



## Executive Summary for **South Plantation High**

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, also known locally as "South", is a four-year, public high school located in Plantation, a large suburb of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. South Plantation High School is part of the Broward County Public Schools District, which is the sixth largest district in the nation. South Plantation has a current population of 2,265 students and has maintained a school grade of high "C" for the last three school years. The ethnic makeup of the school was, 38% Black, 37% Hispanic, 55% White, 1% Asian or Pacific Islander, 4% Multiracial, and 1% Native American or Native Alaskan. Our demographics have remained consistent over the last 3 years and mirrors the district demographics. We have a veteran staff who have provide continuity to our programs such as our county-wide Environmental Science Everglades Restoration Magnet program, Cambridge program, Career and Technical Education pathways such as marketing, animal science, horticulture, health science, and computer science. We work closely with Broward College and the University of Florida in getting our students registered in dual enrollment programs and offer dual enrollment on campus. We are in the heart of the City of Plantation. We are nestled in a residential community and bordered on the eastside by the Florida Turnpike. Located directly between the Atlantic Ocean and the Everglades, we can provide ideal access to our magnet program students in their research efforts.

### **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 from 78% to 95% over the past 5 years. Through the SMARTBOND grant, 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. The administrative staff presents a culture of student and teacher empowerment, as well as, an acceptance of all. This year's motto is "Together We Shine". One example of this is the Recognition of staff Cancer Survivors who are thriving after beating the disease and giving their all to our school. Another example is celebrating student and teacher success amid the Covid Crisis by recognizing them on "Funky Friday" virtual celebration.

### **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 last 7 years, South Plantation High School has enjoyed several notable accomplishments. Our Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program has been recognized by Magnet Schools of America as a national School of Excellence in 2013, and School of Distinction in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. After a 3-year research study, Metis Associates named South Plantation the top magnet high school in all of Broward County in 2014. In 2014-2015 and 2018-2019 we had the top environmental teacher of the year in Broward County; and in 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2017-2018 we had the top environmental student of the year. Our one of a kind Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) was added in the 2019-2020 School year. The course prepares the EMT student to provide pre-hospital assessment and care for patients of all ages with a variety of medical conditions and traumatic injuries. Areas of study include an introduction to emergency medical services systems, roles and responsibilities of EMTs, anatomy and physiology, medical emergencies, trauma, special considerations for working in the prehospital setting, and providing patient transportation.

The Cambridge program and select syllabi was successfully introduced in 2019-2020 offering a variety of advanced academics to all students. The Cambridge curriculum develop deep knowledge, conceptual understanding and higher-order thinking skills, to prepare our students for their future. As students complete their course of study and assessments, they could qualify for a Cambridge diploma, Bright Future Scholarships, and articulated college credit accepted at over 600 colleges and universities. During the first two years of implementation, our assessment passing rates for the Cambridge exams has been consistent with or above average for the international and state passing rates.

Our single Point of Entry is our most recent facility improvement and has added a very strong layer to our security protocols. The addition of security personnel and a second School Resource Officer has increased supervision throughout our campus.

An elaborate tutoring program is available to all students in variety of academic disciplines and offers remediation and enrichment for students on a weekly basis.

## 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 not only offers a rigorous academic program, but our extracurricular program is dynamic as well. We are particularly proud of the diversity and accomplishments of our athletics department. "South" is committed to the values taught by athletic competition. Sportsmanship, self-discipline, and perseverance learned through interscholastic sports. Most importantly, South Plantations athletic teams provide an opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to learn the value of teamwork, cooperation, and mutual respect. We offer 21 Male and Female sports teams throughout the year. We have had many athlete alumni sign acceptance letters with major colleges, and go on to play college sports, and even go on to play sports professionally. Mentoring programs at our school are also a key component of teaching the whole child. At South Plantation, addressing the social and emotion learning of the student is paramount. We know that students thrive when they have a caring, supportive relationship with an adult on our campus. Through an innovative mentoring program we called "Check and Connect", faculty members were paired with individual students not making adequate academic progress. Through this mentoring program, our young men and women have an opportunity to bond with at least one caring and consistent adult in order to be successful in high school and post-secondary opportunities. South Plantations has also more than 30 Clubs & Extra Curricular Programs that meet after school each week. Some of our unique opportunities for students include Latinos in Action, Astronaut Club, DECA, HOSA, Leadership and Student Government, Black Student Union, Chess Club, JROTC, and Debate Club. and. Many members of our talented and diverse student body have won awards through their clubs and activities.

South Plantation High School's environmentally conscious students are making an impact on their environment within the community and on campus. Through curricular and extracurricular activities, students make a difference in their community by creating and implementing service-learning projects. The school has a campus and grounds beautification project in which all clubs and organizations participated in. Each club was assigned a specific area around the campus to upkeep and maintain. Students in these clubs performed activities such as street clean-ups, campus and parking lot clean-ups, and garden maintenance. Each club carried out these activities either monthly or biweekly after school hours. By carrying out these activities students not only are able to maintain their campus and surrounding areas, but also prevented a great deal of pollution from entering local habitats. These students also have become vocal advocates for proper trash disposal and are actively looking for ways to assure that the causes for the pollution are addressed in the future.