



Executive Summary for Western 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. Transfer completed narratives into the corresponding sections of the Executive Summary found online in ASSIST.

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?

Western High School, situated on a 40-acre campus, is a suburban secondary public school, grades 9 – 12, that serves the vicinity of Davie, Florida, and portions of adjoining communities. The Town of Davie is home to over 105,000 residents who live across a lush 35 square miles within central Broward. The Town's rural atmosphere, western theme district and sprawling educational complex foster an environment that separates Davie from all other municipalities in Broward County. With green open spaces, numerous parks and over 165 miles of trail system along with the opportunity to live an equestrian lifestyle are also amenities that you just can't find in today's growing South Florida. The Town of Davie is also the nexus of higher education in South Florida where several nationally known colleges, technical institutes, and universities make up the South Florida Educational Center. Davie is ideally located among major thoroughfares such as the Ronald Reagan Turnpike, I-595, I-75, and is within a few minutes travel to the Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and Florida's deepest port, Port Everglades. The community consists of a diverse group of approximately 105,000 people; of which 56.8% are white, 8% African American, .3% American Indian, 4.6% Asian, and 29% Hispanic. The student demographics are representative of the community at large, with White at 36.8%; Black/African American at 8.3%; Hispanic at 48.4%; Multi-Racial at 2.6%; Asian at 3.6%; and Native American at 0.4%. The community has roughly 37,300 housing units with 72.7% being owned with a median valuation of \$203,900. The population has a per capita income of \$30,790 as of 2013, with the median household income at \$59,345 and 12.2% of persons below the poverty level. The Town of Davie strives to be the preeminent community in South Florida to live, work, learn, and play while treasuring our preserved natural settings.

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.

Western High School embodies a mission of creating an environment where students are safe and feel that they are a part of a community. We build trust with our students everyday by promoting and demonstrating respect, dignity and honesty and always acting with integrity. Our vision is to partner with our students so that they may reach their highest potential. We believe that every student brings his or her own special talent or skill set to Western High School and we want to build on those areas. By taking the most rigorous courses available and becoming part of something bigger than the individual, we can foster a sense of accomplishment and pride and prepare our students for the world after high school. With regards to safety, Western High School has always and will continue to provide a safe environment that fosters positive character and accountability and that values individuality by treating all members of the school community with dignity and respect. We will always conduct the business of education in a professional, ethical, and legal manner; and, we will help to ensure an orderly atmosphere conducive to learning, in the classroom and on campus, by communicating school rules to students and parents and by modeling and enforcing these rules.

When it comes to instruction, we will always honor classroom instructional time and minimize classroom interruptions in order to maximize student learning. We continue to demonstrate our belief and expectation that every student is capable of learning and should be held accountable for his/her performance and citizenship. Through consistent, high expectations for teaching and learning, we continue to hold students responsible for thinking, creating, and problem solving and encourage students to recognize the value of fine arts in each discipline. We encourage the implementation of standards-based lessons and assessments based on modern curriculum maps and either College Board Advanced Placement or Florida State Standards. We, at Western High School, strive to work collaboratively using data to develop, implement and reexamine lessons, activities and assessments to support students in reaching their fullest potential as we vary methods of assessment both to evaluate student learning and to inform instruction. And, most significantly, we at Western High remain committed to the social, emotional, and academic development of each student by recognizing and nurturing their individual potential and talent.

In terms of communication, we are committed to working with students and their families to achieve student success by providing timely and meaningful information on student progress and offering suggestions for assisting their academic growth whenever such assistance may be necessary.

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.

