

About the Program

How many schools are included in the Initiative?

The Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Debate Initiative was implemented in the 2012/13 school year with 15 high schools. Debate programs are now active at every high school, every middle school, and quickly expanding to all elementary schools and centers.

How many students in the District are participating in the Initiative?

There are approximately 12,000 students participating in debate across BCPS.

Why Debate?

Speech and debate students learn research, logic, organization of ideas, manipulation of language, assessment of audience, self-esteem and engagement in world events. These skills not only build better students, they build better college candidates, better employees and better citizens.

“Becoming involved in competitive speech and debate saved my life... literally. I was on my way to failure and now I will go on to post-graduate studies after a successful college career.”

Jamaque Newberry

National Champion in Dramatic Interpretation



BCPS runs a clothing bank to provide professional attire for debate students.



There are approximately **12,000 students** in advanced debate classes in BCPS.

“Education should provide a holistic curriculum that establishes a strong foundation for career and life. Debate team participation can be essential to this goal. Students participating in debate develop stronger research, organization and critical thinking skills.”

Eugene K. Pettis, Esq.



“For me, debate was truly transformative. The critical thinking and self-teaching that debate requires changes the trajectory of a student’s performance. Nothing motivates preparation more than having to defend an argument; it is the hallmark of a classic education found now only in debate.”

Senator George LeMieux

Donations are critical to support speech and debate opportunities for BCPS students.

- A donation of \$50 covers the entry fee for one student to compete in a single invitational tournament
- A donation of \$500 covers the entry fees for 10 students to compete in a single invitational tournament
- A donation of \$1,000 covers a team’s three-month transportation expenses to local tournaments
- A donation of \$5,000 sends a team to compete in tournaments such as the Harvard Invitational
- A donation of \$10,000 covers travel and entry fees for a team to attend the National Championship Debate Tournament

The examples listed above are just some of the ways in which your donations can help our students experience the lifelong benefits of speech and debate. Please consider helping our students by donating today.

Donations can be made electronically by visiting this donation link:

browardschools.com/debatedonate

Be sure to indicate that your donation is for “Debate” in the bottom comments section. This will ensure your generous donation reaches the correct initiative.

In addition to monetary donations, please note that you may also donate new or gently used professional attire at several sites located around the county or at the Kathleen C. Wright Administration Center. Please contact our office at 754-321-1859 for more information.

Thank you for supporting BCPS students.

Participating in Debate

- ✓ Increases literacy scores by 25%
- ✓ Increases GPAs by 10%
- ✓ 98% of debate students graduate from high school and 95% attend a four-year college
- ✓ Increases an at-risk student's chance of graduating high school by 70%
- ✓ Helps first generation students get recruited and receive scholarships to college

“Debate has helped me become more independent. It has helped me manage time and based on my interest in debate, I take more interest in my other subjects. I now have a 4.3 GPA. Debate has built me into a better student.”

Shakoyla Stinson



To find out how you can **get involved** and **support the Debate Initiative** contact:

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Broward County Public Schools

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NO DEBATE ABOUT IT

We Need Your Support.
Broward County Public Schools
Debate Initiative



The Broward County Public Schools Debate Initiative is a partnership between local businesses and school debate programs within Broward County. With sponsorship options ranging from individual tournament travel to full-year team assistance, your investment will help build resumés, teach valuable life skills and ultimately change lives.