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BROWARD
County Public Schools

NewsRelease

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Broward County School Board Adopts New Supplier Diversity Outreach Program Policy

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, demonstrated its ongoing commitment to providing fair and equitable distribution of procurement and contracting opportunities to Broward County's diverse business community by adopting a new Supplier Diversity Outreach Program Policy 3330. The new policy, approved on January 18, 2017, takes effect on July 1, 2017. Managed by the Office of Procurement & Warehousing Services, the Supplier Diversity Outreach Program is designed to:

- Build capacity in the local business community by providing increased opportunities for underutilized business to do business with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS);
- Generate growth among local businesses by providing increased preferences to Small/Minority/Women Business Enterprises (S/M/WBEs); and
- Create jobs and career opportunities for local residents.

The adoption of the new policy followed a Disparity Study commissioned by the District and completed in October 2015, to assess the level of diversity in the District's procurement and contracting practices, particularly among S/M/WBEs. The study identified a number of barriers, including various forms of marketplace discrimination that weakened the participation of minority and women-owned businesses.

As a result of the Disparity Study, the District formed a Disparity Study Work Group, comprised of 30 local community stakeholders and District staff members, to review, prioritize and provide feedback on the recommendations included in the Disparity Study report, as well as provide feedback on proposed procedural and policy changes.

Key highlights of the new Policy 3330 include:

- Expanding the original Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program to now include local small businesses.
- Implementing a Prime Contract Program to increase opportunities for local businesses to contract directly with the District, as opposed to working in a subcontract capacity.
- Requiring prime contractors utilizing subcontractors to achieve specific levels of participation from S/M/WBEs in the subcontract work.
- Providing companies with incentive points in the evaluation process for S/M/WBE participation.

"I would like to commend all of those involved with developing the updated Supplier Diversity Outreach Program. The adoption of the new policy represents our School Board and District's focus on expanding procurement and contracting opportunities with local businesses and promoting economic inclusion of all segments of our business population, particularly small, minority and women-owned businesses," said Superintendent Robert W. Runcie. "We are committed to addressing the issues outlined in the Disparity Study, strengthening our efforts to support local business in a fair and equitable manner, and monitoring the success of these efforts as we move forward with this important work."

A series of community meetings will be held to educate local businesses about the new Supplier Diversity Outreach Program Policy 3330. **For more details, contact the District's Supplier, Diversity Outreach Program at 754-321-0550.**

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To view the new Supplier Diversity Outreach Program Policy 3330, visit

<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%203330.pdf>.

To learn more about doing business with BCPS, visit broward.k12.fl.us/supply/sdop/index.html.

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ABOUT BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Committed to educating all students to reach their highest potential.”

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is the sixth largest school district in the nation and the second largest in the state of Florida. BCPS is Florida's first fully accredited school system since 1962. BCPS has over 271,000 students and approximately 175,000 adult students in 236 schools, centers and technical colleges, and 100 charter schools. BCPS serves a diverse student population, with students representing 208 different countries and 181 different languages. To learn more, visit browardschools.com. Follow BCPS on Twitter @browardschools and Facebook at [facebook.com/browardschools](https://www.facebook.com/browardschools), and download the free BCPS mobile app.