

ED TALK RECAP : 2017/18

Broward County Public Schools



Ed Talk is an annual forum for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) to engage in dialogue with students, parents and the community, concerning issues impacting education.

Ed Talk 2017/18 was held on Saturday, November 4, 2017, from 9 a.m. – noon at Hollywood Hills High School. The event featured presentations from the Superintendent Robert W. Runcie, District and school administrators, teachers and students. Roundtable discussions engaged participants, and feedback was recorded. Participants also provided digital evaluative feedback after each session. The event concluded with a performance by the Hollywood Hills High Spartan Pride Marching Band.

PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

298

Registered participants

144

District staff volunteer participants

442
Total attendees



148 (59.9%)

First time Ed Talk attendees

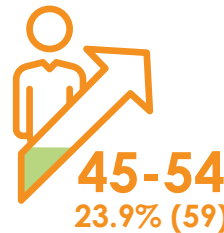
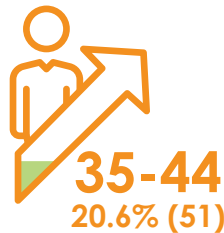
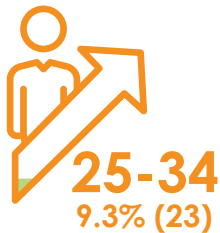
Of the 31 municipalities within Broward County, 24 (77%) were represented at Ed Talk.

Municipalities & Geographical Regions Represented



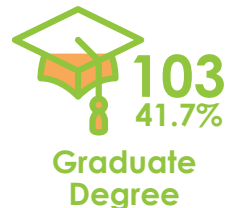
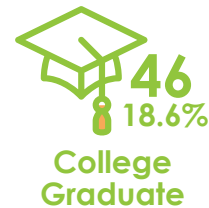
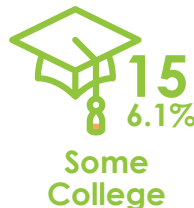
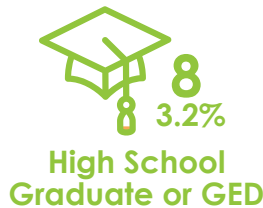
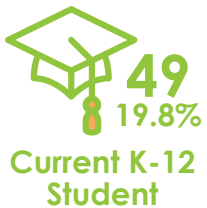
Number in the circle represents the attendees from that municipality. No response = 8

Participants by Age



No response = 3.2% (9)

Participants by Educational Attainment



No response = 3.6% (9)



SESSION 1: PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Focus: How the District is personalizing teaching and learning for our students

Format: Presentations by District staff and students, and hands-on demonstration at roundtables

Discussion questions:

- What new ways could your school personalize learning to support its stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, administrators, community)?
- What is the parent's role in fostering personalized learning?

Three major themes that emerged and illustrative comments include:

- The importance of parent involvement and communication with the schools
All parents should be active participants in the process of personalizing learning to provide necessary support. This involves continuous dialogue with all stakeholders providing suggestions and thoughts about their child's needs and possible ways to address those needs.
- The need to increase parents' knowledge about how they can assist their child
The parent role in personalized learning requires the education of parents so that they can assist at home; the parent must first know how to help their child. Parents need to understand how their child processes information.
- Teachers need support to craft instruction to complement their students' learning styles
Provide teachers with the appropriate tools to support learning in the classroom to differentiate learning and personalized instruction.

SESSION 2: LIFE READINESS

Focus: Helping students develop life readiness skills

Format: Panel presentation

Discussion questions and illustrative comments include:

- What can we do to create the conditions for students to demonstrate their social and emotional learning skills, and develop life skills to be happy and successful participants of a global society?
Make mentorships, internships, business partners, community centers, extended day activities and free opportunities available to all students. Businesses should partner with schools to provide opportunities to explore how the knowledge will be applied and how school skills transfer into the real world.
- What is the community's role, and how is the role implemented?
Provide real-world opportunities; bring members of the community in to discuss career choices that can help motivate students to prepare for the future.
- What is the parent's role, and how is the role implemented?
Parents need to be actively involved and support their child; parents need education on the current pressures that modern students are experiencing.
- What is the school's role, and how is the role implemented?
Create a comfortable environment for students so that there is a level of trust reciprocally; schools need to implement programs that promote an integrated curriculum encouraging awareness and respect for all.

Responses to the evaluation questions for both sessions revealed that the participants viewed the discussions around the topics of personalized learning and life readiness to be relevant, engaging and potentially impactful for our students.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



The Strategic Plan Update section of the program consisted of the District sharing information with attendees concerning two major strategic initiatives: Literacy and Early Learning and Reimagining Middle Grades Learning. Feedback indicates that most participants believe the District is making progress regarding Literacy and Early Learning (92%), and is moving in the right direction with Reimagining Middle Grades Learning (94%).

For more information on the District's Strategic Plan, visit browardschools.com/stratplan.



SUMMARY

For the first time, Ed Talk was hosted at a school location – Hollywood Hills High – allowing participants to experience an authentic school environment. Feedback shows that this location change was well-received and that future forums should rotate to different school sites throughout the county. The change also resulted in significant cost savings to the District.



Information was provided verbally and through handouts distributed during session presentations on personalized learning and life readiness. Valuable data was provided by participants during the roundtable discussions, with students playing an integral role and providing a more balanced perspective. Additionally, the hands-on activities energized the discussion and provided a practical application for the session topics. Evaluation responses were largely favorable for both discussion topics.



The evaluation procedure used for this year's Ed Talk allowed participants to respond immediately following each session. Feedback from roundtable discussions and participants' evaluative ratings provided valuable information regarding relevance, engagement and potential to improve academic experience. The participants overwhelmingly indicated that they felt their views are valued by the District (97%) and they would likely attend another Ed Talk event in the future (93%).

To read the detailed Ed Talk 2017/18 Report, visit browardschools.com/edtalk.



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