Among the most notable achievements, Western High School has seen its graduation rates increase dramatically in the past three years, culminating at an impressive 98% in 2021. Numerous awards and highly acclaimed recognition have been received for successfully competing in interscholastic challenges including Rocketry, Debate and Robotics. Amongst traditional high schools, Western has placed 6th in the District for ELA at 61.5%; 5th in the District for Math at 40%; 11th in the District for US History at 58%; and 5th in the District for Biology at 62%. We are striving to improve in all of these mentioned areas by more than 5% in the coming year. Moreover, Western High School can also boast about its high enrollment rate in our Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program, as well as Advanced Placement Courses like A.P. Capstone—one of the College Board’s premier offerings, which Western High pioneered in Broward Schools. Western High School maintains the highest of standards and expectations when it comes to our students. Among our most ardent expectations are that students will follow school rules and be responsible for their own actions. Students will be active, respectful, and supportive citizens in our school and community. Students will keep our campus clean, and will not litter or vandalize our school. Students will come to school every day, be on time, and be prepared and ready to learn. Students will be responsible for their own academic success by being organized, completing our assignments, and staying updated on grades. Students will do their very best to participate fully in class by working with their peers and teachers in order to achieve academic success. Students will be dedicated to learning, and will make success at Western High, and beyond, their top priority. As a result of these and other expectations, there has been an overall improvement in performance and adherence to various school rules. When it comes to personal characteristics, we expect that our students will engage in positive activities that promote healthy relationships while preventing conflicts, fights, and drama. We continue to work hard so that students will not engage in bullying, harassment, profanity, or any other activities that harm others physically or mentally; but rather, we promote a safe environment and expect students to dress appropriately and to continue to proactively ensure the safety of their surroundings. Students are encouraged to work to manage their stress, to get enough sleep, and to lead healthy lifestyles, while utilizing all available resources here at Western, including teachers, counselors, psychologists, and administrators, in order to resolve conflicts and maintain their personal well-being. Our students will continue to respect themselves, their peers, and their school by not cheating or plagiarizing, and Students are encouraged to use technology responsibly at all times.

Additional Information

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

Western High School is, by all accounts, a genuinely unique school. The campus itself maintains a collegial quality that would be the envy of many small colleges, with multiple buildings and facilities, courtyards and centers of study that are appealing to students. With its recent technology upgrades and classroom improvements, the school is now geared up for 21st century learning. Western High School reaches out to the community each year in so many ways, including an impressive Harvest Drive—the largest in the District—and promoting STEM in the middle school, as well as providing an enriching Gifted Summer Camp for students across Broward in grades 3—6. With an emphasis on STEM, computer coding, fine arts, health sciences and other specific areas of study, Western High prepares its students for college and for attaining certification for the professional workforce like few other schools. Finally, with the extraordinary commitment of funding from well-respected donors like Motorola Corporation and the dedication of highly qualified educators and skillful staff, Western High students are well-prepared to be successful in high school and beyond, as the higher graduation rate would prominently suggest.

When it comes to our parents, Western High remains fortunate to have the most generous support with family involvement. Our parents certainly value education and clearly communicate its importance to their children; they ensure that their children attend school every day and take their learning responsibilities seriously; they encourage their children to set goals and do their best so that they can reach their full potential; they undoubtedly model and promote a work ethic that values attendance, punctuality, preparedness and participation in and outside the classroom; they ensure that their children arrive at school on time and with the necessary supplies; and our parents have worked in tandem with their children, their teachers and the school administration to prepare their children to be successful contributing members of the community. We have seen a consistently high participation in Western High's Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) each and every year. This community works hard to ensure that our teachers and students feel welcome and, through extraordinary programs like "Adopt-A-Classroom," are equipped with many basic necessities that are needed throughout the year.

Most important of all, the outstanding dedication of our student body is what truly sets Western High School apart from so many other schools. No matter the challenge at hand, each member of our student body rises to the occasion and strives for success in his or her own way. Whether it is academic pursuits or just simply "doing the right thing," Western Wildcats are frequently caught in the act of kindness and caring toward their fellow students and the staff. This is our second year of recognizing the best of character traits like kindness, respect and citizenship; and our students continue to be spotted doing the right thing whether or not they are rewarded for doing so. It is abundantly clear that our students are the products of loving and caring parents who have done a fine job of raising their children.