of the greatest challenges that the school faces are language barriers when communicating with students and parents. The language barriers impact our school's test scores on state assessments. The barriers also make it difficult to effectively communication with students and parents. The school often must find alternate ways of sharing and disseminating information, especially pertinent information like safety issues, important dates, and the testing calendar. We have to utilize translators in parent conferences for academic and discipline concerns. This challenge plays a role in the school struggling to achieve an acceptable level of parent participation. Northeast also has difficulties meeting the minimum required 95% of total students tested on the state assessments.

The language barriers also affect our school's test scores. The students who have minimal English proficiency are required to take state assessments that are only available in English. This places the students at a disadvantage as they are not able to comprehend the materials at the 9th or 10th grade reading level. Students are provided dictionaries, when permitted, however, the dictionaries are not always enough resource for this subgroup of students. This is another area in which language barriers prove to be a challenge for the school.

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 mission of Northeast High School is to foster a safe environment for individual students to acquire the life skills, both intellectual and personal, which will enable them to become self-directed learners both now and in the future. The program offerings at Northeast consist of an academic component with an underlying social and emotional component. The programs are established to assist students with personal growth and development as an individual. The expectation is for students to gain academic knowledge while cultivating the abilities necessary to evolve into a responsible citizen.

Northeast is a magnet school with three (3) different academies, with two (2) of the three (3) academies having an emphasis on science. Even though the magnet programs are for the out of boundary students, the school allows for all the in-boundary students, who meet the academic criteria, to also participate in the magnet programs. This provides every qualified student the opportunity to participate in rigorous programs that will enhance their opportunities for post-secondary success.

Northeast High School is in its third year of offering Cambridge (AICE) courses. The first year yielded excellent results with a 91% passing rate and a 67% passing rate in year two. Northeast went from 91 AICE exams passed to 325 in our second year.

All students have the opportunity to enroll in courses that allow them to earn an industry certification. These courses provide students the opportunity to learn knowledge of a subject area that is also related to professional growth and development in a career field. If students are successful in passing the exam, they are awarded credentials in that particular area of focus. These credentials allow the students to be marketable for job placement upon graduating high school.

Mentoring, tutoring, adult counseling, peer counseling, and other related programs are available to students as needed, or by referral. These programs allow students to receive services and support for their social and emotional needs.

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.

Most recently, Northeast High School was awarded the Magnet School of America, Magnet School of Distinction, one of only three awards given to Broward County High Schools. Northeast participated in Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams where students produced an invention, an agitator to prevent mosquitos from laying eggs in standing water in order to halt their reproduction and help reduce diseases caused by mosquitos. The team was one of fifteen schools across the nation selected to present their invention at MIT and receive a ten-thousand-dollar grant. The team was selected for a program through Microsoft, called # MakeWhat'sNext , they are assisting in writing a patent application and getting it accepted.

Northeast High School has earned the honor of being a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow National Finalist in the STEM competition. The students that participated in this competition developed a buoy device that detects rip currents in the ocean or a body of water. This device would be used to warn anyone in the water of an approaching rip current to reduce the number of lives lost due to this natural disaster. With the creation of this device Northeast high school is presently one (1) of fifteen (15) schools competing in the last round of the final Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition.

In 2013, a team of members within the Northeast High School research class developed a water filtration system that was powered by a bicycle. This creation brought Northeast all the way to the National Science Fair at the White House. The students had the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States and demonstrate how the system worked and how it could be used to benefit developing countries after a natural disaster. The students developed that system because they wanted to find a way to help the county of Haiti as it recovered from Hurricane Sandy.

Northeast consistently has earned first place winners in Science Fair (District and State) and language competitions. The school's science club, Junior Academy of Science, has launched and hosts an annual community event called STEAM Ideas Festival. STEAM is a festival dedicated to teaching students about STEM, while incorporating the arts.

Additional Information

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

Northeast High School is in the process of transitioning. As the world around us is rapidly changing, we are now focusing on evolving as an institution that can prepare students for the 21st century world in which they will be able to succeed. At Northeast, we are constantly seeking opportunities for our students that will make them sought-after individuals upon graduating high school. We want our students to be prepared with the necessary skills to thrive in the complex and competitive work force. The skills include being technologically competent, critical thinkers, problem solvers, innovators, and hard workers.